

HISTORY CENTER TIMES

A NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



FRIENDS OF THE SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Photos from our Annual Meeting at the Old Osprey School House on Saturday, January 6.

FRIENDS OF THE
SARASOTA
COUNTY HISTORY
CENTER

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FOSCHC
P. O. Box 91
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941-275-2810



(L to R, top to bottom) Outgoing President Frank Cassell address the group, Friends enjoying lunch and getting ready for the meeting, Dr. Cassell passes the baton to incoming president Kim Patton Manning, Frank with Treasurer Don Bayley, Speaker John Manning entertains with his "twisted history" tales, Outgoing Secretary Betty Nugent reads the Slate of Officers, Frank with former Treasurer Dorothy Korwek

Note from the President

Hi everyone!

I'm so pleased to be the next president of the *Friends of the Sarasota County History Center*! Our past president, Frank Cassell will be a hard act to follow, but here goes!

Since I arrived in Sarasota as a 7-year-old child in 1961, I've always thought of Sarasota as a special place. With my involvement in the Friends, I've come to more fully appreciate just how important the Sarasota County History Center is to our community.

**The Sarasota County History Center is *The Keeper of Our History.*
As Friends *We Help the Keeper of Our History.***

Everyone in Sarasota County should be aware of our very rich history. We need to spread the word about the History Center, the Friends, and increase our membership.

We're planning a number of activities for 2024:

- **Events.** Special events at the History Center in Osprey with our Sarasota trivia. Discovering Sarasota utilizing the *Sarasota County Auto Tours* combined with a free picnic, games & prizes. Etc.
- **Field Trips** such as:
 - Venice: Venice Museum and the Lord/Higel House.
 - Old Miakka: Old Miakka School House, Old Miakka Church, and the Crowley Museum & Nature Center.
 - Elling Eide Center, established in the 1950s.
 - Jungle Gardens, established in 1936.
- **Membership Meetings:** To meet other members who love Sarasota County's history and get involved.

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, March 24, 2024

All Are Invited to the First Annual Friends' Community Picnic
at The Point Restaurant in Osprey, FL
ALL FOSCHC MEMBERS and Friends of Friends are INVITED.
More information coming.
Sponsorships available

Once again, please join us and get involved. We are all volunteers and can use the help & support. Together let's have fun, help the History Center, and share our wonderful Sarasota history.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you would like to get involved.

Thanks,

Kim

Kim Patton Manning

President

Friends of the Sarasota County History Center (FOSCHC)

KimPattonManning@gmail.com

Going Places



The Sarasota County History Center’s inaugural Florida History Lecture Series presentation was a great success! On Tuesday, January 16, the first of four lectures during the Winter 2024 season took place at the historic Osprey School House. Dr. Josh Goodman, Manager of the SCHC, presented the fascinating story “**Tamiami Trail: History of a Highway.**”

The series is entitled “**Going Places**” and explores all things transportation in the history of our region. Lectures are free and open to the public and require no prior registration.

The next talk will be on February 13th and is entitled "**Selling Sarasota County: Early Tourism Advertisements.**" It will be presented by the History Center's Assistant Manager Leah Lapszynski.

See the next page for a complete schedule of talks.



GOING PLACES

Winter 2024 Florida History Lecture Series
at the Sarasota County History Center

**16
JAN.**

Tamiami Trail: History of a Highway

presented by Dr. Josh
Goodman, Manager of the
Sarasota County History Center

**13
FEB.**

Selling Sarasota County: Early Tourism Advertisements

presented by Leah Lapszynski,
Assistant Manager of the
Sarasota County History Center

**12
MARCH**

Ancient Highways: Prehistoric Travel by Water

presented by Steve Koski,
County Archaeologist

**28
MARCH**

Now Arriving: The History of the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport

presented by Dr. Josh
Goodman, Manager of the
Sarasota County History Center

**Programs take place from 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
and are free and open to the public.**



Osprey Public Library at Historic Spanish Point
337 N. Tamiami Trail | Osprey, FL 34229
941-918-4037 | scgov.net/library

**FIND
YOURSELF
AT THE LIBRARY**

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in
all services, programs or activities. View the
complete policy at scgov.net/ADA.

Your Donations Doubled!

The Friends are taking part in this year's Giving Challenge.

From **noon, April 9 to noon, April 10** the Patterson Foundation will contribute a 1:1 match for unique donations, up to \$100 per donor, per nonprofit organization. There is no limit on the number of unique individual matches a nonprofit organization can receive.

**DONATIONS UP TO \$100
DOUBLED FROM NOON TO
NOON, APRIL 9 – 10, 2024**



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

**GUIDESTAR GOLD SEAL OF
TRANSPARENCY**



We are a 100% volunteer Florida-based
charitable not-for-profit 501 (c)(3)

SAVE THE DATE: Noon to Noon, April 9 - 10, 2024

**Preview our GIVING CHALLENGE web page:
HERE**

“Franklin, I Have an Idea.”

Eleanor Roosevelt and the She-She-She Camps

By John Manning

[Author’s note: This article is not directly about Sarasota history. It is about a difficult time in our Nation’s history and how it affected women. At an event Betty Nugent reminded me that March is “Women’s History Month.” She went on to point out that the history of the She-She-She camps is not well known nowadays; that I had referenced them in an earlier article; and that she was looking forward to reading my take on the subject. Far be it from me to say no to Betty Nugent.]



Images of Eleanor Roosevelt throughout her life. – multiple public domain sources.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (“ER”) was born (October 11, 1884) into a life of privilege & wealth. The first Roosevelt to come to America was Claes Martenszen von Rosenveldt from the Netherlands arriving in New Amsterdam (now New York) in 1649. The family’s initial wealth came from real estate, dry goods trading, and sugar importing. The Roosevelt’s respective fortunes increased over generations based on manufacturing and banking. Claes’ grandsons split the family into the Oyster Bay colony (Johannes) and the Hyde Park colony (Jacobus). The Oyster Bay and Hyde Park branches were not just split geographically. The Oyster Bay clan was Republican. The Hyde Park clan was Democrat. They were public political enemies. (As an aside, the name Rosenveldt means “rose field.” There were name variants, but Roosevelt was the one that stuck. And, the correct pronunciation of Roosevelt is “rose-a-velt.”)

Eleanor was orphaned by the age of 10. She went to live with her maternal grandmother (Mrs. Mary Hall). Her education consisted of private tutoring, and then attending the Allenswood boarding school (London, England) at age 15 (1899-1902). At 18 she returned from England to New York for her societal debut (Aldorf-Astoria hotel on December 11, 1902). She met her fifth cousin Franklin Delano Roosevelt (“FDR” - Hyde Park clan) at a party at Harvard University (1902). They married on March 17, 1905 and her uncle President Theodore Roosevelt (“TR” - Oyster Bay clan) gave her away.

The Oyster Bay Roosevelts held Eleanor and Franklin in low regard. Washinton socialite Alice Roosevelt Longworth (TR’s daughter) despised Eleanor and Franklin. Even though Eleanor was an Oyster Bay Roosevelt Alice would publicly & cruelly mimic Eleanor’s appearance & buck teeth. Her brother, Teddy, Jr. dismissed Franklin as a Democrat and a “maverick – he does not have the breed of our family.” Teddy, Jr had political aspirations attempting to follow in his father’s footsteps. He failed. Franklin succeeded⁽¹⁾ eventually becoming President during the Great Depression despite having contracted infantile poliomyelitis at the age of 39 (summer 1921) and becoming paralyzed from the waist down.

As First Lady Eleanor was “the President’s eyes, ears and legs” as she traveled across the country. The Great Depression affected 60 million Americans (total population in 1930: 123 million). She saw the toll of the Great Depression firsthand -

(1)Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s (FDR) became NY State Senator (1910-1912), Asst. Secretary of the Navy (1913-1920) Governor of New York (1928-1932), and the 32nd President of the United States (four terms: 1933-1945). Interestingly, FDR’s political path closely followed TR’s path.

unemployment, poverty, starvation, family separation, homelessness to name a few. For those that could afford to buy food flour manufacturers introduced colorful & patterned cloth sacks that women could make clothing from – instructions were included.



Flour sack dresses & instructions

The Farm Security Administration sent out photographers to show Americans what the effects of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl meant: starving people, squatters camps & shantytowns, breadlines; hardship and hopelessness. The photographs also generated on-going support for FDR's New Deal programs. Even some of his wealthiest critics felt that "the deserving poor" (those who had lost money through no fault of their own) should get some assistance.

Eleanor not only supported FDR's New Deal programs, but she helped shape his thinking. She was a particular advocate for the poor, disadvantaged, minorities, and women.

Women represented 25% of the workforce with approximately 2 million women having lost work. Yet, they were the hardest hit and most neglected. Not one of the Great Depression photographs showed any women in breadlines or shantytowns.

Societal attitudes & stigma towards the role of women in society, the work force & acceptable "women's work" limited their options and governmental relief. If a woman was married, she would often be fired because employers believed that work should go to men. If a woman was single, it was worse – no job, no home, no marriage prospect, no adequate help. Going to the woman's section of an employment bureau meant sitting for hours and days waiting for a job that may never come⁽²⁾. Single women would move in together (as many as 7) into a single room apartment. They would sleep in shifts and share clothing if they had any employment prospect. A daily meal might consist of a single cracker. Others lived isolated in subway tunnels foraging for food. These women did not show up in labor statistics⁽³⁾. There were at least 200,000 homeless & destitute women in 1933. Eleanor fully knew of their plight.

As part of the New Deal programs FDR signed the all-male Civilian Conservation Corp bill (April 1, 1933) and the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA - May 12, 1933) which provided direct relief (cash payments to individuals) & state directed work relief (projects intended to get the unemployed temporarily back to work). Eleanor asked if the CCC could help women too. She was met with resistance from many in FDR's cabinet. CCC administrators had qualms about sending women to camps in the woods to do conservation work & community projects – "... work outside the camps (for women) was not practicable and the supervision and transportation costs would be greatly increased⁽⁴⁾." In essence, the CCC would not support work, training or earning opportunities for women.

An undeterred Eleanor turned to Hilda Worthington Smith who had started the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Working Women in 1921. Together they came up with an alternative to the CCC model to address the administration's resistance. They came up with a FERA camp model. The FERA camps for women (ages 16-45) would not focus on jobs. Instead, a 4-week program would "provide healthful employment and useful instruction amid wholesome surroundings for needy young women." The women would not be paid as the CCC men did. There would be no jobs. Instead, they would receive rooming & meals, education / "social civics" (i.e., English, domestic science, hygiene, public health, home economics), training (i.e., homemaking skills with a little secretarial training – "acceptable woman's work"), counseling, exercise, recreation (sewing, cooking, music, drama, & handicrafts) and socialization. Each woman would receive \$5 a month for personal expenses; & work 70 hours a month to cover housing & food costs.

(2) From *Women on the Bread Lines* by Meridel LeSeur.

(3) From a report by Agnes V. O'Shea of the New York Central Registration Bureau for Women in *The Homeless Transient in the Great Depression: New York State, 1929-1941* by Joan M. Krouse.

(4) From *Sisterhood and Solidarity: Workers' Education for Women 1914-1984* by Joyce L. Kornbluth.



Eleanor Roosevelt at Camp Tera (July 1933) - Getty Images

representative Walter W. Petit said that “rigorous qualifications for eligibility” had to be followed⁽⁵⁾. Those NY qualification requirements must have been real humdingers.



