

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 21 – Number 10

October 2019

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

Speakers

Our presenters for the October meeting were Maria Spoto and Barbara Bales Moore, who along with Maria's sister, Christi Spoto, are responsible for the huge mural on the wall of the Hynes building at the southwest corner of 5th Avenue and 301. The mural was done as part of the Centennial celebration in 2010. The ladies were not able to show us the slide show they had prepared because of technical difficulties with the library's display, but they will be returning in January to show us. They discussed the need for protecting the existing mural, and we offered our help in gathering the money to cover the expenses. Andy will be designating funds set aside for this, and folks are invited to contribute.



Julia Richards, owner and operator of The Gentlemen's Quarters on fifth avenue, who was originally scheduled to speak in September, will be our speaker for the November meeting. As I mentioned in her introduction before, she is a former student of mine, and I am extremely proud of her. I am just a little bit shocked that this high-end establishment is doing as well as it is in our little town. Julia somehow knew it would succeed, and her vision in business is one of the things I am hoping to hear about when she visits us. I find it truly fascinating. I am confident we will have an enjoyable evening. We hope you will join us!

Tuesday, November 19th, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser
at **Tubby's Smokehouse Restaurant** on 7th Street in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m.
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – pattycakeclown1@aol.com) for information.



38461 County Road 54
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
813-788-5969

Email: zephyrhillsmgr@patriotstorage.com

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>		
President	Jerry Pricher
Vice President	Rod Rehrig
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Treasurer	Andrew Nagy
<u>Board Members</u>		
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		Polly Gill
		Beverly Holmes
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Refreshments	Polly Gill
Newsletter	Jerry Pricher
		Clereen Brunty
Programs	Jerry Pricher
Scholarship	Louie Holt
		Jerry Pricher
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Jeffries House	Clereen Brunty
Fundraisers	Patty Thompson

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 Maryhelen Clague
 Greg First
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 Jackie & Terry Lindsey
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 Rod & Carol Rehrig
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 Polly Gill
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Rosemary Carrigg	Betty Hall	Dr. Rick Moore	Kim Sanders	Madonna Wise

 <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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A Picture is worth A Thousand Words—Thanks to three gracious families and their heritage of giving back!

By: Madonna Jervis Wise & Clereen Morrill Brunty

December 3, 2009

We are inspired with the two-year work of the *ZHS 100* committee. The group meets monthly to brainstorm and orchestrate projects in honor of the upcoming 100th birthday of our locale. It is noteworthy that our *ZHS 100* committee began as a celebration of the 100th birthday of public education in Zephyrhills from the September 1910 opening of Zephyrhills School. The troupe has morphed over time however, to include a salute to the 100 years of Zephyr town history which is commemorated from the January 1910 origin. From the meetings and project planning, several events have been planned and we will be reporting on these activities in the weeks to come.

Community members and visitors will be seeing a colorful and lively historical depiction begin to unfold *before their very eyes in the next few weeks*. It is a historical mural which will be designed and painted on the Peeples Building which now houses Hynes Discount Mobile Home Supply Center located at the intersection of Highway 54 West and State Road 301 (Gall Boulevard); just across the street from the *Zephyrhills News* building. This is the site of the former Peeples' Supermarket which operated in the mid-1950. The rather large mural will include a graphic depiction of the history of Zephyrhills with an array of icons such as the Atlantic Coastline and Seaboard Airline Railroads, Abbott Station, Zephyrhills Water, Zephyr Park, the gates to the city, a parachute and so much more. The mural approved by City Planner, Todd Vandenberg, will serve as a great graphic chronicle of some of the unique memoirs of the annals of the City of Pure Water, or is that the Friendly City?

How did this mural come to fruition? We have three families with a heritage of community service to Zephyrhills to thank. This week we want to tell you just a bit about these three families...names you will be familiar with! The Bales, Peeples and Spoto families! As you travel through town in the next several weeks, you will see the local ZHS Alumni artists working on the mural as a labor of love! Remember to wave to them and offer your thanks for their many hours of design, donation and care! All three families represent a wealth of community service and contribution to our community. We hope to profile the families in later Countdown articles.

The Peeples family: Barbara Peeples Miller and Ernest Peeples, Jr., so graciously donated the preparation of the mural wall on the Peeples Building. Both Barbara and Ernie are ZHS grads and they represent the family of Logan Clarence Peeples. Logan Peeples arrived in Zephyrhills in 1932. He and his wife, Corinne, operated the Peeples' Clothing & Shoe Store until their retirement in 1978.



