

# Miami Pioneers / Natives of Dade

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

monthly meetings with historical programs • [www.MPNOD.org](http://www.MPNOD.org) • February, 2017

## Next Meeting Sunday, February 5 at 2:30pm

Central Christian Church  
222 Menores Ave, Coral Gables 33134

Enter the door at the south side of the building on Mendoza Ave. Parking in west lot is also available if you enter from Menores Ave. Street parking is also free on Sunday.

Please bring \$1 donation to cover the cost of the room. We very much appreciate those who can provide refreshments such as cookies, crackers, brownies, etc.

## Correspondence

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

MP/NOD Facebook Page  
<https://www.facebook.com/MPNOD/>

## Dues

Please bring your annual \$20 dues to the meeting, or mail your check made to MP/NOD to our Treasurer: Marlene B. Carlin, 14900 SW 71 Ave, Miami, FL 33158. If your envelope is marked, your dues are past. Please help by sending in your payment as soon as possible.

## 2016-17 Officers

our president is Jim Hartnett  
305-667-5733  
[hartnettj@bellsouth.net](mailto:hartnettj@bellsouth.net)

past president, Caesar Philips  
treasurer, Marlene B. Carlin  
sergeant at arms, Gerda Marchese  
parliamentarian, Linda Hertz

## February 5 Sunday Meeting

The next meeting of the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade will take place at the usual location at 2:30pm on Sunday, February 5.

## Dade Heritage Trust

*with director Christine Rupp*

Christine Rupp is the Director of Dade Heritage Trust. She joined the organization in November of 2015 and has made public awareness and education a priority.

In addition to integrating new educational and heritage tour programs, she has developed a relationship with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist with preservation issues in Miami. Due to the new focus of the organization and its outreach efforts, The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau also recently named the Dade Heritage Trust headquarters an Official Heritage Tourism Visitors Center.

Prior to joining Dade Heritage Trust, Ms. Rupp was the Director of the Coral Gables Museum.

Chris is an avid cyclist, who works tirelessly to promote the benefits of bicycling as a means to get to work and for pleasure. She leads the Dade Heritage Trust bike tours each month and continues her work with Bike Walk Coral Gables and the City of Coral Gables to program bike-friendly events such as the annual Coral Gables Bike Day.

In addition to her involvement in the South Florida community, she also owns a family farmhouse and barns on five acres in Ohio which she is restoring to become a working farm.

## Thank You James R. Haj

Our speaker last month was James Haj, president and CEO of The Children's Trust for the past eight months. The trust is an entity established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. Voters overwhelmingly recognized the need to help area children. The group is funded through an independent special district as a component of property tax revenues.

The trust emphasizes collaboration and partnership in order to provide the programs and services needed by children and families. With an annual budget of more than 100 million, at least 10% of funds go to disabled children.

The group seeks to help train the parents of disabled children and provide books for early learning. Their Youth Development activities involves after school and summer programs for 25-30,000 children.

They are promoting health and wellness in schools, which includes school clinics staffed with both RNs and Master Social Work counseling, as well as medical, dental and vision services.

Mr. Haj may be contacted via the Miami Children's Trust website.  
<http://www.TheChildrensTrust.org>



## Save The Date: March 5

On the first Sunday in March we'll meet again to enjoy a wonderful program.

## The Cutler Trail, Ingraham Highway and Old Cutler Road



The origins of this coastal route predates the building of roads in Dade County, as a trail along the high ridge of South Florida's coastline, often referred to by pioneer settlers as "The Reef."

From the state historical marker placed on the road: "Old Cutler Road owes its name to the former town of Cutler, a farming community founded by William Fuzzard in the late 1800s. The town was named after Dr. William Cutler of Massachusetts who visited the area about 1880 and encouraged Fuzzard and others to settle here. In 1883, Fuzzard, with the help of other residents of Cutler, cut a path north and east through a wilderness of pine rocklands and hardwood hammocks to the Village of Coconut Grove. The road followed a natural limestone ridge along Biscayne Bay, and established the first overland route connecting Coconut Grove and Cutler. It was subsequently widened to a wagon trail,

*and was declared a public road in 1895. The road became known as Cutler Road, later as Ingraham Highway, and still later as Old Cutler Road. Today, Old Cutler Road, which follows a somewhat altered course, maintains the appearance and atmosphere of a country road, and provides a tangible reminder of the heritage of the Miami area. Old Cutler Road was declared a State Historic Highway in 1974 by the Florida Legislature."*

Progress on paving the route was greatly improved by installing a concrete bridge over Snapper Creek in 1916. Soon, the road reached all the way to Royal Palm Park, a magnificent natural area featuring the largest stand of Royal Palms in North America (later part of Everglades National Park). In 1916 members of the Miami Woman's Club petitioned the Dade County Commission to name the road in honor

of James Ingraham, once chief engineer of Flagler's Railroad (FEC) and later, the manager of Flagler's significant portfolio of properties in Florida.

The completion of Ingraham Highway to the Everglades was instrumental in the establishment of Royal Palm State Park, owned by the General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Several prominent land owners were successful in diverting the original highway around their properties. Just south of Snapper Creek, the road once ran through the Montgomery Estate, right past the main house, proceeding through what is now the Gulliver School property.

Further south, the road ran through Chapman Field USDA Subtropical Horticulture Research Station, and further, through the Charles Deering Estate, past the Richmond Cottage early settlement on Biscayne Bay.

From the History of Chapman Field: "Within the USDA Station at Chapman field, an access road west of and parallel to 60th Avenue is a remnant of the old Ingraham Highway, which was relocated about three quarters of a mile to the west as the base was constructed. Ingraham Highway would eventually be renamed Old Cutler Road."

Deering successfully petitioned the Dade County Commissioners to allow him to divert the road around his estate in exchange for building a public dock at the south end of his property which would allow local farmers and the general public in the Cutler area direct access to Biscayne Bay.

Remnants of the old road still run through these properties, and some portions of the original route, notably in Coconut Grove and near the entrance to Everglades National Park, still carry the name Ingraham Highway.

### Importance of Participation

Please remember to attend the monthly meetings to see your fellow members, stay abreast of news and updates to your historical society and so that our guest speakers receive the type of reception that they deserve.

Bring a friend, invite a neighbor, reach out to family members that you know will enjoy our wonderful presentations on local history.

### Snail Mail or Email?

The cost of printing, stuffing and mailing our monthly newsletter—our largest annual expense—continues to rise unabated.

If you'd prefer to receive your monthly MP/NOD newsletter via email, and save your club the increasing cost of printing and postage, please let us know.

### Find MP/NOD on Facebook

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<https://www.facebook.com/MPNOD>