

# FOUNDATION NEWS

BY THE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION OF PALM BEACH

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BRADLEY PARK BEAUTIFICATION

## Rooted in History



In the beginning of October, a historic green buttonwood tree was relocated by barge from the Lake Trail to a more prominent location in Bradley Park. The tree's proximity to Lake Worth allowed for it to be moved and replanted in a new location within the park that mirrors its original environment. Special care was taken to ensure the tree's placement is roughly the same distance from the sea wall with an identical north and south orientation. The tree, along with moving and maintenance expenses, was donated by Stephen A. Levin. The relocation was approved by Town Council in July.

The green buttonwood, estimated to be nearly two hundred years old, was originally part of the Phipps estate, *Casa Bendita*, located approximately one mile north of the park. The Phipps family once stored a Piper airplane in a boathouse adjacent to the tree. The tree's association with this great estate from the 1920s is especially significant to the Preservation Foundation's beautification project. As part of the beautification plan, a reconstruction of the *Casa Bendita* tennis pavilion has been built along the lake to provide a scenic spot for residents enjoying the Lake Trail. Please call for more information on naming opportunities for this feature and others.



# Lake Okeechobee's Legacy

AUTHORED BY Glades Academy Students



**O**n May 31st, the fourth-grade students of Glades Academy celebrated the publishing of *Lake Okeechobee's Legacy* by holding a book-signing event at the Lawrence E. Will Museum of the Glades. This is the third book in the *Our Glades Heritage* collection written by Glades Academy students under the guidance of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach's Associate Educator Lynne Charter. *Lake Okeechobee's Legacy* demonstrates students' new understanding of the hydrology and rich history of Lake Okeechobee.

Associate Educator Lynne Charter said, "This book-writing project is part of a ten-year-long collaboration between the Preservation Foundation and Glades Academy. Intended to strengthen students' reading and writing skills, one of the goals of this project is to increase standardized educational test scores. The project also serves to teach students about local history, impart appreciation for the surrounding environment, and encourage community pride."

Research for *Lake Okeechobee's Legacy* was extensive. Students studied the scientific and historic movement of Lake Okeechobee's water, viewed old photographs and maps, and listened to experts explain their role in the lake's security and well-being. The young authors also visited the Army Corps of Engineers, South Florida Water Management District, old Miami Canal Locks, old Canal Point Locks, the West Palm Beach Canal, the Pahokee Marina and Slim's Fish Camp. These sites were selected because each one holds a specific role or distinct perspective regarding Lake Okeechobee's past and present functions. The field trips enabled students to experience each setting first hand, which significantly increased their understanding.

To add to their field trip experiences, the young authors received photography instruction and used digital cameras at each site. The unique photographs taken allowed students to illustrate their Lake Okeechobee story. These photographs were exhibited at the Lawrence E. Will Museum of the Glades during the book-signing event.



# Environmentally Conscious Pest Control



As the dangers of hazardous chemicals to our health and ecosystem become more apparent, the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach is happy to announce that we have implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to maintaining the health and beauty of our botanical collections. IPM will allow us to mitigate the risk of pests and diseases by taking a proactive and natural approach to managing the health and beauty of Pan's Garden and Earl E. T. Smith Park.

Traditional methods of pest control rely primarily on routine use of pesticides and other hazardous chemicals as a preemptive strike against pests and diseases. The use of these toxins is not without hazard to our environment and personal health. Residue from commonly used agricultural and

landscape pesticides has been found in our groundwater, soil, wildlife, and food, placing the health of humans and the environment at risk for illness. The Preservation Foundation's IPM methods rely heavily

on the use of cultural practices, beneficial insects, bacteria, and other organisms to combat and alleviate any potential threats to our landscapes, thus helping to reduce the potential negative impact on our environment. Only as a last resort will toxic chemicals be applied to our landscapes. By using these toxic

chemicals only as a final course of action, we can help to reduce the adverse health risk to our surroundings and begin to cultivate a healthy and safe environment for all of nature's wonders.



## PLEASE JOIN US THIS SEASON

Please join us this season as guest scientists and experts lead the way in educating us on the importance of healing the environment through the use of IPM.

**CLASS DATES ARE: February 5, March 19, and April 16.** This program is made possible by a \$5,000 grant from The Chastain Charitable Foundation and the generosity of Island Environmental Pest Control. All classes are free to the public. Reservations are required. (561) 832-0731



# Jerry A. Tishman Scholarship Awarded to Dwinessa Pratt

Open to students enrolled  
in an architectural  
graduate-level program  
in Florida, the Tishman  
Scholarship generously  
awards \$10,000 to a  
student each year.

