



# The Historian

## The Newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society

Serving Boynton Beach, Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, Gulf Stream, Briny Breezes, Lantana, Hypoluxo, the Village of Golf, and all areas of West Boynton, in addition to supporting the preservation of the history of Palm Beach County and the State of Florida as a whole.

**Recipient of the 2021 Judge James R Knott Historical Contribution Award**

**April 2023**

## KEY WEST HAND PRINTED FABRICS

**Monday, April 24, 2023 @ 7 – 8pm EST via Zoom**

**If your email is on file, check your inbox for an invitation from [BBHSPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:BBHSPrograms@gmail.com).  
If your email isn't already on file with us, send a request to [BBHSPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:BBHSPrograms@gmail.com) and we'll send you the invitation.**

The **Boynton Beach Historical Society** presents tonight's speaker, **Dr. Cori Convertito**.



In 1961, two friends from Broadway visited the island of Key West. **Peter Pell** and **Jim Russell** fell in love with their surroundings: brightly-colored flowers, exotic fruits, and resplendent birds.

Residents urged them to open a silk-screening factory, which became **Key West Hand Print** Fabrics. The company began printing and selling textiles to visitors, and hired an artist named **Suzie Zuzek dePoo** who produced a marvelous array of tropical imagery on fabrics. One of the company's principal customers was **Lilly Pulitzer** of Palm Beach.

This presentation tells the story of how Key West Hand Print Fabrics became a backbone of industry to the island.



**Dr. Cori Convertito**, Ph.D. (Exeter), MA (Greenwich) is Curator and Historian for the Key West Art & Historical Society in Key West, Florida, a position she has held since 2012. The museums she oversees include the Key West Museum of Art & History, the Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters, Fort East Martello Museum, and the Tennessee Williams Museum. She has researched and installed over 45 exhibitions on both art and history topics. Additionally, she hosts a monthly talk entitled 'Happy Hour with the Historian' which looks at various aspects of Florida Keys history.

Dr Convertito holds a Ph.D. in British Naval History from the University of Exeter, UK, her thesis entitled 'The Health of British Seamen in the West Indies, 1770-1806', was awarded the Boydell & Brewer Prize for the best doctoral thesis in maritime history 2011-12.



All Programs of the Boynton Beach Historical Society are FREE and OPEN to the Public  
Boynton Beach Historical Society The Historian April 2023



## Boynton Beach Historical Society

Since 1968

2022-2023 Board of Directors

### OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – Anne Rimler

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor

Secretary – John Shelly

Treasurer – Robert Taylor

### TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2023 – Steve Anton

2023 – Heidi Bell

2024 - Donna Artes

2024 – Chadda Shelly

2025 - Virginia Farace

2025 - Ben Lowe

### Non-Voting Appointees

Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

Promotions/Publicity – Nora Gallagher Michuda

### Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425

Web [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org) Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach)

Questions or comments: **Programs** [bbhsprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsprograms@gmail.com)

**Membership** [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com)

### The Historian

*The Historian*, newsletter of the Society, is sent six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are on our website. Dues are to be paid annually (except for Life Memberships). If you would prefer to receive *The Historian* via email (saves postage and printing costs, arrives earlier, links are active), tell us by emailing [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com). Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited toward the following season. Memberships run Jan 1 to Dec 31. Season is Oct to Apr.

### How to Become a Member or Renew your Dues

Go to [boyntonhistory.org](http://boyntonhistory.org). On the **Membership** tab, pay securely via **PayPal** or download the form and mail in with your check. Don't forget to email the contact info for your **BOGO** to [bbhsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsmembership@gmail.com) and we'll do the rest.

### Historical Society Bylaws

Society Bylaws: [www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/](http://www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/)

**2022-2023 Season** via Zoom

Apr 24: Annual Meeting/Convertito: Key West Hand Print Fabric

**2023-2024 Season** via Zoom

Calendar will be finalized in May. Check our website for details.

