



Spring 2017 Venice Elementary Students Visit Train Depot



photographer.

Venice Elementary School first graders recently traveled by school bus across the Intracoastal Waterway to visit Venice’s Historic Venice Train Depot. They also visited the red caboose, the Gunther Gebel-Williams statue, the southern entrance of the Legacy Trail, and Venice’s Legacy Park. They were hosted by volunteer docents of the Venice Area Historical Society and Friends of the Legacy Trail. The ninety-eight students were accompanied by teachers, assistants and chaperones. They were greeted by Depot Docents Tom Bowers, Sarah Calabreze, Tom Doherty, Ed Gates, Jane Gill, Jeana Hilligoss, Brad Jenkins, Mike Murphy, CeCe O’Connor, John Osborne, Mike Petro, Penny Phelps, Carolyn Redlin, Maggie Surwilo, and Ann Thompson. David Tschanz served as

Seven educational stations were set up to introduce students to lessons in train travel; the Depot building’s use for passengers, freight, and the circus train; Venice’s international circus icon Gunther Gebel-Williams; the Freight Room’s historic use for shipping local produce to the north; the Society’s model Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus train; safety slogans of the Seaboard Railroad and the signaling codes of the railroad lanterns; and bicycle trail safety. The group ate lunch on the campus, watching Legacy Trail bikers, boats on the Intracoastal Waterway, and the raising of the KMI Bridge. They returned home with train and circus souvenirs, including conductors’ hats and red clown noses. The successful education day in the community was both fun and a learning experience for all.





The Historic Venice Train Depot is important for both the Society and the City of Venice. It is located on the eastern bank of the Intracoastal Waterway, immediately north of the Venice Avenue bridge (303 East Venice Avenue). Its seasonal hours are M, W, and F, 10:00 am–3 pm and Saturday, 10:00 am- 1 pm. Depot visits and tours are free, but donations are appreciated and used to augment costs of the program. For more information, visit the website veniceareahistoricalsociety.org or call 941-412-0151.

Remembering Dorothy Fuhrmeister (1927-2016)



Dorothy Catts Fuhrmeister was an active community volunteer in South Sarasota County and one of the founding members of the Venice Area Historical Society. Arriving in Venice in 1974 from Delaware, Dot worked in the Marketing Department of Village On The Isle while raising her two youngest children. Dot was an elder in the Venice Presbyterian Church. She was a costumed docent at both Spanish Point and the Train Depot. She was also active at Selby Gardens, the Audubon Society, and the Triangle Inn. She always enjoyed it when student visitors would

return with their parents in tow. Dot complemented her love of history with a love of travel throughout the US and the world.

Along with Penny Phelps and Jerry Madden, Dot prepared the activities associated with VAHS's participation in the Shark's Tooth Festival for many years. VAHS appreciates all Dot's efforts for us and the community.

2017 VAHS Events Calendar

***April 18, 2017. 7 PM. “After Slavery: Black Sharecroppers in the South, 1865-1940.”** Brad Jenkins, Retired Chair of the History and Political Science Department, Guilford Technical College; and Dan Hadley.

***May 16, 2017. 7 PM. Program: “White Sharecroppers in the South and the End of Sharecropping.”** Brad Jenkins, Retired Chair of the History and Political Science Department, Guilford Technical College; Dan Hadley; and Equity Actor Grace Grote.

**The Betty Intagliata Lecture Series is sponsored by the Venice Area Historical Society, with funding provided by the Bill Jervey, Jr. Charitable Foundation. All programs are FREE and OPEN to the public. Programs are held at Mark Manor, Village On The Isle, 920 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, FL 34285.*

The Betty Intagliata Summer Lecture Series



**Early Sarasota County History:
Women, African Americans, Celery,
Turpentine, and Cattle**

**Sponsors are the Venice Area Historical Society (VAHS),
the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice (UUCOV), and
the Bill Jervey, Jr. Charitable Foundation**

The programs in this four-part series are FREE and OPEN to the public. They will be held at the UUCOV Sanctuary, 1971 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34292.

June 13, 2017. 1:30 PM. “Four Visionary Women of Venice: Ann Worthington Manning, Louella Albee, Elizabeth Savage Owens and Frances Bourne.” Presenter: Betty Intagliata. A highly regarded historical interpreter, Ms. Intagliata is the former president of both the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center and the Venice Area Historical Society. She is also the former chair of the Sarasota County Historical Commission.

