

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 7

July 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1st 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



Shelbie Pollock and Sarah Duffy will be coming in August to talk about their studies abroad this past semester. As of this writing I believe the ladies are still in Europe. The photo above is from Amsterdam, Netherlands, posted to Facebook by Sarah. Polly assures me they will be back in the States for their presentation. It promises to be memorable, as this trip has been for them.

Tuesday, September 26th, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant** on Hwy. 54 West in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m. Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 - pattycakeclown1@aol.com) for information.



E54 SELF STORAGE

38461 County Road 54
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813-788-5969

5x5 | 5x10 | 10x10 | 10x15 | 10x20 | 20x20 | RV | BOAT

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.

| <u>Executive Board</u> | |
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| President | Rod Rehrig |
| Vice President | Jerry Pricher |
| Secretary | Anna Boone |
| Treasurer | Clereen Brunty |

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| Tenci Alexander | |
| Polly Gill | |
| Bill Kustes | |
| Patty Thompson | |

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| Ads for Tracks | Clereen Brunty |
| Hospitality | Tenci Alexander |
| Refreshments | Polly Gill |
| Newsletter | Jerry Pricher |
| | Clereen Brunty |
| Programs | Jerry Pricher |
| | Carolyn Dean |
| Scholarship | Margie Partain |
| | Jerry Pricher |
| Archivist | Louie Holt |

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 Michael Cockill
 Carolyn Dean
 Gina King Granger
 Greg First
 Jackie & Terry Lindsey
 Andrew Nagy
 Rod & Carol Rehrig
 Margaret Seppanen

Scholarship Boosters

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 Clereen Brunty
 Elsie Burgess
 Michael Cockill
 Maryhelen Clague
 Carolyn Dean
 Polly Gill
 Gina King Granger
 Thea Johnson
 Bill Kustes
 Anne Mester
 Dr. Richard Moore
 Margie Partain
 Jerry Pricher
 Linda Sante
 Margaret Seppanen

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|  <p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</p> <p>813-782-8763</p> |  <p>chalet flowers</p> <p>Kim Tim Maryann Sanders owners</p> <p>Ph: 813-788-2874 chaletflowersfl.com</p> <p>5002 7th Street Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> |
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June 29, 2017

ZHS Reunion Has Deep Roots
It's A Family Affair At Annual Gathering

Coming from a one-room schoolhouse in Crystal Springs in the 1930s, Bernice Curtis Rooks went on to be the valedictorian of the Zephyrhills High School Class of 1940.

Rooks, a 94-year-old former Zephyrhills elementary school teacher, was recognized Sunday as the oldest alumna at the 47th Annual Zephyrhills High School Alumni, Teachers and Friends Reunion.



Bernice Curtis Rooks, oldest alumna and educator, is happy to see her former colleague Bill Kustes.




Story and photos by Dave Walters

When Rooks was at the top her class, she and the 16 members of her class walked across the stage at graduation at the former Zephyrhills High School, which is now the home of Stewart Middle School.

“I didn’t know what a valedictorian was,” Rooks joked. “I came from a small country school and I didn’t know all those things. They wanted me to give a speech but I was too bashful. The class president wound up giving the speech.”

His nearest neighbor lived twenty miles to the north. There were a number of cattle herders in the state but none had located near him since the area was considered an Indian Rendezvous. His place soon became the headquarters for other cattlemen since there was a large quantity of cattle in that section, and the fine grass range.

Rooks sat with her family at the reunion with several of her students and former fellow educators greeting her with hugs.

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|  <p>OFF the Chart media</p> <p>Gina King Granger Social Media & Digital Marketing Strategist</p> <p>(813) 602-1818 PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539 gina@offthechartmedia.com</p> | <p><i>Artistic Expressions</i></p> <p>5906 7th Street Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 813 783-7731</p>   <p>Custom picture framing Prints Needlework Photos Paintings Computer photo editing</p> <p>Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner aeframer@gmail.com</p> |
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“I just love seeing people I haven’t seen in a long time,” she added. “I just love to hear what their offspring are doing now. I’m really interested in people’s family.”

The annual reunion is where Rooks gets a chance to flashback to the first-grade classroom where she enjoyed most of her teaching career.

“People come up to me and say hi and then they tell me their name. When they tell me who they are, I see the little first-grader in them,” Rooks said. “That is wonderful.”

