

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 1

January 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

Speakers



Louie Holt was our presenter at the January meeting. He displayed pictures from our archive of the "Organizations in Zephyrhills." He relayed much of the history of each and how active they were in Zephyrhills history. Louie pointed out that we have relatively few pictures of this most important aspect of our history, and he urged members to reach out to anyone who might be able to help us remedy this situation. As usual, his presentation brought out plenty of discussion. It is

always a pleasure to have Louie as our presenter.

Our speakers in February will be two former athletes of mine from my days coaching track at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School. Nick



Carroll is now the head football coach at Zephyrhills High School, where he once played. Bryan Thomas is head track coach at Zephyrhills High School, which is also his alma mater. Each man serves as an assistant coach to the other in these two sports. These young men are among the best I ever coached, and they now are playing an important role in the lives of young men of our community. I'm sure we are in for a treat! Come join us.



Tuesday, February 21st, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser

at **Beef O'Brady's** in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m. on that day.

Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 - pattycakeclown1@aol.com) for information.

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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.

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Treasurer	Clereen Brunty
<u>Board Members</u>		
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Ads for Tracks	Clereen Brunty
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Programs	Jerry Pricher
		Carolyn Dean
Scholarship	Margie Partain
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Scholarship Boosters

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 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

From the Desk of the Editor:

We lost a dear friend recently. Betty O'Dell has been one of our most active members. She and Ken took part in almost every activity the Zephyrhills Historical Association is involved in, and they always did so with enthusiasm. Their smiles and gracious spirit always added to the occasion. I think we are all going to miss Betty quite a bit. Clereen did a profile of this couple in the May edition of this newsletter in 2013. I think it bears repeating in honor and memory of this dear lady.

Published in the Tampa Bay Times on January 19, 2017

ELIZABETH "BETTY" O'DELL, 86, died January 15, 2017.

Survived by a daughter, Lorraine; four grandchildren; and other loving family.

Whitfield Funeral Home
5008 Gall Boulevard
Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Member Spotlight

Ken Cummings and Betty O'Dell

by Clereen Brunty

In 1992, Ken moved to Zephyrhills. In 1994 Ken became a member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association and helped at the flea market and pig roast that the association held as fundraiser events. He also held a position as Board Member for 2 years. Now he enjoys coming to meetings and especially our "Dinner Night Outs"!

Ken met Elizabeth "Betty" O'Dell at one of the flea markets the historical association was having at the Depot in September 2006. He saw a new lady helping out and was introduced by Margaret Seppanen, another historical member and lifetime resident of Zephyrhills. She would ask Kenny if he could take Betty home afterwards which he was glad to do not knowing the method to her madness...Margaret was playing cupid! In May of 2007 Kenny asked Betty if she would like to go out to Remington Steak House in Wesley Chapel and she graciously accepted. Food is always the best way to get acquainted with someone you are interested in. They have been dating ever since!

The story of **Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Galeucia O'Dell** begins on November 1, 1930 when she was born to Daniel W. and Olive I. Galeucia of Dalton, Massachusetts. Betty is the middle of seven siblings, Warren, June, Nelson, Betty, Richard, Daniel and James. Besides Betty, the only brothers and sisters still living are Warren who lives in Pittsfield, MA and June who lives in Worcester, MA.



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At the age of 4, Betty’s family moved to Hinsdale, MA after her mother inherited \$500 and was able to purchase a farm. She attended Kittredge Grammar School in Hinsdale, MA. As a child, her mother taught her how to work the phone switchboard. When the manager of the phone company went into the military he convinced her mother that she would be a great switchboard operator, so they moved into the place where the equipment was housed. They even had the only fire system and were in charge of notifying the Fire Department where to go to a fire based on the phone calls they received from the residents. Betty would earn 35 cents an hour to run the switchboard and would help her mother until she moved to North Adams, MA after she married.




During high school, Betty enjoyed going to the square dances in Cheshire, MA with her date, Mike. He introduced Betty to his friend, Ward O’Dell, who was at the dance with his girlfriend, Janie. A few days later, Ward would call Betty while she was working the switchboard and asked if he could take her out to a movie. That date turned out to be the start of a new romance.



After graduation from Pittsfield High School, Betty & Ward married on June 25, 1949 in the Windsor Church by the same minister who married her parents. Now the minister was in his 90’s. And ironically enough, the organist was also the same woman from the 1923 parents wedding. This meant a lot to Betty who had her best friend Gerry, be her maid of honor and Ward’s best man was Bob who was Mike’s brother that Betty used to date. All came full circle now.

