



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.

2018 Number 4

April 2018

ANNUAL MEETING

Including election of
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES

At beginning of meeting

Mon, April 16, 2018

NEW LOCATION!

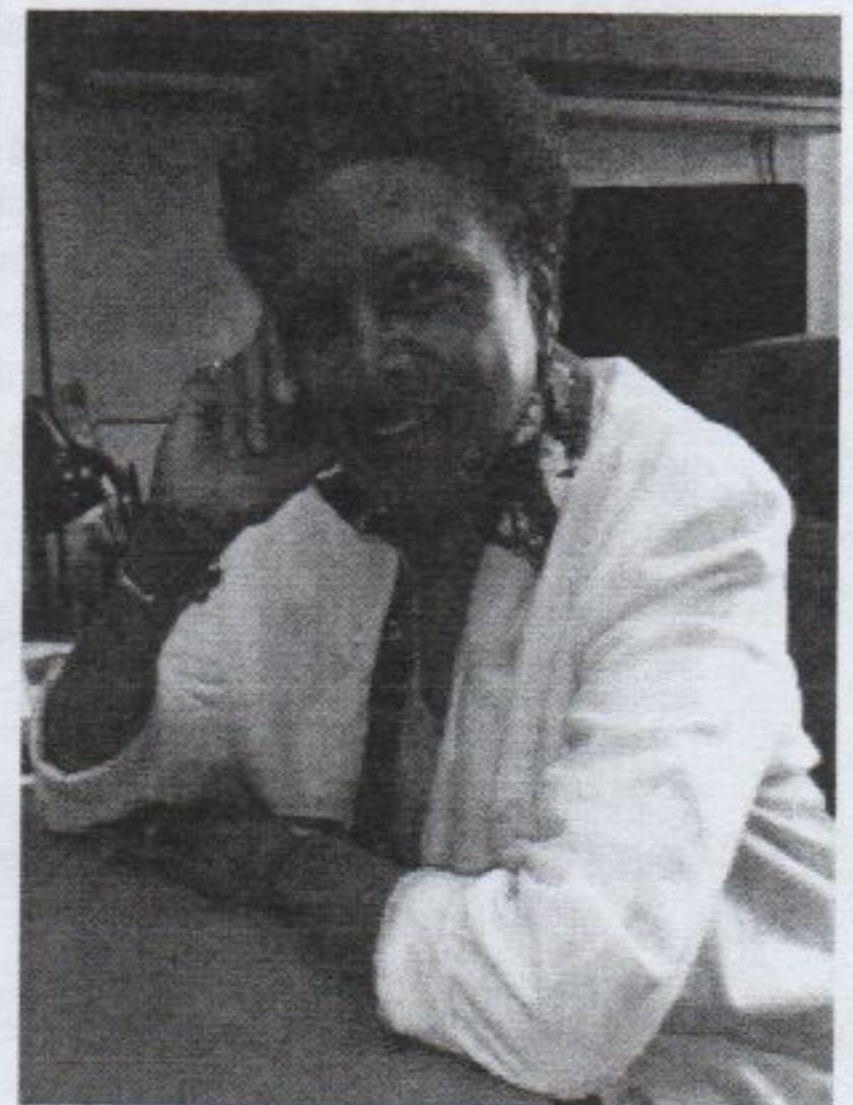
First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
235 SW 6th Av
Boynton Beach FL 33435
Two blocks west of Seacrest Blvd

Meet & Greet 6:30-6:45p
Please note new start time
Program 6:45-8p

Dr Delores Walters presents:

AN INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Cultural anthropologist and family historian, Dr. Delores Walters, will show you how to trace your African American ancestors using genealogical databases, local and archival resources and DNA.



Dr Delores Walters



Initially trained as a registered nurse, Dr. Delores M. Walters was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, and worked in public health. She earned a doctorate in Cultural Anthropology from New York University after researching an outcaste, African-identified group in Yemen in the 1980s. After a professional career in teaching, directing and advocating for diversity, inclusion, and cultural competency in higher education, Dr. Walters is researching her family's history. Since coming to Florida, Dr. Walters has conducted family and local history workshops at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach and the Black Women Rise conference in West Palm Beach. She is the co-editor of "Gendered Resistance: Women, Slavery, and the Legacy of Margaret Garner," whose life inspired Toni Morrison's novel, "Beloved."

