

CLEARWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM
610 S. FORT HARRISON AVE.
CLEARWATER FL
OPEN
THURSDAY - SATURDAY
10 AM - 2 PM

CLEARWATER
1902 PIER

Historical Society
Fall 2023 Newsletter



Veterans Day Dinner & Movie

Fried Chicken Dinner & Movie



Saturday November 11, 5:00p.m.
Tickets on sale at the Museum

Fried Chicken Dinner

w/ coleslaw and mac & cheese

prepared by Chef Jared

Saturday November 11, 5:00 p.m.

As a Salute to our Veterans the society is hosting dinner and a movie under the stars on the front lawn of the museum. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. followed by the movie **Sunday Dinner for a Soldier**.

Originally released in 1944, **Sunday Dinner for a Soldier** starred Anne Baxter and John Hodiak. Scenes were filmed in Clearwater, Sarasota and at Drew Field in Tampa.

Bring your lawn chairs or blanket!

\$12 Members & Veterans - \$15 non-Members - \$6 Children under 10

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

BELLEVUE-BILTMORE HOTEL

Exhibition

The “**White Queen of the Gulf**” with its shining white paint and green shingle roof was not always painted white. This is just one of the many discoveries in the **CELEBRATING THE BELLEVUE BILTMORE HOTEL EXHIBITION**. The exhibition came together with help and encouragement from Joey Vars, Historian and Sandi Hill, Bellevue Inn, along with Clearwater Historical Society all volunteers Built by railroad tycoon Henry B. Plant in 1897 the Bellevue-Biltmore Hotel once stood 350,000 square feet and served as a grand resort, one time lodging for WWII servicemen, and destination for the first-time tourists to Florida’s west coast. Over a century of guests entered its doors and continue today in the present day 35 room Bellevue Inn opened in 2018.

Many thanks to the Bellevue Inn staff and JMC Development President, J. Michael Cheezem, for making this first time exhibit and opening a grand event.



Exhibition Runs

September 14 - February 10, 2024

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Clearwater Historical Society, Inc., founded in 1978, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation 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) OR BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE

Exhibits & Events:



Macrame Workshop

Clearwater Historical Society Museum & Cultural Center
 Location: 610 south Fort Harrison Ave. clearwater, FL 33757

Every 3rd Wednesday of every Month
 Evening 5:00 pm - 7pm
 /Morning 11:00 am to 1:30PM

2023 - 24	Upcoming Workshops	Date	Time
August	Micro Macramé Bracelets	16th	5:00 pm
September	Macramé Wall Tapestry	13th	11:00 am
October	Macramé Owl	18th	5:00 pm
November	Macramé Leaf	15th	5:00 pm
December	Christmas Tree Ornament	20th	5:00 pm
January	Plant Hanger on a Branch	17th	11:00 am
February	Micro Macramé Jewelry	21st	11:00 am
March	Macramé Wall Tapestry	22th	5:00pm
April	Macramé Butterfly	17th	11:00 am
May	Let's make a belt !!!!	15th	11:00 am
June	Mermaid tale	19th	11:00 am
July	Macramé Flag	17th	11:00 am

Contact Host: **Mary Macramé Artisan**
 (610) 905 - 8997
 uplift.bdvmacrame@gmail.com

Sign up now!!!

CALENDAR



October

- Wednesday October 18, Macramé Workshop 5 p.m.
- Saturday October 21, Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m.
- Saturday October 21, Trunk or Treat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

November

- Saturday November 11, 5:00 p.m. Veterans Day Dinner & Movie *Sunday Dinner for a Soldier*.
- Wednesday November 15, Macramé Workshop 5 p.m.

December

- 12 days of Christmas events - check our Facebook and website for dates and times of events.

January

- Monday January 8, General Member Meeting 6p.m.
- Wednesday January 17, Macramé Workshop 11 a.m.
- Wednesday January 17, Volunteer Open House 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

February

- Saturday February 17, DAR Private Reception.
- Wednesday February 21, Macramé Workshop 11 a.m.

