



## *South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.*

*Founded 1966*

*E Newsletter*

*March 2022*

**\*SATURDAY, March 12th**

**3:00 pm**

**MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne**

**Mask wearing is “still” encouraged**

**Join us for our monthly program meeting:**

**“WRITE YOUR HISTORY”**

**A Workshop by Linda Jump**



Linda Jump, a retired Gannett journalist, has published six non-fiction books and edited more than two dozen others. She facilitates classes to assist adults in writing their memoir, using the textbook she authored. Collectively, her students have published 13 books professionally. Klaus Kolb came to her class at age 80 and has published four successful memoir books. Linda’s photographs and bylines, including cover stories, have appeared in dozens of magazines and newspapers including USA and FLORIDA TODAY, and online news sources. The sea turtle scout and theme park junkie currently writes for **Senior Life** and **Viera Voice**. Linda lives in Palm Bay, Florida with cats Hop and Skip Jump.

Linda’s books include “Five Steps to Your Life Story”, a textbook for her classes plus fiction, “Ethan Egret’s Family Album” and “The Lighting of the Acolyte”.

**\*IF, FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS, THIS PRESENTATION MUST BE CANCELLED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA AN E-ALERT PLUS IT WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE: [southbrevardhistory.org](http://southbrevardhistory.org).**

### **DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

It’s time! If you, as I, have not begun to write the story of your life, this month’s program is a great opportunity to get started. I find that conversations with old friends and family members spark memories that might be worth a paragraph or two in my memoir. My big question is, “how can I write in a way that will be meaningful for future generations?” If I were doing it as a quilt it might resemble a “crazy quilt”.

I keep thinking of Mary Lawrence, last month’s special feature subject. I think of her life experiences of over a century. Her endurance through challenge and change gives me hope that we can get through even this latest world wide crisis caused by dictator Vladimir Putin. We can pray, wish and hope that the better good overcomes the egomaniacal evil.... and do whatever we can, as individuals, to support that Better Good

I hope to see you on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Carol*

**Carol Andren, President SBHS  
(321.725.4115)**

## UPDATES:

### GREEN GABLES

As of this newsletter's emailing, the grant funding for the Green Gables special project is included in both the Florida House and Senate budgets. The Legislature will conclude its business by Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Legislature's Budget will then go to the Governor. We'll stay tuned in to the process and will post the progress on our website: <http://www.southbrevardhistory.org/>

### OL' MEL HIGH      In case you haven't heard:

The petition to rename Melbourne High School has been officially rescinded. School Board member Matt Susin reported to the School Board that he had contacted the "honoree", teacher and astronaut Joseph Acaba, and was told that Mr. Acaba was not in favor of the name change. The Board will be discussing changes to the renaming policy at a future meeting.

## MARCH IS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

Check out The Indian River Anthropological Society, a local chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society. IRAS was founded in 1965. To check out the organization's projects and interesting archaeological sites you can visit go to:

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/archaeology-iras/>

and

<https://myfloridahistory.org/tags/indian-river-anthropological-society>

*"We are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's cultural heritage, especially the Indian River area"* (from their website)

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*(It is suggested that this month's book be considered "adult fiction" inspired by the book authors' interest in archaeology and human social behavior.)*

## BOOK REVIEW by Kathi Harbaugh

### PEOPLE OF THE LIGHTENING

by Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W. Michael Gear

March is Florida Archaeology Month. The archaeology of Florida is deep and wide, starting with the Paleo-Indian sites to the historical sites of St Augustine and Pensacola.

Brevard County has many contributions to Florida Archaeology from the the Paleo site at the Melbourne Golf course in the 1920's, the Helen Blazes archaeological site in the 1950's, and of course the famous Windover site in Titusville in the 1980's.

Authors Kathleen O'Neal Gear and W Michael Gear have written an extensive series of fiction books inspired by pre-Columbian archaeological sites and cultures of North American. One work in the series, People of the Lightning, involves the three fictional Archaic villages in Eastern Florida, Standing Hollow Horn, Windy Cove, and Heartwood which lies near what we call Windover. Pondwader, born to Heartwood Village, is a very unusual young man. He is albino and very feared by his village. They believe he is a Lightning Boy who can destroy the world. They decide to marry the 15 year old to Musslewhite, the 40 year old war leader of the Windy Cove Clan. With this marriage the two clans hope to strengthen themselves against a powerful and brutal enemy, Cottonmouth living at Standing Hollow Horn.

The Gears manage to relate important information about the life style of the Archaic people who lived in our area. In one scene, Pondwader must be reborn by entering his clan's Sacred Pond. The pond's description is what Windover would have been like when it was first being used for burials

by Archaic people. Another telling scene occurs when the elders of several clans discuss a move to a new location. They are concerned whether there will be enough of the foods they eat for everyone, whether there will be the right plants to weave cloth, and if they will be close enough to each clan's Sacred Pond to bury their dead within the 48 hour time period required by their religious beliefs. Much information is cleverly conveyed to the reader in this discussion.

One difficulty for some readers may be the great difference in "world view" expressed in the narrative. How the physical world is put together in this book is very different from how we see the world, more magical and influenced by spirits. There also is a lot of violence, but nothing more than what occurs in the movies Midway and Saving Private Ryan or the book The Last of the Mohicans. In fact Cottonmouth seems very much like Magua.

A good companion book to this fictionalizing of Windover is Life and Death at Windover by Rachel K Wentz. Dr Wentz's masters thesis was an analysis of fracture frequencies among the Windover skeletal population. Her doctoral dissertation was a bioarchaeological assessment of the same population. The book was written as a popular history of the Windover dig. Dr Wentz was once the regional director of FPAN and spoke at some South Brevard Historical Society meetings.

Readers who want to investigate more about the authors and the archaeology can start by visiting some of the following websites.

The Gears and their other works

[www.gear-gear.com](http://www.gear-gear.com)

<https://www.fictiondb.com/author/kathleen-oneal-gear-w-michael~24738.htm>

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen\\_O'Neal\\_Gear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathleen_O'Neal_Gear)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W.\\_Michael\\_Gear](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W._Michael_Gear)

The Melbourne Bone Bed

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne\\_Bone\\_Bed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melbourne_Bone_Bed)

The Windover Archaeological Site

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windover\\_Archeological\\_Site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windover_Archeological_Site)

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/americas-bog-people/>

The Helen Blazes Archaeological Site

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen\\_Blazes\\_archaeological\\_site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Blazes_archaeological_site)

State Parks to Visit

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/learn/celebrating-florida-archaeology-month>

Albinism in Humans

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/albinism/symptoms-causes/syc-20369184>

SBHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: President, Carol Andren; Vice Presidents, Denise Bozeman and Jim Poulos; Secretary, Barbara Arthur; Treasurer, Annita Full. Directors: Martha Beaujean Collins, Rick Dillen, Wiley Elliott, Kathy Harbaugh, Janey Stewart.

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[www.southbrevardhistory.org](http://www.southbrevardhistory.org)

FROM THE POSTCARD COLLECTION OF THE SBHS  
Historic Eau Gallie



Winter Home of Col, C.W. Fowler, Superintendent of KMI  
(Kentucky Military Institute)



View of Clubhouse, entrance to harbor



Ballard residence