All programs are FREE and OPEN to the Public



BOYNTON BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS--2017-18

OFFICERS [Elected Annually]

President	Randall Gill
1 st Vice President, Programs	Anne Rimler
2 nd Vice President, Membership	Sheila Rousseau Taylor
Recording Secretary	Ginger Pedersen
Corresponding Secretary	Anne Watts
Treasurer	Frances Tuite McKeral

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Editor, *The Historian*
Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster
Facebook Administrator/Webmaster
DIRECTORS [3-Year Staggered Terms]

Voncile Marshall Smith
Janet DeVries
Ginger Pedersen

2018	Heidi Bell
2018	vacant
2019	Tim Bednarz
2019	Judith Merkel Howard
2020	Steven Anton
2020	Barbara Ready

TRUSTEES [3-Year Staggered Terms]

2018	Diana Dennis
2018	Voncile Marshall Smith
2019	Susan Merkel Shaffer
2019	Virginia Farace
2020	vacant
2020	Sarah Thomas Bollenbacher

Our website is www.boyntonhistory.org. The e-mail address is boyntonhistory@gmail.com

Please email inquiries or information to our local address

P.O. Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33425.

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/historicboyntonbeach

www.twitter.com/@boyntonhistory

The Historian is mailed eight times a year—September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May—to all members. No copies are produced in December, June, July and August. Copies from past years are posted on the website.

LIFE MEMBERS

Lenore Benson Raborn Boonstra
Randall and Ann B. Gill
Robert and Christian Oyer Macoviak
Melear Bros., Inc. - Cliff and Rick Melear
Wayne and Eva Brooks Knuth Netzer
Scott and Camilla Smith Richardson
Alexander "Sandy" Simon
Ernest G. Simon
Voncile Marshall Smith
George and Christine Weaver Ternenyi
Dorian Beck Trauger
Charlotte Tatum Weaver
Curtis and Nain Weems Weaver

CORPORATE MEMBERS - 2018

BMark Properties, William and Gaye Weaver
Boynton Memorial Chapel, Stormet Norem
Boynton Woman's Club
Easy Pay Tire Stores, Inc., Doug Besecker
Florida Coalition for Preservation
Scobee-Combs-Bowden Funeral Home & Crematory

MEMORIAL GIFTS - 2018

Bob Gaylor, to honor Pfc. Winfred Wade Gayler KIA 1944
Voncile Smith to honor Harvey E. Oyer, Jr.

MEMBERSHIPS 2018

The following names represent only those people who have paid memberships since March 1, 2018. Those who joined before that date have been listed in the January/February and March issues of *The Historian*.

PATRON MEMBERSHIP:

Donna Artes
Dan and Lisa Ames Suiter

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:

Bob and Suzi Hayes
Bill and Maggie Huff
Anne Weems Michael, Michelle De Pollo and Elizabeth Michael
Dr. Gay Voss and Stephen H. Voss II

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:

Cecil Adderley, Jr.
Michelle Donahue
Dorothy Mann McNeice
Susan Oyer
Sara Williams
Michael Wilson
John Yetter

Welcome new members Cecil Adderley, Bob and Suzi Hayes, Bill and Maggie Huff, and John Yetter. We are happy you have chosen to join us. A special thanks to you and to our renewing members for continuing to make the Boynton Beach Historical Society a part of your life.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for SUNDAY, MAY 6

Our Annual Covered-Dish Dinner is scheduled for that date, First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 5:00 p.m. The Society furnishes the entrees, the beverages, cutlery, plates, cups and napkins. Each person attending is to bring a salad, vegetable dish or dessert sufficient to serve 8. Those who do not bring a dish may each make a \$10.00 donation at the door.

We will have a program. One of our members, Richard Philpott, will talk about the impact of the Masonic Order on early Boynton. This is a great opportunity to interact with other members of the Society and learn more about the history of Boynton Beach from some of our long time residents.

EAST OCEAN AVENUE - THEN AND NOW

Ocean Avenue was the main street and the center of town in old Boynton.