### Zoom Program Meetings are Recorded

Find us on YouTube at "BBHS Programs"

Like and Subscribe



The following represents our Membership Roll to date & Dues received from 2/25/2023 to 4/03/2023

### Thank You to our Life Members

Vickie & Anthony **Barbar**

**EasyPay Tire**, Doug & Ruth **Besecker**

Michael & Gloria **Bowden**

Candy & Doug **Brueggemann**

Linda & Mike **Callaway**

Robert and Jeanne **Gayler**

M Randall **Gill**

Robert & Carrie **Parker Hill**

Robert & Christian **Oyer Macoviak**

**Melear Bros.**, Cliff & Rick **Melear**

Wayne & Eva Brooks **Knuth Netzler**

Susan **Oyer**

Scott & Camilla **Smith Richardson**

Anne **Rimler**

Sandy A **Simon Jr**

Voncile **Marshall Smith**

George & Christine **Weaver Ternenyi**

William & Gaye **Weaver**

Marion **Weaver Wester**

Bill & Elsie **Winchester**

### Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors

Donald & Regina **Day, Delray Awning**

Laura **Hinzman, Scheurer's Chocolates**

**Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory**

### Thank You to our Patrons

Tim **Bednarz**

Charles & Mary Theresa **Bilthuis**

Ron & Sarah **Thomas Bollenbacher**

George & Gayle **Kranz**

Chas & Elizabeth **Miner LaBella**

Billie Jo **Swilley**

Robert & Sheila **Rousseau Taylor**

Anne **Watts**

Suzy **Winchester**

### Membership Renewals Thank You For Your Support!

Michael & Gloria **Bowden**

Michael & Lucy **Brown**

Brian **Combs**

Jeanne **Combs**

Sandra & Eugene **Palchanis**

Kandy **Thompson**

### Special Welcome to BOGO Recipients & New Members!

Linda **Allen**

Lisa **Metzkes**

Victor **Norfus**

### What is a BOGO, you ask?

When you become a member or renew your membership, it's our gift to you: give a FREE one-year membership to a friend, family member and fellow historian! BUY ONE:GIVE ONE. BOGO\*! Simply provide your recipient's information and they also will become a member and receive "The Historian," via email, for one year, for FREE. See the membership form for details.

\*BOGO recipient must be a new member to the Society

### Florida Humanities & Boynton Beach Historical Society

Would you please take a moment to complete a brief survey about today's program? Your feedback will help shape future programming. Search for 'Florida Humanities Program Survey' or click this link:

<https://floridahumanities.org/grantee-resources/forms-and-resources/survey/>



# The Historian

## Historical Society Annual Meeting & Elections

Monday, April 24, 2023 @7pm

On Monday, April 24th, prior to the Program, we will hold our **Annual Meeting** to conduct Society elections.

**Annual Election of Officers and Trustees** – The Society's Officers (President, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Program Chair, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected annually and the three-year terms for two Trustees positions will expire. All members in good standing are welcome to cast their vote during the Zoom presentation.

**Trustees Steve Anton** and **Heidi Bell** will step down as their respective terms draw to a close. We're grateful to our very own Florida native, Steve Anton, for many years of service in various roles for the Society, presenting many programs, and for his expertise resolving our technical needs. We are grateful to Heidi Bell for participating in projects like the Florida Highwaymen Art Shows and for always bringing her positive attitude to the table. We look forward to seeing them at upcoming Society events.

**Thank you** - The Society sincerely thanks all those who have served in the past, those who serve now, and all who have given so generously of themselves and their time.

**Nominating Committee** – **President Rimler** appointed members to the Nominating Committee in March 2023. The Committee, chaired by **Sheila Rousseau Taylor**, with members **Virginia Farace** and **Ben Lowe**, is charged with nominating candidates who are in good standing to serve on the Society's Board. Per our bylaws, the Committee will report a list of candidates to the membership prior to the vote during the Annual Meeting. Candidates will be presented for officers and two Trustees.



### Ocean Avenue Then and Now

Left: Looking west 1908-1911. Photo Courtesy Boynton Beach City Library.

