



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

February 2023

SOUTHERN ROAD TO FREEDOM: FLORIDA'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Monday, February 27, 2022 @ 7-8pm EST via Zoom

For emails on file, check your inbox for an invitation from BBHSPrograms@gmail.com. If your email isn't already on file with us, send a request to BBHSPrograms@gmail.com and we'll send you the invitation.

The **Boynton Beach Historical Society** in partnership with the **Florida Humanities Florida Talks Speaker's Program** is proud to present tonight's speaker, **Magdalena Lamarre**.

The nation's first Underground Railroad was established in Florida in the late 17th century, serving as a beacon of freedom for runaway slaves from the American south. Existing before the better-known Northern Underground Railroad, enslaved Africans gained their freedom by escaping and earning asylum in Spanish Florida. This presentation focuses on Florida's early history as a Spanish territory, the escape routes used by runaway slaves, and the black communities they established before the abolition of slavery in the United States.



Magdalena Lamarre was a Full Professor of History and Sociology at Miami Dade College until her retirement in 2016. Currently, she presents programs on topics related to Florida History, and American Popular Culture through the lens of Comic books, which address culture, diversity, and social justice. Lamarre earned a BA in History from Hunter College, an MA in History from Stony Brook University, and did post-graduate work in Sociology and Education at Florida International University and the University of Miami. At Miami Dade College, she co-produced three oral history documentaries: 'Surviving and Thriving' (2012) - Holocaust Survivors' experiences during and after the Holocaust; 'Crossing Bridges Towards Equality' (2015) - Civil Rights era integration of a high school in Alabama; and 'Forging New

Lives After Hurricane Maria: Puerto Rican Student Voices' (2019) - Documenting the experiences of students who moved to Miami and enrolled at Miami Dade College (MDC) after Hurricane Maria. In 2011 she was awarded the prestigious MDC Alumni Association Endowed Teaching Chair, and in 1994 and 2012 the NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Teaching Excellence Award.

Funding for this Florida Humanities Florida Talks Speaker's Program is supported in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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



Boynton Beach Historical Society

Since 1968

2022-2023 Board of Directors

OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – Anne Rimler

1st Vice President, Programs - Barbara Ready

2nd Vice President, Membership - Sheila Rousseau Taylor

Secretary – John Shelly

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2023 – Steve Anton

2023 – Heidi Bell

2024 - Donna Artes

2024 – Chadda Shelly

2025 - Virginia Farace

2025 - Ben Lowe

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Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

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Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425

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

Questions or comments: **Programs** bbhsprograms@gmail.com

Membership bbhsmembership@gmail.com

The Historian

The Historian, the newsletter of the Society, is sent about six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one per paid membership). Previous issues are on our website. See the mailing label for your **membership expiration date**. If you would prefer to receive *The Historian* via email (saves postage and printing costs, arrives earlier, links are clickable), tell us by emailing bbhsmembership@gmail.com. Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited toward the following season. Membership runs Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Become a Member or Renew your Dues Thank you!

Go to 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 of your **BOGO** to bbhsmembership@gmail.com and we'll do the rest.

Historical Society Bylaws

Society Bylaws: www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/

2022-2023 Season via Zoom

Feb 27: Magdalena Lamarre: Underground Railroad in Florida

Mar 27: Michael McKeich HSPBC: The Gilded Age in Palm Beach

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

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 1/07/2023 to 2/06/2023

Thank You to our Life Members

Vickie & Anthony Barbar	Susan Oyer
EasyPay Tire , Doug & Ruth Besecker	Anne Rimler
Candy & Doug Brueggemann	Sandy A Simon Jr
Linda & Mike Callaway	Scott & Camilla Smith Richardson
Robert and Jeanne Gayler	Voncile Marshall Smith
M Randall Gill	George & Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Robert & Carrie Parker Hill	William & Gaye Weaver
Robert & Christian Oyer Macoviak	Marion Weaver Wester
Melear Bros. , Cliff & Rick Melear	Bill & Elsie Winchester
Wayne & Eva Brooks Knuth Netzler	

Thank You to our Patrons

Tim Bednarz	Chas & Eliz Miner LaBella
Billie Jo Swilley	Sheila Rousseau & Robert Taylor
Anne Watts	Suzy Winchester

New/Renewed Memberships

Donna Artes	Tim Bednarz
Bruce & Judith Calderwood Carlson	Richard Castagnoli
Ellen Curtin	Gillian Davis
Jay & Barbara Erlichman	Virginia Farace
Joan Foglia	New Member: Ted Green
Benoit Mailloux & Ben Lowe	Judy Musgrave
Matina Nimphie	William & Laura Orlove
Norman Price	Barbara Ready
Anne Rimler	Barbara Saxton
New Member: Mary Schlitz	Daniel & Lisa Ames Suiter
Sheila Rousseau & Robert Taylor	Joyce Waters
Anne Watts	Drs David & Ann Thomas Wilkins
Michael Wilson Land To Sea Photog	

A Special Welcome to BOGO Recipients! HELLO!

