



THE DISPATCH

Newsletter of the Matheson History Museum

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A Note from Our Executive Director

On March 12, 1994 Sarah Hamilton Matheson cut the ribbon for the brand new Matheson Historical Center. In the 30 years since then, the Museum has evolved into the vibrant place we know today. We owe a great debt to the vision of our founding board of directors:

Mark V. Barrow, Sarah Hamilton Matheson, Marinus H. Latour, William King, Barbara Fearney, Meg Niederhofer, Joel M. Buchanan, Kenneth S. Davis, Helen Cubberly Ellerbe, Barbara Gans Gallant, E.L. Roy Hunt, Ralph B. Johnson, John Paul Jones, Carla M. Kemp, Murray Laurie, Jean Marshall, Les May, Terril A. Nell, Ben Pickard, Samuel Proctor, and F. Blair Reeves

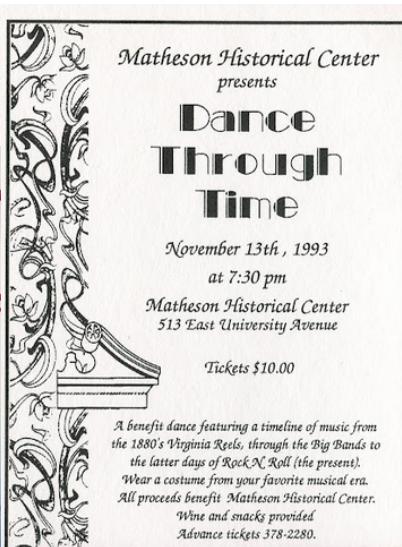
Since the early days of Ham 'n' Eggs (the Historical Archives and Museum of Alachua County and Gainesville HAMAG) the Matheson has been blessed with a passionate and dedicated board, staff, volunteers, and members. Each person has left their fingerprints on the heart of the Museum. I invite each of you to join us this year as we celebrate our history with a brand new exhibition, Weaving a Community: 30 Years of the Matheson History Museum.

(continued on page 2)

One of the very first events held at the Matheson, before it officially opened, was A Dance Through Time in November 1993. As we celebrate this year, we will dance back in time once more at our Sock Hop on March 9. Be on the lookout for more information about our 30th Birthday Party!

I have been with the Matheson, in a variety of roles, since 2015. In many ways, we have grown up together. I started as a volunteer at a spunky 21-year-old organization and am now privileged to lead a mature 30-year-old into the future. Here's to 30 more years of preserving and interpreting the history of our community!

With gratitude,
Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney
Executive Director



Collections Spotlight

Coat of Arms



This copper coat of arms of the State of Florida was made for the 1885 Alachua County Courthouse building and was originally one of a pair displayed in the pediments over the entrances to the building. It shows in deep relief a Native American woman standing near the bank of a river, offering flowers of friendship to an approaching steamboat. In the background there is a coconut palm tree made with individual thin copper leaves, and a three-dimensional sun is shown rising over a low mountain range in the background. Along the bottom of the coat of arms is a banner that reads "In God We Trust." Today it hangs over the fireplace in the Main Gallery.

Renew Today!

All annual memberships are due as of January 1st, unless you joined/renewed since October 1, 2023. You can easily renew online via our website: mathesonmuseum.org/membership.

Now is also a great time to switch to a sustainer membership. Instead of an annual payment you can divide your membership dues up into monthly automatic payments (\$5 minimum). Instructions on how to become a sustainer member are in the blue box to the right.

What does your membership support?

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

Our staff and Board of Directors worked hard to improve our membership experience for 2024. New benefits include private tours, VIP days, discount on rentals, and more. Visit our website to view the complete list of benefits - mathesonmuseum.org/membership.

All members enjoy:

- Members-only events and receptions
- Early access to registration for programs and events
- 20% discount in the museum gift shop
- Free tours of the Matheson House
- Recognition in the semi-annual newsletter
- Special member pricing for most ticketed events

Become a Member!

Sustainer Payment Plan

- Give monthly at any amount (\$5 minimum)
- You can register for an automatic monthly donation through Network For Good.
- Go to www.mathesonmuseum.org/membership. Click the blue button at the bottom.
- When you reach the Network for Good membership page choose your monthly donation amount and then choose "Monthly" for donation frequency.