March

- Thursday March 7, 5th Annual Women's History Month TRAILBLAZERS opens to public

Did You Know? Fun Facts about Clearwater

Famous people that have lived in Clearwater

- **Connie Haines** 1940s Singer/Actress
- **Jim Morrison** singer The Doors lived with his grandparents while attending St. Pete Jr. College
- **Howard Johnson** baseball pitcher graduated from Clearwater High in 1978 before being drafted by the Yankees but the next year was drafted by Detroit Tigers where he played from 1980-1984.
- **Fun & Sun Parade** started in 1953 as a way to get tourists to stay a little longer in Clearwater.
- Clearwater once had a Peacock Farm where Clearwater Mall is today.
- The first team to have Spring Training in Clearwater was the Brooklyn Dodgers 1936-1940

Thank you to our Class of 2023 Settlers for their generous support!

Liza Carter & Jerry Fletcher
 Suz Carter-Priest
 Liz & Cliff Childress
 Joy & Jerry Collman
 Allison & Larry Dolan
 Four J's Tallahassee Properties
 Drina & Ken Meyer
 Palm Pavilion
 Deane Rhodes-Horne
 John Usher
 Janice Wilson
 Jennie Wilson
 Mary Ellen Wilson

There is still time to join them by December 20, so we can receive a matching \$500 for every \$1,000 Settler membership.

Museum Fun:

BELLEVUE-BILTMORE HOTEL EXHIBITION OPENING NIGHT



Joey Vars (with hat) and current employees of the Belleview Inn above, and former employees to the right



Allison Dolan, Mike Cheezem & Joey Vars



Party guests



Volunteers L to R: Marv Siple, Tom Fox, Jennie Wilson & Susan Raineri



Claire & Allison Dolan with Deane Rhodes Horne



Many thanks to Bay Star Restaurants, Belleair Market, Belleview Inn, CG Machinery, Island Way Grill, JMC Development and Wildflower Cafe for their generous support.

The Exhibit Committee, in partnership with the Belleview Inn, has highlighted one of the most famous, and controversial, Clearwater landmarks, the Belleview Biltmore Hotel, built in 1897. Photographs of the hotel's construction, luxurious furnishings, famous guests, clothing and artifacts from the resort's heyday are featured. The exhibition opened September 13 by Michael Cheezum, President, JMC Development, Joseph Vars, Historian, Belleview Inn and Allison Dolan, President.

Current Happenings:



Haunted History Tour Jolley Trolley

Jolley Trolley Haunted History Tour

Looking for some scary fun this fall? Join the Haunted History Tour of Clearwater on the Jolley Trolley. Tickets can be purchased at the museum, with a portion supporting the museum. Convenient pick-up is onsite at the rear parking lot of the museum off Hamilton Crescent and S. Fort Harrison Ave. (street south of the museum).

Check the Jolley Trolley website for more information.
<https://www.clearwaterjolleytrolley.com/>



Citrus Paranormal Research Team

The Citrus Paranormal Research Team visited the museum to discover and document any paranormal activity. They travel throughout the Tampa Bay area researching locations and paranormal events using state of the art equipment, including DVR cameras and EMF readers. Other research locations include historic sites such as the Brooksville Train Station Museum and the May Stringer House/Hernando Heritage Museum. They are true history lovers and respectful to the historic buildings they visit.

Videos and information can be found on Facebook and YouTube.



Author Mark Muncy signs book for visitor

Authors, Teachers & Musicians

Over our first four years, speakers have shared their love for local history, and authors have shared their stories. Watch our calendar for upcoming presentations, High School Class Reunions, & Family Reunions. Visual artists, classes, musicians and continued opportunities to meet more authors are being pursued.