Above: Looking east 2022. Photo Courtesy Boynton Beach Historical Society.

## Boynton Beach Historical Society – Open Volunteer Opportunities

We have an opening for a Support person with experience in Excel, Google Mail, Google Groups, YouTube, and Zoom. If interested, email us at [bbhsprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsprograms@gmail.com). Tempted but don't know all the listed applications? We can teach you. Do you have something else in mind that you would like to do? Let us know! Full disclosure: we have grand expectations for our volunteers. Bring a team-oriented attitude of historical proportions and a good sense of humor. You may just find the extraordinary within yourself.





# The Historian

## Boynton Beach Historical Society Member Receives Emeritus Faculty Status

On February 22, 2023, **Voncile Marshall Smith**, was awarded emeritus faculty status by **Florida Atlantic University**. The honorary title is given to retired faculty in recognition of their lifelong achievements in higher education. The celebration coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Department of Communications by Dr Smith. The department is known today as the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies.

In addition to being a Lifetime Member, Dr Smith has held many positions for the Historical Society including President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Membership Chair, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Editor of the Society's newsletter, *The Historian*, from 2002 to 2019. Past issues of the newsletter are available here: <http://www.boyntonhistory.org/newsletter/>

In 2015, the Historical Society presented Voncile with the Award of Excellence for her dedication to the Society and the newsletter.

Dr Smith was a vocal proponent in the long campaign to save the Boynton High School from destruction. The renovated building now serves as the Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center. The Society held the 2022 and 2023 Florida Highwaymen Art Shows in the former gymnasium.

Many of the photographs and other artifacts in the Boynton Beach City Library Archives are gifts from her collection. Those photographs and others are available online at <https://boyntonbeachhistory.omeka.net/>.



**Left:** Past President Randall Gill presenting the 2015 Award of Excellence to Voncile Marshall Smith. Photo Courtesy Boynton Beach Historical Society.

**Below:** "This Place Still Matters" rally for Boynton High 2016, Voncile Marshall Smith, center. Photo Courtesy Boynton Beach City Library.



Please join us as we extend congratulations to Voncile. We thank her for being an inspiration to us all. We aspire to emulate her lifelong love of history and to continue to provide benefit to the community.





# The Historian

**Boynton Beach Historical Society**

**Saturday, April 22, 2023 @10am to 11:30am**

## **APRIL HISTORY STROLL**

Join the Boynton Beach Historical Society and friends for a guided tour of historic Ocean Avenue, Town Square, and vicinity. This will be an educational 75-minute walking tour of downtown Boynton Beach. Historian **Janet DeVries Naughton** will guide the exclusive narrated tour and share information about the history of Boynton Beach, historic buildings, and homes. Points of interest include (as time allows) the post office, churches, 1926 high school (Boynton Beach Culture and Arts Center), 1913 elementary school (Schoolhouse Children's Museum), City Hall/Library, Centennial Park, The Gables, Charlie Pierce/Barefoot Mailman, Magnuson House, Henry Flagler's East Coast Railroad, Murray House, Capt. Kenny's House, Andrews House (Boynton's oldest house), Ruth Jones Cottage, and the Oyer block (Hurricane Alley).

Note: This tour takes place outdoors and there is a significant walking requirement. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water. The group will meet at 10:00 am on the west side of the 1926 High School building (Boynton Cultural Arts & Cultural Center, 125 East Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach 33435).

**Free.** Open to the Public. Limited to 40 attendees. Free parking is available in the city lot behind the school. Rain or Shine. *Preregistration Required via EventBrite.*

Search "[EventBrite Boynton Beach Walking History Tour: Downtown Town Square & Ocean Avenue April 22](#)" or click this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boynton-beach-walking-history-tour-downtown-town-square-ocean-avenue-tickets-599704601607>

**City of Boynton Beach**

**Volunteer Opportunity**

## **Visitors Center**

The City of Boynton Beach is in search of volunteers to run the new Visitors Center, opening April 2023, in the City Hall lobby, 100 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach 33435. The Visitors Center will serve as a hub of information on the City's rich history, culture, and amenities. If interested apply online at [boynton-beach.org/volunteer](http://boynton-beach.org/volunteer). Send questions via email to [HR@bbfl.us](mailto:HR@bbfl.us).