**Zephyrhills Museum of
Military History**

A City of Zephyrhills Facility

Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Artistic Expressions

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He was named the Citizen of the Year for the Chamber of Commerce in 1985 and was extremely active in area civic and community development projects. It is truly in tribute to Mr. Peebles that the mural is painted on this building where Mr. Peebles first became a proprietor in our town. You can read much more about Logan Peebles in the acclaimed book, *Zephyrhills from A to Z* by Vicki Elkins and Margaret Seppanen. Barbara is a 1958 grad of ZHS and Ernest, a 1955 grad of ZHS and they have contributed much to the town’s unfolding history as well. You can read much more about Logan Peebles in the acclaimed book, *Zephyrhills from A to Z* by Vicki Elkins and Margaret Seppanen. Barbara is a 1958 grad of ZHS and Ernest, a 1955 grad of ZHS and they have contributed much to the town’s unfolding history as well.

The Spoto family: The chairman of the Mural Committee is Maria Spoto-Ray who recruited her sister, Christi Spoto Mastrogianakis, an artist to assist Barbie Moore with the mural design. Christi and Barbie will be doing most of the design and painting of the mural. The original founder of Spoto’s dairy was Ignazio Spoto a native of Sicily who started the business in 1902. The Spoto family operated Palm River Dairy, one of the larger of the many dairies in the area. The owners included Joe, Nelson, Nelson Spoto, Jr., and Joseph T. Spoto. It was a family affair and Christi and Maria are the daughters of Joe Spoto and Frances Spoto. Always supporters of the school projects, the Spoto family were fundraisers in the building of the football stadium and many other community endeavors. As far as the contemporary generation, Maria was an honor grad and Vice President of the class of 1980. Her sister Christi, a 1976 grad was the winner of the school service award. Both girls received the “School Spirit” Award from their graduating peers and obviously have retained that ‘school and community spirit’ as evidenced by their current volunteer contribution. We dug up the fact that Christi, a student of legendary ZHS Art teacher, Judy Mason, won a prize in the Bicentennial Fireplug Painting Contest in the day as well.

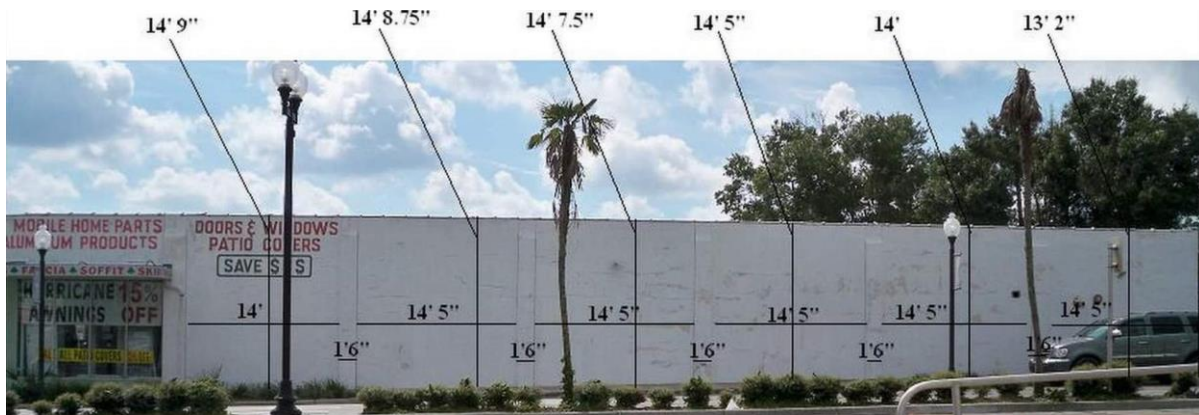
The Bales family: The other designer of the mural is Barbara Bales Moore, an art teacher at one of our local schools - Woodland Elementary - who has spearheaded the original drafts. Barbie is a daughter of Lester Bales and a 1971 ZHS grad. Lester and his wife, Lena “Lee” moved to Zephyrhills in 1953 where he practiced law and was involved in many civic projects. An honorary trustee of the Pioneer Museum, wouldn’t he be proud of Barbie? Lester was the President of the Zephyrhills Quarterback Club for many years and organized innumerable projects to assist local students and the community.

A few other ZHS alumni will be contributing to the painting. If you have happened by Zephyrhills Theatre in recent times, you have undoubtedly seen the extraordinary art of Ginger Potwin Rutan, owner of the Zephyrhills Home Twin Theater & Zephyrhills Cinema 10 with her husband, Larry. Ginger will be weighing in on the Historical Mural project as a contributing painter, and her interpretative surrealist leanings will add to the unfolding mural. Ginger is a 1973 ZHS Grad.

