

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 12

December 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2nd 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



Our speaker for our January meeting will be Roxanne Lynette Geisenheimer, Executive Director of the Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills, Inc. She is also Creative Director at LOTUS Development & Design. Some of you already know Roxanne. She's a former President of Zephyrhills Toastmasters and Aiozo Corp as well as serving as an Administrative Assistant at Main Street Zephyrhills. She's obviously a mover and shaker in the community. I'm also proud to claim her as one of my former students. I've asked her to come

and share with us the particulars of her latest venture. The Samaritan Project seems to be a wonderful project, and I'm confident we're in for an informative evening. Come join us!

From the Desk of the Editor *Membership and Advertising*

It's time again to ask for your monetary support in regard to our organization and this newsletter. Dues are \$15 per year, advertising for members is \$15 (non-members is \$25), Boardwalk Booster is \$5, and contributions to the scholarship fund are welcome in any amount. If you are renewing and nothing has changed you can simply mail your check to me or bring it to a meeting. If something is different you are welcome to send me an email to keep the records straight. Thanks in advance.

Tuesday, January 23rd, 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.



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Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit

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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
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Refreshments	Polly Gill
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Programs	Jerry Pricher
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 <p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact clereen@tampabay.rr.com 813-782-8763</p>	 <p>chalet flowers Kim Tim Maryann Sanders owners Ph: 813-788-2874 chaletflowersfl.com 5002 7th Street Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
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Christmas Tree Decoration — Tennessee



Left: Patty Thompson, Anne Mester, Anna Boone, George Boone, Rod Rehrig, Clereen Brunty
 Right: Rose Carrigg, Jerry Pricher, Sharon Reisman, Art Besinger, Judy Gibson, Andy Nagy



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Christmas Dinner at Wedgewood Manor Clubhouse



Seated: Shirley Pillow, Bill Kustes, MaryHelen Clague, Penny Porter, Bob Porter
Standing: Clereen Brunty, Emilie Mastin, Patty Thompson, Andy Nagy, Rose Carrigg, Rod Rehrig, Polly Gill,
Jerry Pricher, Judy Gibson, George Boone, Anna Boone, Art Besinger, Sharon Reisman, Anne Mester,
Sue Green, Lyden Green Back: Bill Craven & wife



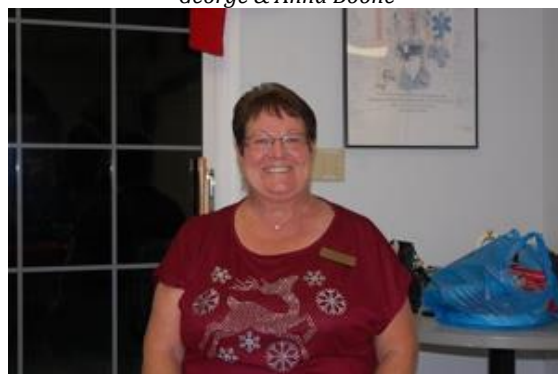
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George & Anna Boone



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In Memory of

Ryals Furniture Exchange
And Great Parents
Powell & Maude Ryals

From son James

God Bless America



Bill Kustes & MaryHelen Clague



Penny & Bob Porter



Rose Carrigg



Polly Gill



Art Besinger & Sharon Reisman



Patty Thompson



Judy Gibson



Andy Nagy

Author of eight best selling books

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A Personal Loss

by Jerry Pricher




The two ladies in this picture are now gone. My sister left us on September 11, 2014. Frances Vogel Wingate-Bright just left us in November. She was one hundred years old. We always referred to her as Aunt Frances. She was not, however, a blood relative. My mother had a sister named Frances, and we referred to her the same way. Somehow we never got them confused. My Aunt Frances in this picture was my mother’s closest friend. They both graduated in 1935. Frances graduated from Zephyrhills High School, while my mother graduated from Mount Dora High School. I’m not sure how they met, but they were like sisters. The two of them, my mother and Frances were shelling peas the night I was born. I’ve heard that story many, many times. Walt Vogel, brother of Frances, is also a memorable character from my childhood, but I’ll save those stories for another time. I’ll simply say now the man was a true character.

The Prichers and the Wingates spent a great deal of time together when I was growing up. David Wingate is just slightly older than I am, so my hand-me-downs came from him. I think I’ve mentioned before here that I had my first store-bought pair of pants when I was thirteen years old. I don’t know precisely why. It could be that David was hanging on to his clothes a bit longer as we aged together. Anyhow, we were close, almost like family.



I think I told you back when Jon Feguson wrote his article on the Wingates that I lived next door to the parents of Ernest Wingate, first husband of Frances. I referred to her mother-in-law as Mamaw, and I dearly loved her. After the death of her husband, and after the death of his wife, Merle Bright and Frances were married. I admired both of them, so I was not the least bit surprised that they found each other.

I am going to miss you, Aunt Frances.

 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Sales & Service</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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Published in the Tampa Bay Times from November 17 to November 18, 2017 & revised by Clereen – ZHS Alumni Contact

FRANCES (VOGEL) WINGATE-BRIGHT

October 22, 1917 - November 14, 2017

FRANCES (VOGEL) WINGATE-BRIGHT, 100, **ZHS Class of 1935**, of Riverview, FL passed away November 14, 2017. Born October 22, 1917 in Detroit, MI, Frances lived in the Tampa/Brandon area most of her life. She was a woman of strong faith and character. She enjoyed traveling and had many hobbies and interests, being an expert at jigsaw puzzles in her later life. Frances was predeceased by husbands, Ernest Wingate and Merle Bright as well as stepson, Tommy Bright, **ZHS Class of 1954** and stepdaughter, Mary Bright. She is survived by her son, David Wingate and wife, Elaine; daughter, Jo (Wingate) Henkel and husband, Dan; stepson, David Bright, **ZHS Class of 1957** and wife, Jerry Bright; former son-in-law, Sam Gross, **ZHS Class of 1962** and wife, Deb Gross; grandchildren, Jeff Gross and wife, Victoria Gross, Robyn Wingate; and great-grandchildren, Jesse (Rebecca) Gross, Eric Gross, Cody Gross, Tyler Gross, and Brennan Wingate.