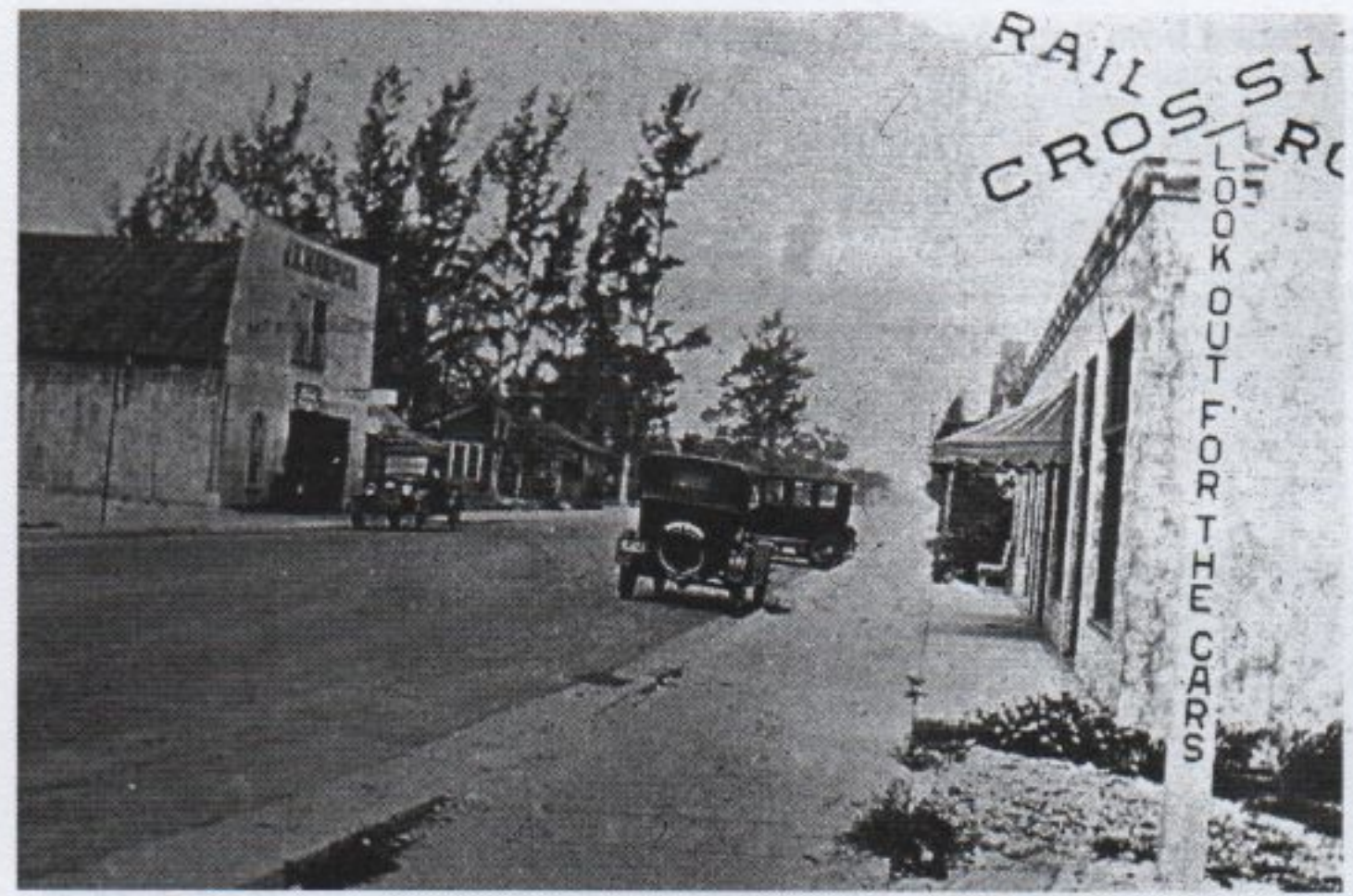
Main Street, shown here ca 1910 was later renamed Ocean Avenue. The frame building on the left served as the Boynton Womans Club until they moved in to their new home, designed by famed architect Addison Mizner, on Federal Highway in 1926. US 1 or Federal Highway (or old Dixie Hwy) is about where the photographer of this picture is standing.



Ocean and Federal about 1950. Two gas stations are on western corners, the Jones Hotel is the two story building on the left, the old Womans Club Building is on the left just beyond the hotel, and the Oyer two story building housing on the ground floor "Melton and Mary's" soda fountain and sundry store is on the right.



Ocean Avenue at Federal Highway, March 2018 looking west. Oyer buildings are on the right and on the left is the new multistory retail/residential "500 Ocean" which extends westward the full block. "Hurricane Alley" restaurant is now on ground floor of the Oyer building.



Ocean Avenue west of the railroad tracks early 1920s. Note the single-family homes in distance on the left. J.R. Harper's building is also on the left. The building on the right was later owned by Harvey E. Oyer, Sr. and housed a variety of businesses over the years. It was demolished in 2011.



