

CORAL GABLES MUSEUM

EVENTS CALENDAR
JULY 2018

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

- DOWN TOWN
WALKING TOUR
EVERY
SATURDAY, 11 A.M.
July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018
- "CREATING THE
DREAM" TOUR
SATURDAY, 1 P.M.
July, 14, 21, 2018
- MERCEDES-BENZ
OF CORAL GABLES
GALLERY NIGHT
FIRST FRIDAY,
July 6, 2018 6-10 PM
- FAMILY DAY
ON ARAGON EVERY
SECOND SATURDAY
July 14, 2018
- To Schedule, Contact:
Jude Alexander
Adult Volunteer Liaison
Email:
Jude.Alex@Live.Com

The Volunteer Voice

Relationships ○ Service ○ Accomplishment

Volume I

Issue 12

PALACES BEHIND THE PALMS: GREAT ESTATES OF EARLY MIAMI

Hosted by Ser & Associates on May 30, 2018 and moderated by Cecilia Slesnick, the Museum's School Programs Manager, *Palaces Behind the Palms: Great Estates of Early Miami*, was the last presentation of the Spring Lecture Series. Local preservation leaders provided background and insights related to several significant architectural sites in Miami.

Narrated by Remko Jansonius, Deputy Director for Collections and Curatorial Affairs for Vizcaya, he describes the Villa, "...as quintessential American in its interpretation of the architecture and uniquely Miami" but it was, nonetheless, inspired by the Italian palace Villa Rezzonico. Developed by wealthy industrialist, James Deering, manufacturer of agricultural machinery via International Harvester, Inc., [Editor's Note: *This is a different entity from the John Deere Company.*] Vizcaya was constructed between 1914 and 1916. During this period, known as the "Gilded Age" in America,



extremely affluent industrialists and land barons often built lavish estates to emulate European aristocracy.

Sited on the shore of Biscayne Bay, this location provides stunning vistas but was, however, a difficult property on which to build. Paul Chalfin became the principal architect on the project, in collaboration with Francis Burrall Hoffman and later hiring Phineas Paist to be the on-site architect. [Editor's Note: *Phineas Paist, later became the supervising architect for the Coral Gables Corporation, under George E. Merrick.*] Diego Suarez was the landscape architect of record for the Vizcaya gardens.

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JULY 2018

A B C s of VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

○ VOLUNTEERS PLEASE SEE DETAILS ○

CONTACT: Jude.Alex@Live.Com to schedule a time.

ON-GOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER INFO!

A

✓CASH COMPENSATION: \$9 PER HOUR FOR HOSTING
THE INFORMATION BOOTH AT
THE ACTOR'S PLAYHOUSE AT THE MIRACLE THEATER !
FREE PARKING AND 2 TICKETS FOR A WEEK-DAY PERFORMANCE!

Please contact Jude if you are interested. Jude.Alex@Live.Com

B

✓GALLERY NIGHT: *FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH*

July 6, 2017 / SHIFTS: 5:30 - 8PM AND 8-10 PM

Four (4) volunteers needed for each shift. Number of volunteers needed may change to adjust to situations on the particular evening. Please be flexible when choosing a shift as we must cover the entire evening.

✓FAMILY DAY: *EVERY SECOND SATURDAY: July 14, 2018*

Ten (10) volunteers needed. Contact: Angela@CoralGablesMuseum.Org

TOURS

C

✓DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR: *EACH SATURDAY, 11 AM*

July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2018

One (1) volunteer needed for each date to guide groups to locations near the museum, explaining the history and architecture of significant sites. Training required.

Note Change in Dates for "Dream" Tour, Now on Saturday!

✓CREATING THE DREAM: *EACH SATURDAY, 1 PM*

July 14, 22, 29, 2018

One (1) volunteer needed, inside the museum, for each date, to interpret City Founder, George E. Merrick's vision and ultimate achievement of creating Coral Gables, The City Beautiful. Training required.

Important Info: Volunteer Notes

- ❑ PLEASE TAKE THE INITIATIVE. EMAIL JUDE AND TELL HER THE EVENTS/TOURS FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO VOLUNTEER.
- ❑ Volunteer Manual: *In a pink folder at the front desk you will soon find the new Volunteers Manual. It was created to help volunteers understand the various positions at the museum. It also contains museum staff job descriptions and phone extensions.*
- ❑ THE DAY FOR “BUILDING THE DREAM” TOUR IS NOW SATURDAY AT 1 P.M.
- ❑ Don't Forget...there's a 15% discount for museum volunteers at the museum gift shop!
- ❑ Have fun but be professional, friendly, helpful and know your “stuff!”
- ❑ *The Volunteer Voice* welcomes your suggestions re: tours, the newsletter or any other helpful hints. Send to: Janebond@Comcast.Net, your humble newsletter editor or Jude.Alex@Live.Com.



EXHIBIT PREMIERS & HIGHLIGHTS

Caribee Club Artist Series Features
Gerald Obregon
June 1 through July 31, 2018

Obregon says, “I enjoy the process of painting. Each piece I paint is a visual problem to solve. Sometimes the problem is color, sometimes it's value, sometimes it's using just the right touch on the brush to apply the paint. With each piece I complete I find the answer is a small piece of a larger puzzle that will never be solved.

I am fascinated by the work of the Impressionists, how they worked in a fast and loose manner. The simplest stroke of a brush on canvas can convey so much with so little, be it a landscape, still life or portrait. For the last few years I have been producing more landscapes than portraits or still life paintings. At first I kept to traditional subjects with greenery and bodies of water. I have since expanded my choices to include the glass, metal and concrete found in more urban setting. In each case I try to capture the play of light and color on forms.”



EXHIBIT BULLETIN!

All long term
exhibitions
are
on hold for
building repairs
&
maintenance.

