

# Miami Pioneers / Natives of Dade

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

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

## Next Meeting Sunday, November 4 at 2:30pm

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 the room rental.

## Refreshments

We very much appreciate those who can provide refreshments such as cookies, crackers, brownies, etc.

## 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, November 4 Monthly Meeting

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

## Malcolm Lauredo

Malcolm Lauredo is the Director of Historic Research at the Coral Gables Museum, as well as the Editor in Chief of the Museum's monthly history journal, *The Historic Riviera*.

He will present "Sacred Ground; the Rise, Fall, and Revival of Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery," the history of Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery, a historic African American cemetery located in Brownsville. The cemetery is the final resting place to many Miami luminaries and pioneers. Malcomb will share some of the research the museum has conducted and the restoration plan they've been pursuing.

Malcolm is currently in the process of conducting research for a book with Coral Gables Museum's Executive Director John Allen that will focus on the history of Miami's cemeteries.

Malcolm is also producing a documentary on the history of Coral Gables that will be entering post production in February.



## Future Meeting Location

Your MP/NOD board has been in discussions with the Coral Gables Museum about holding our monthly meetings there in the future. Details to follow.

## December Holiday Gathering

Our traditional holiday meeting in December is in the planning stages. We will combine this event with the Miami Memorabilia Collectors Club to celebrate the holidays together. Details will be announced soon.

## November Birthdays

- 1 Kathleen Kauffman
- 5 Sherrin Smith
- 7 Walter Baggeson
- 7 Donald Slesnick II
- 8 Louise Garavaglia
- 11 Michael Brenan
- 14 Selma Speakman
- 17 Ruth Greenfield
- 23 Carlos San Martin Jr
- 27 Harold Goldberg

## Bring a Friend

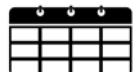
Please remember to tell your friends about our Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade historical society.

As always, bring a friend as your guest to share the delightful programs, the camaraderie and the social time with refreshments.

## SUGGESTIONS

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

## Save The Date



The date, time and location of the December holiday event will be announced soon.

## President's Message

Special thanks go to Bob Rich for a wonderful story-telling session about his memories of old Miami and the Miami River community, featuring some colorful characters and some fabulous stories. We look forward to having Bob Rich back with us again the the future.

Our upcoming November meeting will be our first joint meeting with the Miami Memorabilia Collectors Club and I do hope and trust that we will not only have the pleasure of seeing each of you there, but that you will bring one or more people who have our same interest and the same caring of, for and about our local history.

Our speaker will be Malcolm Lauredo, the historian of the Coral Gables Museum, and I know that you will truly enjoy hearing about that wonderful institution and its plans for the future.

In December, although the location is not set, we will have a joint holiday party with our friends from the Memorabilia Club. Details will be announced soon.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me either in person, via phone (305) 757-1016 or by email at sbramson@bellsouth.net.

Looking forward to seeing you in November, and, as always, with all good wishes.



## Miami Pioneers CHARTER MEMBERS

### John Sewell

(July 20, 1867 to December 1, 1938)  
Third Mayor of Miami

John Sewell was one of the 14 original charter members of the Miami Pioneers Historical Society.

Sewell was born in 1867 in Elbert County, Georgia, and moved with his parents to Florida when he was 19 years old.

Working for Henry Flagler, Sewell served as foreman and superintendent for the Florida East Coast Railway during the construction of the line from Jacksonville to Miami and later joined the hotel construction department.



After helping to construct The Royal Poinciana Hotel and The Breakers Hotel at Palm Beach, Sewell moved to Miami in 1896 to work on the Royal Palm Hotel. While working on the hotel, Sewell stumbled upon the

burial grounds of the Tequesta Native-Americans Indians. Sewell gave away some of the skulls as souvenirs, and ordered African-American laborers to move the remaining bones and bury them in a hole.

Sewell remained in the employ of the Florida East Coast Railway until 1899, when he left to concentrate his efforts on the mercantile establishment jointly owned with this brother. (Although for some years the Sewell Brothers claimed that their establishment was Miami's first business, later information indicates that Isidor Cohen's store might have opened shortly before Sewell's).

Sewell served as Mayor of Miami from 1903 to 1907.

After serving in local politics, Sewell began the construction of his house in 1912. Built on the highest point in the city, the house was named Halissee Hall from the Seminole word meaning "New Moon."

Sewell wrote a self-published autobiography, John Sewell's Memoirs and History of Miami, Florida. It included an appendix describing his witnessing the attempted assassination of president-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. The book is valuable as a primary source of information on pioneer days in Miami

and Sewell, of course, was one of the founders of our organization, the oldest historic organization, club or group in Dade County, founded in 1936.

He is buried in the Miami City Cemetery.

Sewell Park, along the Miami River is a ten acre waterfront property just west of the SW 17th Avenue bridge over the Miami River. The park includes grills for barbecuing, a children's playground, and some beautiful waterfront views. The legend of underground caves on the property persists.



Corresponding Secretary Mary Pyle leads the telephone committee. If you have the time and inclination, and would enjoy making calls to friends, let Mary know you're willing to help with the work of this important committee.

Email: mary.pyle@att.net