

Manasota ASALH, Inc.
Branch Activities Report
Calendar Year 2018

January

January 14

Branch members attended a special performance of the play, “MLK: Mountaintop,” at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe campus. The play takes place in an imaginary setting of Dr. King’s last night in the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis.

January 15

Manasota ASALH was one of the sponsors of the annual Sarasota Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Breakfast, titled “Don’t Sleep the Revolution.” Several branch members attended the breakfast. The branch received a plaque recognizing its contributions to the local community.

January 15

Manasota ASALH representatives participated in the annual “Sarasota MLK Celebration in the Park” sponsored by the Sarasota MLK Celebration Committee.

January 26

The branch held its initial meeting for the year at the North Sarasota Public Library. Our Moment in History speaker was Ms. Helen McBean, founder and director of the Roy McBean Boys and Girls Club in Sarasota.

January 27

The Dr. S. Carroll Buchanan Film Series under the direction of former Manasota ASALH President Robert Fitzgerald presented the film, “Journey for Justice: The A.P. Tureaud Story,” a documentary highlighting the challenges to Jim Crow in 20th century Louisiana waged by legal activist, Alexander Pierre Tureaud.

February

February 1

The annual Black Muse Art Exhibit – sponsored by Manasota ASALH – had its grand opening. Artists from diverse backgrounds had their pieces on exhibit and for sale. Almost 200 people attended the grand opening celebration that was held from 5 – 7 P.M.

February 15

The branch co-sponsored an event acknowledging the service of African Americans in the defense of the U.S and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of World War I. The branch presented medals to approximately fifty local veterans in recognition of their military service.

February 23

The branch held its monthly general membership meeting. Our Moment in History speaker was Dan Boxser, Co-founder of the Boxser Diversity Initiative that sponsors a series of educational programs in the area. The branch co-sponsors many of these events.

February 25

The branch sponsored a table at the fourth annual A. Jean Battie Scholarship Fundraiser held by the Light of the World International Church.

February 27

The branch sponsored a screening of the documentary, “Veterans of Color,” produced by branch members.

February

The branch provided financial support for the annual Black College Tour sponsored by the AVID program at Bayshore High School.

March

March 23

Manasota ASALH held its monthly meeting. The Moment in History speaker was Ms. Jo Morello, an award-winning Playwright. Her presentation focused on her efforts to develop a play about Lil and Louis Armstrong.

March 27

The branch sponsored a program entitled “Let the Future Begin,” at the New College of Florida. The program featured former Detroit Mayor, Dennis Archer, who discussed his new book of the same title.

April

April 13 & 14

Manasota ASALH held its annual fundraiser – The Randy Rankin Scholarship Classic. The event features tennis competition on Friday April 7th – starting at 1:00, and golf and table games (Bridge, Mah Jong, Bid Whist) competition is held on Saturday morning. An awards luncheon is held Saturday afternoon. Proceeds from the classic support the Randy Rankin Scholarship fund. Over 240 people attended.

April 21

The Dr. S. Carroll Buchanan Film Series under the direction of former Manasota ASALH President Robert Fitzgerald presented the film “Been Rich All My Life” at the North Sarasota Library. This documentary pays tribute to the Silver Belles, a troupe of veteran “Harlem renaissance-era” dancers who met in the 1930’s as youthful chorus girls and reunited in 1985, performing, up in age, on stage in matching glitter-encrusted costumes.

April 27

Manasota ASALH held its April general membership meeting. Our Moment in History speaker was branch member, George L. Miles, Jr., former President and CEO of WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh (the city’s public television station). His presentation focused on his career trajectory and guiding principles that facilitated his success.

April 30

Branch President, James Stewart, was a participant in the “We Are Sarasota” presentation sponsored by the Sarasota County Bar Association Diversity Committee.” The branch provided financial support enabling local students to attend this event.

May

May 25

Manasota ASALH held its monthly general membership meeting at the Family Heritage House Museum located on the Florida State College campus in Bradenton, FL. This is our annual scholarship awards meeting (See Appendix C) Twenty scholarships were awarded totaling \$33,500. Since its inception more than \$360,000 has been awarded to deserving students through this program. The Moment in History speaker was Dr. Rachel Shelley, Principal of Booker High School who was the 2017 Florida Principal of the Year. Dr. Shelley’s address emphasized strategies to achieve success in college. During the meeting James Stewart, Manasota ASALH President, presented donations in the amount of \$1,000 each to the Family Heritage House Museum.

May

The branch made a donation to Truly Valued, Inc., a non-profit organization providing services to adolescent girls ages 11 to 17.

June

June 29

An Opinion-Editorial by Branch President, James Stewart, was published in the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*. The Op-ed described local efforts to preserve Black history and important historical sites in the local area.

August

Manasota ASALH purchasing a full-page ad in the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe’s 2018-19 season program.

June through August

No meetings were held during the summer months as many of our members spend the summer months in the northern states. During this period

Manasota ASALH submitted its annual donation (\$1,000) to the national organization and took out a full-page ad in the National Conference Journal.

September

September 17

The branch President submitted a letter to the U.S. Civil Rights Trail Marketing Alliance supporting efforts to include the 1955 car caravans organized by local residents to protest segregation of local beaches on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

September 25

Four branch members visited the Bronze Kingdom museum in Orlando which houses the largest collection of bronze African sculptures in the world.

September 28

Manasota ASALH resumed its monthly general membership meetings. Our Moment in History speaker was Mr. James Davis, Retired Engineer. His presentation focused on efforts to improve the circumstances of Black farmers.

October

October 3 – 7

Seven members of the Manasota ASALH branch attended this year's National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The branch received an award for having the largest branch membership.

October 15

The branch hosted a "Welcome Back" reception for members at the campus of the Westcoast Black Theater Troupe attended by over 100 members.

October 28

Manasota ASALH held its monthly general membership meeting at the State College of Florida. The Moment in History speaker was Mr. Ed James III. His presentation focused on proposed amendments to the Florida constitution.

November

November 3

The Branch President and an Executive Board member attended the inaugural meeting of the ASALH Florida Coalition hosted by the Orlando branch at the University of Central Florida.

November 11

The film “for Love of Liberty” was presented as part of The Dr. S. Carroll Buchanan Film Series.

November 16

Manasota ASALH held its monthly membership meeting. The Moment in History speaker was ASALH member, David Wilkins. His presentation focused on a seven-session course he will be teaching entitled, “No, Mr. West, Slavery was Never a Choice,” at Temple Beth Sholom as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (“OLLI”) at Ringling College from January 15, 2019 until March 5, 2019.

November

Manasota ASALH successfully recruited its first Institutional Member, the ASOLO Repertory Theater.

December

December 6

Manasota ASALH held its annual holiday breakfast at the Palm Aire Country Club. More than 240 people – many in holiday garb, attended this year’s breakfast.

December 16

The Manasota and St. Petersburg branches co-hosted an event celebrating the birthday of ASALH founder, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. The event was held at a private residence in St. Petersburg with approximately 25 members of each branch in attendance.