For their honeymoon, Betty & Ward took a bus to Springfield, MA to spend a week in a hotel and enjoyed seeing Kenny Rogers perform while visiting an amusement park. Years later they saw him again at the Grand Ole’ Opry in Tennessee and it brought back great memories of their honeymoon time.





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ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!

Betty and Ward moved to North Adams, MA where she worked for Sprague Electric as Receive and Shipping Clerk. This company made batteries, ceramics, condensers and other parts for large corporations such as NASA, Raytheon, GE, and IBM amongst others. They also made gas masks and cameras for Kodak. Working from 1952 – 1992 she earned a starting pay of \$1.08 per hour to \$14.00 per hour and primarily took care of the International shipping area. Ten years later, they moved back to Hinsdale and lived in a mobile home on Betty’s parent’s property while building their house.



Ward and Betty have two daughters, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Daughter, Lorraine, is married to David Hardy who now live in Zephyrhills. Lorry and David attended the same school growing up in Hinsdale and graduated from Dalton High. After school, Lorry got a job working at Mary Smith Florist in Dalton, MA and David went into the Navy. One day while David was on leave, he went into the florist and ordered a dozen red roses and asked Lorry on a date. Soon they married and had a daughter,

Samantha, who is married to Jay Lloyd, an Army Captain Physician’s Assistant. Samantha has two boys, Willie and Jay, Jr., and live in Fayetteville, NC. Samantha & David’s son, David, Jr. is in the Coast Guard and he and his wife, Danielle live in Cape Canaveral, FL. When Lorry and David moved to Zephyrhills, she got a job at Marion Smith Florist (how ironic to work at a florist with similar names as in MA) where she has worked in the florist business now for over 10 years and David works at our local Wal-Mart.




Daughter, Pam was married to Harvey and had two boys. First son, Harvey, Jr. has 4 sons, Angel, who lives in California; Gavin, Griffin and Hudson who live in San Antonio, TX and second son, Barry & wife, Karen live in Dalton, MA and have 1 son, Jason, who lives in Dalton, MA. Pamela passed away of cancer in 2004.

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The O'Dell family sold their house in Hinsdale and moved to a house in Cheshire, MA where they lived from 1979 to 1992. When Lorraine was 5 weeks old, they enjoyed traveling the 48 U.S. states and camped in pup tents and slept on bed rolls. Betty recalls having to wash Lorry's diapers in the river as disposable diapers had not been invented in the earlier years. They used outdoor plumbing and enjoyed the wilderness and adventure. The following year they took the Lewis and Clark trail through the upper states to Washington State and then traveled through the providences of Canada back to Massachusetts.



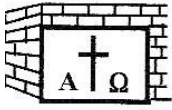
In 1992 Betty and Ward retired and moved to Webster, FL. Betty got a job mentoring the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students at the local library. She also parked cars at the infamous Webster Flea Market. After moving to Florida they purchased a 36' motor home and took their final trip before Ward passed away in 2000. Betty moved to Zephyrhills in 2003 to be close to her daughter and family.

A couple of historical facts about Betty's family...her ancestors came to the states on the Mayflower in the early 1600's and her great-grandfather, Charles Hathaway, fought in the Spanish American War and is a cousin to Susan B. Anthony who was a prominent American Civil Rights leader, who played a pivotal role in the 19th century. She was one of the important advocates in leading the way for women's rights to be acknowledged and instituted in American government.

Betty attended the First Congregational Church in Hinsdale, MA and was a teacher to the nursery age children. She also sang in the choir at the First Methodist Church in Webster and now attends the Zephyr Christian Church in Zephyrhills where she enjoys being in the church's Women's Club.

As a child, Betty enjoyed being in the 4H Club and Girl Scouts where she learned to bake cookies and biscuits and still has her first cookbook. She also learned how to knit socks and hats for the men in the service. She also was trained to climb up the fire tower and watch for planes with her binoculars as this was during the WWII time period.



<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 7th Street & 8th Avenue Come be our special guest Coffee & Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals From son James God Bless America</p>
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Betty says her favorite color is Blue and her favorite music is anything by Kenny G and Lionel Richie. She enjoys romance, comedy and drama movies. Reading any romance novels by Debbie Macomber is one of her favorite past times. Her favorite restaurant is Red Lobster. Today she still enjoys knitting, reading and sewing. She had always sewn her children and grandchildren clothes and continues making specialty outfits, like the outfit on the Mother Goose in Ken’s gazebo.