2nd FERA Camp - Arcola, PA (July 1934) - Getty Images

WPA’s National Youth Administration. The NYA ended the camps on October 1, 1937 citing: limited funding, lack of support, higher per capita costs than other youth programs, difficult enrollment (e.g., women’s travel costs were not covered; families were reluctant to send younger women to camps), and the availability of other camp programs. By 1937 there were 90 centers across the country. In the end the program had helped 8,500 women.

FDR forwarded Eleanor’s concept to FERA director Harry Hopkins who eventually promised limited funding. Her concept still faced resistance within the administration. So, Eleanor held a press conference (June 1, 1933) with then Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to present the idea to the American public. Eleanor’s lobbying efforts & connections succeeded. She got the go-ahead for the first camp.

The first “experimental” camp, Camp TERA (named for New York’s Temporary Emergency Relief Administration) opened on June 10, 1933. It was located at a retreat donated by New York Life Insurance at Bear Mountain State Park (New York). The first group of 17 women had varied job backgrounds: stenographers, factory workers, saleswomen, seamstresses, clerical workers, and one professional dancer. All had been unemployed for at least a year. Their day started at 7:15 am and ended at 10pm. It was a success. The women gained weight, learned some skills & got a boost to their self-esteem & outlook on life.

In July 1933 Eleanor went to Camp TERA expecting to see 200 women enrolled. Out of 700 applicants there were only 30 women there. In order to justify the low number of women in attendance NY state relief representative

On November 30, 1933 Eleanor and Ellen Woodward (FERA Director of the Women’s Division) held a second press conference to highlight the emergency needs of women and to promote a nationwide program of women’s schools. On April 30, 1934 Eleanor, Ellen Woodward and Hilda Worthington Smith held another press conference outlining their plan to expand women’s camps. The program expanded.

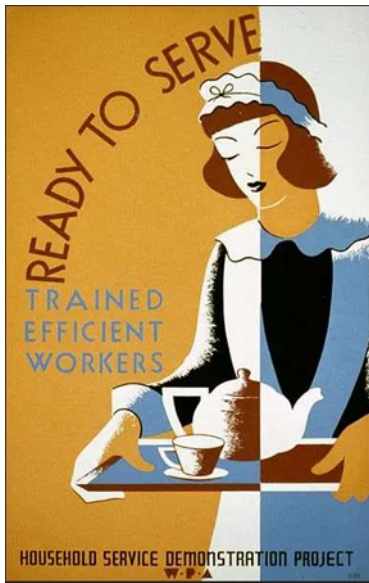
By the end of 1934, there were 25 women’s camps and 3 special projects around the country. By the end of 1935 there were 43 women’s camps & schools, 3 special projects and 5 training schools for domestic service.

FERA ended May 6, 1935 and its activities were transferred to the WPA. The Women’s Division was transferred to the



“Negro Camp for Unemployed Women” - Atlanta, GA (July 1934) - Getty Images

(5) FERA’s federal funds provided monies for site maintenance, accommodations and staff salaries. But each state ran its own version of the program for women. Most of the camps were segregated