That is what the annual reunion is about. It’s about reconnecting with teachers and classmates.

For Zephyrhills Alumni Association Committee President Jerry Pricher, a member of the class of 1969, the event is a homecoming of sorts.

“It’s like coming home and that’s a good feeling,” said Pricher, who has been involved in the Alumni Association Committee for nearly 30 years. “There’s a lot of Bulldog pride here.”

When Ernie Peeples strapped on his football helmet in 1954 and lined up as a fullback on offense and linebacker on defense, the all- conference standout beamed Bulldog pride. He is still beaming.




“When you play for coach Johnny Clements, you played with pride every play,” Peeples said.

“It’s important to keep this event going. Some people you may never see again without this. There are people here I haven’t seen in years.”



Class of 1954 classmates Bill Baker and George Neukom, Jr. share a smile at the 47th Annual ZHS Alumni Reunion at the Lion’s Club

Ashley Kelly of the Class of 2010 was honored as the youngest grad. The Geiger family was recognized as family with the most family members present. Also recognized were all ZHS teachers and administrators.

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|  <p>Garage Doors Sales & Service</p> <p><i>Garage Doors, Inc.</i></p> <p>Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p>  |  <p>ARMY STRONG <i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p>MICHAEL J. COCKILL Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h) Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m) mcockill@tampabay.rr.com ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p> |
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Celebrating their 60th reunion, the Zephyrhills High School Class of 1957 had the most members of their graduating class at the Zephyrhills Lions Club.



ZHS teachers, past and present, were well-represented at Sunday's 47th Annual Zephyrhills High School Alumni Reunion

Reflections on a Luncheon

by Jerry Pricher

We just held our 47th ZHS Alumni, Teachers and Friends Luncheon in June. This was a momentous one because it saw the departure of Clereen Morrill Brunty from her position as Secretary/Treasurer and Alumni Planner. We were both concerned that nobody would step forward to take the position, and we were prepared to let loose of the tradition if this happened. Fortunately, we had people who were willing to pick up the flag and continue the charge.

Clereen and I have both been doing this for a long time (three decades the best I can figure). I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that Clereen has been the heart and soul of the organization for all this time. My position as president is actually just a glorified emcee, but I'm proud to do it. I am pretty sure it was 1986 when I was first elected. I am fairly certain my mother was still with us, but my daddy wasn't. Chief Eiland called me to his house (my mother gave me the message), and he asked me to serve. I had never even been to the luncheon at that point. I've been to almost all of them since, and most times as president. Bobby Winters took a turn. Chief Bill Eiland had a couple of terms, and so did Phyllis Jarrett Denney, but I just keep coming back.

Jackie Massey Washburn ran the kitchen for years, followed by Clayton & Lenora Pollock Stokes. These folks deserve a great deal of credit for all the work they put in. We constantly asked for volunteers to take over this task, but nobody stepped forward, so eventually Clayton & Lenora had to say, "Enough already." This was the message Clereen and Lenora was sending this year in regard to their position as officers, also. Well, Bernice Lowe Uterhardt, class of '72, and Cherrie Wilson Lowe, class of '73, stepped forward, and we are very happy to have them onboard.

This get-together is a great tradition, and folks come year after year to spend a little time in the past and enjoy the company of folks they've known across the years. May it ever continue!

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| <p>WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small> Dermatology at Zephyrhills</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>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> |
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47th Annual ZHS Alumni Reunion Luncheon
Pictures



2017-2019 Officers

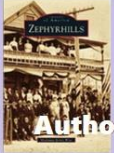
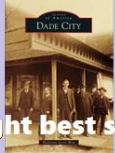

Bernice Lowe Uterhardt '72 – Secretary/Treasurer/Reunion Planner,
Jerry Pricher '69 – President, Cherrie Wilson Lowe '73 – Vice President,
Lisa Bruce Cooksey '86 – Historian, Clereen Morrill Brunty '73 – ZHS Alumni Contact



Bill Kustes led the Pledge of Allegiance



Dale Eady won the 50/50 & donated \$100

Author of eight best selling books

Madonna Wise Books
Author, Research & Consulting
Madonna Jervis Wise
Zephyrhills, Florida
Murphy, North Carolina

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MadonnaJWise@gmail.com
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Joni Gauger
owner

