



# SARASOTA TIMES II

November-December, 2009

1260 12th St., Sarasota, FL 941-364-9076

[www.hsosc.com](http://www.hsosc.com)

## Gift Shop Opens in Bidwell-Wood Kitchen



**Linda Garcia**

The Historical Society of Sarasota County now has a Gift Shop. Located in the detached kitchen of the Bidwell-Wood

House, the shop officially opens to the public on November 14 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Tuesday through Saturday.

Volunteer manager of the shop is Board Member Linda Garcia, who has extensive experience both in managing small businesses and in accounting. Volunteers are needed to work with Linda.

More than 25 craftspeople have signed agreements to market postcards and notecards, pottery, quilts, baskets, books, nature prints, hand-painted pillows, old fashioned aprons, logo t-shirts and mugs, children's craft kits and much more.

The aim of the shop is to showcase local, American-made products that use recycled materials whenever possible. The shop supports the mission of the Historical Society by referencing Florida history. And it's a new source of income to help support the property and programs of the Historical Society.

The inventory of the shop will change frequently to reflect a variety of artists, products and price.



*The pottery and textiles of Sarasota-based artist Pamela Marwede are featured in the Gift Shop.*



*Gift Shop vendors Elizabeth Ribble and Judy Alexander.*

# Holiday Wreaths and Pioneer Day

By Jane Kirschner-Tuccillo, Board President



Ho Ho Ho

I know, we haven't even enjoyed our turkey yet and we've barely put away the pumpkins, but

here at HSOSC we must prepare our mail order for fresh and fragrant Vermont balsam holiday wreaths. Each lovely wreath is 22-inches round and comes plain. But we're selling lovely red bows too. For HSOSC members the wreaths are \$22 each or two for \$38. Send us your orders and your check as soon as possible. Deadline is Nov. 10, so you could bring your check to the next membership meeting. Send check to HSOSC, P.O. Box 1632, Sarasota, FL 34230. These sturdy traditional wreaths will last through the season, inside or outdoors.

Volunteers and members who have stopped by to check out our gift shop in the final stages of transformation at the Bidwell-Wood House detached kitchen are raving about the inventory and the appearance of the charming retail space now painted soft yellow with pale green trim. We're tagging items such as quilts, tree ornaments, books by local authors, clothing, hand-painted pillows, calendars, baskets and so much more. I'm astonished by the quality and the abundance of objects we're able to offer from \$1 and up. We need volunteer sales clerks.

We want this gift shop to appeal to the community as a destination shop for specialty items that reference the mission and outreach of HSOSC. Please tell everyone you know and plan to be at the ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14. The

ceremony is part of Pioneer Day. All day long, until 4 p.m. there will be arts and crafts demonstrations and sales, music, entertainment from the front porch, tours of the Pioneer Cemetery, docent-led tours of the Bidwell-Wood House and Crocker Memorial Church, performances by the Senior Theater Group and delicious barbeque specialties supplied by Nealski's. And you can shop at the new gift shop. Y'all come!

## Events Calendar

**Nov. 10, 2009:** Membership meeting, Crocker Memorial Church, 7:00 p.m. Program is about trains to Sarasota in the old days from "Realrail" experts.

**Nov. 14, 2009:** Pioneer Day and the grand opening of the Gift Shop. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Demonstrations, food and drinks, live music, authors and books too.

**Nov. 14, 2009:** Historical Downtown Trolley Tour. A two-hour trip through Sarasota's past conducted by Sue Blue. Trolley leaves HSOSC at 2 p.m. \$25. Reservations essential. Call Sue at 365-5204.

**Nov. 20, 2009:** Enjoy lectures and a tour the History Center Museum with author/historian Jeff LaHurd, architect/author Joe King, author Don Smally and archaeologist Jodi Pracht from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the History Center, 701, N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. A partnership of the Historical Society of Sarasota County, Friends of the

History Center and Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation.

**Dec. 5, 2009:** Victorian Holiday at the Crocker Memorial Church and Bidwell-Wood House from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Make a tree ornament. Music, food, arts and crafts of the period.

**Dec. 5, 2009:** Historical Downtown Trolley Tour. A two-hour trip through Sarasota's past conducted by Sue Blue. Trolley leaves HSOSC at 10 a.m. \$25. Reservations essential. Call Sue at 365-5204.

**Jan. 12, 2010:** Membership meeting, Crocker Memorial Church, 7 p.m. Sally Sexton Kalmbach, author of *The Jewel of the Gold Coast*. Bertha Palmer book signing event.

