

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 14 – Number 11

November 2012

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 1st at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum, 39110 South Avenue. The business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. Refreshments are always served. There will be no scheduled meeting in December. Our Christmas get-together is set for Monday, December 3rd, 6 p.m., at the Wedgewood Manor Community Clubhouse, 37420 Wedgewood Drive (off Geiger Road).

Speakers

Our speaker for the November meeting was Harriet Morton Weicht, assisted by member Elaine McKendree Benjamin. Both these ladies grew up in the historic Hercules Powder Company Camp. They spoke mostly about the family atmosphere of the entire camp, and how families looked after one another. Those in attendance enjoyed the presentation and discussion very much.



Little Lady, Harriet Morton Weicht – 1st Prize Easter Float

EAST 54 MINI STORAGE

Boat • RV Storage
Business Workshop Rental

813.788.5969

John Bolender

38461 CR 54 East • Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit

www.fivay.org

Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

Executive Board

President	.....	Cris White
Vice President	.....	Jerry Pricher
Secretary	.....	Margie Partain
Treasurer	.....	Jo White
Alternate	.....	Patty Thompson

Board Members

Nathan Geiger
 Bill Kustes
 Bob Porter
 Penny Porter

Committees

Ads for Tracks	.....	Patty Thompson Vera Chenkin
Hospitality	.....	Rose McKell
Refreshments	.....	Gail Geiger
Newsletter	.....	Jerry Pricher Clereen Brunty
Programs	.....	Irene Dobson
Scholarship	.....	Margie Partain Jerry Pricher

Boardwalk Boosters

Dick Tucker
 Greg First
 Bill Kustes
 James McElwee
 George Boone
 Mary Helen Clague
 Jim Satterfield
 Roselyn McKell
 Clereen Brunty
 Terry & Jackie Lindsey
 Maurice Humphries
 Polly Humphries
 Vicki Elkins
 Gina King Granger
 Margie Partain

Scholarship Boosters

Jay & Kathleen Burnside
 James & Jean Kaylor
 Rick Moore, MD
 Jerry Pricher
 George Boone
 Betty Hall

CURRENT MEMBERS

Mary Ellen Ahrens	Carolyn Dean	Betty Hall	Terry Lindsey	Bob Porter
Elaine Benjamin	Irene Dobson	Rex Hiatt	James McElwee	Penny Porter
Art Bessinger	Elaine Edenfield	Val Hiatt	Roselyn McKell	Jerry Pricher
John Bolender	Vicki Elkins	Maurice Humphries	Jeff Miller	Sharon Reisman
George Boone	Greg First	Polly Humphries	Pat Mulieri	Jim Ryals
Clereen Brunty	Gail Geiger	James Jarrett	Elizabeth O'Dell	Linda Sante
Kathy Burnside	Nathan Geiger	Thea Johnson	Barbara Ohman	James Satterfield
Vera Chenkin	Sharon Geiger	James Kaylor	Dale Palmer	Margaret Seppanen
Mary Helen Clague	Gina King Granger	Jean Kaylor	Margie Partain	Patty Thompson
Carrie L. Clark	Lyden Green	Bill Kustes	Dusty Perkins	Cris & Jo White
Ken Cummings	Sue Green	Jackie Lindsey	Nancy Perkins	Ed Woodstuff

 <p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact clereen@tampabay.rr.com 813-782-8763 www.zhsalumninews.websiteanimal.com</p>	<p>All types of repairs Over 30 yrs experience</p> <p>JIM'S MANUFACTURED HOME SERVICE INC. MOBILE HOME SPECIALIST</p> <p>James Brunty, owner (813) 782-8763 Insurance Claims</p>
--	---

Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

Member Spotlight

Vera Chenkin

By Clereen Brunty

When I asked Vera Chenkin to jot down a few things about her, I received a wonderful story with a little help from her daughter and son-in-law. Vera has always done so much for others in her beautiful art work, that I felt it was time to recognize her.

Vera has been a Zephyrhills Historical Association member for many years and held several positions including membership and advertisement committee. She is the



daughter of Joseph and Mira Maturo of Teaneck, New Jersey. Her father was a professional illustrator of magazines and movie posters and her mother was a registered nurse. Vera has been a working artist all her life and a Zephyrhills businesswoman for most of it. Over the years she has done her best to bring the visual arts to Zephyrhills.

Her husband, Alan, is practically a Zephyrhills native. In 1924, when he was a small child his parents, Herman and Rose Chenkin, moved

their family to Zephyrhills to start a natural foods business. He was mostly home schooled but he did graduate from Zephyrhills High School in 1940. Alan is a World War II (D-Day and Battle of the Bulge) and Korean War veteran. He was a salesman and truck mechanic for his parent’s business, Zephyr Brand Natural Foods Company, until it was sold in 1958. He then ran his own business, Alan Chenkin Service and Sales (an International Harvester distributorship), until he retired.