**Town of Lantana**

## **Lantana Public Library Grand Re-Opening**

Lantana has completed a \$1.2 million renovation project of the library at 205 W Ocean Ave, Lantana 33462 and held re-opening ceremonies on March 12, 2023. The library features separate areas for teens, kids, and adults, a private study room and the latest in audiovisual equipment. Stop in for a visit and prepare to be amazed! While you're there, read up on Lantana's fascinating 100-year history, founding fathers **Hannibal Dillingham Pierce** (1834-1898), **Edwin Ruthven Bradley** (1842-1915), **Morris Benson Lyman** (1860-1924), and the **Finlandia House**, the **Southeast Florida State Sanatorium** (later the **A.G. Holley State Hospital**), the **National Enquirer's** "world's tallest Christmas tree," and the **Woodlawn Cemetery**.



# The Historian

The Historical Society wishes a fond farewell to **Georgen Charnes** as she sets off for new horizons. Her column, the *Archivist's Corner*, has been thoroughly enjoyed since 2020. Thank you and good luck, Georgen! We will miss you.

**Archivist's Corner** by **Georgen Charnes, Library Archivist, Boynton Beach City Library**  
<https://www.boynton-beach.org/city-library> (561) 742-6390 100 E Ocean Ave, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 [charnesg@bbfl.us](mailto:charnesg@bbfl.us)

## Taking Care of Your Family Photographs

A frequently asked question I receive at the Local History Archives concerns how to take care of collections of family photographs. While family papers, ancestry trees, clippings, etc. are very important to any family history, it's photographs that are usually the most treasured, providing immediate connection between generations.

The first thing to undertake when starting a project of caring for your family's historical photographs is to make sure photographs have been collected and identifications are with the photograph. As a person who has been handed bags of unidentified snapshots with the admonition "Keep these, they're of cousins," I know how frustrating it is to have a photo and not know who it is. Get identifications while you can; too often the only person who knows passes away before it's written down. Many photographs allow identifications to be written on back, or better, on foil-backed labels that can then be affixed to the back (I've seen photos where penciled identifications have made dents or let ink go all the way through the photo).

The next concern is where the photo is being stored. The ideal temperature for photographs is below 70° F; humidity should be kept between 30% and 50%: so not the garage or attic! High humidity can lead to fading, discoloration, and silvering, as well as mold growth. Extremely low humidity can lead to photographs becoming brittle or the emulsion flaking off. The worst conditions for storing your photographs would be an area with wild fluctuations of temperature and humidity (think summer and winter), which can cause the paper or board that the photograph is mounted on to deteriorate and curl.

Light and handling are also enemies to photographic preservation. Ultraviolet light damage is irreversible, and oils from hands can cause chemical damage to an image. Also, being stored with sharp, decaying, or rusting items such as rubber bands, paperclips, and framed items can cause damage. There are many websites selling archival quality storage for photographs, including storage sleeves with binders or boxes, complete with labels. Universityproducts.com and Gaylord.com are two good sources. Never laminate your documents or photographs!

If you decide to donate your photo collections to an archive, please make sure that you're donating them to a reputable organization that will make them available to the public. Too often people give their photo albums to someone they trust and then later see it on eBay!

If you decide to digitize your family photographs, be sure to scan them at "high resolution," (600 dpi for an 8x10, 1200 dpi or higher for smaller images, slides, and negatives), and save as a tif, which is an "uncompressed" format. Color photocopying is NOT the same thing! Images can always be reduced in size if you want a smaller file for sending by email or posting on the web. And if you include the person's name and date (if known) in the file name, you'll be glad of it later.

I hope everyone considers starting that long procrastinated project of organizing your family photographs and remembers that the Local History Archives is always available to help.