

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Dedicated to our Unique History

P.O. Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

ESHP@hotmail.com

www.evergladeshistorical.org

The **TOWN CRIER** newsletter is issued periodically to keep ESHP members and the public informed of our activities. We welcome news and feedback.

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Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. The Society is concerned with the preservation of all historic sites, structures, documents, artifacts, and memories within the Everglades area.

DIRECTORS

Kathy Brock (President), Helen Bryan, Hydie Friend
Patty Huff (Vice-President), Elaine Middelstaedt (Treasurer)
Marya Repko (Secretary), John M. Wilson, Craig Woodward

ESHP MEMBERSHIP

(renewable each January 1 except for Lifetime categories)

Individual (\$25) Family (\$40)
 Patron (\$100) Benefactor (\$500)
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TOWN CRIER

EVERGLADES SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 2



NEW VISITOR CENTER

At least 100 people were at the official opening on February 1 when Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm cut the ribbon. We were honored to welcome Representative Mario Diaz-Balart and Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos among the dignitaries who attended.

The huge sign above the information racks was made by Tim Brock and Steve Huff. We also had a telephone installed so that we do not rely on volunteers' cell phones. The number is (239) 232-0473.

The center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day. If you can spare a few hours, stop in to pick a time on the calendar or leave us a message on the phone.



Sunshine Collection

Some of the watercolors of local buildings by artist Donald Sunshine are on display in the Visitor Center. He is a retired professor of architecture from Virginia Tech but has wintered in Florida for many years with his wife Joanna, also an talented artist.

ESHP acquired Donald's paintings in April 2019 and we will finally have a reception for him on **Saturday, February 22**, at 1:00 p.m. after Art-in-the-Glades. Everyone is invited to come along to the Visitor Center to admire his work and talk with him.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb 21: ESHP Annual Meeting & Talk

5:30 pm, Island Cafe

Feb 22: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

Feb 22: Reception for Donald Sunshine

1pm, Everglades Area Visitor Center

March 28: Art-in-the-Glades

10am-1pm, McLeod Park

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 8:30 a.m. on the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 2**, in our office at City Hall. Members are welcome to attend and contribute ideas. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 64 members but 14 are in arrears from 2019.

Welcome to new members:

Nancy Jenny, Chokoloskee

Jeannette Kelly, Boston

To join us or renew, just fill in the form on the back of this newsletter or use a debit/credit card at our website www.evergladeshistorical.org.

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

Join us on **Saturday, February 22**, for an informal arts & crafts fair in Everglades City from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. under the pavilion in McLeod Park. Besides photos and jewelry and hand-made items, there will be local history books for sale.



Vendors are welcome to set up a table at no charge. For info, call Marya at (239) 695-2905.

History & Heritage Week

The Museum of the Everglades welcomes everyone to this new event which will take place during the week **February 17-21**.

The traditional MSD Luncheon on Tuesday at Everglades Isle features Sasha Wortzel who will speak about her new film "River of Grass".

On Thursday there are two talks: "Lostmans Heritage" by author Karen Yvonne Hamilton about her Everglades ancestors and "Growing Up in Dupont" by Voncell Whitaker.

See www.colliermuseums.com or phone (239) 252-5026.

FAREWELL

Sue Evans passed away at age 76 in North Carolina. She owned an historic home in Everglades City with husband Jasper and she was a volunteer in our community during the winter.

SAVING THE OLD BANK BUILDING



We are pleased to report that the owner of this historic building has been working with ESHP to stop it from crumbling away through lack of maintenance. We have already had the roof inspected and requested quotes for termite control.

You can hear an update on **Friday, February 21**, after we have a brief Annual Members' Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Island Café. The event is open to the public and there is no charge except for what you order from the menu. Please let us know how many of you will attend by emailing ESHP@hotmail.com or phoning Marya at 695-2905.

March is Women's History Month

One of the first events celebrating famous women is on **Tuesday, March 3**, when Dr. Peggy Macdonald will speak about "Florida's Female Pioneers" during the Marco Island Historical Society meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Rose History Auditorium. Her illustrated presentation includes Harriet Beecher Stowe, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Mary McLeod Bethune, and other famous Florida women.



For info, see www.themihs.com or phone (239) 289-6447.

Book Review

by Marya Repko



The Hamilton name is common in southern Florida and a descendent of one of the pioneer families has written a book titled *Lostmans Heritage* about their history.

Karen Yvonne Hamilton dug into court records as well as speaking to relatives. She includes many old photos, family charts, and a list of references.

Karen is a speaker during History & Heritage Week at the Museum on **Thursday, February 20**, at 10:00 a.m. If you can not come along, you can order the book online at her website www.yesterdaypress.com.

News from the Historical Library



We can scan old photos and small documents in our new office on the first floor of City Hall while you wait if you do not want to donate them.

We also welcome old books of local interest for the Historical Library, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.