

April-May-June 2021



Palm Harbor Museum

OPERATED BY THE PALM HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS & EVENTS

Museum presents Docent Open House April 10



If you like the idea of welcoming guests into the 102-year-old Hartley House and sharing local history with them, volunteering as a docent at the Palm Harbor Museum might be the gig for you!

On **Sat, April 10, from 10am till noon**, interested individuals are invited to visit the Museum to learn more with long-time docent Howard Buck and Operations Manager Carol Cortright.

In addition to showing guests through the Hartley House while providing information about the family as well as regional Palm Harbor history, docents will direct visitors to the 1935 Grove House, which features a citrus industry display. Docents may also help with children's activities and historical demonstrations.

The Museum needs adult volunteers for weekly 2- or 4-hour shifts on Friday or Saturday, between 10am – 2 pm. Other days will be added as COVID vaccinations become more widely available and visitor traffic increases. Masks are required inside the buildings and near others outdoors. Open House attendees who decide they would like to join the museum team will be invited back for training sessions, to be scheduled later in April.

JOIN US IN THE PALM HARBOR MUSEUM ZOOM ROOM

Joy Katzen-Guthrie produces our monthly **Meet Me at the Museum** programs using this popular online platform. Our onsite lectures may have run out of seats quickly, but our "Zoom Room" allows many more people to participate.

Meet Me at the Museum on Zoom is free to attend and reservations must be made through Eventbrite; Participants will be emailed the Zoom link prior to the event. Donations are gratefully accepted and can easily be added to your ticket reservation.



April 21, 6:30-7:45pm: The History of Palm Harbor's Temple Ahavat Shalom

The Palm Harbor Museum is delighted to have Ed Marks and Rabbi Berger join us to share a discussion and photo display of the temple's history and construction along with an overview of Judaism and temple life both within the congregation, within Palm Harbor, and within the larger region. There will be time for Q&A, and Rabbi Berger has graciously agreed, at our request, to bring his guitar and share a melody or two. All are welcome. Please join us!

Sign up at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com), search "PHM Zoom: Temple Ahavat Shalom"

UPCOMING MM@M Dates & Topics:

May 19, 6:30-7:45pm: Tampa Bay's Pioneering Women Artists

June 16, 6:30-7:45pm: Getting to Know Boot Ranch Manager "Lois Oxnam," with a portrayal by Kimen Mitchell & reminiscences with Lois' friend Jan France

FROM PHHS PRESIDENT BOB FORTNER

Well, Spring has sprung and it is a welcome sight indeed! People who don't think there are seasonal changes in Florida just aren't paying attention. Our flowering plants are putting on quite the show and that lovely spring green in the trees is a sign that soon the pollen will stop falling, please. Of course the big news of the season is the shots. No, not the last second basketball shots that destroyed so many of our "brackets." It is the other ones that we hope will destroy covid 19's hold on the world. I have not been asked "Did you get your shot yet?" more times since that really crowded night at Murphy's Pub in Dublin.

Speaking of not so ancient history, I hope you have been or are planning to soon come to the Hartley House and check out the displays. **The museum is open by reservation for tours on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and can easily be booked online via Eventbrite.com.**

If you haven't been by to meet me at the museum, please take advantage of Meet Me at the Museum via Zoom. Joy Katzen-Guthrie does an incredible job planning and hosting these on-line events the third Wednesday of the month.

Speaking of incredible, we are blessed with the most amazing volunteers, staff and Board of Trustees. Thank you all for pulling us through a year that was a lot like pulling teeth. Our many members appreciate you and what we have to offer to the community as together we spring forth and make history happen at the Hartley House/Palm Harbor Museum.



~ Bob

Someone's in the Kitchen with Ida: PHM Receives Grant to Fund Phase 2 Exhibits

The Faith Mission Christian Committee of the Pinellas Community Foundation has come through again with a much-appreciated grant for the next round of Palm Harbor Museum's new permanent exhibits. Funding from the previous Faith Mission grant allowed the Museum to create new interactive exhibits about the Hartley family, the greater Palm Harbor region, Boot Ranch and Ozona, using videotaped memories captured by the Museum's Oral History interviews.