Event Center Rental

Consider the Event Center for meetings, events or special occasion. Located adjacent to the museum and overlooking the front lawn, the Event Center has accessible restrooms and ample free parking. Affordably priced, the Event Center has a maximum capacity of 75 guests, and allows catered food and beverages. Tables, chairs, a projection screen and podium are available for a fee. *Call today to book your event at 727-754-8019*



Welcome Florida Department of Environmental Protection



The Clearwater Historical Society has leased space to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The team headed by Randy Runnel manages four Aquatic preserves in the Tampa Bay area including the Pinellas County Aquatic Preserve. This includes western Tampa Bay, Clearwater Bay, St. Joseph's Sound, Lake Tarpon and sections of Lake Seminole.

We welcome Randy and his team and look forward to helping each other protect this area and the waters around us.

Reunion Time:



Class of 1973 50TH REUNION



My Love
#1 SONG JUNE 1973
PAUL MCCARTNEY & WINGS



if you still had it today it could be worth \$\$\$



Motor Trend Car of the Year 1973
less than \$4000



High Plains Drifter

CLINT EASTWOOD
#1 JUNE MOVIE 1973



CLEARWATER and COUNTRYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS

When planning your high school reunion keep the museum in mind for a venue to meet up, celebrate and reminisce through our collection of yearbooks. Many classes have spent afternoons at the museum sharing stories. We can assist in gathering memorabilia to display and we encourage class members to loan or donate any memorabilia they wish to share. Oral history stories can also be collected.

CLEARWATER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1993

During the Class of 1993 Reunion weekend they got to visit the new Clearwater High School. I got to tag along with my sister and get some great pictures to share. Thanks to the Class of 93 for letting me come along.



Above: Class of 1993 visiting CHS! Go Tornadoes!



Above: Cafeteria
Below: Library



Left: Courtyard a great place for a pep rally!



Above: Weight room
Below: Outside the stadium something's never change.



Museum Donors & Sponsors:



TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

The Society is thrilled to announce the Ruth & JO Stone Foundation are presenting sponsors for the Women's History Month Exhibition, TRAILBLAZERS 2024. The Foundation has supported the event since 2021, when Ruth Payne Stone was honored for her support and generosity to homelessness, hunger, health, as well as the arts and marine life. Ruth's good works continue through her foundation and she would be proud of the women who have been honored, many from her favorite charities



THE RUTH & J-O STONE FOUNDATION

TRAILBLAZERS 2024

TRAILBLAZERS 2024 opens March 7, 2024 and celebrates five years of honoring women who have forged the way for others to follow.

2020 Mary Lou Baker, Jean Lester Bennett, Jenny Plumb, Jai Hinson, Arabella Williams Faust, Zena Lansky, Betty Wickman McGraw Perkins and Christine Wigfall Morris.

2021 Willa Carson, Ruth Eckerd, Barb Green, Cherry Harris, Blanche Littlejohn, Sallie Parks, Ruth Payne Stone, Jean Rees Homer and Peggy Word, dedicated to Suzanne Ruley.

2022 Phyllis Bayly Jones, Katherine H. Biddle, Isay M. Gulley, Mayme Weaver Hodges, Dorothy Judith Lutz, Betty J. Perry, Karen Seel, and Jessie Lee Wilder Thacker.

2023 Maria Nieves Edmonds, Julie Scales, Nicole Stott, Gertrude Josephine Warnick and dedicated to 2021 Trailblazer Sallie Parks

TRAILBLAZERS 2024 will be announced mid October
The women of our community thank you!

HOW TO HELP

Donate Clearwater Artifacts

The Clearwater Historical Society Museum welcomes gifts of Clearwater-related items. We would love to share and preserve your local photographs, yearbooks, documents and local memorabilia and if you aren't ready to part with them, we can photograph or scan them for future displays.

Join the Settler, VIP Membership Program

Interested in preserving Clearwater's history? Join our Settler Program! The annual membership is \$1,000 and when paid before December 20, 2023, will be matched by an anonymous donor with \$500, making your contribution \$1,500. Becoming a Settler has benefits! Can you help?

- Get invited to opening receptions for new exhibits.
- Attend annual Night at the Museum Appreciation event
- Discount on event center rentals
- Publicly recognized for being a Settler at events, in the newsletter on the website and social media.

