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Current President's Message

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CURRENT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tampa Historical Society is entering a watershed period in its thirty-six year history. While the Society — rightfully and in fulfillment of its mission — focuses on Tampa’s past, it moves forward vigorously into the future. There are markers of this forward movement.

• The Knight House reaches beyond its longtime identity as Society headquarters into Historic Landmark status, heralding a new approach in the way all of Tampa thinks of the House. With the attention of professional preservationists, restorers, educators, and archivists, the House begins to assume a larger presence in Tampa’s public history landscape. It and the artifacts housed within will be utilized to “teach Tampa” in new and better ways.

• A website is expanding the Society’s reach to history-curious visitors all over the world. As a tool to drive membership, education, and research, the Society’s Web presence defines it as an up-to-date history organization. Board of Trustees Vice-President Hank Brown, Jr. is the prime mover behind this project, one that has boundless prospects for the Society. Visit us frequently at www.tampahistoricalsociety.com and watch the site grow in both content and style.

• A regular and lively series of events is now — again — the norm for THS’ calendar. Two annual Oaklawn Cemetery events (the April Ramble and the October Gothic Graveyard Walk), introduce hundreds of Tampans and visitors to the priceless historical treasure that is this c.1850 public burying ground. As well, lectures and open houses at the Knight House bring fun and immediacy to history-based learning, allowing members and guests to mingle and socialize while sharing their love of Tampa’s past.

• Membership drives and initiatives are increasing THS’ support base and raising its visibility in the public history landscape of Tampa Bay. By networking with other organizations — professional, historical, academic, social — the membership of the Society is expanded and invigorated.

All in all, it’s a fabulous time to be a part of Tampa Historical Society, And, as always, you, the member, are the vital fuel that powers the Society to its goals. Interest others in joining, bring guests to Society events, let friends, acquaintances, and co-workers know about the benefits of Society membership.

Best regards,

Maureen J. Patrick