Annual Payment Plan

- Student (with valid ID) - \$20
- Senior Individual (65+) - \$35
- Individual - \$45
- Family - \$70
- Historian - \$100
- Heritage Circle - \$250
- 1867 Society - \$500
- Sarah Matheson Society - \$1,000
- Lifetime - Cumulative Donations of \$5,000

2024 Members - Don't see your name? Renew today!

Leslie Alteri
Gary Anglin
Mary Anthony
Troy Auffenberg
Laurence Beaton
Jim and Mary Brandenburg
Kelli Brew
Jane Brockmann
Adrienne Burke
Caroline Caton
Jean Chalmers
Madeline Davidson
Robert Davis
Martha Davis
Nancy Deren
Heather Dewer
Cheryl and Paul Doering
Rocky Draud
Karen Eberly
Christine Engels
Jean Feingold
Christina Flagg
Carolyn Frederick
Christy Freeman
Janice Garry
Sara Lynn Gibbs
David Gold
Carol Gordon
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Haldeman
Wade Hampton
Peggy Henderson
Susanne Hesse
Carolyn Horter
Kristin Joys
Paul Kirk
Karen Kirkman
Donald Kunz
Pam Lahiff
Jean Lansford
Joanna Leathers
Michael Lee
Ronnie Lovler
Doug Mackey
Carlos Maeztu
Harry Mangle
Lauranne McCraw
Caryl McKellar
Christy Merriman
Sallie Monnin
Annie Morien

Daryl Mullee
Mary Munson
Reva Pachefsky
Kathleen Pagan
Anne Pierce
Anna Rahman
Elisabeth Renner
Helene Rhine
Ann Rizzo
Camille Robinson
Jane Roy
Becca Rynearson
Raul Sanchez
Marilyn Santos
Beverly Saviello
Fred Schirmer
Michael Schwartz
Jan Scott
Ann Smith
David Snedeker
Felipe Soto
Marcia Storch
Mike Thompson
Ellen Thoms
Fran Towk
Linda Tyler
John Vanderhoek
Susan Williams
Ashley Wood

Sustainer
Mark Barrow, M.D.
Eleanor Briseno
Judyth Dawson
Tina Fields
Donna Foust
Suzanne Gotro
Sheila Payne and
Paul Ortiz, Ph.D
Kim Popejoy
Jason Stanford
Luis Tirado
Samuel Welker
Greg Young

Historian
Fred Awbrey, Jr.
Pam Carpenter
Alison Conner
Carolyn Freeman

Laurel Freeman
Daniel Hayman
Kristin Hof
Kurt Kent
Carol McCusker
Louise Newman, Ph.D.
Lisanne Renner
Philip Robinson
James and Susan
 Roland
Alyce Schweyer
 Culpepper
Jeffrey Shapiro
Ben Smith
Barbara Wingo
Susan Wright

Heritage Circle
Alachua Audubon
 Society
Jeanne and Hunt Davis
Kenneth Nunn
Marilyn Tubb

1867 Society
Kathleen Hayman
Carl Hof-Mahoney
Jon Rehm, Ph.D.
Brenda Robinson

**Sarah Matheson
Society**
Nancy Baldwin
James Galloway
Jeff Montgomery
Julie Perry

Lifetime
Elizabeth Alsobrook
Barbara Anderson
Karen Arendell
Melanie Barr
Mark Barrow, M.D.
Sandy Burnett
John J. Canova, Jr.
Joseph Cauthen, M.D.
Don Caton, M.D.
David Chadwick
Jean Chalmers
Mae Clark

Charles Cobb, Ph.D.
Gladys Cofrin
Don and Sandy
Davis
Sheila Dickison
Charles and BarBee
Geiger
Michael J. Gengler
Sam and Deborah
Goforth
Norman Hommen
E.L. Roy Hunt
Marcia Isaacson
Carl and Margaret
Johnson
Dianne Junior
Linda and Clayton
Kallman
Cal King
Murray Laurie
Linda and Ken
McGurn
Jeffrey Meldon
Robert Mounts
Rebecca Nagy, Ph.D.
Meg Niederhofer
and Robert
Hutchinson
Joakim Nordqvist
Mary Pardue
Julie Perry
Davis Rembert
Larry Reynolds
Bonnye and Larry
Roose
Joe Rush
Mickey Singer
Anita Spring, Ph.D.
Carol Squitieri
William Stasiewicz
J. Thomas Touchton
John T. Touchton, Jr.
Marilyn Tubb
Dr. & Mrs. Frans Van
Haaren
David Wilson
Steve and Raamy
Winfrey

Current Exhibitions

We Are Here: Stories from Multilingual Speakers in North Central Florida - **LAST DAY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Immigrant inclusion requires us to think about languages other than English, and to listen to the stories that people carry through their languages and their cultures. "We are Here" highlights stories from people who speak multiple languages in North Central Florida.