**Jan. 29, 30, 31, 2010:** Three-day antiques show, sale and appraisals at Phillippi Estate Park Mansion from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quality vendors from everywhere. Donation at the door, \$5.00. Terrace Café serves lunch.

**Jan. 30, 2010:** History Day in the Park II at Phillippi Estate Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kick-off of the Bertha Palmer Centennial Celebration. Arts and crafts, flea market, books and authors, live music, food and drink. Admission is \$5.00 per carload.

# The Use and Evolution of Our Buildings

By Arnold Berns, Executive Director



**Arnold Berns**

We had a great turnout and I hope that we will see those who came at more of our meetings in future. The November meeting will feature two gentlemen who love railroading and know a great deal about railroading in Sarasota. Do you know what the old “slow and wobbly” refers to?

We’ve been hosting many outside groups at the Crocker Memorial Church which helps with community awareness and fundraising. The Odyssey Theater has had events here and so has The Lazy Fairy Comedy Group. The Sarasota County School Board held a one-day Trade Fair on our property for teachers and the Crocker Church was even the venue for a baptism recently. We continue to be a destination for weddings.

Sue Blue starts her Historic Downtown Trolley tours soon. These two-hour tours begin and end at HSOSC. Also, we may have the opportunity to hold adult education classes here in the spring.

Howard Rosenthal is scheduling docent-led tours on a regular basis and the gift shop is expected to increase community traffic and bring in revenue.

We continue to need volunteers and I’m confident we can match HSOSC needs with your hours and interests. Call me at 364-9076.

Our first general membership meeting this season was organized in honor of long-time board member **Sue Blue**.

We had a

## *This & That*

### HSOSC Wish List:

We desperately need a **cash register** that’s in good shape and easy to use for our new Gift Shop. If you have one to donate, please contact Jane Kirschner-Tuccillo at 320-7773.

We need a volunteer **caretaker** for the property and a night watchman. You can work out hours and days with Arnie.

### Thank You So Much!

**Judy Alexander, Phil Stephens** and **Ramsy Frangie** volunteered many hours to patch, prepare and paint the new Gift Shop walls and ceiling.

**Marianne Menchinger**, who is a professional painter, was high on a ladder recently on the west side of the Bidwell-Wood House, scraping and painting. Her expert volunteer time is greatly appreciated.

**Edie Sanders** and **Bob Lewis** totally restored the two upstairs bedrooms in the Bidwell-Wood House. And they worked tirelessly in the gift shop. What an undertaking. We are forever grateful.

Artist **Margret Bering** has given us many pieces of beautiful art and now she’s at work on the grounds. She provided the colorful window boxes and has a plan for a front garden. In addition, she weeds, rakes, sweeps and little by little is transforming the landscape. HSOSC is her canvas.



The work of nature artist Beverly Blair is available at the Gift Shop



HSOSC Gift Shop, 1260 12th Street in the detached kitchen of the Bidwell-Wood House. Amazing things!

## Docent Tours

With Board approval, Docent Coordinator Howard Rosenthal has set the policy for guided tours of the Bidwell-Wood House and the Crocker Memorial Church. Docent-led tours are available one hour before every general meeting or as reserved by calling Arnie Berns at 364-9076. Members tour free of charge. Non-members, \$3.00 per person. Large groups will be divided and each small group assigned a docent for ease of moving through the buildings.



## Historical Society of Sarasota County Board Members

*Arnold Berns, Executive Director*  
*Jane Kirschner-Tuccillo, President*  
*William Watrous, Vice President*  
*Rev. Jim Nilon, Secretary*  
*Meade Ferguson, Corresponding Secretary*  
*George "Pete" Esthus, Treasurer*  
*Linda Garcia, Membership Coordinator*  
*Ramsey Frangie, At Large*  
*Brenda Lee Hickman, Reservations Coordinator*  
*Hans Johnsson, Bertha Palmer Year Coordinator*  
*Joann Lowe, Refreshments Coordinator*  
*Howard Rosenthal, Docent Coordinator*  
*Marsha Fottler, Newsletter Editor*  
*Gayle Williams, Publicity Coordinator*

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# *Historical Society of Sarasota County*

## Membership Application

(Memberships are based on calendar year. New memberships after August 1, 2009 are valid through 2010.)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal: \_\_\_\_ Volunteer special interests: \_\_\_\_\_

First time: \_\_\_\_

Individual, \$25 \_\_\_\_ Family, \$40 \_\_\_\_ Corporate, \$100 \_\_\_\_ Life, \$250 \_\_\_\_ Donation, \$\_\_\_\_\_

Checks are payable to the Historical Society of Sarasota County. Mail to P.O. Box 1632, Sarasota 34230. The Historical Society of Sarasota County is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation.