



CENTENNIAL

Journal

Issue 6 • May - June 2021



Dr. Frank A. Cassell

*From
The
Chair*

April and May 1921 turned out to be the critical months in the struggle for a separate Sarasota County. In late March the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce hired E.J. Delbert as Secretary. As the Chamber's first full-time staff member, Delbert took the lead in organizing the campaign for separation.

On April 7 the Chamber's board of directors approved the wording of a bill to submit to the Florida legislature and named former State Senator Augustus Wilson of Myakka as their lobbyist. A week later Wilson wrote from Tallahassee that the bill would be introduced on April 14. He predicted an easy passage—and he could not have been more wrong!

The Bradentown Chamber of Commerce sent a large delegation to the state capital that succeeded in blocking passage of the Sarasota County bill. In desperation the Sarasotans sought a meeting with their opponents in late April. In mainly private negotiations held in Bradentown, the Sarasota representatives agreed to change the boundaries of the proposed new county by ceding four townships or 144 square miles of the northeast section back to Manatee County in return for an end to opposition to the creation of Sarasota County.

By May 12 both houses of the legislature passed the Sarasota bill unanimously and Governor Cary Hardee signed it into law. The fight for independence was not quite over pending the results of a referendum on the act in the Sarasota district, but the greatest hurdles had been successfully cleared.

It was a frantic time that tested the nerve and political skills of the Sarasota district leaders. In the end their careful planning and organization and their ability to unite people and communities throughout the district carried them to ultimate victory.

Now, one hundred years later, the county they created is celebrating their achievement. Already hundreds of events, lecture, concerts, and many other programs have been held or are scheduled. Additional activities are in the planning stage.

I call everyone's attention to two websites dedicated to the Sarasota County Centennial. The first is www.sarasotacountycentennial.com which is managed by the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee. As most readers of Centennial Journal know this site is filled with useful information about our county's history and the activities of the Steering Committee and its 90-plus Centennial Partner organizations. In one section you will find a series of Centennial Auto Tours available for FREE downloading on cell phones and iPads. It's a great way to see our county and learn more about its history. Another useful section is the Centennial Calendar that includes all Centennial activities in the county.

A second site also well worth visiting <https://www.sarasotacounty100.com> has been organized by the Sarasota County Division of Libraries and Historical Resources. It contains among many other things historical photographs, virtual museum displays of Centennial artifacts, and a calendar of other Centennial programs organized by the Division, including One Book/One Community events that feature Centennial themes.

The Centennial is a unique opportunity to appreciate our amazing community history and how far Sarasota has come since its founding.

Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Chair

Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee

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Centennial 2021
Steering Committee**

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SARASOTA COUNTY AUTO TOURS



**SARASOTA COUNTY
AUTO TOURS**

Sarasota County Centennial App Now Has 8 Auto Tours!

WHAT:

Celebrate the Centennial of Sarasota County with a FREE smartphone Auto Tour App for iPhones, Androids and iPads. 8 unique FREE auto tours can be accessed at the driver's leisure with expert historical narration and turn-by-turn directions.

WHO:

Created by the Sarasota County Centennial Committee, these tours are made possible and free to download thanks to several generous sponsors including: Williams Parker Attorneys, Mabry Carlton Ranch, Collins Interiors, Paver Development and Friends of the Sarasota County Parks.

WHEN:

The App and Tours can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Apple App and Google Play Stores. Search: "Sarasota County Auto Tours"

WHERE:

8 Unique tours include: Bee Ridge, Vamo to Laurel, Phillippi, Englewood, Fruitville to Miakka, Bayfront, Venice, Downtown/5 Points and Courthouse Area!

WHY:

Celebrate the 100th Birthday of Sarasota County in a COVID safe and convenient manner! Hear about the history and interesting stories about the amazing people who developed Sarasota County.

HOW:

Visit <https://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com> to learn more about the Auto Tours and learn how you can celebrate the Centennial of Sarasota County.

Brief History of Women's Sertoma Club of Venice



Sertoma exists for the high and noble purpose of **SERVICE TO MAn**kind by communication of thoughts, ideas and concepts to accelerate human progress in health, education, freedom and democracy. Based in Kansas City, Missouri, the organization was founded on April 11, 1912. Over the years, individual members have brought forward their talents and joined the collective experience of thousands to chart a unique course of action for community service.

Originally Sertoma International didn't allow women in their clubs. In the middle 80s several wives of members of the Sertoma Club of Venice formed, under the auspices of Sertoma International, a separate unit called La Sertoma. When women were allowed to join, it transformed into Women's Sertoma Club of Venice. It was chartered in December of 1988. The club held its first meeting in January 1989.



