



# SARASOTA TIMES II

A SARASOTA HISTORY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2008

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The Sarasota  
County  
Courthouse,  
2000 Main Street  
was designed  
by  
Dwight James  
Baum,  
and completed  
In February of  
1927



## WELCOME TO MY THEATRE!

This could have been a greeting from the Queen of Cypress, Caterina Corraro, in 1798, as she welcomed guests to her Asolo. Now, in 2008, this Italian jewel-box theatre is housed in the Arts Visitors' Pavilion at the Ringling Museum. Our speaker on **TUESDAY, FEB. 19, 7:00 PM**, Tess Koncick, will tell us about the restoration process of this fabulous 18th century European theatre. Koncick serves as the Associate Director of Collections and Programming at the museum and oversees the Conservation Departments. Meet us at **THE PINES, 1501 N. Orange Ave.** to see and hear this illustrated program especially prepared for the Historical Society by Ms. Koncick.

*Directions to The Pines: From Main Street go North on Orange to 12th St. 12th St. will be on your right; the driveway entrance to The Pines is on your left. Turn into the drive, pause at the gate and tell the attendant you are with Historical Society. Note our Historical Society signs are distributed along the driveway. Pines attendants will direct you to the parking area. After parking, walk north on the covered wood walkway to the Administration doors. Enter, and there we are!*

**FABULOUS JANUARY MEETING!**- Thank you, Dolly Jacobs and Pedro Ries. The stunningly winsome couple told us about the circus past and circus present as well as their personally rewarding outreach programs. Everybody! Support your local circus! CIRCUS SARASOTA is now open and performing under the big tent! We also want to thank The Pines. Their hospitality was overwhelming and much appreciated. And, thank you, Elizabeth Lucchesi, Beth and Cassandra Hurff, and The Pines for refreshments.

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Goodbye to a good friend of HSOSC. The Friends of the History Center hosted a farewell to Dave Baber at the historic Chidsey Building. Dave is the former manager of the History Center. He leaves to fill a similar position in Broward County. Dave will be missed. We wish him happiness and success in his new location. Pictured are Dave and our President, Arnie Berns



**MANATEE HISTORIC TOUR** – Tour 1 of our Historic Thursday Tours found an ardent group of historians at the Manatee Village Historical Park listening to historian Dean Dixon’s stories about each of the buildings now situated in The Village. The Wiggins General Store was probably the favorite as we recognized many over the counter remedies on display that we remembered our grandmothers using! At the church we discovered that the symbol which resembles the Star of David over the altar was actually used a great deal in churches of the 1800’s and was known as The Star of Creation. Manatee’s first courthouse and the Stephens House are also fascinating additions to the Historic Park. Our next ride into history is Feb 21 when we board the bus to Ft. Myers to visit the Ford and Edison Estates and the Museum of History. Call Jane 320-7773 for your reservation!

**BITS AND PIECES** – We regret very much that Sharon Joyce has resigned as a member of the board. She is no longer able to participate as fully due to her work hours. We thank Sharon for her years of dedicated HSOSC service. We welcome Hans Johnsson as our newest member of your Board of Directors. Congratulations to Board member Larry Kelleher and his partner Lee Gaines on their BLAB TV appearance which masterfully promoted their website, **Florida History Alive!** The last **Historic Downtown Sarasota Trolley Tour** of this season is Saturday, March 9. Call Brenda Lee at 921-9392 to make your reservation today! Sue Blue says, “Come on board and let me entertain you!” Our March meeting will be held in the architecturally exciting Sarasota Herald-Tribune building on Main Street. Harold Bubil is the speaker. Plan now to attend! P 2



**ARTS DAY 2008** – Pictured top left:

Larry at the HSOSC booth searches for customers. Top right: A couple of snowbirds show off their artistic attire.

At left: The lady and her loom. This is the way we created material in the ‘good old days’; a creative craft in today’s world. Thank you volunteers. We can’t “do” events without you. Sue and Brenda Lee conducted trolley tours prior to the big day; enthusiastic responses.

**DUES ARE DUE** – Please remember to mail in your dues today. Seriously, we will not be able to pay printing costs of this newsletter, or buy stamps, or pay the telephone, etc etc unless you sign on as a member and pay your dues. Thank you all of you who have already heeded the need.

**NO HONOR ROLL THIS MONTH**-The Historical Society MUST apply for and receive a certificate of occupancy for our Bidwell-Wood/Crocker Memorial Church or we stand to lose everything we have worked for. We still lack the funds to repair the extensive damage to the side of the Church. It is now panic time. Please help.... Sue Blue

**FROM YOUR PRESIDENT OF HSOSC** – If you missed the January General Membership Meeting you really missed something. Everyone in the audience was enthralled by Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Ries and we thank them for the wonderful program.

Don’t miss the Tuesday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> program featuring the restoration of the Historic Asolo!

The March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held in the Community room at the Herald Tribune. Our guest speaker is Harold Bubil, Real Estate Editor of SHT. His articles on the economy in the 20’s and now have been appearing in the newspaper. This is your chance to get an insider’s view on his research and ask about his views of what’s happening with current economics in Sarasota. In April we will be honored to greet Harriet Stieff as our speaker; sister of Lillian Burns, archivist and historian and daughter of Owen Burns, early Sarasota developer and partner to John Ringling in various ventures. You will not want to miss any of these meetings. See you all then. Sincerely, Arnold Berns

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SARASOTA COUNTY

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**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 <b>The Historical Society of Sarasota County</b> , 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*