Continued from Page 1: Palaces Behind the Palms

In her talk, Melinda Jester, Executive Director of the Curtiss Mansion, relates that Miami Springs and Opa-Locka, founded by Glenn Hammond Curtiss, the Father of Naval Aviation and his partner, James Bright, were products of the “Land Boom” during the early to late 20's in Florida.

Miami Springs reflects the style of architecture known as “Pueblo Revival” based on design elements found in the southwestern United States. Opa-Locka

takes its theme from the Moorish architectural vocabulary. Hialeah was also a Curtiss-Bright development.



Curtiss Mansion
in Miami
Springs.

Constructed in
1925 in the
Pueblo Revival
Style.

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Continued from Page 3: Palaces Behind the Palms The final presentation featured information on the creation of the City of Coral Gables. Director of Historical Resources and Cultural Arts for the City of Coral Gables, Dona Spain, who sees her job as preserving Merrick's dream, reviewed the arrival to the area of George E. Merrick, age 13 and his Father, Solomon in 1898. George makes a significant contribution to the success of the plantation which produced citrus, avocados and ground crops. The passing of just a few years saw the death of Solomon in 1911. Young Merrick is tasked with taking over the business of the plantation. However, having the dream of building a city, he begins his venture in the early 1920's. Chartered in 1924, the city enters a period which becomes prob-

lematic with a major hurricane in 1926 and the advent of the devastating nationwide fiscal crisis of the late 20's. By the middle of the next decade Merrick is financially wrecked. The city struggles on but recovers after WWII.

A summary statement from Ms. Slesnick pointed to the lives of these "Dreamers." These men were contemporaries and in building their fantasies of the Mediterranean, Spain, the Southwestern U.S. and any other amazing ideas which may have occurred to them, utilized the same architects, designers and builders who were accustomed to working in this difficult environment and who produced Early Miami.

Notes for this article provided by Laura Ondarza.



have made a few adjustments to make the tips more applicable to our situation at the CG Museum.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and John Hopkins, Executive Director of Baltimore Heritage, suggest that these tips can help you be the best tour guide you can be. We

1. **FACE THE GROUP:** Let them see you and the points of interest: Also, as necessary, "deputize" some one in the group to interrupt you if people are having difficulty hearing.
2. **BE PERSONAL:** As appropriate, use a few of your own anecdotes to personalize the story.
3. **TELL A STORY:** People will remember a story more than just dates and names.
4. **GET MOVING ON TIME:** Brief introductions can get people engaged but keep it simple.
5. **BE FLEXIBLE:** Adjust to the group. What are the ages of the people? Are they visitors or do they know the area? Are they in a hurry or can you go at a more leisurely pace? Etc.
6. **DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING PERFECT:** ...No one is! Encourage people to share their knowledge when they are able to clarify or briefly add to your own knowledge.
7. **LIMIT THE NUMBER OF SPEAKERS:** Don't let the group take over the tour. Stay in control.
8. **BE ORGANIZED:** Know who is in your group. Stay on task. Use notes only for cues and to keep the story moving.
9. **END ON TIME:** Know your topic thoroughly but you don't have to say every thing you know.
10. **CLOSE WITH A BRIEF Q & A MINUTE AND DON'T FORGET A "THANK YOU FOR COMING."**

Have You Ridden the Freebee Yet?

Article by Celita Lamar
Photo by Patrick Alexander

One of the many perks of living and/or working near downtown Coral Gables is the possibility of avoiding parking hassles between 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. by using the vehicles that resemble an elongated golf cart capable of transporting up to 5 passengers.

Initiated in June 2017 by the City of Coral Gables, Freebees and their friendly drivers can be relied upon to take you to Books and Books, the CG Art Cinema, the CG Museum or to any of the dozens of great restaurants that enliven our city. The area served is between LeJeune Rd. and west to Douglas Road and from Narvarre Ave to San Sebastian on the south with a “dog-leg” on Biltmore Way to Anderson Rd.

To use the Freebee, download the app in the App Store. To go, click on the app, confirm your pick up point and enter your destination. You will be placed in a virtual queue and after confirming your request your Freebee will soon arrive and whisk you to your destination. The ride is free but you can show your appreciation with a nice tip. Happy ridding!



Our Featured Volunteer for July...



Arriving in Coral Gables at an early age and by way of Long Island, NY from Cuba, Patricia Suastegui attended Coral Gables Elementary School, La Salle and ultimately, the University of Miami. Patricia taught for 13 years in the Miami-Dade Public School System. Now retired from teaching, her focus is on her grandson while she still enjoys traveling and cooking. She is very proud of her two sons, who are both in the medical field. One, here in Miami, is with the Nicklaus Children's Hospital and the other is in medical school in California.

Living across from the Chinese Village in south Gables, Patricia constantly enjoys a view back into the unique history of Coral Gables.

Meet Our Selected Staffer for July...

After graduating in 2000 from University of Havana, Cuba, with her BA in Art History, Yuneikys Villalonga (Yuni) was employed as curator and art history lecturer in that city for 10 years. Working to bring Cuban, Caribbean and Latin American art into a broader international scene won her the National Curators Award from the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba.

Relocating to the U.S. in 2011 she became Curator at Lehman College Art Gallery/CUNY. While in New York she was also involved in the gallery's broad arts education programs for



Dade Heritage Trust presented a plaque to Gay Bondurant in acknowledgement of her activities involving Advocacy for Historic Preservation. April 17, 2018

tion programs for students of all ages. Relocating to Florida in 2016 as Associate Director of Exhibitions and education at the Bakehouse Art Complex ultimately brought Villalonga into contact with the Coral Gables Museum where she is now Chief Curator. She also writes for several national and international art magazines. We are happy to have Yuni with us.