Cutting Edge Beauty Salon

813-782-4001
cell 813-469-3437

6132 Ft. King Rd.
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Youngest Grad Present
Ashley Kelly, Class of 2010



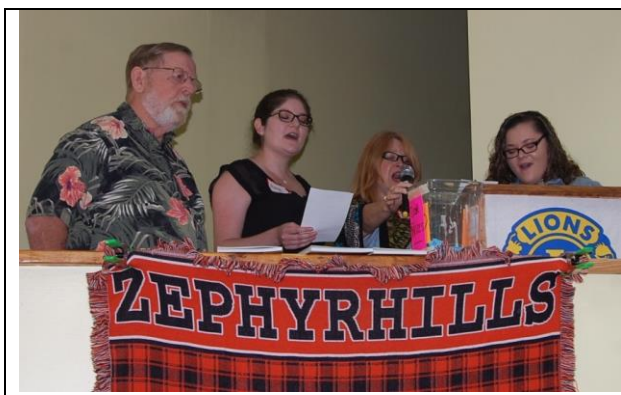
Travelled Farthest
JoAnn Hile Randall '72 - Jefferson, Oregon

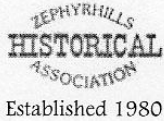


Most Family Members Present

Seated: Avy Myers Geiger '55, Phyllis Geiger Locke Debien '54, Nell Odom Geiger '61, Linda Geiger Moore '75
Standing: Linda Locke Arant '78, Gail Smith Geiger '56, Nathan Geiger '56, Sandy Porter Geiger '73, Jay Kingston '71, Connie Geiger Kingston '73, Billy Coyne '70, Paula Geiger Coyne '72, Brenda Kirkland Geiger '74

Alma Mater





ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 6TH, 2017

The June 6 meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 P.M. He opened with the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Anna V. Boone read the minutes from the May meeting. Bill Kustes made a motion to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by all.

Treasurer Clereen Brunty read the Treasurer's Report. Jerry Pricher made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Andy Nagy (after he noted that the \$500 for scholarship recipient, Shelbie Pollack, hadn't been mentioned in the Treasurer's Report and was told the check will be cut for her after she returns from travel.) Everyone accepted the report as read.

Rod Rehrig introduced guest, Beverly Holmes, and she told us about herself. As a Marine and with retirement, she has traveled extensively and remains active with the Marine Corps League serving as chaplain and treasurer. We gladly welcome her as a new member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association.

Old Business: Rod mentioned that our July meeting date falls on the 4th when the library will be closed. Jerry found out that the library is also unavailable on the following Tuesday. After discussion, Clereen made a motion to cancel July's meeting, seconded by Bill and accepted by the group. Jerry said he will still get the newsletter out and we will have our fundraiser at Sergio's on July 25.

Patty Thompson has one more Village Inn pie certificate and will be auctioning it off at the end of the meeting.

Andrew Nagy brought up the idea of hosting a dinner as a fundraiser and said he had approached the American Legion about use of their room but it is not available to the public. Rod said he could ask the VFW, noting that from September on is better for such events as people return from the north. Andrew also suggested having a fundraising picnic. There was much discussion, with Ray Alvarez agreeing to be on a committee with Rod.

Regarding scholarships, Sarah First and Jasmine Sanchez were each given \$1,000. Jerry presented them with framed certificates at the award ceremony.

Other Old Business: Andrew renewed the discussion about honoring Steve Spina as the only surviving charter member of the Association. The particulars have yet to be decided and will be discussed further.

In other old business, Andrew said he didn't think our financial report should be published in the newsletter for the public to read. We were in agreement.

New Business: Clereen Brunty suggested giving Sergio's a plaque of appreciation for their continued support, perhaps an 8X10 with a photo of the Association. Jerry made a motion to approve, seconded by Bill and agreed to by all. Tenci Alexander suggested having a presentation at a birthday or fundraising dinner and maybe having the press involved.

For dinner out, there are no June birthdays so Clereen suggested for the July person to choose, so Bob Porter picked Mike's Smokehouse. We will meet there on June 16 at 4:00 P.M.

Bob made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Tenci and approved by the group. The meeting concluded at 6:05 P.M.

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

Patty auctioned off the Village Inn pie certificate, which Rod got for \$10.

Our guest speaker for the evening is Nancy Massey Perkins, giving a presentation about the barbershop business her father had for many years in Zephyrhills.