July 11, 2017. 1:30 PM. “Bertha Palmer and Her Family in Sarasota, 1910-1982.” Presenter: Dr. Frank Cassell, Professor of History and President Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and Chair of the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County. Dr. Cassell will be available to sign his new book following the program.

Aug. 8, 2017. 1:30 PM. “The Vanished Town and Mill at Woodmere.” Presenters: Chris King, local historian, and Brad Jenkins, retired Chair of the History and Political Science Dept., Guilford Technical College.

Sept. 12, 2017. 1:30 PM. “History of Sarasota County’s Laurel Community”. Discussion by a panel of local African American leaders and Sarasota County historians.

Suggested Reading List: The following books are available from the Sarasota County Library with the exception of Dr. Cassell’s book.

Albee, Louella. *The Doctor and I*. 1951.

Cassell, Frank. *Suncoast Empire—Bertha Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota*. 2017.

Colburn, Kevin and Jane Landers. *The African American Heritage of Florida*. 1995.

Cortes, Josephine O. *The History of Early Englewood*. 1976.

Harris, Diana D. *Englewood Lives*. 2008.

Jones, Maxine and Kevin McCarthy. *African Americans in Florida*. 1993.

LaHurd, Jeff. *Owen Burns: The Man Who Bought and Built Sarasota*. 2010.

Matthews, Janet Snyder. *Venice: Journey from Horse and Chaise*. 1989.

Shaw, Nat and Theodore Rosengarten. *All God’s Dangers: The Life of Nat Shaw*. 1974.

Weeks, David C. *Ringling: The Florida Years, 1911-1936*. 1993.

Renovation of Circus Car Begins

As described in the Winter Edition of the *Venice Express*, the circus train car once known as the *Short Leaf Pine* arrived at Uni-Glide Trailer Company in Venice on December 22, 2016. Because the wheels—known as “trucks”—were so heavy, they were delivered separately on the back of a flatbed truck on January 5, 2017. The trucks weigh eight to nine tons each, and a front-loader was used to remove them from the flatbed and place them on the ground.



The first step in renovating the car was removing the original insulation installed in the walls and roof during initial construction in 1953. The removal task was carried out by JES Abatement, Inc. during the time period from January 18th to 23rd. Subsequently, Environmental Safety Consultants, Inc. certified that the asbestos had been effectively removed.

Removal of exterior paint and rust, followed by the application of a temporary primer, began during the last week in March. Once this process is completed and certified, the exterior surface will be ground off, reworked as needed, primed, and painted. A door will be cut in the side of the car, and windows will be installed or removed as needed.



A Design Committee that first met in May 2015 reconvened on March 31st to begin the planning and development of interior exhibits. Members will also address other issues such as the exterior logo and the nature and location of plaques acknowledging donors. The committee members are Sue Chapman, Mary Huba (Chair), Betty Intagliata, Larry Ivey, Kim Kool, Dorothy Korwek, George Miller, Carolyn Redlin, and Barbara Smith. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve!

Venice Celebrates 90th Anniversary



May 9, 2017 will be the 90th anniversary of the State legislation that amended the enabling legislation and city charter to designate Venice as a City. Celebrations have been planned all year to mark the event.

On June 13, 2017, the Venice Area Historical Society will contribute to the 90th Anniversary Celebration. As part of the Betty Intagliata Summer Lecture Series, co-sponsored by VAHS and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice (UUCOV), Betty Intagliata will present “Four Visionary Women of Venice,” a reflection about Venice women who have had a significant impact on the history of the City.

The program will be held at 1:30 PM in the UUCOV sanctuary. It will be free and open to the public, thanks to the generosity of the Bill Jerve, Jr. Charitable Foundation. Other anniversary events are listed on the City of Venice website, venicegov.com.

VAHS Welcomes New Members

Welcome to Rose Bridges, Kathleen Black, Gene Crossland, Marilee DeCook, Robert DeCook, Robert Dreifort, Kenneth Lund, Robert Ims, Sue Dealy Murszewski, Curtis Whittaker, Tommye Whittaker.

26th Annual Meeting of Members

On March 29, 2017, the Venice Area Historical Society held its 26th Annual Member Meeting and Luncheon. Dr. George Miller provided an update on the renovation of the circus train car. He showed a video developed by Mike Hartley of the Venice Institute for the Performing Arts, illustrating all the steps involved in moving the car to Venice. Other topics addressed included the history of the car, current and future work to be performed, and project funding.