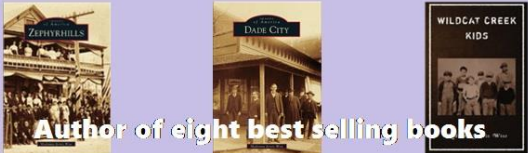


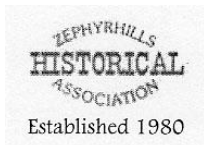
Her Journey's Just Begun

Don't think of her as gone away -
Her journey has just begun
Life holds many facets
The Earth is only one
Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
Think how she must be wishing
That we could know today
How nothing but our sadness
can really pass away
And think of her as living
In the hearts of
those she touched
For nothing loved
is ever lost-
And she was
loved so much.



Facebook: I Miss Those Close To Me Who Are Now In Heaven As Beautiful Angels

 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Joni Gauger owner</p> <p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p> <p>813-782-4001</p> <p>cell 813-469-3437</p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd. Zephyrhills, FL.</p>
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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 3RD, 2017

The Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig, who gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the November 1, 2016 meeting were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone, with motion to approve made by Jerry Pricher, seconded by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by those present.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Clereen Brunty. As of November, there was \$6,793.18 in the savings account. In the checking account, there was \$3,339.18 plus \$33.00 from the 50/50 deposit, \$15.00 from membership payment and \$15.02 from the Beef O'Brady's fundraiser for a total of \$3,402.20. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Porter, seconded by Jerry Pricher with all approving.

Old Business: Margie Partain reported that there was no money gained from the November Scholarship Fundraiser. Chili's Restaurant requires that there is at least \$500 in sales before they will return a percentage for fundraising. Regarding this month, the fundraising dinner will be at Sergio's Italian Restaurant at 4 P.M. and she will pass out flyers at the close of the meeting.

Margie passed around a get-well card for everyone to sign for Betty O'Dell who has been ill.

Margie 'un-decorated' our Oregon Christmas tree so contact her if you wish to get your ornaments.

Clereen thanked all who helped with the Christmas party.

There was discussion regarding the storage facility we use in that John Bolender who owned it has retired. We continue to advertise East 54 Mini Storage in the newsletter and there has been nothing said about any changes at this time. Also discussed was the WW2 Barracks, which according to our mission statement, the Association is supposed to be involved. Rod will contact the barracks people.

New Business: Margie will be in contact with the Zephyrhills High School and get scholarship paperwork.

Clereen reported that Main Street membership dues are to be in by March. Membership dues are \$150.00 which is the merchant fee or \$25.00 for a non-profit to have a unit in the Founders' Day Parade. Founders' Day will be March 11 and the theme this year will be Classic Board Games. Clereen won't be able to arrange contacting the vintage car people for the Founders' Day Parade this year. We will have another meeting to make decisions in this regard. Jerry made a motion that we continue with our Main Street membership, seconded by Polly Gill and agreed to by all. Clereen read the advantages of joining. Andy Nagy agreed to be our liaison with Zephyrhills Main Street. He also will be the State Historian for the American Legion.

Jerry introduced the subject of the Depot as Andrea Figart needs more support. Polly agreed to get the gift shop going. Andrea gave us information regarding the depot and made available a sign-up sheet, asking for volunteers for Saturday or Thursday mornings and that an email address or phone number be supplied so she can issue reminders. In addition, she requested two more volunteers for the Zephyrhills High School E.S.E. tour that will take place on January 24 at 10 AM. Twenty-four students are expected, some of whom will be in wheelchairs and they will be bringing their lunches. The volunteers will be needed for at least 1 or 2 hours. Jerry, Bill and Louie are going.

Andrea also told us about a Trains Trade Show on March 18 at the Depot from 9AM until 1 P.M. There will be flyers available at the next meeting.

Ray Alvarez was acknowledged by Rod as one of our newer members.

Other New Business: Andy brought up changes being proposed by Zephyrhills to make changes in Zephyr Park, noting that some want to move the Purple Heart memorial to another location and the Purple Heart people don't want it moved. It was noted that there are other Military memorials at Zephyr Park and Margie added that there is a time capsule also. More will be found out about this.

Regarding dining out for January birthdays, we decided on Mike's Smokehouse, January 13 at 4 P.M.

Jerry made a motion we adjourn, seconded by Bill. All agreed, except Clereen who proceeded to announce that the Rotary Club is selling a first edition ornament in the design of the historic Jeffries House for \$22 and the plan is to produce one each year of a historical home. The meeting concluded at 6:09 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V. Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association

For our guest speaker, Louie Holt presented slides of olden days Zephyrhills.