Through visual collages that centralize cultural images, "We Are Here" illustrates the immigration journeys of our North Central Florida community through stories that hold power in multiple languages. These stories include examples of successes, struggles, hopes, injustices, and dreams of a more inclusive and just community. The goal is to showcase these stories, make visible the language diversity present in our community, and advocate for all of our neighbors' right to access information in their preferred languages.



Return to Forever: Gainesville's Great Southern Music Hall **LAST DAY SATURDAY, MAY 4**

Between 1974 and 1978, the top concert venue in Gainesville was the Great Southern Music Hall, located inside the historic Florida Theatre at 233 West University Avenue. Transformed by Jeffrey Meldon and Jim Forsman, the Great Southern played host to a who's who of prestigious performers including Jimmy Buffett, Ray Charles, Muddy Waters, Bob Seger, Steve Martin, Ike and Tina Turner, John Prine, the Count Basie Orchestra, and dozens more.

This impactful exhibit showcases dozens of John Moran's performance photos from his two years as the Great Southern Music Hall house photographer. Also featured is a display of Bo Diddley artifacts.

Thank you to Jeffrey Meldon and Meldon Law for sponsoring this exhibition!



Upcoming Exhibitions

Weaving a Community: 30 Years of the Matheson History Museum Opening Wednesday, February 28

In the late 1980s, Gainesville had a well-documented and researched history, numerous nationally-recognized historical sites, and multiple civic organizations centered around the preservation and proliferation of local history. What it did not have was a centralized place dedicated to that rich local history, where the accumulated knowledge and artifacts of the last two centuries could be housed and protected. This year, the Matheson History Museum will commemorate its 30th Anniversary of meeting that need.

To celebrate, “Weaving a Community” will take an all-encompassing view of the Matheson's history and its origins. The exhibition reveals the museum's roots through the history of the Matheson family, the American Legion Hall, and the wider civil society. It presents our history in an unbroken tapestry, revealing interesting and intertwined threads that tie the museum, the history of Gainesville, and our community together.

Voices and Votes: Democracy in America

Local History exhibit opens Wednesday, May 15

Smithsonian travel exhibit opens Saturday, July 20

“Voices and Votes: Democracy in America” is part of Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions.

Through a selection of photographs, objects, film, audio and interactives, “Voices and Votes” takes a broad look at the nearly 250-year-old American experiment of a government “of, by and for the people.” From the revolution and suffrage, to civil rights and casting ballots, everyone in every community is part of this ever-evolving story—the story of democracy in America. Exhibition sections explore the origins of American democracy, the struggles to obtain and keep the vote, the machinery of democracy, the right to petition and protest beyond the ballot and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

The local history exhibit will specifically cover the history of Alachua County's elections, elected officials, suffrage and civil rights, and more.

Upcoming Events

The Pagoda: A Lesbian Community by the Sea

Author Talk with Rose Norman

February 11, 4pm

Finding Florida - Crossing the Suwannee River in the 1800s - Early Ferries, Bridges & Trestles

with Ken Sulak, Ph.D.

February 24, 4pm

My Withered Legs and Other Essays

Book Launch with Sandra Lambert

March 3, 2pm

30th Anniversary Sock Hop

March 9, 6pm-8pm

Paid Tickets

Tracing Florida Journeys

Author Talk with Leslie Kemp Poole, Ph.D.

April 6, 4pm

Just Call Me Rae

Author Talk with Ann Weimer Moxley

April 24, 7pm

Once Upon a Time in Florida: Roots and Rivers

with Jacki Levine, Jack Davis, and Cynthia Barnett

Sponsored by Florida Humanities

May 1

6:30pm Reception

7pm Panel

Floridiana Show

May 4

10am-11am Museum Members Only

11am-4pm General Public

\$5 Admission, Children 14 and under free

Members free

***All programs are free (unless otherwise stated) but require pre-registration.**

Second Saturdays at Sweetwater

This spring we are continuing our series of outdoor programs in Sweetwater Park - the second Saturday of the month, January-April.

Each program will take place in Sweetwater Park, located directly behind the Matheson.

Darren Burgess Jazz Collective

January 13

2:30pm - 4pm

Yoga in the Park with Gaya Prabhakaran

February 10

2pm-3pm

Yoga in the Park with Gaya Prabhakaran

April 13

2pm-3pm

We are excited to partner with #UNLITTER for a yoga class on the front lawn of the historic Matheson House. All levels and abilities are welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat or towel to use.

Follow us on social media!



@mathesonhistorymuseum



@mathesonmuseum



@mathesonmuseum



Matheson History Museum

Website: www.mathesonmuseum.org



Thank you to our
corporate
sponsors!



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 Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the State of Florida.



City of Gainesville



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