



The Curry House, built in 1901, was the home of Claude and Mabel Curry, whose families were among the earliest settlers in the area.



VHI President Ronnie Fernandez talks with Curry House owner James Hanson at the recent home tour. Hanson's dog, Ginny, was on hand to greet the guests.

Members of Venice Heritage Inc. enjoyed a Sunday afternoon at the historic Curry family homestead in Nokomis. The recently restored 1908 home was opened as a special members-only event by its current owner, interior designer James Hanson.

The house was once the home of Claude and Mabel Curry. Claude was the son of Charles and Frances Knight Curry, both children of the earliest settlers in the area.

Hanson purchased the dilapidated historic property sight unseen and immediately set about to restore it. He kept its pinewood floors and tongue-and-groove wall boards and ceiling planks. His garden is reminiscent of those early tranquil and pastoral days.

Champagne and cookies were served as guests met and chatted with Hanson, took tours of the house and shared their passion for the preservation of Venice history.

The members-only event was planned by the VHI marketing committee led by Tiffany Hernandez and including Jean Trammell, Dorothy Korwek, Lois Stekete, Harry Klinkhamer, Irvin Lewin and Pam Johnson.

This event is one of many reasons to join Venice Heritage. Of course, the most important reason is to preserve the history of Venice, Fla.

For more information, see veniceheritage.org as well as the last page of this newsletter.



Sharon Curry McCord, a descendant of the pioneer Curry family, chats with Irv Lewin, who guided tours through the house.



Members of the VHI Marketing Committee, from left, Chairwoman Tiffany Fernandez, Pam Johnson, Lois Stekete, Irv Lewin and Dorothy Korwek.



Left, VHI Board members Pam Johnson, President Ronnie Fernandez, Dorothy Korwek, Gary Youngberg and Karen Midlam.



Lois Stekete pours champagne for Robert Brooke.

ALL ABOARD!

Tour historic sites of
Venice
Saturday, Feb. 18
9:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Sign up online at
veniceheritage.org
Tickets \$30

Climate-controlled trolley
leaves from
Venice Museum & Archives,
351 S. Nassau St.

**Reserve your ticket by
Feb. 8**



Photos courtesy of SRQ Trolley

Venice Heritage
Florida

Coming Up Mark your calendar

Friday, Feb. 17, free movie at Venice Public Library. See Page 4 for details.



Saturday, Feb. 18, take a trolley tour of historic Venice. Tours start at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. from the Venice Museum. Cost is \$30. What a great way to entertain out-of-town guests in February. Reservations may be made in January at veniceheritage.org. The tours are fundraisers for Venice Heritage Inc. See Page 3 for details.



Calling all book lovers to the annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival

The annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival kicks off with the writers festival at William H. Jervy Jr. Venice Public Library, 300 S. Nokomis Ave. on Friday March 24. The day-long event includes presentations designed to help writers hone their skills and publish their work. Tickets are \$20.

On Saturday, March 25, around 60 authors will be in the tents at West Blalock Park, 401 Pensacola Road, across Nassau Street from the Venice Museum and Archives, to sell their books and talk about their work. Children will enjoy story time and face painting. Food trucks will have food available for purchase. Admission to the fair is free. For more information, see venicebookfair.com.

The event is a fundraiser for Venice Heritage Inc.



History of Sarasota County

by Hack Swain Productions

**MOVIE
TIME**

Plus, history of
Bee Ridge Community

by Josh Goodman

Friday, February 17, 2023 at 11:00 am

Community Room

William H. Jervey, Jr., Venice Public Library

300 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice, FL 34285

Venice Heritage
Florida

www.VeniceHeritage.org

Venice Heritage Inc. (VHI)

An all-volunteer tax exempt 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to **promote and protect the heritage of the greater Venice area.**

OUR GOALS

- To preserve and protect the John Nolen Plan of Venice
- To support and promote City of Venice Museum & Archives sites:
 - Triangle Inn
 - Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning Archives & Research Center
- To restore the Lord-Higel House for an early settler museum
- To support an exhibit space for Old Betsy, the city's first fire engine
- To educate the public about the history of Venice

JOIN TODAY

Individual, \$35

Nonprofit Organization, \$35

Family, \$50

Corporate, \$100

veniceheritage.org/membership

Your tax-free donation to the Lord-Higel House Restoration Fund at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation can help complete this important historic preservation project. See veniceheritage.org/lord-higel-house for more details or mail your check directly to: Venice Heritage Inc., P.O. Box 1190, Venice, FL 34284