



THE DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Matheson History Museum

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A Vision for the Matheson

GREG YOUNG, BOARD PRESIDENT

Here at the Matheson, we have worked diligently over the last year and a half to keep our ship steady in today's turbulent waters. Because of the great work of our staff, board of directors, advisory council, and especially because of You, we have not only survived, but have become more vital to the community we serve.

My focus is on building a sustainable future so the Matheson can continue to serve our members and community. We are working to reach that goal in several ways:

- Building strong bonds with our community partners.
- Expanding our donor base and including more ways in which to give.
- Setting aside funds to preserve our historic buildings and collections.
- Working with stakeholders on the Sweetwater Branch Greenway initiative.

As Ken Burns said in a recent PBS interview, "stories liberate us from the tyranny of our past." At the Matheson we share our stories through historic preservation and engaging programming. I hope you will continue to share in that important work.



Collections Spotlight

Shands at Alachua General Hospital Auxiliary Uniform Top

The members of the auxiliary were known as the "Pink Ladies." The Auxiliary still operates today at UF Health - volunteers provide assistance to staff and comfort to patients, as well as raise funds for the hospital.

Donated by Fred Awbrey, Jr.
in memory of his mother
Janet Awbrey



Volunteer Profile: Tina Fields

The museum is embarking on a major project to fully catalog the contents of the historic 1867 Matheson House. Our Collections Coordinator, Chloe Richardson, is working with one of our wonderful board members, Tina Fields, to inventory and condition report the furniture and decorative arts in the house. Our goal is to fully document the Matheson House collection so that these objects can be included in our online database and be readily available for public access and research in the future.

Tina Fields (pictured above) is a retired librarian and school teacher. She and her husband, Donald, have been in Gainesville since 2014. Tina joined the Matheson's Board of Directors in 2019 and has been delighted to share her professional expertise for this project.

Current Exhibitions

McCarthy Moment: The Johns Committee in Florida

In 1956, State Senator Charley Eugene Johns created the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee. Better known as the Johns Committee, it tried to uncover subversive activity in Florida.

Their first target was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The Committee used Communists as an excuse to prevent integration in public schools. The NAACP's members and lawyers proved too hard for the Committee to beat. Soon an embarrassed Johns looked for easier victims.

At this time, Americans thought being gay was a shameful mental disorder. It was something to hide and keep secret. It was also illegal in Florida. This secrecy made gay people more vulnerable to the persecution of the Johns Committee. Committee members threatened people with exposure and prison if they did not cooperate. This reign of terror led to dozens of professors and students leaving the university. Although we will never know everyone the Committee hurt, this exhibition seeks to tell their stories.

**The “McCarthy Moment” exhibition does contain sensitive information, including self-harm, sexual acts, and persecution of the LGBTQ+ community. Museum staff is available if any visitor would like more information before entering the exhibition.



Johns Committee meeting on January 29, 1964

Courtesy of the State Library & Archives of Florida



The McCarthy Moment exhibition
Courtesy of Cool Blue Photography

Trailblazers: 150 Years of Alachua County Women

This exhibition highlights the lives and accomplishments of eleven women from cities throughout Alachua County. We will tell their stories, some for the first time, to call attention to the oft forgotten contributions of women in our history and in the history of Alachua County. While we are unable to call attention to every woman who has made an impact on the county, these eleven women represent various backgrounds, experiences, and fields of work, all of which are significant to the past and present success of Alachua County.

The eleven women featured in the exhibition are:

- Sarah Hamilton Matheson (1901-1996)
- Dr. Sarah Lucretia Robb (1852-1937)
- Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1896-1953)
- Marjorie Harris Carr (1951-1997)
- Vivian Washington Filer (1938-present)
- Daphne Duval Williams (1906-2010)
- Judith Brown (1941-1991)
- Margaret Tebeau (1839-1924)
- Clara Floyd Gehan (1901-1992)
- Mary Etta Cubberly (1870-1950)
- Emmaline Buchholz (1887-1973)