Phase 2 exhibits will include a makeover of Ida Hartley's original kitchen which has been closed for other uses in recent years. The new kitchen displays will explore what it was like to feed the family on an early 20th century homestead, and the many culinary influences from indigenous diets to foodways brought to Florida by northern pioneers and immigrants from around the world.

Due to museum visitors' many questions about the history of racial issues in Palm Harbor and the need for cultural institutions to become more inclusive, the second exhibit area will examine social injustice and the contributions of Black Americans in north Pinellas County. The Palm Harbor Museum strives to offer its guests a more complete view of American history that has, until recently, been lacking in essential representation of non-white cultures.



The third exhibit area will look at the evolution of the Palm Harbor region's natural history.

From native scrub to agricultural planting to the paving over of green space to create today's urban sprawl, we will take a "then and now and what comes next?" approach to the region's landscape and its effect on our quality of life and how we can protect our natural resources for future generations.



Watch for the new exhibits to be unveiled later this year.

New Feature: Meet Your Board Members!

The Palm Harbor Museum is operated by the all-volunteer Palm Harbor Historical Society Board of Directors, a group of dedicated individuals, all of whom bring their unique backgrounds and experiences together to help the Museum grow. In this issue, we introduce you to our local treasure, **Glenda Riviere Gunnells**, a Palm Harbor native with deep family connections to the region.



PHHS Board Member Glenda Gunnells, left, with Past President Jean Barnes

Background: Glenda's great grandfather William Thompson was one of the earliest settlers of the Palm Harbor area, coming down from North Florida just after serving in the Civil War. Her grandmother, Mittie Louise Thompson married Charles Riviere and her dad, Monroe, worked at the family dairy founded by her uncle Lowell Riviere. Glenda, who was born "on the corner of Nebraska and US 19" in the family home that stood until the early 1960s, has fond memories of playing outdoors, going to weekend fish fries on Lake Butler (now Tarpon), and canning tomatoes from the garden. Saturdays were for "going to town"—Tarpon Springs—but only after all the household chores were done. The kids would take in a double feature at the movie house while their

mother shopped at Register's grocery. While she admits life could be hard sometimes, she says the friendliness

and trust amongst the community made Palm Harbor a wonderful place to grow up. One big change she noticed as more and more construction consumed the area's outskirts was the increasing reliance on air conditioning. Surrounded by orange groves as they were up until the 1960s and 70s, no one needed it.

Palm Harbor Historical Society & Museum: Glenda was involved in the earliest days of the Palm Harbor Historical Society, going back to the 1980s. She's volunteered in various capacities over the years, and has been on the Museum Board for the last three years. She's excited about the direction the Museum is heading as it implements more efficient methods of collecting and preserving the history of the area. Glenda believes the Palm Harbor Museum is an important asset to the community in part, because it helps all the newcomers learn about the region's history.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER—Nancy Mitchem

It takes a special person to tackle the gargantuan project of helping Palm Harbor Museum transfer its inventory of artifacts and archival material from an outdated index into a new professional museum database program—someone who really understands cataloging and organization...someone like...a Librarian!

We are ever grateful to **Nancy Mitchem** for volunteering to undertake the launch of this task as her Directed Fieldwork study toward her Masters Degree in Library Science through USF. By day, Nancy is a Youth Program Coordinator at the Tarpon Springs Library. (Fun fact: She is also on the Palm Harbor Museum's PHHS Board of Directors, so working in the Archives provides her with a special perspective on behind-the-scenes museum operations.)

A resident of Crystal Beach and mom to two grown daughters, Nancy enjoys hiking and visiting state parks and museums when she's not busy with work, school and museum duties. We also hear she's getting back into beekeeping! Cool!

Thank You, Nancy!

(Also, shout out to Nancy's husband Matt, who helps with special events and projects!)



CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:



Tour Guide Docents: If working with the public is within your comfort zone at this time, consider becoming a docent. Training will be provided. Docents greet visitors, provide brief tours sharing information about our historic buildings and the Palm Harbor region; and perform facility sanitizing procedures between visitor groups. Requirements include being able to commit to a weekly 2- to 4-hour shift, 10am-2pm. We currently need help Fridays and Saturdays, with additional days coming in the future.

Event Volunteers: We need volunteers to serve on planning committees, recruit table sponsors, request silent auction donations and food contributions, as well as set-up and clean-up crews for PHM fundraisers and special events. If you have time to help us with this, please get in touch with the Museum.

Please contact the Museum at palmharbormuseum@outlook.com to request more information.

HERE'S A PEEK AT WHAT'S NEW AROUND THE MUSEUM!



1. Docent Howard Buck shows the Ozona fishing display to a couple visiting from New York.
2. A youngster says Hi to Pinky the Spoonbill in Gallery 1.
3. Joy Katzen-Guthrie checks out the Boot Ranch display in Gallery 2.
4. Roger Wilson visits the new Hartley Room, dedicated to the family whose house opened as the Museum's permanent home in 1998.

ORAL HISTORIES ON YOUTUBE

Palm Harbor Museum's Oral History Program not only preserves the voices of Palm Harbor's past, it supports additional interpretive features in our exhibits. We are grateful for the citizens of Palm Harbor who want to tell their stories. The interviews are available for viewing on YouTube. Search YouTube under Palm Harbor Museum and Palm Harbor Museum Oral Histories. Email the Museum to inquire about recording an Oral History: palmharbormuseum@outlook.com.

New Membership Benefits Coming This Summer!

The Palm Harbor Museum is joining a reciprocal museum program that grants admission and other benefits to Members of participating Museums! Stay tuned for more information coming in the Summer issue of this newsletter!

MEMBERSHIP ♦ ROUND-UP

Welcome & Thank You to these New & Renewing Members!

Individual & Family

David DeBatto
 Mark Eide
 Howard Feingold
 Paul & Lavonne Gysan
 Donnie Hanson
 Pete & Carol Jackson
 Curt & Sharon Lamm
 Sharon Leahey
 Sage Piotrowski
 Christine Spencer
 James & Betty Tight
 Diane Wheatley

Platinum Sponsor

Jean Barnes

Patron

John Kessinger



Business Sponsor

Caladesi Memories/Terry Fortner

Sponsor

Alison & Chris Bickum
 Lisha Bowen
 Chas & Penny Riddle

Business Patron

Care Placement Home
 Health Agency

"I recently attended your Wine Around Palm Harbor event and thoroughly enjoyed it! As the owner of a business...in downtown Palm Harbor, I appreciate what your organization does for our community." Ruth Fanovich



(S O M E H O W , I M A N A G E)

CAROL CORTRIGHT, PHM OPERATIONS MANAGER

Without “U,” It’s Just a M*SE*M!

There’s an unusual-looking old house built of rusticated block and pink mortar, topped with a tin roof, perched on the northwest corner of Belcher and Curlew Roads—have you stopped by lately? Right now, you can reserve **private tours of the Hartley House on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays**, until this COVID thing fades away and we can fling open the front door to welcome walk-in visitors again. There are new interactive exhibits to see (and hear!), with more to come! Book your tours through **Eventbrite.com**—just search “**Palm Harbor Museum Tours**,” then choose your day and time—it’s easy! (Museum members are free; adults/age 13+ are \$5 and children 12 & under are free).

Hopefully, we’ll reel in some new volunteers at our **April 10 Docent Open House** (10am-noon) who will be able to help greet guests and assist with tours and other fun activities, because we’ve got lots of new programs on the horizon!

In lieu of an onsite summer camp experience, PHM will be launching a **Junior Historian Scavenger Hunt Activity Kit** when school gets out. It will be filled with clues to locate around Palm Harbor and projects to keep kids busy while learning about local history. Our activity kits are made possible from grant funding through the Florida Department of State’s Cultural Affairs Division.