<p>Rinnai</p> <p>BAHR'S</p> <p>Lenny Bahr Kevin Bahr Owners</p> <p>PROPANE GAS AND A/C INC.</p> <p>4441 Allen Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33541 Ph. (813) 782-5013 bahrs.ac@tampabay.rr.com · www.bahrspropanegasandac.com</p> <p>Amana LATEST AND BEST AND LONGEST</p> <p>Sales Service Installation</p> <p>15229 US Hwy 301 Dade City, FL 33523 Ph. (352) 567-7678</p>	<p><i>Artistic Expressions</i></p> <p>Custom Picture Framing specializing in the framing of needlework</p> <p>5906 7th Street Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p> <p>(813) 783-7731 Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner E-Mail: aeframer@aol.com</p>
--	--

Vera met Alan in Miami. She had gone to Miami in 1946 and was sharing an apartment with a friend, Jeanie Duncan. Jeanie's boyfriend was an auto mechanic. One day she arranged a beach picnic double date for Vera with a young man who was waylaid waiting on a part for his Studebaker at her boyfriend's shop. That young man was Alan.

Alan remembers, "I was trying to get my new 1948 gray four door Studebaker fixed. The warranty provided for an entire new rear end free of charge. But it would take several days for the parts to arrive. So the shop foreman took me to his mother's apartment to stay the weekend. He took me along when he went to see his girlfriend, and to a picnic at the beach."

Vera continues, "We went swimming. There were rough waves. There was lots of seaweed piled up on the shore. He enjoyed eating my homemade hot German potato salad, and deviled eggs."



Alan thinks back saying, "She had beautiful brown, wavy, waist length hair." Vera says, "Two weeks later I got a call and we went out. Each time he came to town we went out. After seeing a movie, he would sing or sit at the piano and play songs."

Their courtship lasted one year and they got married. They moved to Zephyrhills in 1950. Vera and Alan had three children: Gail, Joe and Jimmy. All three went to college. Gail became an artist and librarian. Joe worked for the aerospace industry and the U.S. Postal Service. Jimmy worked as a construction inspector and later took over running The Gallery from Vera.

As a business woman, Vera sold art and custom made frames through The Gallery, last located on south US 301. She is a member of the local chapter of the American Business Women's Association and was chosen Pasco County Business Woman of the Year for 1992. She was a member of the Zephyrhills Women's Club and helped with the local Girl Scout chapter.

<p>Dine In - Take Out Delivery - Catering</p> <p>The Sandwich Spot</p> <p>39013 CR 54 Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> <p>"Best Cubans in Town"</p> <p>813-783-6396</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"></p> <p>MAIN STREET <i>Zephyrhills, Inc.</i></p> <p>5224 7th Street • Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> <p>Gina Granger Executive Director</p> <p>(813) 780-1414 Fax: (813) 783-3475</p> <p>www.mainstreetzephyrhills.org Email: info@mainstreetzephyrhills.org</p>
--	--




As an artist Vera studied drawing and painting at the National Academy of Design and at the Art Students League in New York City. In Zephyrhills, she taught drawing to all eight grades at St. Anthony’s School in San Antonio and taught after-school art classes at Cox Elementary School in Dade City. She has taught private art lessons to all ages. She was one of the founders of the Zephyrhills Art Club. She has done quick portrait sketches for numerous fundraisers and festivals throughout the years including Founders Day. She did drawings of local historic buildings that were reproduced as note cards by the Zephyrhills Historical Association. Many locals have had their portraits painted by Vera.

In 1960 she was asked to paint a portrait of Samuel Pasco, our county’s namesake, which now hangs in the Tallahassee Capitol as a gift from the outgoing delegate to the incoming delegate from Pasco County. The 16x24 portrait was painted from a small tin-type photo and is the same famous pose you see today of a bust side view of Mr. Pasco with his long white beard. Also her portrait of Merriel Miller, a resident of Zephyrhills, hangs in the Zephyrhills Depot Museum. She has also painted many other self-owned portraits of Zephyrhills residents including siblings, Sam & Judy Surratt, when they were teens per Raybelle Surratt as well as Marlene Mann to name a few.