<p style="text-align: center;">WATSON CLINIC_{LLP} Dermatology at Zephyrhills</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rick L. Moore, M.D. Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">In Memory of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From son James</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God Bless America</p>
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Other guest artists will include Gayle Roman Forrester, 1980 ZHS Grad. The committee is very appreciative of Daniel White, son of Bob White from Bob White Painting & Paper Hanging who prepared the building surface for the mural painting.

Historical Mural Painting is a very ancient art form and can be found in prehistoric caves across Asia and Europe from the Paleolithic period. In Egypt, the decorated motifs symbolized life and even the afterworld while in Ancient Greece, private homes contained mural frescos of flowers, animals and people. Gothic cathedrals carried on the concept in stained glass and later tapestry murals. Let's only imagine what the future generation will make of our new Zephyrhills Mural. THANK YOU's are in order to the many contributors to this mosaic of the story of our history!



Mural Measurements for Daniel White base coat



Mural after Daniel White's work

TEAM WORK YIELDS MASTERPIECE!

By: Madonna Jervis Wise & Clereen Morrill Brunty

March 24, 2011

Back to the Future! The theme of the 2011 Founder's Day in Zephyrhills had the objective of catapulting folks from a focus on the past to a hopeful look at the future. Rightly so, after nearly three years of searching attics for photos, swapping stories and giving out accolades for yakking about history.

Wasn't it great? Isn't it time to move on? YES!

One final acknowledgement however as unfinished business is to christen the colorful historical mural that adorns the wall across from the ‘Zephyrhills News’ at roughly the intersection of Highways 54 and 301. This was a major endeavor of the Main Street historical committee and then co-managed by the school’s centennial committee.

First, the evolution.... Brenda Welcher, former ‘Main Street’ Director, conceived of the concept of an expertly designed and painted historical mural. Brenda had just returned from a vacation meandering throughout the rural south and enjoyed gazing at some intriguing murals in several scenic southern towns. She returned to her ‘Main Street’ job with the formidable task of directing the centennial festivities, determined to incorporate this idea. Recruited to the school’s centennial committee as a liaison from the city’s historical committee, Chair Tim Urban, asked Brenda to introduce the concept to the school’s committee. The school group, dubbed ZHS 100, loved the idea but pooh-poohed the concept of hiring a professional artist. Milling the idea around for several months (negotiating—really debating) Elaine Benjamin and other committee members volunteered local amateur artist’s names and work examples, and both committees began to envision how the mural might unfold. Maria Spoto stepped up to the plate to take charge of coordination; and with the Mrs. Betty Hall’s encouragement to recruit her talented sister, Christi Spoto Mastrogianakis who had studied art under the legendary Judy Mason at Zephyrhills High School and perfected her talent over time. Along with Christi, Barbara Bales Moore was eager to volunteer. Barbara was already enmeshed in the historical project full force at Woodland Elementary School where she not only teaches art (for nearly 30 years) but had been awarded a historical grant to teach students about the town’s history. (Not to mention that Barbara’s husband, Rick Moore, Public Works Director of Zephyrhills, is a superb collector of historical postcards and quite the historian himself). The two-some with many supporters, set out to create what truly became a colloquial magnum opus to showcase times gone by.

The first step was to prepare the wall. The building which housed Hynes Discount Aluminum was selected. Wonderfully philanthropic parties lead the way. Daniel White with Bob White Painting prepared the wall and Barbara Peeples Miller and Ernie Peeples (in honor of their parents, Logan & Corinne Peeples, long-time proprietors) as well as Lee Hynes donated the preparation costs to prepare the wall (not a small undertaking). It was nostalgic that the Peeples family could be involved; veteran folks reminisced about the Peeples Grocery Store and the many reminiscences that the very space where the mural was to be created, would evoke.

Design was underway and both committees offered guidance. Madonna Wise who had collected nearly 3,000 historical photos and painstakingly scanned them put together some virtual composites of ideas for the artists. Rick Moore’s phenomenal post card collection had been infused into the collection.

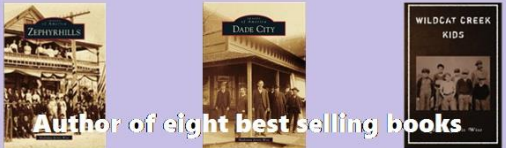

Also for reference, Gregg Hilferding placed every one of the photos on the net at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/42816214@N02/> for the community to enjoy into posterity. Maria met with Todd Vandenberg and Brenda Welcher to obtain approval from the city showing the preliminary plan by Barbara Moore, which consisted of a linear sketch that included the depiction of the original town’s entrance gates, Zephyrhills Colony Company, the centennial logo, Zephyrhills Depot and a vintage train. A review of ideas from Christi included subsection panels that offered the opportunity for the viewer to gaze at separate panels in a panorama.