We look forward to launching a new event later this summer, **History on the House**, which will offer free entry for anyone who wishes to visit on the designated day. Admission fees will be underwritten through generous sponsorships from local businesses and individuals. Watch for details about the official launch of **History on the House** coming soon! Interested sponsors may email **palmharbormuseum@outlook.com** for more information.

Family Day gets a reboot this summer, too. The monthly Saturday event that was such a hit during early 2020 before the Museum had to close will come roaring back with more neat stuff to do. Stay tuned for details.

So—it’s easy to see why **our Museum needs “U”!** Come volunteer, or bring the kids or your friends to enjoy some of our programs. Likewise, if there’s anything you’d like to see PHM provide for our community, please let us know your ideas!

Meanwhile, thank you for your continued support and stay tuned for more good things to come from your local history museum!



Carol visits Miami Seaquarium, ca. 1972.

~Cheers, Carol

Get Your Local History Fix in the BOOK NOOK!

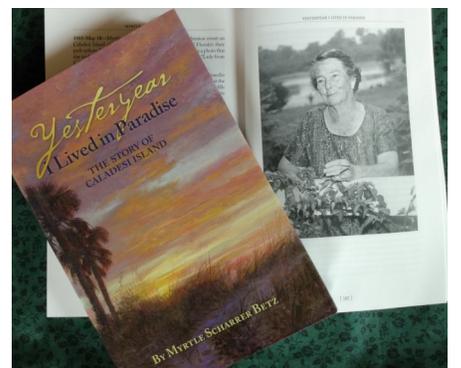


Sometimes, what’s “old” is actually “new”! **Now available:** “New old stock” citrus labels from Palm Harbor’s juicy heyday! These are surplus original labels, NOT reproductions, that were used by groves in the Elfers and Palm Harbor Growers Associations. Labels are \$5. each. Proceeds benefit the Palm Harbor Museum.



Many locals and visitors have heard about the little girl who grew up on Caladesi Island and rowed across the sound to get to school...Now you can read her own story! *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise*, written by Myrtle Betz at the age of 87 and printed on the occasion of her 90th birthday, brings to life the days of wild wonder she spent immersed in nature, from Dune-din to her final home on Sutherland Bay in Palm Harbor. (\$20)

Shopping in our Book Nook Supports PHM! If you would like to purchase any of these items or view other titles in our new Book Nook, Fridays and Saturdays, 10-2 are the best times to stop by. Just call the Museum at (727) 724-3054 or email palmharbormuseum@outlook.com and let us know when to expect you, since we are minimally staffed at this time. Credit card purchases require an additional \$2. service fee. Books can be mailed for a \$5 shipping fee.





PALM HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/Palmharbormuseum



2043 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor, Florida 34683
Phone: 727-724-3054
palmharbormuseum.com
HOURS: Open by appointment only on Thurs, Fri and Sat from 10 am to 2 pm FOR RESERVED TOURS. Book your tour at Eventbrite.com, search "Palm Harbor Museum Tours."

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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



PHM is a proud recipient of support awarded by Faith Mission Christian Committee/Pinellas Community Foundation

CARES Grants



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Application

Without our annual members, PHHS would not be able to run the Museum. 100% of your annual membership is used to support Museum operations. Membership has its perks! Enjoy free admission and programs during the year, exclusive members-only events and 10% off on Book Nook purchases! Individuals and business owners are encouraged to fill out a membership form and mail it in with your check. The Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization. Annual Memberships expire one year from the date of joining.

Encourage your friends to join too! New Members always welcome!

Name Organization (if applicable)

Address City St

Zip Phone Email

Annual Membership Dues Categories (check one)

\$30 Individual \$45 Family \$100 Sponsor \$250 Patron \$500 Benefactor \$1000 Excelsior \$2500 Platinum

Membership Dues \$ Additional Contribution

Gift Membership \$ From

Total Amount Enclosed \$ Please make check payable to Palm Harbor Historical Society