The Chartered Members were:

Betsy Heath
 Jamie Kilorn
 Kay MacLean
 Dorothy Gauvreau
 Valerie Preceo
 Barbara Logan
 Kathy Gerin
 Mardie Lauham
 Cinthia Colby
 Sue Ulrich
 Lynn Mosley
 Lueanne Wood
 Laura Bennawy
 Judie Horton
 Linda Bradway
 Nancy Jordon



Barbara LaNinfa
 Golda Radefeld
 Ann Hall
 Carol Struble
 Rose Moore
 Diane Heath
 Jera Geloromina
 Christine Verchott
 Susan Lewis
 Karen Barbetta
 Sarah Johnson
 Erene Romanski
 Sherry Cettei
 Sharon Mudge
 Carol McMahon
 Mary Bogen

Our first President was Erene Romanski January of 1989.



Women's Sertoma has been evolving over the years and we have gone from raising our funds at the Wellfield concession stand, making hotdogs in a frying pan and endless trips to Sams Club buying candy and chips, popcorn for our popcorn machine we got for free and changing out our own soda machines to putting on one of the biggest events in Venice. We have been doing the Sun Fiesta since 1993 when the event went bankrupt. We paid the \$33,000 debt that was owed to various business and the City of Venice in three years.



Our main event is the annual Sun Fiesta which the Women's Sertoma has sponsored and organized. The first official Sun Fiesta was in October 1973. It was originated to provide the community its last chance to get together before the 'snow birds' started migrating in November. Sun Fiesta has remained one of the most beloved events of the year for the citizens of Venice. The event takes place in Centennial Park in downtown Venice and includes arts & crafts, food, music, dancing, entertainment, the Miss Sun Fiesta Pageant, free admission, free parking and so much more!



We also raised money selling poinsettias and carnations on St. Patrick's Day. We worked golf tournaments and were always able to give out scholarships and help needy families with gifts at Christmas. Since its inception, the Women's Sertoma Club of Venice has contributed over \$1 million to support the needs of the community.

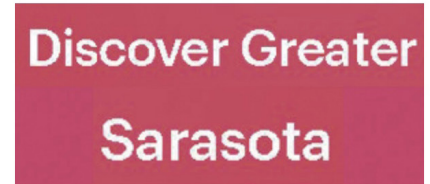
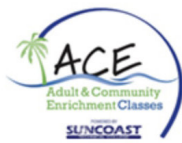
Our main focus has been and will continue to be scholarships to women going to college and returning to school after being in the workforce. We also support various charities in the area whose main mission it is to aid women and children. In keeping with Sertoma's mission to aid in hearing and speech, we continue to support the Sertoma Club of Venice's speech and hearing clinic in Venice.

Become A Partner

We invite you to view "A Special Invitation" to join the celebration on our website: www.sarasotacountycentennial.com or on YouTube youtu.be/uo9U5fbm0PM

Join Our Partners

In every issue we will feature some of our Partners.



PARTNER EVENTS



RESILIENT RETREAT

RESILIENT RHAPSODY

CONCERT SERIES

An outdoor musical concert on our beautiful 84-acre property.

SUNDAY, MAY 9, MOTHER'S DAY
SARASOTA POPS ORCHESTRA

Gates open: 4:30pm | Performance: 5:30-7:00pm

13010 Fruitville Road, Sarasota

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$40/per person
VIP SEATING: \$60/per person
Covid safety protocols will be followed.

Sponsorship opportunities available.
For more information, please call:
941-343-0039
Register online at:
resilientretreat.org/rhapsody

Proceeds benefit Resilient Retreat and our mission to provide trauma-informed support for abuse survivors and those that witness trauma in the workplace.

"Music is the language of the spirit.
It opens the secret of life, bringing peace, abolishing strife."
—KHALIL GIBRAN

SARASOTA CENTENNIAL CITY TOUR

Step back in time aboard our air-conditioned trolley with Sarasota's first newspaper publisher Rose Phillips Wilson (played by Kathryn Chesley), to learn about the city 100 years ago as we celebrate its Centennial. This 90-minute Centennial City Tour explores neighborhoods, buildings, and people that were pivotal to Sarasota's historical development as well as its current state as one of Florida's most interesting artistic and cultural communities. COVID-19 safety protocols in place. Tours with fewer than 10 guests will travel in our comfortably air-conditioned high-top van. Tour ticket includes FREE Parking! For More Information Visit: <https://www.discover Sarasota tours.com/seasonal-tours/centennial-city-tour/>



UNEARTHING FREEDOM ON THE SHORES OF THE MANATEE RIVER

Uzi Baram, Ph.D will discuss the recent excavations at Manatee Mineral Springs. The event will be via Zoom. Visit the Time Sifters website for details:

<https://www.timesifters.org/>



Decision Day

Thursday, May 27
5:30 p.m.