Marcia Crossman	Elizabeth Gelfand
Adam Rousseau	Jane Suval

Donations In Memory

From Tim **Bednarz** for Dorian **Beck Trauger**

From Richard **Castagnoli** for Kathleen **Mayberry Castagnoli**

From Joan **Foglia** for Melinda **Wheeler**

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' on Google or click this link:

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

Boynton Beach Historical Society Notes with Sadness

The Society notes with great sadness the recent passing of two long time members and vigilant supporters: Stormet C **Norem** of Ocean Ridge and William Fain **Weems** of Boynton Beach. Our condolences to the families.

Gentlemen, you are missed. Thank you for your contributions.



The Historian

Excerpts from "Memories of Early Boyhood in Boynton" by Daniel Ford Rousseau

Sep 2022

Part Two

Continued from the January 2023 Issue of The Historian, page 3

Back in the 1940s we went to town for everything. Gas, groceries, haircuts, post office, doctor. Going to town was where you saw everyone. Everything was right there on Ocean Avenue in Boynton. And everyone knew everyone else. Our two older cousins, **Elisabeth K (Liz)** and **William D Brown (Buddy)** lived in town, as did our Aunt **Mabel Rousseau Tuite**.

At the west end of the Oyer Building is a small park. A great place for kids. But back then, instead of banyan trees, we had large poinciana trees that stood like giant orange umbrellas shading the swing sets and the tables where old men played checkers.

I attended Boynton Elementary for a short while before we moved to Lake Worth. The school accommodated first through sixth grades, and two of the six teachers were my aunts—**Callie Rousseau Brown** and **Mabel Rousseau Tuite**.

I loved the barbershop in downtown Boynton. For a little kid the barbershop was a big deal. I sat up on that board placed across the arms of the chair, and had the cloth draped over me just like the men. I loved the smell of the place and the buzz of the clippers.

My other favorite place was Partin's Ice Cream parlor, located in the eastern half of today's Hurricane Alley. We sat at the marble countertop, seated on swivel stools, eating ice cream until we shivered from the cold. My sister chose vanilla and I had chocolate. **Dan Partin** was usually the one dishing out the ice cream. On the north wall of the parlor someone had painted a mural that covered the entire space, a copy of the Great Seal of the State of Florida. It fascinated me.

The grocery store was always a special place. It wasn't an A&P, but I remember it smelled of freshly ground coffee. I know it didn't happen every time we went there, but it seems some older person would always hand us a penny to spend when we got to the candy display. Remember, it wasn't like getting money from a stranger, it was someone we knew or was related to our family.

On the south side of Ocean Avenue stood a hotel. I believe it was three stories tall. Our granddad, **Abel Augustus Rousseau** (nicknamed Eb), 1878-1960, lived there for a while. I recall the wooden stairs and floors. It had no air-conditioning and depended on the sea breeze for relief. There were many days when the rooms were unbearable. On those days the residents filled the park across the street. I was fascinated by the idea of living in a hotel. A couple of times I spent the night there with granddad, and loved looking out the window, watching people and cars go by below on Ocean Avenue.

In the late 1940's, my family was living southwest of Jupiter on a thousand acres that bordered the Loxahatchee Slough. Granddad would come visit us and though he was in his seventies, I was honored to saddle a couple of horses and he and I would ride for hours through the Slough. There were no fences. We would ride along, and he would tell stories of his boyhood, like the time he hired on as a cow-hunter for **Dr. Lykes**, who shipped cattle to Cuba. In 1893, he was fifteen, he said the older cow-hunters tried bullying him, so with his first wages he bought a new Smith & Wesson .38. After they discovered he would shoot to defend himself, no one bothered him again.

I heard stories about our great uncle's (**Thaddeus Rousseau**) schooner, *Red Squirrel*, and how Granddad and Uncle Thaddeus were sailing from Clearwater to Key West when they came upon a large diamond back rattlesnake swimming across their bow—headed west, the nearest landfall being Central America.

All those dozens and dozens of stories inevitably ended with my granddad's most common complaint: "You just don't understand, son. Florida today isn't at all like it was when I was a boy."



The Historian



Kandi Ingram –
Mary Ann Carroll

Doretha Hair Truesdell

Robert L Lewis

Curtis Arnett

Al Black

Gertrude Walker –
Charles Walker

Florida Highwaymen Artists

2023 Florida Highwaymen Art Show

Sincere thanks to our partners, the **City of Boynton Beach**, to the **Honorable Mayor Ty Penserga**, to the **City of Boynton Beach Commissioners**, and to all involved in planning, volunteering, exhibiting, attending and donating!