Ocean Avenue west of the railroad tracks, March 2018. Railroad warning light is visible on the right where the crossing sign once stood. A vacant lot has replaced the former building on the right, and a variety of shops, including a sidewalk restaurant, line the south side.



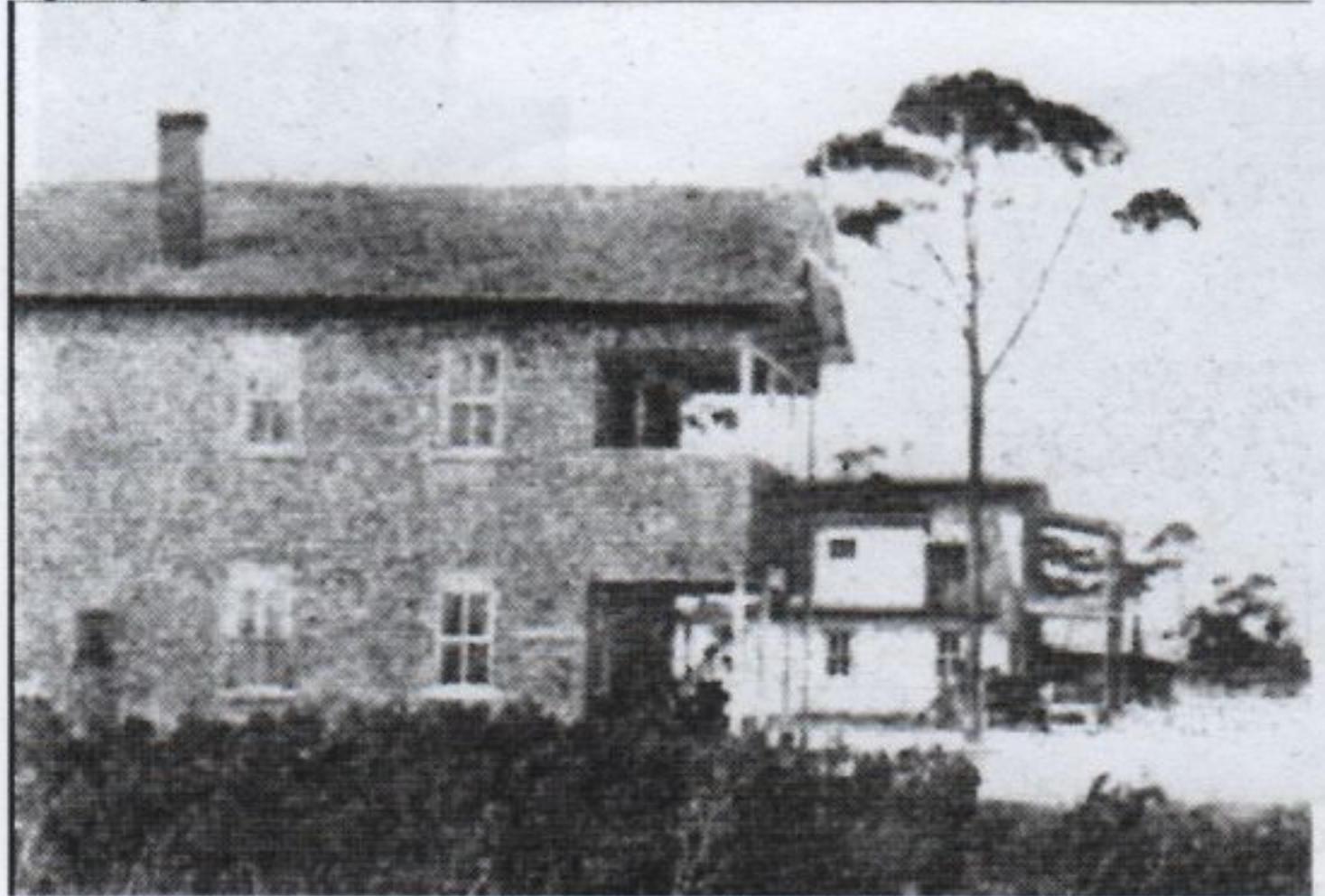
Looking south on Federal (Dixie) Highway at Ocean Avenue, ca 1950. Building on left corner is Bank of Boynton. Federal was a two-lane street. Sinclair station pavement extended out toward street to provide parking by the gas pumps.