For your consideration: Steve Spina's recent letter to the press concerning The Depot

The City of Zephyrhills closed the depot over the summer due to both staffing issues and a desire to reassess some of the displays and how to best utilize the building and its contents. The plan was to provide better access and public exposure to the building. Keeping the depot open just several hours a week was not a good use of the space and building. With several staffing changes, the closure has extended through fall – longer than we intended. Currently we have moved items out of the “freight room” and historic displays will be housed in the two waiting rooms on the north end of the building. The center area – the former “depot station office” – will house all railroad and train memorabilia including the train setup. The freight room will be open space available for city meetings, club events and meetings, parties, weddings, etc. We have received a lot of calls about using the depot as a rental space and its current set up inhibited that type of public access.

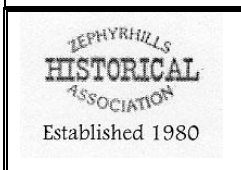
We are sorting through display materials, storing some items and moving other items around. The Zephyrhills Historic Assn. took much of the school history, yearbooks, and other items to store temporarily. Since we are building a new city hall, several city departments are currently housed in the Jeffries House on downtown 5th Avenue. Once we relocate to the new city hall, the Jeffries House will display historic materials as well. Some paintings and maps are currently displayed in the in the city hall annex and at the Jeffries House. Some of the artwork is planned for display in the new city hall as well.

We are not keeping news articles, many of which are yellowed and torn, and will rely on the recently microfiche files of the *Zephyrhills News* that the city paid about \$10,000 to copy and save. These are available for review and copying at the City Library. Other items are in storage, including glass display cases, file cabinets and furniture.

Another positive note for us is that Zephyrhills Historic Assn. members are interested in volunteering at both the Depot and Jeffries House as docents, which will help us keep these facilities open more hours. We plan to meet with members at their next meeting in January 2018. Currently, city staff is repairing walls, painting and otherwise touching up the depot. The train volunteers are working with the city to relocate their setup to the lower level. We hope to have the depot open in early 2018 for both freight room rental and to peruse the historic and train displays.

We appreciate the patience of the community and will schedule a grand opening event soon.

[Steven F. Spina, Ph.D., City Manager, City of Zephyrhills, FL](#)



ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 7TH, 2017

The November 7, 2017 Regular Business Meeting was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 P.M. He gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary read the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting. Bill Kustes made a motion to accept, seconded by Judy Gibson and approved.

Clereen Brunty gave the Treasurer's Report. There was a motion made by Al Stone to accept, seconded by Sharon Reisman and agreed to by everyone.

We had the privilege of welcoming visitor, Army Captain Frank Baltra to our meeting. He is promoting the American Ideals Foundation and the Veteran restoration project at Carlstrom Field in Arcadia, an airfield which was used for pilot training in WW1 as well as the Second World War. British flyers were also trained there. He brought in a fascinating book he is compiling regarding the airfield.

Old Business: Patty Thompson announced the next Rosemary Trotman Scholarship Fund Raiser, which will be held at Sergio's on November 28, anytime between 11 A.M.-9 P.M. Flyers are available. Patty reported that we made \$48 and change at the last event there. We won't be doing one in December due to Christmas activities.

Patty printed out some ideas for Tennessee themed Christmas tree decorations. We are to be at the front of the Florida Hospital around noon on December 3 to decorate and we are reminded to wear our ZHA tee shirts.

Jerry brought up the election of officers for 2018-19. Nominees are Jerry Pricher for President, Rod Rehrig for Vice President, Andrew Nagy for Treasurer and Board Members: Tenci Alexander, Clereen Brunty, Patty Thompson and Polly Gill. Jerry suggested that since no one else has volunteered for the Secretary position, Anna Boone will remain as Secretary.

Bill Kustes made a motion that the slate of officers be accepted. Bob Porter seconded the motion which was approved by the group.

Other Old Business: Clereen gave a report about changes at the Depot. ZHA belongings were taken out of the Depot and some museum items will end up at the Jeffries House. Train displays will be moved to another area in the Depot. There will be a meeting room created out of the space that had been occupied by the trains. Clereen is going to get the Zephyrhills School stuff out of the Depot and some memorabilia will go to the Jeffries House. Once the new City Hall is finished, we will be calling for volunteers to work at the Jeffries House as well as the Depot.

New Business: For the Christmas Party, \$5.00 per person is needed for the meat as well as rental of the room. Each one is asked to bring a covered dish to share. This year instead of bringing a gift, there will be a door prize.

There will not be a business meeting in December, only the Christmas Party.

Other New Business: Rod announced the Veterans Day Pinning and Celebration which will take place at 8:00 A.M. on November 10 at Bayfront Health in Dade City. He will be singing the National Anthem as well as "God Bless America". On November 11 is the Veterans Day Parade in Zephyrhills.

For the November birthday night out, we will be going to the Golden Corral. It is recommended we get there before 4:00 P.M.

Jerry made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Bill and agreed to by everyone. The meeting concluded at 5:57 P.M.

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