MG

<p>CHALET FLOWERS</p>  <p>5002 SEVENTH STREET ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA 33542 813-788-2874</p> <p>MARY ANN · KIM · TIM SANDERS</p>	<p>LITTLE ANGEL CHRISTIAN STORE</p> <p>5522 7th Street (behind Kentucky Fried Chicken) Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 Toll Free (800) 290-9650 (813) 782-7600</p> <p>labor of LOVE STAN & CHARLOTTE GRAMS</p> <p>BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU - SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU</p>
---	--

She is a member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida and has won several awards for her tiny oil paintings. In an article of the St. Pete Times on January 12, 2007, one of her miniatures was selected for their permanent collection, a display that travels worldwide. The article stated that two Pasco County residents were among the winners of the 32nd annual Miniature Art Society of Florida competition for 2007. More than 1,300 entries came from the United States and many foreign countries. Of those, 860 were on exhibit at the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art in Tarpon Springs.



As Seen In Tropical Breeze • January 2007

First Human Figure
Vera Chenkin
How High
2 1/2" x 5 3/4"

Of those, only 10 artists from Florida won awards. First Place went to our very own **Vera Chenkin of Zephyrhills** in the Human Figure Division for her tiny painting “How High” which depicts a small boy climbing on a rope. It is 2½ inches wide and 5¾ inches tall.

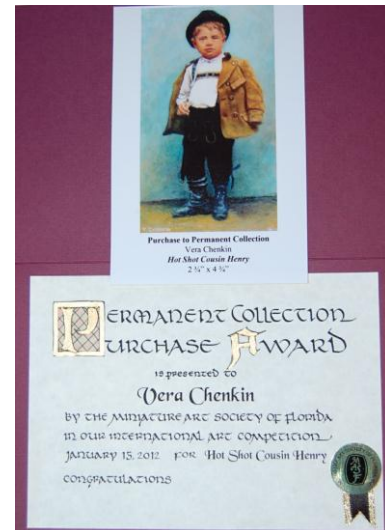
Miniature art measures no more than 5 inches square or 4 inches by 6 inches, with many being smaller than that. The museum provided magnifiers so that patrons can view the meticulous workmanship and jewel-like colors that go into every painting, sculpture, scrimshaw

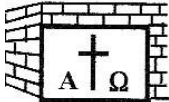
or piece of calligraphy. When looking at the miniatures, you would think you were looking at photographs as the details are so accurate to scale.

The prize-winning artists divided about \$20,000 in prize money. The awards were presented at a private brunch. The local show was considered among the finest in the Southeast. To see several of the paintings visit:

www.miniatureartsocietyofflorida.com/2007awards.pdf

Today, Vera still enjoys painting miniatures and on January 15, 2012 she again was presented the Permanent Collection Purchase Award by the Miniature Art Society of Florida in its international art competition for her portrait of “Hot Shot Cousin Henry”, a 2 ¾ inch x 4 ¾ inch size art work.



<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 7th Street & 8th Avenue</p> <p>Come be our special guest Coffee & Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor *NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p>Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals</p> <p>From son James</p> <p>God Bless America</p>
---	--



Vera also enjoys working picture puzzles, her cats and Zephyrhills history. Over the years she has collected music boxes of all kinds from dolls to Christmas trees that play music as well as her bells and angel collection. Her favorite restaurant is the Golden Corral and her favorite color is blue.

From the Desk of the Editor

You'll notice that I included a membership form on page 8 of this month's newsletter for those of you who would like to make use of it. I'm not sure I'll have room for it again in December. Actually if you are simply renewing your membership or advertising, and nothing has changed, you can simply send a check. The form is not necessary. If you are making additional contributions you can simply note it in the memo portion of the check.



Your editor – Founders Day (I'm guessing 1955)

<p>WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small> <i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p>Rick L. Moore, M.D. Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p>Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p>Dependable Service Satisfaction Guaranteed Reasonable Rates Licensed</p> <p>NATHAN C. GEIGER Lawn Service</p> <p>813-782-7577</p>
---	--

 <p>Manolo's Italian Restaurant "Italian Cuisine at its Best"</p> <p>38445 5th Ave. Downtown Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> <p>(813) 715-7077 (813) 715-7047 fax</p> <p>manolosrestaurant@yahoo.com www.manolositalianrestaurant.com</p>	<p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p>  <p>Joni Gauger <i>Stylist / Owner</i></p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd. Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p> <p>813-782-4001 or 813-469-3437</p>
---	--



Cut along line and return with payment

You are invited to join the Zephyrhills Historical Association for a journey down the "Tracks of Time"

Name: _____

Company Name: _____
(Please include business card if advertising)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

Make checks payable to:
Zephyrhills Historical Association

Mail to:
**ZHA Membership
c/o Jerry Pricher
5138 20th Street
Zephyrhills, FL 33542**

Fiscal year - Jan thru Dec

- ___ Annual Membership (\$15 per year)
- ___ Boardwalk Booster (\$ 5 add'l with Annual)
- ___ Advertisement (\$15 for Members) (\$25 for Non-Members)
- ___ Scholarship Fund (Any Contribution)