

SPEAKING OF HISTORY SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS, 2016-2017 SEASON

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All events take place at Heritage Village, 11909 – 125th Street, Largo, and are sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society. FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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**October 9, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room**

**“Preserving Our History and Sustaining Our Voice: *The Weekly Challenger* Digital Initiative”**

**Speakers: Catherine Cardwell and Jim Schnur**

Join Dean Catherine Cardwell and librarian Jim Schnur from USFSP’s Nelson Poynter Memorial Library to learn about how libraries play an important role in preserving our cultural heritage. The Johnson family of St. Petersburg began publishing *The Weekly Challenger* in 1967. For nearly a half century, the newspaper has offered an important voice for African American communities throughout Pinellas County and the region. In 2013, the newspaper transferred many of its historical issues and photographic collections to the Poynter Library. Funding from the Florida Legislature during the 2016 session will allow the library to create digital content from the newspaper’s archive and related collections. This program describes the initiative, and mentions other digital projects in the region.

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November 13, 2016, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room

“Digging into Our Past: The History of African American Cemeteries in Pinellas County”

Speakers: Tina Bucuvalas and Jim Schnur

Tina Bucuvalas, the Curator of Arts & Historical Resources for the City of Tarpon Springs, offers an enlightening lecture on the significance of Rose Cemetery, the historic burial site in Tarpon Springs that has served that community and neighboring areas. She describes some of the characteristics that historians and anthropologists consider when evaluating the social context of cemeteries. Jim Schnur, USFSP Librarian and Heritage Village Historian in Residence, broadens the discussion to talk about other African American cemeteries in Pinellas County’s history, including a former site on space used for parking at Tropicana Field and another largely forgotten site on a bluff in Seminole.

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**January 8, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room**

**“Early Sunshine City Suburbs: A History of Bayboro, Mound Park, and Roser Park”**

**Speaker: Jim Schnur**

Jim Schnur, USFSP Librarian and Heritage Village Historian in Residence, offers a visual tour through some of the earliest communities to develop south of downtown St. Petersburg. Trace the creation of Bayboro Harbor in an area once known as “Fiddler’s Paradise,” watch the development of Mound Park as an important medical complex, and witness Charles M. Roser’s crafting of a historic subdivision along the lands adjacent to Booker Creek. Learn about how the Maritime Training Base from the Second World War transformed into a Harbor with class as Eckerd College and USF St. Petersburg had their beginnings there.

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February 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room

“From the Collection with Love...and a Little History”

Speaker: Heather Culligan

Join the Curator of Collections, Heather Culligan, as she embraces the February theme of love! Using the museum and library collections at Heritage Village, Heather will discuss how history and love intersect in Pinellas County. Nothing says romance like diving into the collection!

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**March 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room**

**THE ISLANDER - A play by Elizabeth Brincklow**

Myrtle Scharrer Betz was born and grew up on Caladesi Island. Myrtle’s life, as related in her autobiographical *YESTERYEAR I LIVED IN PARADISE*, illustrates the wonders, discomforts, challenges, and joys of pioneer life on a barrier island when Florida really was a tropical paradise.

Performed as a reading, **THE ISLANDER** focuses on a pivotal time in Myrtle’s life when she must choose to remain living on Caladesi Island or to move to the mainland with her husband and young daughter. A post reading discussion with Q & A will take place with Dunedin playwright Elizabeth Brincklow and Terry Fortner, Myrtle’s granddaughter.

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April 9, 2017, 2:00 p.m., Pinellas Room

“Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida”

Speaker: Cathi Salustri

Cathy Salustri, a graduate of USFSP’s Florida Studies Program and the Arts & Entertainment editor at *Creative Loafing Tampa*, returns to share more of her travels and adventures in the Sunshine State. Building upon her earlier programs in this series, she describes some of her travels across Florida’s backroads as she retraced the sights and sounds she encountered in places described more than 75 years ago in the Federal Writers’ Project’s *WPA Guide to Florida*. Copies of her book, *Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida*, will also be available for sale after the lecture.