UNIDOSNOW'S DECISION DAY

Please join us to acknowledge the accomplishments of our scholars, with the support of our community partners. We will be streaming the session on our Facebook channel and YouTube on May 27th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel.

On this very special occasion, we will celebrate the hard work of our high school seniors and wish them well on their next step in life. Our Future Leaders Academy Class of 2021 Barancik Scholars will share their college acceptances with us, their experience with UnidosNow, and their plans for the future.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: info@unidosnow.org.

OUR SPONSORS

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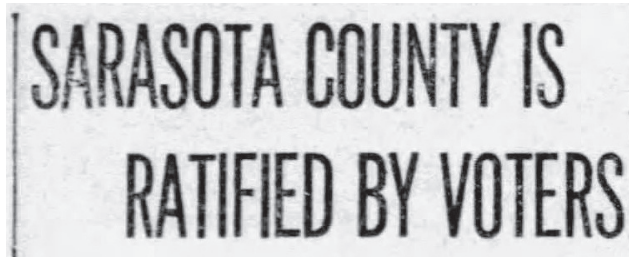
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Thank You To All Our
CENTENNIAL SPONSORS



*Tampa Tribune
June 16, 1921*

In 1921 the citizens of the Sarasota district won their battle for independence from Manatee County to become Florida's 62nd county. This year in 2021, the entire Sarasota County community including Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Longboat Key, Osprey, Nokomis, Englewood, Newtown, Miakka, and Laurel is celebrating our 100th birthday. Representatives of local historical organizations have formed the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 organization to plan events and raise awareness regarding this important anniversary.

Thanks to people like you, the Sarasota County Centennial will be a historic event to remember. We invite you to be a sponsor of this very important community initiative! Your contribution will help support the entire Centennial effort, including the community events, history programs and a website to share all of the various opportunities for the community to participate. You or your business will be promoted through our marketing efforts online and in print.

Please view our levels of sponsorship. Go to our website sarasotacountycentennial.com or print and fill out the Application on the last page to secure your sponsorship. Friends of the Sarasota County History Center dba Sarasota County Centennial 2021 is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*

Your support is critical to celebrating this once in a lifetime milestone!

100 DAYS FOR 100 YEARS



For its contribution to the Centennial Celebration Sarasota County government has turned to our public library system to coordinate a series of lectures, exhibits and events—some virtual, some hopefully in person—illuminating our county’s unique history, natural environment, architecture, even our archaeology. The Centennial initiative, dubbed “100 Days for 100 Years,” kicked off on March 23 at the county’s historic court-house with a ceremony adding the circa-1927 Mediterranean Revival building at the corner of Main Street and Washington Boulevard to the local Register of Historic Places.

(Source: Sarasota Magazine)

View photos of the event:

<https://www.sarasotacounty100.com/centennialkickoff>



FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Watch two programs by two great re-enactors portraying two different women who both supported the split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County during the 1920s. To see each video program you simply go to: veniceareahistoricalsociety.org. Click on “Education.” Video will pop up right away.

Re-enactor is Kathryn Chesley. She portrays an ardent supporter of the split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County...this was Rose Wilson, who ran the only newspaper in Sarasota in the 1900’s. This video program began on April 20th and will continue for awhile.

Re-enactor Kate Holmes portrays “Bertha Palmer” and tells of Bertha and her family’s strong support for a split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County. This video program begins on May 18th and will continue for awhile.

We hope you enjoy these wonderful re-enactors..while learning about two personalities involved in the creation of Sarasota County!

How Sarasota County Came To Be

SarasotaCountyCentennial.com

Be sure to visit our website to watch the video of Dr. Frank Cassell sharing the story of how Sarasota came to be, its break from Manatee County and the people involved.



A Community Celebration of 100 Years of Sarasota County *Sponsorship Information*

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_____ Silver (\$1,000) _____ Bronze (\$500) _____ Individual (\$250)
\$ _____ Other Donation Amount

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Name for listing in event materials and website: _____

Link to your website: _____

Do you have a logo for use in event materials and website: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please also send a PDF or JPG file to sarasota2021@gmail.com

Please make your check out to "Sarasota County Centennial 2021" and mail to: SC Centennial 2021, P.O. Box 91, Venice, FL 34284. To pay via credit card, go to SPONSORS page on **www.sarasotacountycentennial.com** for information.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Gerkin at 941-922-8730

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