



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST

1998

SMALL GRANTS AWARDS

The Small Grants Committee - John Weachter, Rose Marie Barrett and Betsy Dietz - recommended the awarding of four "Small Grants" this past grant cycle. \$2500 awards were presented to the Key West Botanical Garden for protection of existing endangered species at the Stock Island gardens, the Bahama Conch Community Land Trust of Key West for the preservation of the historic finishes at the Lofton Sands Bahamian Museum and Resource Center at 324 Truman Ave. and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church for the planning phase of the restoration of St. Mary's auditorium. A \$1000 grant was awarded to the Harry S Truman Little White House Museum for the restoration of the *porte-cocheres* at the main entrance to the museum.

The Small Grants Program has, since this award cycle, been absorbed by a more complete Grant Program which will assess and present for consideration to the Board all preservation grant applications.



Joe Miller of Fantastic Foliage shares elements of the art of planting with board members Gib Peters, Momy Ortiz-Benavides and Hal Walsh under the watchful eyes of fertilization specialists Savannah and Sachem.

Don't miss this year's

FABULOUS FANTASY FEST PARTY

Sat. October 25 *** 6:30pm 'til...

Fright Night on Bone Island

best parade viewing

THE OLDEST HOUSE MUSEUM

322 Duval Street

\$125. pp *** all inclusive

Take your skeletons
out of the closet

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GARDEN REVAMP BEGINS

With \$16,000 in hand, proceeds from last spring's Black and White Ball, the museum committee has begun a major refurbishment of the gardens of the Oldest House Museum. Momy Ortiz-Benavides, board member and designer, has spent many hours developing a general plan for replanting several overgrown or under-planted areas of the garden, enlisting the aid of OIRF members Kitty Clements and Barry Archung.

Joe Miller of Miller's Fantastic Foliage has been contracted to undertake the project, which includes raising the rear lawn area to the height of the brick walkway. Miller assures that the project will be completed by the end of August.

Miller is installing an irrigation system for the entire property as well as rearranging some of the current plants and supplying new additions. Among the plantings proposed for the garden are a Royal Palm, Cardboard Palms, Silver Saw Palmettos, Jamaican Capers, Yellow Elder, Giant Crinum Lillies, Keys Thatch Palms, a Silver Buttonwood, Coco Plums and several varieties of colorful bushes.

The final phase of the project will upgrade and add to the lighting plan for the area.

Hal Walsh, museum committee chairman, plans to produce a garden layout to add to our brochure identifying flora and fauna.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Beverly Browder- Bev brings to us a great deal of experience in fund raising primarily with Opera Memphis where she was a performer. Other finely tuned talents include the culinary arts in which she has a degree and has taught for several years. Her current interests are singing, especially with the St. Paul Singers, assisting with her husband Bill's restoration hobbies and, as a Woman's Club member, providing welcome visits to Bayshore residents. She provides PR functions for her husband's relocating financial planning in insurance business.

Margaret Fauber- Transplants from Medina, Ohio, Margaret and her husband Ted are semi-retired owners of an aluminum alloy supply company, AMCOR Corp., now run primarily by their children. They have been property owners in Key West since 1988 and four years ago purchased the Commodore/ Surgeon's house in Truman Annex which was on tour last February. Margaret decorated and produced much of the site artwork for that restoration. She is active at the Yacht Club and enjoys golf. As an OIRF board member, she will be responsible for the maintenance of the Pelican Path.

Janet Recio Hayes- A many generation conch, Janet counts among her relatives the architect for The Customs House. She recently retired as spokesperson for the Monroe County School Board and is now a member of the HARC board. Janet will add her extensive knowledge and expertise about local systems to the board as chairman of the newly formed Public Awareness Committee.

Richard Moody- "Sax Man" has returned to the board and jumped right in to chair the new Education Committee, a fitting position for a Man of the Year for Education Programs (in commercial art), an honor from Orlando area Advertising Federation Assoc. Dick's artistic talents are legion in Key West, corroborated by the recent first place awarded at Hemingway Days' "Paint Your Wagon" contest for his "Pepper Car." He will be teaching commercial art (non-computerized) at FKAA this winter while also putting together a preservation lecture series and planning a photo documentation of Bahama Village for OIRF, a typical winter for the man who says, "I'm full of ideas; just need a place to use them."

Paula Newhouse- Paula returns to OIRF to take charge of the volunteers for the annual House and Garden Tours, a position she has held so ably in the past. She is a fifth generation Conch and has managed her own and her family's commercial properties in the downtown area for several years. She is a top producing Realtor with Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate and is active in the Key West Sunrise Rotary, Monroe County Leadership and the Panhellenic Sorority Association.

Susan Zirilli- A home grown Floridian, Sue and her husband Tony have transplanted their accounting business, Zirilli and Zirilli on Northside Drive, from Melbourne after vacationing here for several years. "I love to do income taxes," she said, meaning that she has enjoyed meeting many people over the years because of her expertise. Having raised two sons, Sue now spends her private time doing needlepoint and very fine watercolors (*ed.*). She also looks forward to singing with the community choir. Sue fills the board position of treasurer.

