

Gulfport Historian

February 2009

Meeting and Events Schedule 2008/2009

Sept. 9th
General Meeting
Guest Speaker
7:00 pm

Oct. 11th
Birthday Bash
at Museum
4 pm - 9 pm

Nov. 11th
General Meeting
Guest Speaker
7:00 pm

Dec. 9th
General Meeting
Holiday Party at Museum
7:00 pm

Jan. 13th
General Meeting
Guest Speaker
7:00 pm

Feb. 27th
Casablanca Night
Dance/Show
Casino

March 10th
General Meeting
Guest Speaker
7:00 pm

April 14th
Annual Meeting
Potluck Dinner
6:00 pm

CASABLANCA NIGHT FEB. 27th

Remember when "Bogie" said: *"Play it again Sam. You played it for her, you can play for me."*

Plan now to visit "Rick's Cafe Americana" in Casablanca, Morocco for our Annual Dance & Show at the Gulfport Casino. Tickets on sale NOW at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport Casino or by calling Cathy at 345-1501. We are featuring the music of the 30's & 40's played for your dancing pleasure by Bobby Tess with entertainment by the song styling's of Steve Wayne plus a surprise or two. A costume contest will be held for 30's/40's dress.

Tickets are still only \$15.00 with prepaid reserved tables of 10 assigned on a first come first served bases. So get your friends and families together and reserve your table today. All proceeds benefit the Gulfport Historical Museum and the Gulfport Historical Society Scholarship Fund.

Did You Know?

Have you been following the count down to Gulfport's 100th Anniversary in the Gabber? Lynne Brown has done a wonderful job in supplying weekly pictures and the stories behind them for the 100 week count down to Oct. 12, 2010.

Gulfport currently has many sixth and seventh generation "Gulfportians" still living here. They are the descendants of the original families. Lynne has compiled the genealogies of these families and has over 3000 names in our data base and on file at the museum. Come check them out, you may be surprised at just who is related to whom.

If you live in a house in Gulfport built before 1950, we probably have the history of your home in our files in the museum. Thanks again to Lynne's research.

Gulfport Historical Society and Museum

Officers

President	Judy Ryerson
Vice Pres.	Priscilla Hoon
Secretary	Carol Valdes
Treasurer	Christine Brown

Board Members

Mary Atkinson
Catherine Culler
Nancie Fuller
Marie Gsell
Miki Vaughan

Museum Volunteer Staff

Curator	Miki Vaughan
Lead Docent	Marie Gsell
Historian	Lynne Brown
Newsletter	Judy Ryerson

**Museum Hours
of Operation**
Monday - Friday
2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday
10 am - 12 Noon

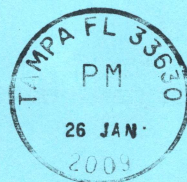
25th Anniversary Gulfport Historical Museum

In 1984, the GEMS office was moved to the new Senior Center and the little old building on the corner was empty. Catherine Hickman went to the City and asked if the three year old Gulfport Historical Society could rent the building to establish a museum. The rest is now part of the history of this venerable old building and what a history it has been. Built in 1912 as the Methodist Church, it was replaced by a new building in the early 1950's. In 1954 it was donated to the city and moved across the street to its current location with help and money supplied by the Gulfport Lions Club. It became the original Scout Hall until the mid 1960's. At that time the new Community Center opened and the community activities moved there leaving the building next door empty until the Scouts moved in. The little old church then served as a meeting place for the Red Cross, Civil Air Patrol and finally GEMS.

The exterior of the building has remained the same since it was moved except for the addition of the ADA ramp, the interior is a different story. In the 1950's they had "modernized" the interior by putting up walls to make two offices on the west side, a drop ceiling and grey paneling. This lasted until a Friday night, in December 1997. Upon entering the building on Saturday morning I discovered that the original "horse hair" plaster ceiling had fallen during the night, bringing the drop ceiling and wiring down with it. I called the City Manager at home and told him the sky was falling! The City, as owners of the building, took charge and proceeded to plan and look for money to make repairs. Once they had found the money and laid out a plan of action the work began. Lynne Brown and myself went in as soon as the paneling was taken down and scraped down the paint until we got back to the original color scheme. The city then stripped everything down to the bare rafters and studs, removed the old wiring and proceeded to restore the interior to its original look with all new wiring and adding central heat/air. The walls and wainscoting were painted in the original color scheme. They finished painting the wainscoting on Friday night and we opened for Nostalgia Day the next morning at 10:00 am. From the time work began to opening took 30 days and \$30,000. What a bargain!

Judy Ryerson

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