



PO Box 175, Clearwater FL 33757



SPRING 2022



## Trailblazing WOMEN

The *Third Annual Women's History Month Exhibit, TRAILBLAZING WOMEN*, presented by the Pinellas Community Foundation, opened Friday March 4, 2022, to a record crowd of friends, families and sponsors eager to meet the 2022 Trailblazers:

**Katherine H. Biddle, Isay M. Gulley, Phyllis Bayly Jones, Mayme Weaver Hodges, Dorothy Judith (Judy) Lutz, Betty J. Perry, Karen Williams Seel and Jessie Lee Wilder Thacker**

Sponsored by The Ruth & JO STONE FOUNDATION, Morton Plant Hospital BayCare Health System, Les & Judy Smout Foundation, Mary Ann & Brad Morse, Tampa Bay Magazine and supported by the 2020 Pioneers, 2021 & 2022 Settlers, Honorees, Family and Friends. The exhibit honors women who have contributed to the greater good, recognizing their efforts and dedication in shaping our community. Photos, artifacts and newspaper clippings tell their stories, individual contributions, challenges and triumphs.

The Exhibit runs to May 21. Nomination forms for 2023 are online at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org)



L to R: Duggan Cooley, CEO, Pinellas Community Foundation, Phyllis Bayly Jones, Isay M. Gulley, Mayme Weaver Hodges, Karen Williams Seel, Betty J. Perry, Tim Mariani, President, The Ruth & JO Stone Foundation .

### Welcome Volunteers & Bright Futures

Seeking students to seniors, clubs and organizations to join our volunteer team. We are a growing museum with opportunities to welcome visitors, do research, help with exhibits, events, fundraising, gardening, decorating and more. Looking for a service project or seeking Bright Futures hours? Opportunities are available day and evenings.

**Volunteer applications are online at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org)**

**For more information: 727-754-8019 or [CHSoffice22@gmail.com](mailto:CHSoffice22@gmail.com)**

### Ways to Explore and Support the Museum and Clearwater History

- VISIT:** Open 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Fri. and Sat. Mon. to Thurs. by appointment.
- PODCAST:** Clearwater History Speaks on Spotify and Apple Podcast
- YOUTUBE:** Search Clearwater Historical Society Events
- SPEAKER SERIES:** Check Facebook and website for list of speakers. Recorded for YouTube
- SOCIETY SHOPPE** Local authors, Clearwater memorabilia, T-shirts, CHS canvas bags and more
- DONATE:** Donate online at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org) by credit or debit card
- MEMBERSHIPS:** Individual, Dual, Family and Settler Memberships available

Visit our website at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org), email [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) like on Facebook/Instagram @ClearwaterHistoricalSociety or call 727-754-8019

### Board of Directors 2021-2022

President: Allison Dolan Vice-President: Open  
Secretary: Jeanne Holmquist . Treasurer: Suz Carter Priest . Past President: Bill Wallace  
Liz Jones Childress . Lila Grant . Susan Raineri . Dean Robinson

Board meetings are 6 p.m. the second Monday of every month and are open to current members. Call Allison Dolan at (727) 754-8019 or email [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) for more information on serving on the board or committees.



### Joe Turner: A Clearwater Legend

Joe Turner, long-time member and supporter of the Clearwater Historical Society passed away March 11, 2022. Remembered as the master of the Society's Annual Fish Fry, he was a part of the pioneer Turner family that settled in Clearwater in the 1850's.

A graduate of Clearwater High School in 1950, Joe joined the Marine Corps and was an expert rifleman. He was awarded four battle stars on his Korean Service Ribbon, and a Presidential Unit Citation. Returning from Korea, he worked at Turner Printing Company, a family business started by his father, former Clearwater Mayor, Joseph K. Turner Sr. in 1933.

He will be missed at the May 7, 2022 Annual Fish Fry, to be named ***The Joe Turner Memorial Fish Fry***



## 2022 Trailblazer Katherine H. Biddle

Katherine Hershfelt Biddle, a 2022 Trailblazer, passed away days after the opening of the 3rd Annual Women's History Month Exhibit. Nominated by her peers, Katherine would

have loved the story of her contribution to generations of students at Clearwater High School. She was a force for all that is good in Clearwater. Her dedication to her students, her school and her church made her one of the community giants.

She will be forever remembered at the **Katherine H. Biddle Field** named in her honor at Clearwater High School, 540 S Hercules Ave., Clearwater, FL 33764-6314.



## FOUNDING FAMILIES OF CLEARWATER

Most know what brings people to Clearwater today. The temperate climate, the beautiful beach, proximity to Orlando attractions, and lower state taxes are certainly factors. But what initially brought people to the wild, unsettled, and unexplored Clearwater? Where did they come from? What did they do once they arrived in what was an untamed wilderness? How did they survive? Clearwater Historical Society's next exhibit, *Founding Families of Clearwater-An Exhibit of the early settlers of Clear Water Harbor*, explores those questions.

Opening to the public on June 3, this exhibit features many of the homesteading families that came to this area and through their bravery, sacrifices and pioneering spirit, laid much of the groundwork upon which our beautiful town was built. To this day, streets, parks, schools, and buildings bear many of their names.

Anderson, Belcher, Booth, Coachman, Dixon, Harn, Kilgore, Jeffords, McMullen, Nelson, Phillipe, Plumb, Rousseau, Reynolds, Taylor, Turner, Wallace, Wigfall and Whitehurst and many others are truly Clearwater's founding families.



*Cyrus Lowery House located where the present Clearwater-Largo Road intersects West Bay Drive.*



The Discover Clearwater mural was unveiled in March 2022 on the east wall of the 1912 High School. Funded by the City of Clearwater, Public Arts & Advisory Council, the colorful theme celebrates our unique story and beautiful natural assets. Created by mural artist Timothy Boatright and the Vitale Brothers, it features community icons, people who impacted our history, music, sports, nature and tourism. The legend of the mural and a video of the installation will be available by QR code in May.

## Local Women's Clubs Beautify Museum Grounds

The Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) North Pinellas and the Clearwater Community Women's Club joined forces to beautify the grounds in time for the opening of the 3rd Annual Women's History Month Exhibit. They planted Florida-friendly plants next to the outdoor classroom. The gift of time and talent is greatly appreciated and added to the night's ambience, especially since one of their own was being honored.



*L to R standing - Susan Luce, Bonnie Hall, Candy Wiseman, Gina Fisher, Sitting - Laura Bentz. Missing - Killian O'Donnell*

*Thanks to CHS volunteers Ceann Hayes and Tom Fox for assisting in prepping the area and selecting the plants.*



Dorothy Judith (Judy) Lutz, a 2022 Trailblazer, who passed away in 2019, was nominated by her peers for her service locally and her tenure as president of the National GFWC.

In the photo at left, her daughter Judy Griffin stands in front of her mother's story with Allison Dolan, President of the Clearwater Historical Society.

## Researching local history?

The library has a growing selection of books, scrapbooks, maps and documents from Clearwater's early days donated by families, businesses and local government. Thanks to our volunteer librarians we are helping researchers, geneologists, journalists and individuals discover local history.

A big thank you to the Tsacrios family for the paper back year books from the 30s—50s, as well as other historical documents. John Tsacrios, who passed away in 2021, once served on the CHS Board of Directors.

Interested in researching or donating something to the library?

We look forward to hearing from you. Library visits are by appointment.

Photo copies and scans are available for a per page fee.



Clearwater Historical Society, Inc., founded in 1978, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to educate, collect, preserve, exhibit and promote the people, culture and events of Clearwater, Florida. Its vision is to create a place where the community comes together to explore Clearwater's past, share its present and imagine its future. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION (CH# 58300) AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES ON THEIR WEBSITE ([www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com)) OR BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

**The EXHIBIT opens to the public June 3, 2022**

**SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE and include  
VIP Opening Reception June 1, 2022**

## "LET'S EAT" EXHIBIT CONTINUES

*Let's Eat*, featuring popular Clearwater Restaurants has moved to the museum's second floor. Discover the early days of Bob Heilman's Beachcomber, Brown Brothers, Capogna's Dugout, Chief Charley's, the Circus Cafeteria, Frenchy's, Hooter's, Kapok Tree Inn, Lenny's, O'Keefes, Palm Pavilion, Pelican, Siple's Garden Seat, Tio Pepe's, Young's Pit BBQ and more.

Thank you sponsors: Sarah Brown Caudell, C&G Machinery, Hooters, Innisbrook Resort, Palm Pavilion, Pinch a Penny, Suz Priest, Sheraton Sand Key, Tampa Bay Magazine, Martin Volpe and White Glove Cleaning.