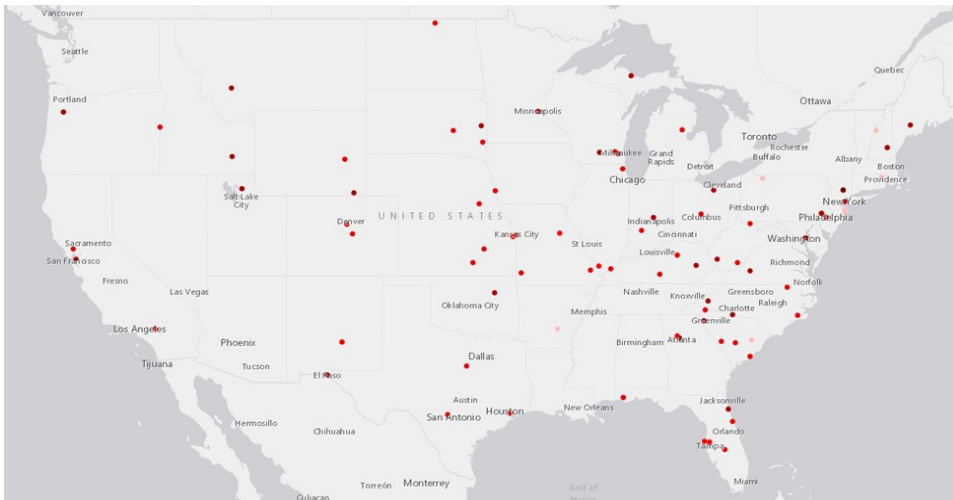


WPA's National Youth Administration poster—women's work training

Critics had attacked the program from the outset. They mocked the FERA camp program calling it the She-She-She camps as a parody of the CCC initials. Because there was no work component, they called it a government sponsored vacation. They claimed that some of the women were members of the labor movement and therefore it was a Communist front. They said that some of the women had broken the rules and sneaked out to meet men. Now that one is particularly egregious.

Despite the critics, political resistance, governmental restrictions, limited funding, lack of administration support, social attitudes towards women working & their place in society Eleanor Roosevelt persevered and demonstrated "a principle - government has a responsibility in meeting women's education and job-related needs⁽⁶⁾." The She-She-She camps did not reach the numbers of the unfettered CCC program.

However, the She-She-She camps taught women self-governance, cooperative living and new skills. They provided relief to women when it was in short supply. The She-She-She camps were the forerunner of resident programs that operated during World War II to support the war effort and employ women. The She-She-She camps were a success.



1937 map of FERA camps

Besides performing her duties as First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote a six-days-a-week, nationally syndicated newspaper column, *My Day* (December 31, 1935 – September 26, 1962) until approximately a month before her death (November 10, 1962). She was Assistant Director of Civilian Defense during WWII (1941-1942). After FDR's death Pres. Harry Truman appointed her U.S. Delegate to the United Nations (1945). She

helps write & secure passage of

the UN's *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948). In 1950 Eleanor and son Elliott hosted a television & radio program for NBC interviewing famous people (e.g., Albert Einstein, Duke & Duchess of Windsor). She resigns from her UN position so Pres Dwight Eisenhower can appoint someone of his choosing (1952). In 1961 Pres John F. Kennedy reappoints Eleanor to the UN and asks her to chair the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Eleanor Roosevelt was "First Lady of the World."

(6) Quote from *Sisterhood and Solidarity: Workers' Education for Women 1914-1984* by Joyce L. Kornbluth.

Join Us!

What can members do?

1. Join to support the History Center's mission to save our precious historical artifacts. No physical volunteering needed.
2. Make an annual gift to the Friends to support educational programs and additions to the collections.
3. Consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors.
4. Become a member of a Friends' committee:
 - **Membership:** Help with recruitment, membership communications, activities, promotions, etc. Email Kim Patton Manning: foschcmembership@gmail.com.
 - **Programs:** Organize presentations by historians, authors, History Center staff, et al for community outreach and fundraising
 - **Communications:** Assist with newsletter and social media outreach. Design, computer and writing skills highly desirable. Email Don Bayley at friendsschistorycenter@gmail.com.
 - **Development:** Assist director in seeking gifts and grants.
5. Assist the History Center with tours, information, talks and pop-up exhibits.
6. Become a speaker on behalf of the Friends and the History Center before civic clubs and homeowner associations. Awareness of the History Center is needed and the staff will provide outlines and talking points.

**To become a member Email us at
FOSCHCmembership@gmail.com
and/or visit our Membership page:
<https://friendssarasotahistorycenter.org/membership/>**