As of September we need 7 donors to meet our 2023 goal.

Become a Sponsor

We invite you to be a sponsor of one of our events, exhibitions, programs or receptions. The upcoming 5th Annual Women's History Month Exhibit TRAILBLAZERS 2024 is currently seeking sponsors interested in making this the best show yet. Sponsorships range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 and sponsors receive benefits at each level. Interested in celebrating women who have made a significant impact to the greater good in Clearwater, Pinellas County and the nation? We welcome your participation. Call 727-754-8019 or

email clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

TRAILBLAZERS 2024 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

PLATINUM \$5,000

GOLD \$3,000

SILVER \$2,000

BRONZE \$1,000

Thank you!



Making a Difference:

News from the Librarian

The library has extra Clearwater High School yearbooks for sale, going back to the year 1920. Call the office or email if you are interested.

The library recently received a collection of books from Allison Dolan, President of the Society, that belonged to her mother and father. They join other collections in the library: Milton & Alva Jones, Michael Sanders, and Leslie McMurtry. We continue to seek books about Florida, and invite donations to the Museum Library for future researchers to use.



Some of the Yearbooks at the Clearwater Historical Society Library

Volunteers Make a Difference

We are seeking volunteers to help the museum be all that it can be.

- Building Committee
- Communications Committee/ Social Media
- Events Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Membership Committee
- Board Members
- Volunteer Coordinator

See the Volunteer page on our website for information and applications



Students from Largo High School helped pack up one exhibit and prepare for the next.



Bright Futures projects are available throughout the museum. Students, their friends, or school clubs are welcome.



Volunteers of all ages make everything we do possible.

Leslie Clark & Lila Grant

A Look Back at Volunteers



Volunteers L to R Mary Hancock, Hank Hardy, Ralph Reed, Bookie Galloway and Jean Carter in 1965 at the Clearwater History Museum in the basement of the old Courthouse on Fort Harrison Avenue.

Research Volunteers uncover local history

Research volunteers received a request from a woman looking for a picture of her sister who had no photos from her childhood. She remembered "a red brick school" so it was presumed she attended North Ward Elementary. From the year she was born, we found two possible classes and sent her two childhood digital photos,

Clearwater parks sought information for potential markers in city parks. Volunteers identified four previous bandshells (1925, 1957, 1967, and 1983) as it prepared to open The Sound at Coachman Park.

Clearwater Historical Society charges \$25 per hour for non-members requesting research assistance and provides members two simple research queries per year.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!!

The Clearwater Historical Society Museum is a volunteer run organization, opened in its present location in 2019. Our volunteers make everything happen, some are at the museum daily and others when available. We welcome your interest and will find a volunteer job you will enjoy.

Please join us at one of our Volunteer Open House/ Orientation Meetings on January 17th, 2024, at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. Long time volunteers and newcomers are welcome to attend. We will be introducing our new Volunteer Handbook and schedule of happenings for 2024.

Clearwater Historical Museum & Cultural Center

2023 - 2024 Board Of Directors

President, Allison Dolan Vice President Vacant
Secretary, Jeanne Holmquist Treasurer, Suz Priest
Liz Jones Childress Jerry Collman Susan Raineri
Dean Robinson, Board Member Emeritus Bill Wallace, Past President

If you are looking for a way to help we are always looking for volunteers. Share your gift of time.

Ways to Explore the Museum and Clearwater History

VISIT THE MUSEUM: 10 a.m.—2 p.m. Thursday - Saturday and by appointment Monday - Wednesday.

PODCAST: Clearwater History Speaks on Spotify and Apple Podcast

YOUTUBE: Search Clearwater Historical Society Events

SOCIETY SHOPPE: Books by local authors, Clearwater memorabilia, T-shirts and more

WEBSITE: clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org EMAIL: clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM: @ClearwaterHistoricalSociety

MAIL: P.O. BOX 175, Clearwater FL 33757

CALL: 727-754-8019