



# 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.

**April 2022**

## What's New in the Boynton Beach City Library Local History Archives

**Monday, April 25, 2022 @ 7-8pm EDT via Zoom**

**For emails on file, check your inbox for an invitation from [BBHSPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:BBHSPrograms@gmail.com). Remember to set up reminders in your calendar. If your email isn't already on file with us, simply send a request to [BBHSPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:BBHSPrograms@gmail.com) and we'll send you an invitation.**

At our Annual meeting, we will be treated to a review of items recently donated to the City Library Local History Archives and hear about the outreach initiatives being spearheaded by the Library's Archivist, **Georgen Charnes**.

**Georgen Charnes** is the archivist-librarian at the Boynton Beach City Library. Georgen came to the library in early 2019 with long experience as a special collections librarian, archivist, manuscript collection cataloger, database creator, and museum professional. She's a married mother of a 16-year-old daughter. Georgen enjoys reading, creating butterfly gardens, and getting out of as much cooking as she can.

"The Historian" has been proudly featuring a column, The Archivist's Corner, by Georgen since January 2020. She has taken us along on fascinating deep dives and shared the stories and photographs she has found along the way.





# Boynton Beach Historical Society

Since 1968

2021-2022 Board of Directors

## OFFICERS Elected Annually

President – M Randall Gill

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

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

Secretary – Alex Rousseau

Treasurer – Anne Rimler

## TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

2022 - Virginia Farace

2022 - Ben Lowe

2023 – Steve Anton

2023 – Heidi Bell

2024 - Donna Artes

2024 – Chadda Shelly

## Non-Elected

Editor, *The Historian* - Anne Rimler

Archivist/Facebook/Webmaster – Janet Naughton

Facebook Admin/Webmaster – Ginger Pedersen

## Boynton Beach Historical Society

PO Box 12, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

We are on the web [www.boyntonhistory.org](http://www.boyntonhistory.org), and on Facebook [@HistoricBoyntonBeach](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricBoyntonBeach) and on Twitter [@BoyntonHistory](https://twitter.com/BoyntonHistory).

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

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

## The Historian

*The Historian*, the newsletter of the Boynton Beach Historical Society, is sent approximately six times a year, between October and April, to dues-paid members (one per paid membership).

Previous issues are posted to our website. Issues were not published April 2020 to October 2021 due to COVID-19.

The first line on your mailing label has your **membership expiration date**. If you receive the *Historian* via email, we'll send you a renewal notice before your dues expire.

Dues paid at/after the last meeting of the season will be credited toward the following season. Memberships run Jan 1 to Dec 31.

## 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. Thank you!

## Historical Society Bylaws

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

## 2021-2022 Season Mondays @7pm EST Via Zoom

**Apr25** Annual Meeting, Elections, Excellence Award, G Charnes

## 2022-2023 Season

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 3/1/2022 to 4/04/2022

## Thank You to our Life Members

Vickie & Anthony **Barbar**

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

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**

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 Members

**Boynton Memorial Chapel**, Stormet C **Norem**

Dan & Regina **Day, Delray Awning**

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

Daniel & Lisa Ames **Suiter**

## Thank You to our Patrons

Tim **Bednarz**

Charles & Mary Theresa **Bilthuis**

Ron & Sarah Thomas **Bollenbacher**

Richard B **Castagnoli**

Michelle **Donahue**

Robert W **Ganger**

Gayle **Kranz** & George **Greider**

William G **James**

Charles & Betty **LaBella**

Sandra & Eugene **Palchanis**

Ward & Martha **Parker**

Mary **Scheitler**

Billie Jo **Swilley**

Sheila **Rousseau** & Robert **Taylor**

Mary **Burns** & Tom **Warnke**

Anne **Watts**

Suzu **Winchester**

## New and Renewed Memberships

Maggie **Arndt** & Mary **Malloy**

Jackie **Brant**

Mary **Scheitler**

Susan **Thaler**

## A Special Welcome to our BOGO Recipients

Susan **Atlee**

Sandy **Hardt**

Charles **Scheitler**

## **Boynton Woman's Club – Luncheon Invite Thursday, April 21, 2022 @11:30am**

The **Boynton Woman's Club** has extended an invitation to Historical Society members to attend its April Luncheon on **Thurs., April 21, at 11:30am**. A private room at the Olive Garden Restaurant on Congress Avenue has been reserved for **Ed Lamont's** presentation entitled "**Flagler's Boats.**"

Reservations are required for this free event. We will be ordering from the Olive Garden's menu, and we are each responsible for our own bill.

Reservations: Barbara [barbara.erlichman24@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.erlichman24@gmail.com) or telephone 561-369-2300 and leave your name & tel. no.



