



SARASOTA TIMES II

A SARASOTA HISTORY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2008

HISTORICAL NOTE

An elephant-sized
gift to
Sarasota from
John Ringling
arrived in
December, 1927.
The circus
Came to
town!



DOLLY JACOBS and PEDRO REIS, the co-founders of Circus Sarasota, will be our featured guests at the Historical Society's January 15th membership meeting at The Pines! The recently married high-flying aerial stars will present stories of circus history and bring us up-to-date news of their present day circus plans. Dolly, daughter of the late great circus clown, Lou Jacobs, and Pedro, the descendant of European circus royalty, met while performing with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. Appropriately, they exchanged vows at the Ringling Art Museum. Remember, we're meeting at **THE PINES**, 1501 N. Orange Avenue, **7:00 p.m., TUESDAY, JANUARY 15.**

THANK YOU, STAN ZIMMERMAN for a truly entertaining evening, November 14. If you missed this membership meeting you missed a masterful speaker telling tall tales of smuggling activities from the Spanish conquistadors to present day speedboat dope traffickers. What a journey! Thank you, Stan. And, thank you, Diane and Pete Esthus for refreshments!

Historical Note (top left) - Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus settled in their Sarasota winter quarters in December, 1927. Their first performance took place on the circus grounds December 25; a perfect Christmas gift to Sarasota which was beginning to feel the economic slide from the boom days

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Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Judy Herman of the Sara De Sota Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented Arnold Berns a medal from their National Society for his dedication to historic preservation. Mr. Berns was awarded the medal for his proactive role in preserving Sarasota's oldest historic building in Pioneer Park, the Bidwell-Wood House (1882) and the Crocker Church (1901), last Wednesday at a tea social for their members.

—Larry Kelleher



Another great voyage for the Historical Society's LaBarge tour! Thank you Brenda Lee Hickman, Sharon Joyce, John MacCarthy, and all who volunteered to make this annual event such a success.



Thank you, Colleen and Arnie Berns, for hosting a Holiday Party for HSOSC at the colorful, historically designated, Painted Lady, the former Bispham home.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Paul E. Ward, Marvin Rhoades, John J. Lyons, Sara Bagley, Helen Jane Pridgen, Nathalie McCulloch, and Ms. Lyde B. Jones.

ABOVE AND BEYOND the call of duty – Please say thanks to Ed and Lorraine Orr who have been working tirelessly on repairing, cleaning, and painting the Bidwell-Wood House. We can't say enough about their selfless, back breaking contribution and we are continuing to be grateful every day as they continue to work every day. And, we are grateful to Beth Boyce for arranging for the donation of plumbing fixtures.

TROLLEY SCHEDULE – The Historic Downtown Sarasota Trolley will operate on the following days and with hometown guide, Sue Blue, narrating: Saturday, January 26, Saturday, February 16, Saturday, March 8. All tours begin at The Bidwell-Wood House/Crocker Church location, 1260 12th Street (just a block east of Tamiami Trail), 10:00 a.m. 'til noon. Call Brenda Lee at 921-9392 for reservations. \$25 per person. Plenty of free parking! Great way to entertain!

CALL HISTORIC THURSDAYS' tour leader, Jane Kirschner at 320-7773 to learn more about the HISTORIC MANATEE, Jan. 10 tour; the HISTORIC FT. MYERS bus tour, Feb. 21; and, the HISTORIC VENICE walking tour, March 13.

ARTS DAY AND HSOSC- We will again "man" a booth on Main Street during the Arts Day festivities so drop by for a visit, Sunday January 13. Sue Blue and Brenda Lee will be hosting Sarasota history tours on Saturday, January 12, beginning at 10:00 a.m. We hope to see you during that downtown Arts (and History) weekend.

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The Historical Society extends its condolences to Arnold Berns and his family upon the death of his mother.

Our sympathies to Brenda Lee Hickman on the recent death of her brother.

DUES ARE DUE! If you joined in August of 2007 your dues will not be due until January of 2009. The rest of us need to pay our yearly dues NOW. Note the change in the Membership Form printed on the back of this newsletter. All individual dues are \$25. Corporate and Life Endowments remain the same.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER- This year seems to have gone by in the wink of an eye. Since the moving of the Bidwell-Wood House and Crocker Church we have made great progress on the restoration process and now we're looking into exactly what has to be done to comply with City Building Codes so that we may open the buildings to the public. Since the last newsletter, your donations of \$5,000 (thank you!) indicates that we are about \$20,000 short. Can I gently ask you to help us raise the remainder so we may open our Historical Society's home? The sooner we open and the more people come to see us the faster we'll be able to raise the last \$175,000 needed to complete the total restoration. We must not lose our illustrious history and traditions. We are losing so many of our 4th and 5th generation Sarasotans. We need to capture and keep, from those still present, their remembrances before it is too late. The Community Foundation of Sarasota has an endowment and trust investment program which could help the HSOSC keep running in perpetuity. (We have a 60 year lease with the City of Sarasota!) Call Wendy at 955-3000 if you are interested in benefiting HSOSC with their program. A Healthy and Happy New Year to all.
Sincerely, Arnie

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SARASOTA COUNTY
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SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SARASOTA COUNTY MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Memberships renewed annually in January - New memberships begun after Aug. 1 are good for following year)

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Phone _____

Email _____

Please Circle One: It this a New **ENROLLMENT** or a **RENEWAL**?

Membership:	Individual	\$25	Make checks payable to The Historical Society of Sarasota County , send to: P.O. Box 1632 Sarasota, Florida 34230
	Corporate	\$100	
	Life Endowment	\$250	

The Historical Society of Sarasota County is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation