

# Miami Pioneers / Natives of Dade

celebrating and preserving the local history of Miami-Dade County, Florida

monthly meetings with historical programs • www.MPNOD.org • December, 2018

## Next Meeting Sunday, December 9th at 2pm

Coral Gables Museum  
285 Aragon Ave, Coral Gables 33134

Street Parking is available, as well as parking in the city garage at 250 Aagon, across from Books & Books. Garage parking is \$1 per hour.

## Correspondence

Send to MP/NOD at:  
14900 SW 71 Ave, Miami, FL 33158

email: [info@MPNOD.org](mailto:info@MPNOD.org)  
web: [www.MPNOD.org](http://www.MPNOD.org)  
facebook: [facebook.com/MPNOD/](https://www.facebook.com/MPNOD/)

## Dues

Please pay your \$20 dues in September at the meeting, or mail your check made to MP/NOD to our Treasurer: Marlene B. Carlin, 14900 SW 71 Ave, Miami, FL 33158. The cost of receiving the newsletter in the mail is an additional \$10 a year.

## Donations

Our club appreciates donations to help pay for our expenses. We ask members to donate one dollar when attending the meetings to help cover the cost of expenses.

## Volunteer

Every member is encouraged to contribute to the historical society by serving on the board of directors, helping with refreshments, the telephone and mail committees, programs and more. Let us know how you can help.

## 2018-20 Officers

our president is Seth Bramson  
vice president, Robert Burr  
corresponding secretary, Mary Pyle  
recording secretary, Barbara Koesy  
treasurer, Marlene B. Carlin  
historian, Darlene Crum  
sergeant at arms, Janet English  
parliamentarian, Linda Hertz  
newsletter & webmaster, Robert Burr  
past president, James Hartnett

## Sunday, December 9th Holiday Party

The next meeting of the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade will take place at the Coral Gables Museum at 2pm.

## A Holiday Celebration with Friends

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 9th at 2pm, for our Holiday Party at the Coral Gables Museum.

The Miami Pioneers, the Natives of Dade and the Miami Memorabilia Collectors Club will enjoy a pot luck celebration and feast together to celebrate the holidays. We ask that each member you bring a covered dish or a "pot luck" item or just a simple snack. In order to properly coordinate the get-together, we are asking you to contact Phil Spool, our food coordinator, to let him know what you are bringing.

Please email Phil at [pgspool@bellsouth.net](mailto:pgspool@bellsouth.net)

Phil and Loucee will provide a wonderful baked turkey for the meeting. We'll be adding addition tables in the back of the room for refreshments so there is plenty of room for all the wonderful items brought by members.

You're welcome to bring family and friends along. Please make a \$10 donation for guests invited to the event to help cover the costs.



## SUGGESTIONS

Members should feel free to offer suggestions on any topic. Contact us via email: [suggestions@mpnod.org](mailto:suggestions@mpnod.org)

## December Birthdays

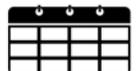
- 1 Enid Pinkney
- 1 Edith Welden
- 4 B. B. Gould
- 4 Thomasine Morris
- 6 Linda Hertz
- 8 Niles Cooney
- 9 Robert Burr
- 10 Poe Derbish
- 11 Barbara Labuzan
- 13 Kathleen Moore
- 16 Arthur Shatus
- 17 Gerri Davis
- 18 Vincent Skilling
- 22 Barbara Sims
- 23 Esther Sorrentino
- 27 Anne Clyatt
- 31 Marion Zamotin

## REFRESHMENTS

After our meetings, our group traditionally enjoys refreshments and social time. Please bring some small snacks, cookies, brownies, chips and dip, or a similar item that you'd like to share with your friends.



## Save The Date



Our next monthly meeting will be held at the Coral Gables Museum on Sunday, January 6th at 2pm.

## President's Message

We enjoyed a terrific November meeting for the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade, along with Miami Memorabilia Collectors Club, at the Gables Museum. I think the Museum venue will work out very nicely.

Thanks to all members for all help and assistance in making the location transition a good bit smoother than I thought it might be. Rob, Mary, Ed English and past Presidents Jim Hartnett and Caesar Philips are all very appreciative of the help we received from so many of our members. Frankly, "Couldn't uh done it without you!"

Have a wonderful, happy and safe Thanksgiving. Stay well and we're looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 9th at 2pm at the museum.

With all good wishes...



### Miami Pioneers CHARTER MEMBERS

#### Miami Pioneers Charter Member: J. E. Lummus

*by Miami Pioneer Historian Darlene Crum with additional information provided by Seth Bramson*

John Edgar Lummus was one of the original 14 charter members of the Miami Pioneers historical society.

J. E. Lummus was born in 1867 in Marion County, Florida. A civil engineer, he arrived in Miami to fulfill a contract with the Florida East Coast Railway in connection with building the extension to Miami. After moving to Miami, he and his brother, James Newton Lummus opened a dry goods (now known as a department store) often referred to as "Miami's first store."

A great civic booster, he served as mayor of what would shortly become "The Magic City" from 1901 till 1903.

The Lummus brothers played a prominent role in the development of the Miami Beach, which was first incorporated as a town in 1915. The "birth" of Miami Beach is inextricably tied in with J. E. and J. N. among other notable historic figures.

In 1912 the brothers purchased 605 acres of swamp land from what would become Lincoln Road south to

Government Cut on the south end. The development of the mangrove sandbar island on the east side of Biscayne Bay, eventually in concert with John S. Collins, Thomas J. Pancoast and Carl G. Fisher, would lead to the use of several names for what would become Miami Beach, including "Ocean Beach," "Alton Beach" and "East Miami."

In concert with Avery Smith and Jim Warr, who owned and operated Smith's Casino on the south end of the beach, the Lummus brothers operated small passenger boats from the foot of 12th Street (later Flagler Street) across Biscayne Bay to a pier on the west side of the beach for visitors. The ticket price was five cents each way

It is certainly both inspirational and historically important to know that those men saw promise in the early years of the development of Miami Beach. They clearly foresaw the possibilities of a resort city and ably assisted each other financially to keep the dream alive.

J. E. Lummus became president of the Bank of Bay Biscayne while J. N. would become president of Southern Bank and Trust Co.

J. E. had an impeccable reputation and with his tremendous energy and perseverance, was diligent about completing every task he undertook.

An honest and hard working man, he eventually retired from banking and partnered with his brother in "The Ocean Beach Realty Company," which built Lummus Park for public use in 1909 on the Miami side.

Today Historic Lummus Park, named for the brothers, is located at 404 N.W. Third Street in Miami.

In addition, J. E. and his brother turned over the beachfront on the Miami Beach side which today runs from 4th St. and Ocean Drive to 14th Terrace to the town for an extremely modest price, a very small down payment and only a few thousand dollars a year for twenty years. It was possibly the best deal that any municipality has ever made.

Although J. E. died in 1955 his legacy lives on through his only living grandnephew, Walter Metz, who lives in Boynton Beach and is a close friend of our Club president, Seth Bramson.