**Judith Brown
(third from left)
and fellow CORE
workers in 1964**
Courtesy of National
Women's Liberation



**Mackenzie Pizzio curated the
"Trailblazers" exhibit as a student
intern from UF.**



Mary Etta Cubberly - 1887
Courtesy of the Matheson History Museum

Upcoming Programs

"A. Quinn Jones and Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A Legacy of Black Educational Excellence"

with the A. Quinn Jones Museum and Cultural Center

[September 18, 4pm](#)

"A Punkhouse in the Deep South: The Oral History of 309"

with authors **Aaron Cometbus and Scott Satterwhite**

[October 13, 7:30pm](#)

"Behind Closed Doors: The Dark Legacy of the Johns Committee"

documentary screening and guided community discussion

with the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida as a part of the annual Gainesville Pride Festival

[October 21](#)

Downtown Festival & Art Show

[November 6 & 7](#)

Be sure to visit our booth!

"Florida's Negro War: Black Seminoles and the Second Seminole War"

with Dr. Anthony Dixon

[November 13, 4pm](#)

"The Life She Wished to Live: A Biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of the Yearling"

with author Ann McCutchan, in partnership with UF George A. Smathers Libraries and the UF History Department

[November 19](#)

More details to come! Be sure to join our email list or follow us on social media to stay up to date with our programs and exhibitions. If you aren't subscribed to our e-newsletter please email Joanna at info@mathesonmuseum.org to do so.

Membership Program

We are a museum created by and for the Alachua County community. As a member, you are a stakeholder in the preservation of our collective history and assist us in sharing it with the greater region.

What does your membership support?

- Continued care of our four historic buildings
- Permanent and temporary exhibits
- Collections care
- Expanded programs

All members enjoy:

- Members-only events
- 20% discount in the museum gift shop
- "The Telegram" e-newsletter
- Newsletter twice a year

All memberships purchased prior to October 1 will be valid through January 1.

Memberships purchased after October 1 will roll over to January 1 of the next year, giving you up to three additional months of membership for free. For example, if you purchase your membership on August 1, 2021, your membership will be valid through January 1, 2022. If you purchase your membership on October 31, 2021, it will be valid until January 1, 2023.

You can easily join or renew online at www.mathesonmuseum.org/membership.

SUSTAINER PAYMENT PLAN

- Give monthly at any amount (\$5 minimum)
- You can register for an automatic monthly donation through PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account in order to participate.
- Go to www.mathesonmuseum.org/membership. Click either the blue or yellow button at the bottom.
- When you reach the PayPal donation page enter the amount you would like to donate monthly and click the button next to "Make this a monthly donation."

ANNUAL PAYMENT PLAN

- Student - \$20
- Senior Individual - \$25
- Individual - \$35
- Family - \$40
- Historian - \$100
- Heritage Circle - \$250
- 1867 Society - \$500
- Lifetime - \$1,000

2021 MEMBERSHIP GIFT

As our way of saying thank you, we will be mailing each new and renewing member a hand-picked collection of five historic, Florida postcards from our gift shop.



Meet our Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Board of Directors

Greg Young - President
Robert T. Mounts - 1st Vice President
Ronnie Lovler - 2nd Vice President
TJ Pyche - Secretary
Jason Stanford - Treasurer
Jessica Mrozinske Baker, J.D.
Charles Cobb, Ph.D.
Tina Fields
Lizzie P.R.B. Jenkins
Courtney Pyche
Jon Rehm
E. Stanley Richardson
Dulce Román
Ruth Steiner, Ph.D.

The purpose of the Board is to provide overall policy guidance, corporate governance, strategic planning, and fiscal guidance for the management of the museum in accordance with its purpose and mission.

Advisory Council

Marilyn Tubb - Chair
Barbara Anderson
Jean Chalmers
Don Davis
Bruce DeLaney
Ian Fletcher
Scherwin Henry
Lesa Holder
Deirdre F. Houchen, Ph.D.
Linda Kallman
Rebecca Nagy, Ph.D.
Paul Ortiz, Ph.D.
Carla Summers
Barbara Wingo

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to provide advice and guidance to the Board with regard to strategic planning, development, and fundraising.

Follow us on social media!



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Matheson History Museum

Website: www.mathesonmuseum.org

Our exhibitions and programs are sponsored in part by: Visit Gainesville - Alachua County, FL; The City of Gainesville; and the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of the Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida.



Gainesville.
Citizen centered
People empowered



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