[Continued on page 4 - East Ocean Avenue]

[Continued from page 3 – East Ocean Avenue]



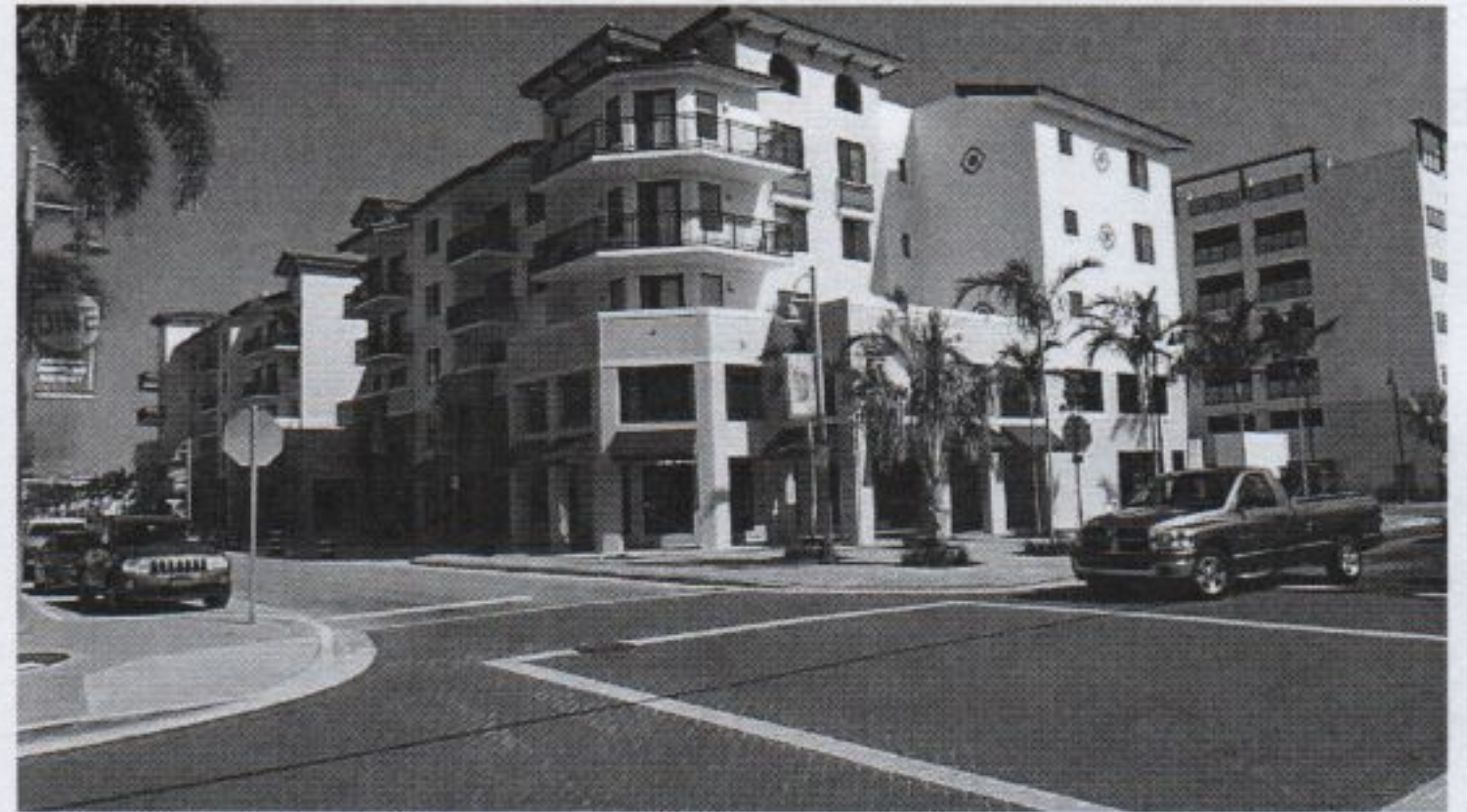
Looking south on Federal Highway at Ocean Avenue, March 2018. "Posh Properties" has replaced the bank from 1950 and new buildings which are part of the seven floor "500 Ocean" extend south for two blocks on the west side of Federal Highway, which is a divided 4-lane highway.



The first picture on page 3 mentions the first Boynton Womans Club, built at the SE corner of Ocean and 4th Street. Completed ca 1910 it was built by Cullen Pence from lumber salvaged from the cargo of the barkentine Coquimbo. Both upper and lower porches on the front were later removed.



By the late 1990s the building had experienced a variety of uses and alterations. It was razed by the City around 2000.



At the SE corner of Ocean and 4th Street, "500 Ocean" extends into the area once occupied by the original Boynton Womans Club.