On August 22nd, the Preservation Foundation awarded the first Jerry A. Tishman Scholarship to Dwinessa Pratt. Open to students enrolled in an architectural graduate-level program in Florida, the Tishman Scholarship generously awards \$10,000 to a student each year. Pratt, who completed her undergraduate degree in architecture at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), will continue her graduate education at FAMU.

Pratt is currently working on her Master's thesis, focusing on the development of an eco-friendly tourist attraction that interprets the importance of the Queen Conch to Caribbean culture. Pratt was inspired to look into designing this attraction based upon a family conch farm that her mother use to run in Turks and Caicos. Pratt states that, "I endeavor to analyze and apply the most important principles of the Queen Conch's ecosystem to architecture in order to build in a more eco-friendly way. The Queen Conch is currently an endangered species and by designing and building a conch farm and research facility, I believe it will help in the safe reproduction and development of the species and help its natural ecosystem to thrive."

Pratt has volunteered at the Frank Lloyd Wright Spring House, the only private residence designed by Wright in Florida, where she assisted in the creation of a preservation plan. Once she completes her Master's in Architecture from FAMU, Pratt would like to continue working in Florida with a smaller architectural firm that will allow her to build relationships with her clients.

## 2017 ANTHONY K. BAKER INTERNS

# Zara Bhatti and Samantha Purnell

The Preservation Foundation's Anthony K. Baker Summer Internship Program has enriched the educational experiences of undergraduate and graduate students in architectural design and historic preservation since 2009. The scholarship is named in memory of longtime Foundation supporter and preservation advocate, Anthony K. Baker. This summer's interns were Zara Bhatti (left) and Samantha Purnell (right).

Zara Bhatti is a Fulbright Scholar currently pursuing a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania. Samantha Purnell, a student of Art History, is entering her senior year at Bates College.

Each summer the Baker Interns work on a project pertinent to a town preservation issue. This year's project was a review and re-survey of Barbara Hoffstot's 1974 *Landmark*



*Architecture of Palm Beach*. Hoffstot's book was a fundamental element in the creation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission as it docu-

ments the architectural and historical importance of 300+ structures on Palm Beach. As the first step toward publication of a fourth edition, the interns updated and recorded all the properties into the digital surveying platform *RuskinARC*.

While working on their project, the Baker Interns were also provided the opportunity to be mentored by some of the great minds who work in historic preservation locally. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach thanks the City of West Palm Beach Historic Preservation Division, Smith and Moore Architects, SMI Landscape Architecture, SKA Architects, Murphy Stillings, and Kirchoff & Associates Architects for providing hands-on professional experience and guidance to the Baker Interns.



## Inaugural Archival Internship Established

This summer, the Foundation established a six-week summer internship program which provides a talented, future archivist with hands-on experience in the Foundation's library and archives.

This year's archival intern, Elizabeth Paredes Alonso of Havana, Cuba is a senior majoring in Art History at Palm Beach State College. She was the winner of the college's prestigious 2017 Excellence Award and has two years' experience working in an academic library.

Elizabeth's achievements this summer include creating a digital catalog for the Foundation's library, thereby increasing ease of access to its collections. She was instrumental in organizing nearly 20,000 architectural drawings from the Marion Sims Wyeth collection. She also accessioned a considerable donation of personal letters relating to architect Maurice Fatio, expanding the Foundation's document collection.

After she graduates, Elizabeth will pursue a Master's degree in Archival Science and a career in archiving.

# POLLY JESSUP DESIGN SERIES

Featuring Leta Austin Foster

On **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH** the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach will present the first installment of a five-year series on interior design. The Polly Jessup Design series will focus on the historic and modern interiors of landmarked Palm Beach homes through lectures from the area's top designers. The opening night will consist of a cocktail reception with distinguished lecturer, Leta Austin Foster, and an exhibition highlighting the life and career of Polly Jessup. This series is generously underwritten by the Daniel Family, who are relatives of Polly Jessup and recipients of the Foundation's 2017 Polly Earl Award for their restoration of an historic Palm Beach bungalow.

The inaugural year will feature prominent interior designer Leta Austin Foster as the distinguished lecturer. Foster began her interior design firm, Leta Austin Foster & Associates, Inc., in Palm Beach over forty years ago. Her work in Palm Beach has been inspired by past great designers such as Billy Baldwin and Polly Jessup. The lecture will showcase her designs for interiors in Palm Beach restored with modern clients in mind while still paying homage to the past decorators of the residence. Foster has been chosen by *House & Garden* as one of "America's Greatest Interior Decorators" and by *House Beautiful* as one of America's most trailblazing designers. She has contributed design advice to *Elle Décor*, *Traditional Home*, *Veranda* and *House Beautiful*.