1998-99 BOARD OFFICERS

President- Gib Peters
1st V. President- Hal Walsh
2nd V. President- Tripp Hoffman
Secretary- Joan Dalbey
Treasurer- Sue Zirilli
Asst. Treasurer- Momy Ortiz-Benavides

MEMBERSHIP THANK YOUs

We welcome the following new patron, benefactor and life members and thank them for their support of our preservation efforts:

Mr & Mrs. Dwight Austin
John & Donn-Vecchie Campbell
James Coughlin
Courtney's Place
Helen Crimmins
Edward R. Czaplicki
Robert & Judith Davidson
Robert & Madelon Dixon
Jackie & Roland Grimm
Sol & Barbara Jacobson
Jerry & Judith Jared
David & Lynn Kaufelt
Key West Vacation Co.
Dr. Dennis S. Kuk
Robert Taft/Philip Moloney
Warren & Deborah Preece
Mr & Mrs D.C. Probert
Judith and James Roberts
Ed & Marian Strunk
Philip & Patricia Timyan
Mr. & Mrs. George Witwer
Terry Best/Joe Zameska

For recent mail-ins and those we've missed: we deeply apologize.



*The fabulous
volunteers for the
Oldest House
Museum and
Hospitality House
met for a
thank-you
breakfast in May.*



WESLEY HOUSE GRANT

OIRF is pleased to become a partner with Wesley House in restoring the Ley Memorial Church building at 1304 Truman Avenue. The Board granted \$20,000 to match funds provided by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, to restore the original facade and sanctuary of the church, enhancing the "entrance" to the city of Key West.

Pictured are Momy Ortiz-Benavides, chairman of the Grants Committee; Gib Peters, OIRF President; Joe Barker, executive director of Wesley House and Friday Limbert, serving the dual roles of officer of Wesley House and former two-term director of OIRF.

FAM CONFERENCE, SEPT. 8-11

The Florida Association of Museums has chosen Key West for its annual Conference and Exposition this year. The group will meet at the Casa Marina from Sept. 8th to the 11th where the program subject will be "A Conspiracy for Survival: Thinking Globally/Acting Locally." Some informative sessions are planned, though you must be a FAM member to attend.

Several of the island's home museums will be hosting evening get-togethers for the attendees. OIRF, in conjunction with the Little White House Museum, will host a cocktail party at the Oldest House Museum on Tuesday evening, Sept. 8, from 5:30 to 8 PM after the group has toured the Little White House and the Mary Spottswood home at 531 Caroline St., graciously opened to us for the occasion by the Spottswood family.

This is a tremendous honor and opportunity for the museums of Key West, and we plan to provide a memorable experience for our guests. Volunteers to act as hosts and hostesses in both the Mary Spottswood home and in the Oldest House Museum and as servers during the cocktail party are needed. Please call Betsy at the office - 294-9501 - if you can assist.

The museum directors are also putting together a "Scavenger Hunt" which seeks answers to specific questions about each participating museum and which would require a visit to answer. The winner will receive a fabulous prize trip.

Program information is available at the office for those who may wish to attend a session or two.

SCHOLARSHIP TO HASKELL

The first annual Nancy Ordway Jameson Scholarship was awarded at the Key West High School Graduation Awards Ceremonies to Evan Patrick Haskell, a graduating senior who has matriculated to Vassar College.

Evan was chosen from six excellent applicants for the \$500 award established to honor the extraordinary volunteer activities of the Wreckers' Museum's former director.

Evan's application stood out not only for its exceptionally high academic accomplishments but also for his ability to balance extracurricular activities such as choir and theater and an outside job. We wish him well in attaining his future educational and vocational goals.

TOUR HOMES WELCOME

If you have ideas of houses to feature on our tours, please advise
Tours House Selection Comm. Chair,
Mitzi Krabill, 296-0011

OIRF NEWSLETTER

Editor-Betsy S. Dietz

Contributors-Hal Walsh

Production-Kat Klingerman

OIRF P.O. Box 689
Key West, Florida 33041



John Gallagher, stalwart steward of the museum gift shop along with Mary Jane Bondeson, Gretchen Hart and winter staff Audrey Kessler, maintains the friendly atmosphere of the shop while introducing guests to special features of the museum.

OLD ISLAND RESTORATION FOUNDATION INC.

Calendar of Events, 1998-99

Florida Assoc. Museums in K.W.
Cocktail Party at Oldest House
Fantasy Fest Party
Holiday House Tours
House & Garden Tour #1
House & Garden Tour #2
House & Garden Tour #3
Museum Benefit
Conch Shell Blowing Contest
Members Appreciation Party
Annual General Meeting

September 8-11
Sept. 8, 5:30-8 PM
October 31, 6 PM
Dec. 27-28 (S, M) 5-8 PM
January 22-23, 5-9 PM
February 12-13, 10-4 PM
February 26-27, 10-4 PM
March 10, 6:30 PM
March 20, 1:30 PM
April 7, DST 6:30 PM
April 13, 5:30 PM

Old Island Restoration Foundation, Inc.

At the Hospitality House, Mallory Square
P.O. Box 689, Key West, Florida 33041
(305) 294-9501

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Inside This Issue:

Grant Awards
New Board Members
Skills Inventory SURVEY