Across 4th Street from the extended 500 Ocean construction, the City moved a house several years ago to sit where the City once sponsored shuffle-board courts. Referred to as the Historic Ruth Jones Cottage, the only original materials remaining in the building are the fireplace. A restaurant that had occupied the building closed several years ago, and the building has now been further modified for a new tenant. The porch has been enclosed and a kitchen added. The owner of "The Living Room," another restaurant on Congress Avenue, will presumably open her second restaurant here sometime later in the year.



The Oscar Magnuson house at 211 East Ocean Avenue has been vacant for a number of years. The paint is peeling and the house is in need of maintenance. Presumably owner Steve Labov expects to redesign the interior and open a restaurant when the work is completed. He is teamed with another restaurant owner from Delray Beach.

IN MEMORIAM

The Boynton Beach Historical Society lost two of our members who had been active contributors to and leaders in the Boynton community for many years,



Janet Leemon Hakala

Janet Leemon Centola Hakala – Janet was a Trustee and was currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Boynton Beach Historical Society. She was born in 1934 in Marissa, Illinois and later attended Southern Illinois University. She had an avid interest in music and performed as a member of many symphonic bands and ensembles in Palm Beach County. She volunteered as a flute instructor in several area elementary schools and was a member of the Florida Flute Association and the National Flute Association. She also helped raise money for scholarships to send children to summer music camps.

She belonged to the Boynton Womans Club and was an officer of the Iretta Sherman Chapter #145 of the Order of Eastern Star.

Janet is survived by her husband Ronald T. Hakala; son, David and daughter-in-law Marcie Centola; and sister Carolyn Leemon Wieland and brother-in-law Karl Wieland and her grandchildren. We extend our condolences to all her family.



Marie Shepard

Eleanor Marie Shepard – Marie was born in West Palm Beach in 1921. She grew up in Boynton attending Boynton schools and graduated from Boynton High School in 1939. She attended Florida Southern College and before graduating moved to New York City where she worked for 30 years as an executive secretary for an international law firm. She loved the arts and was a staunch supporter of the Metropolitan Opera throughout her life. She enjoyed the

many arts events and the museums her life in New York afforded. She also enjoyed traveling and saw much of the United States and visited Europe several times.

Her father was educated to be a pharmacist, but operated a nursery for green plants near the intracoastal waterway. Her mother Annie was a teacher at Boynton School and was one of the first teachers hired for the 1913 schoolhouse. Her father died when she was 11 and her mother in the height of the Great Depression reared Marie, her older brother Clayton and her younger sister Margaret in Boynton.

Marie returned to Boynton in 1978 to help care for her aging mother and two cousins, but she was a major player in the preservation of Boynton's history. She was a significant leader for the Boynton Woman's Club as an active and outstanding president during which time she founded and served as president of the Womans Club Historic Preservation Foundation through which she helped secure funds from the State of Florida as well as from private donors to restore the Womans Club in the 1980s. She also worked diligently with the Boynton Beach Historical Society to preserve the 1913 Schoolhouse and the 1927 high School building..

Those of us interested in historic preservation have greatly missed her leadership in recent years.

The Society extends our sympathy to her family members and to the people of Boynton Beach on the loss of this community leader.



MEMORY BOOK REMINDER



Just a reminder—the Boynton Beach Historical Society is planning to issue a "Memory Book" commemorating our 50 years of efforts to preserve the history of the City of Boynton Beach and the surrounding area. We need your help. Photos you may have taken or been given that show life here in the past fifty years or before, anecdotes or other information concerning your family you would be willing to share, awards, commendations, or activities that would help create a picture of what has happened and what life has been like during this period of rapid change.

Any information you are willing to share, please notify us by e-mail, through the US Post Office, by telephone or in person. Send it, or bring it to one of our meetings. We can only use what we have, and we need you to help supply it. Former Director of the Boynton Beach City Library, Virginia Farace is heading the committee, but any of us will accept your contributions.

Boynton Beach History Society Membership

The Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization; dues are tax deductible

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone # (____) _____

Membership Year is Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Dues are not pro-rated.

Membership Expiration Date on mailing label.

Complete above and mail with payment to:

Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12

Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012

Or pay online using PayPal at

www.boyntonhistory.org/membership/

Indicate Membership Type:

- ____ Individual \$25
____ Family \$35
____ Patron \$50
____ Corporate \$100
____ Student \$10
____ Life (onetime payment) \$500

Thank you for your support!



Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12

Boynton Beach FL 33425-0012