The Board members and named officers elected (or continuing) for the 2017-2018 years are:

President	Carolyn Redlin
Vice President	Brenda Holland
Secretary	Mary Huba
Treasurer	Norm Rao
At-Large	Carol Bailey
At-Large	Tom Bowers
At-Large	Ed Gates
At-Large	Bea Holt
At-Large	Bill Jervey

Committees in 2017-2018 will be chaired by the following individuals:

Collections Management	Not Yet Assigned
Communications	Brenda Holland
Depot	George Miller
Education	Tom Bowers
Development	Bea Holt
Finance	Ed Gates
Governance	Bea Holt
Membership	Carol Bailey
Plaque Program	Clarke Pressly
Program	Betty Intagliata
Speakers Bureau	Clarke Pressly

HPCsc Heritage Awards



The History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County (HPCsc) inaugurated its Sarasota County Heritage Awards Program, recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and understanding of Sarasota County's historical resources. In addition, the Heritage Awards aim to raise the level of public support for governmental and citizen-based efforts to preserve our common past.

The Awards Committee, consisting of Dr. Frank Cassell, Laura Dean, Dorothy Korwek, Lorrie Muldowney, Betty Nugent, and Ruthmary Williams, selected the following recipients:

The Public Education Award was given to Venice Heritage, Inc. and Venice Mainstreet for John Nolen Historic District street sign toppers which define the original planned areas of the John Nolen Plan of Venice.

The Archaeological Conservancy Award was given to Dr. George M. Luer for his long term research in Southwest Florida, including numerous sites along mainland shore and barrier islands such as Roberts Bay, Sarasota Bay, Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor. His research in Sarasota and Manatee Counties has helped define regional Manasota Period Culture.

The Historic Preservation Award was given to Michael Swain, Film Preservationist, for his efforts to conserve Sarasota County's film archive that was created by his family business, Hack Swain Productions. To date, approximately 60% of the collection has been preserved.

The Historic Research Award was given to the Newtown Conservation Historic District for compiling the written and oral history of the Newtown Community, the first black community in the Sarasota area. The history covered the time period from 1914 to 2014.

It is anticipated that the awards will be made annually. The 2017 nomination process will begin this summer. Review information at www.historicpreservationsarasota.org.

Volunteer Opportunities Available

Are you interested in serving on the VAHS team? If you or someone you know has expertise and interest related to one of the needs listed below, please speak to a VAHS Board member, call 941-412-0151, or email president@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org.

Membership Committee. Individuals needed to assist with the following: proactive recruitment of members and volunteers, maintaining the Society's electronic database of members in Wild Apricot software, and making recommendations to the Board regarding membership issues.

Executive Assistant to the President. One person needed for clerical tasks such as picking up mail, accessing phone messages, and similar duties as assigned.

Special Events Committee. Two or more individuals needed (a) for program planning (securing venues, selecting menus when needed, preparing decorations, etc.) and (b) to arrange for VAHS participation in community events such as Sun Fiesta, Shark's Tooth Festival, Holiday Parade, etc. Duties include completing applications in a timely manner, planning participation activities, and implementing plans effectively.

Monthly Program Refreshment Team. Two or three people needed to purchase, set up, and serve light refreshments (e.g., non-alcoholic beverages and cookies) at each of the Society's seven Monthly Lecture Series programs. (VAHS assumes the costs.)

VENICE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE(S): _____

EMAIL(S): _____

Check your Membership and Volunteer choices:

- Individual \$30
- Family \$40
- Business \$50
- Non-Profit Org \$25



- Bronze \$100
- Silver \$250
- Gold \$500
- Donation of \$ _____

- Greet visitors at the Historic Venice Train Depot
- Share historical information with visitors at the Historic Venice Train Depot
- Greet attendees at the Society's Monthly Lecture Series
- Help with refreshments at the Monthly Lecture Series
- Help to recruit new members
- Help to prepare and present programs for children
- Serve as a day-trip coordinator
- Prepare and present topics related to local history
- Assist with the Society's publicity and communications
- Assist in production of the Society's newsletter
- Serve on a VAHS committee (*Communication, Development, Education, Finance, etc.*)
- Assist with fundraising efforts
- Assist with technology/computers

Skills or talents I can contribute are:

**Make checks payable to Venice Area Historical Society.
 Mail this form and check to VAHS Membership,
 PO Box 995, Venice, FL 34284. For information, call 941-412-0151.
www.veniceareahistoricalsociety.org
membership@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org**

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