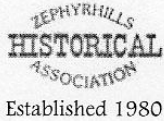
Additional items included a parachute, the solar symbol and a view in both directions from the Depot’s original spot with glimpses of the past and present. Incorporation of a depiction the mural would also give viewers a perspective on where they were. Not that the artists needed exact reference points; for late twentieth century events, they recalled their own childhood and family experiences. Christi and Barbara painted much of the mural from personal interpretations. The ladies started the sketching and painting on January 25, 2010. They would have commenced earlier, but Florida weather delayed their start. The artists were showered with aid and warm friendliness from everyone. Brenda Welcher supplied water and gift certificates from local restaurants. Nearby business owners offered bathrooms and stores as an escape from the elements. Tim Urban of ZHS 100 obtained a discount from Lowe’s Home Improvement Store and Christi’s daddy, Joe Spoto of Palm River Dairy, purchased the paint. Elaine Benjamin provided sandwiches and drinks for the artists as well. The first unveiling occurred on Founder’s Day 2010 but final strokes and signature intricacies weren’t inserted until the present. Barbara commented that city workers were some of the most gracious supporters of the project as well. City workers placed scaffolding and cones to block off the area. City Manager, Steve Spina and Director of Development, Todd Vandenberg approved the project permitting and city council red tape and cheered the artists as well as the city council members!



Voila! The community has watched the development of the mural. In the mural, one sees Zephyr Lake, the original bridge that Rick Moore’s historic post card portrayed. Pioneers are depicted and a feeling and story of community unfolds before you. There are great oak trees with Spanish moss draping from the branches, the official centennial logo, schools including the signature camphor trees, train, depot and much more. There is a feeling of camaraderie---nuances include Barb’s yellow Volkswagen bug, orange grove, dairy farm, sports figures such as a basketball player and a distinctive baseball player from ZHS fame, etc. For veteran Zephyrhillians, one sees his or her own place in the tapestry of its history. If you know the artists and their lovely families, you can recognize the personal signatures of the two artists. Both are ZHS veterans and there is a weaving of their families and special pursuits and love in the iconic images.

So this month we officially christen the mural. Our hope is that this mural will entice and teach its passersby, convey a sense of community but more importantly beautify the environment.

 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise 813-469-8627 Zephyrhills, Florida MadonnaJWise@gmail.com Murphy, North Carolina http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>	<p>License # GDI 09084</p>  <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Garage Doors Sales & Service Kerry Ryman Owner Residential/Commercial & Gate Openers 4622 Gall Blvd. • Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-322-8343 kerry@3rgaragedoors.com</p>
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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

President Jerry Pricher called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association at 5:35 P.M. He gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes from September's Meeting were included in the newsletter. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Rod Rehrig, seconded by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by the group.

The September Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Andrew Nagy with a motion to approve made by Bill Kustes, seconded by Clereen and accepted by all.

We are happy to welcome guest Carolyn Stoaks, a former State Park Ranger and 50-year Zephyrhills resident. Sharon Geiger, former President of the Zephyrhills Historical Association also honored us with her presence tonight.

Old Business: Patty Thompson had flyers available for the October 15 Rosemary Trotman Scholarship Fundraiser at Sergio's. We will meet at 4 P.M. though the flyers are honored all day from 11 A.M. to 9 P.M.

Regarding copies of the revised By-Laws, Jerry hopes to bring them to the next meeting. As to plans for the Christmas dinner, he plans to contact Gail Fisher about catering it.

Other Old Business: There was none.

New Business: Anne Mester made an announcement regarding activities at First Methodist Church on October 19, 9 A.M.-2 P.M. which will include a luncheon and bake sale.

Rod announced he still has coupons for sale at \$20 each to help the Zephyrhills High School Booster Club, as well as tickets for a Meals on Wheels Fundraiser at \$50 each for a meal and entertainment. Also, the Marine Corps League Ball will be on November 16 at the Elk's Lodge. Tickets are \$35 each. Lastly, Rod has \$5 raffle tickets to benefit Veterans Hospital patients in the spinal cord unit. The prizes will be baskets of spirits.

Other New Business: None

A motion for adjournment was made by Rod, seconded by Bill and agreed to by all.

The meeting concluded at 5:50 P.M.

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

Guest speakers are Barbara Moore and Maria Spoto talking about repair plans for the mural in town.