The Polly Jessup Design Series, which will be on display in the Preservation Foundation's Robert M. Grace Library from November 13th to December 22nd, will also include an historically important exhibition on Polly Jessup (1899 - 1988), who was bestowed the title "Grande Dame of Palm Beach Decorators" in a 1987 *New York Times* editorial. Jessup was a nationally-renowned interior designer whose designs were integral to the gracious lifestyle for which Palm Beach is known. The exhibit will tell the mostly unknown story of Jessup's life and career through images of her interior design work and recollections from clients and colleagues. The Preservation Foundation is delighted to be given the opportunity to pay homage to someone so important to the history of the island and is grateful to the Society of the Four Arts for the use of images from its Polly Jessup Collection.



# Historic Properties Workshop Redevelopment in Historic Neighborhoods



The 2017 Historic Properties Workshop will focus on understanding how redevelopment affects non-designated historic neighborhoods. An example of this in Palm Beach is the North End neighborhood. Most towns in the United States look to create a cohesive historic district rather than landmark individual properties. The North End is an area of town that encompasses many resources from our recent past; however, it is not a historic district and the majority of the properties are not landmarked. How then can a neighborhood of historic properties, even if not landmarked or in a district, keep its historic character?

This workshop hopes to explore the options available to homeowners.

**Our three speakers will approach different ways to address this issue:**

**CARRIE MURRAY**, a resident of the North End, will share the renovation of her 1940s frame vernacular residence;

**JOHN BARIE**, an architect and town planner, will focus on the understanding of development regulations in new construction;

**JANE DAY**, former preservation consultant for the Town of Palm Beach, will discuss the benefits of the historic tax exemption.

Historic Properties Workshop: Redevelopment in Historic Neighborhoods

November 9th | 9AM to Noon | Reservations Required (561) 832-0731

Presorted First Class  
 U. S. Postage  
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 West Palm Beach, FL  
 Permit No. 1151

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are located at 311 Peruvian Avenue unless otherwise noted.

*Reservations Required*

## November

### Thursday, November 9

9am to Noon

HISTORIC PROPERTIES WORKSHOP

**Redevelopment in Historic Neighborhoods**

Free to Public

### Monday, November 13 to Friday, December 22

10am to 4pm

EXHIBIT

**Polly Jessup: Grande Dame of Palm Beach Decorators**

Free to Public

### Thursday, November 16

6pm to 8pm

COCKTAIL RECEPTION AND LECTURE

**Polly Jessup Design Series Featuring Leta Austin Foster**  
Members Only

### Wednesday, November 29

7:30pm

**Bradley Park & Main Street Beautification Benefit**

Club Colette  
Invitation Only

## December

### Friday, December 8

Noon

**Membership Luncheon and Ballinger Award Presentation**

The Breakers

Invitation only

### Thursday, December 14

5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Bradley Park Celebration**

Bradley Park

## January

### Thursday, January 4

2pm

LECTURE/BOOK SIGNING

***A Place to Call Home: Tradition, Style, and Memory in the New American House*** by Gil Schafer

### Monday, January 8 to Friday, February 16

10am to 4pm

EXHIBIT

**Places & Faces: The Photography of Mary Hilliard**

Free to Public

### Wednesday, January 10

11am

**Trustees Meeting and Polly Earl Award with Presentation by Dr. Jane S. Day**

Invitation Only

### Wednesday, January 10

6pm to 8pm

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

**An Evening with Mary Hilliard**

Members Only

### Thursday, January 18

2pm

LECTURE

***Historic Garden Design*** by Jim Honey

### Thursday, January 25

2pm

LECTURE/BOOK SIGNING

***A \$500 House in Detroit: Rebuilding an Abandoned Home and an American City*** by Drew Philp

### Monday, January 29

2pm to 4pm

GARDEN CLASS

**Brush Strokes & Bites with Julie Silk Beaumont**

## February

### Thursday, February 1

2pm

LECTURE

***Restoration and Decoration of Period Houses*** by Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill



### Monday, February 5

10am

GARDEN LECTURE

***Environmentally-Conscious Pest Control***

Free to Public

### Thursday, February 8

2pm

LECTURE/BOOK SIGNING

***Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures*** by Nancy Moses

### Thursday, February 15

2pm

LECTURE/BOOK SIGNING

***Walks of a Lifetime: Extraordinary Hikes From Around the World*** by Robert and Martha Manning

### Tuesday, February 20 to Sunday, February 25

10am to 4pm

EXHIBIT

**MISH New York**  
Free to Public

### Thursday, February 22

2pm

LECTURE

***Envision Heritage*** by Morris Hylton III