Happy
Florida
Highwaymen
Art Patrons!

THANK YOU



BOYNTON BEACH!



THANK YOU

SCHEURER'S!



Thank you to our Show Partners -
City of Boynton Beach



Scheurer's
Chocolate Basket
Winner: Marilyn
Rautio

Florida Sunshine Basket
Winner: Corbin Krick

Thank you to Raffle Basket
Sponsor Scheurer's
Chocolate, Boynton Beach





The Historian

Woodlawn Moonlight Cemetery Tours by City of West Palm Beach Parks & Recreation

The **Woodlawn Moonlight Cemetery Tour** is a unique, historical, and colorful look back about the community's past. The tours of Woodlawn Cemetery, located at 1301 S Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, are **FREE**. This is *not* a haunted tour. This is an historical and informative look at our pioneers and people of the past. The tour lasts 90 minutes. You should plan on walking atop uneven ground and listening to stories that will open a door to a fascinating past. Dates for upcoming tours are Mar 3 and Apr 6. Prior registration is required.

See <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlawnTours>. For Tickets, search for "Moonlight Cemetery Tour" on Eventbrite. Photos Courtesy J Naughton



Boynton Beach Garden Club

The **Boynton Beach Garden Club** is presenting at the **Boynton Beach City Library's Brown Bag Lecture Series**. More information on the Boynton Beach City Library's Website or click this link: [Brown Bag 2023 Series - Pollinator Gardening with Natives: What to Plant, Where to Plant, How to Maintain](#).

Mon Mar 6 at 12pm to 1pm. Create a garden that gives back to nature. In person. Location: Boynton Beach City Library.

The **Boynton Beach Garden Club** joins the **Boynton Beach Arts and Cultural Center** for a better-than-ever **Annual Art in Bloom** event. Participants are given colorful pieces of artwork by elementary school students which they interpret with a floral design. Location: Boynton Beach Arts and Cultural Center

Fri Mar 10 at 5pm to 7pm. Reception.

Sat Mar 11 at 10am to 2pm. Enhanced Art in Bloom. Besides the judged floral arrangements, there will be a demonstration of floral designing and various crafts for children.

Boynton Woman's Club

You're invited to The **Boynton Woman's Club Annual Scholarship Luncheon** when this year's high school scholarship winners will be announced.

Thu, Mar 16 at 11:30am. The luncheon will be held on at the Quail Ridge Country Club. The Buffet Lunch, which also includes soup, salads, a beverage, and soft serve iced milk, tax, and tip, is \$20. Please bring cash or check.

Reservations can be made with Michele Walter at 314-306-4490. You must call or text her in advance so your name will be at the gate. Entrances are at both 3717 Boynton Beach Blvd. and on Golf Rd. between Congress and Military Trail.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners!





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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 charnesq@bbfl.us

Accessions for 2022

The Local History Archives received some very interesting donations this past year. While all donations are appreciated, there were a few spectacular contributions.

- The Boynton Beach Historical Society newsletter editor's files from **Dr. Voncile Smith**. These included materials that members had sent in for inclusion in the newsletter (2022.002), including many photos from several families, including **Betty Zobel**, the **Swilley** and **Weeks** families, **Grace Knuth**, **Anne Weems Michael**, and **Don Cherry, Jr.** Many of these are now available for viewing online, and a few were included in earlier issues of *The Historian*, encouraging input on identifications.
- **Miss Gillian Davis** continued to donate, and some of her School of Dance performances are now available online.
- The **Traylor** family papers are rich additions to our historical collections.
- The **Bernard Thomas** Christmas cards are charming.
- The Boynton Police court docket (18 Jan 1927 to 9 Sept 1935) offers a very interesting and rare glimpse of life in Boynton. It has been digitized in its entirety and made available online.
- In response to the Historical Society being awarded the **Judge James R. Knott Historical Contribution Award** by the HSPBC for their efforts to rescue the 1913 Boynton Elementary School and 1927 Boynton High School, the Archives has built a collection of images of those efforts for display and archival documentation. There were a huge number of images in **Barbara Ready's** Facebook group of the 2009 and 2015 protest rallies, and I tried to collect and get permissions from photographers as best I could.

The full accession list, with links to how to view online when available, is available from the City Library Archives 2022 Accessions website or click <https://www.boynton-beach.org/library/library-archives-2022-accessions>.



2022.015.002 Gift of Boynton Beach Historical Society, Courtesy Boynton Beach City Library Archives

2022.047 Gift of the Oyer Family, Courtesy Boynton Beach City Library Archives