# The Historian

## Boynton Beach Historical Society Annual Meeting & Elections

Monday, April 25, 7pm

On Monday, April 25th, 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, expire. All members in good standing are welcome to cast their vote.

**President Randall Gill** will step down from the Board at the end of this term. We're grateful to Randall for his 8 years of service as President to the Society and many more years of involvement, his leadership and kind counsel and we look forward to his participation on upcoming projects.

**Secretary H Alex Rousseau** will also step down at the end of this term. We thank Alex for her contributions and wish her well as she plunges herself fully into her career and advanced education. We look forward to Alex's participation on future projects and hope to see her holding Society office once again.

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 Gill** appointed members to the Nominating Committee in February 2022. 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. The candidates for office are **Anne Rimler**, President; **Barbara Ready**, 1<sup>st</sup> VP/Program Chair; **Sheila Rousseau Taylor**, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP/Membership Chair; **John Shelly**, Secretary; **Robert Taylor**, Treasurer; **Virginia Farace**, Trustee/2025; **Ben Lowe**, Trustee/2025.

## Boynton Beach Historical Society – Award of Excellence 2022

The Society recognizes those who make outstanding contributions to history education, research, and preservation. This year, the Award of Excellence will be presented to **Georgen Charnes**, for excellent service and embodying all those qualities. Thank you, Georgen, for your dedication to the BBCL Archives, curating the Society's History Collection and your support of the Society. Georgen will be presented an award as a token of our appreciation. For more about Georgen, see pages 1 and 4 of this issue of *The Historian*.

## Observations from the Society's Trustees

**Steve Anton**, Trustee/2023: As a native-born Floridian, raised here in South Florida, I've lived through many of the recent historical changes that have happened in Boynton Beach. It's only made me more dedicated to preserving the past for the future by being a member of our Board and continue holding onto the great history of Boynton Beach.

**Chadda Shelly**, Trustee/2024: Feeling like a new member for several years, I thought all the Boynton Beach Historical Society did was present a different program each meeting. After becoming a Board member and attending the Board meetings I was amazed with all that goes on behind the scenes, all the on-going projects that I'd never heard of let alone know what they meant, and the dedication and commitment of the Board members. We put in many hours of research and connecting to make the meetings meaningful and interesting for members and guests.

## Boynton Beach Historical Society – Open Volunteer Opportunities

We have openings for a Promotions Coordinator and a Zoom/Video Support person. If interested, email us at [bbhsprograms@gmail.com](mailto:bbhsprograms@gmail.com). Do you have something else in mind that you'd like to do? Let us know! Full disclosure: we have high 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.



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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 [charnesg@bbfl.us](mailto:charnesg@bbfl.us)

### Herding the Shepherds

Few things are more confusing to researchers than people with the same name. I'm constantly surprised how so many people share the same name, no matter how apparently idiosyncratic it is. Here in Boynton Beach, I've been stymied by the many forms of "Shepard."

I recently ran across five photos from a Don Cherry Jr. (1914-1995), which were accompanied by a note explaining that they feature the W.C. Shepperd family.

I spent some time trying to organize the genealogy of the "Shepards." There's Welcome Stuart Shepard, the first principal and successful farmer; his wife Alice, who made the flag for the large celebration of the City's "46<sup>th</sup> birthday" in 1963 (dating the birth of Boynton Beach from 1917, when incorporation efforts were started and not completed). There's Alfred Clayton Shepard, who married one of the first teachers, Annie Streater in 1915. There's Donald L. Shephard, president of Empire Tools, which owned Don's Firestone, Hypoluxo Marina, and Boynton Engineering in the 1960s. Apparently, Welcome and Alfred are brothers, but the others are no relation to each other.

So, after some unraveling, I found that William Conant Shepperd (1871-1955) and Clara Abbott Shepperd (1873-1964) came to Boynton in 1923 with their daughters Pearl (1894-1950), Dorothy (1896-1981), and Thelma (1899-1974). W.C. was an agent with Southern Railroad in Chattanooga. They purchased the Austin Fruit Farm, which featured a large clapboard house on Federal Highway, which they named Kenilworth, after the novel by Sir Walter Scott. The house was built around 1912 by Frank Austin and was surrounded by mango groves. In an interview in 1975, Dorothy Shepperd said that the Austins didn't live in the house because as Seventh Day Adventists, Mrs. Austin's religious principles would not allow her to live in a house with plastered walls. (*Palm Beach Post*, 1975-08-19). The house had to be moved back when U.S. 1 was widened in 1962 and was later demolished. The land is now owned by the City and is the home of the Intracoastal Park. Pearl married several times and was mother to Don Cherry Jr.; Thelma married Col. William O. Poindexter. Dorothy lived in Kenilworth until her death, and her obituary records that she was a charter member of the Boynton Beach Historical Society.

Photos courtesy: Boynton Beach City Library Archives

