



~ A Christmas Cottage Decorated for the Holidays ~ December 2014 ~

### Happy holidays from our family to yours!

This year has gone by very fast and now fall has arrived. This time of year is a favorite to many folks since it means the holidays are upon us. In keeping with tradition, this year should be no different. We welcomed Family and Friends to come and gather together at The Cottage and decorate for the holidays. We all had a wonderful time getting in the holiday spirit.

A BIG Thank You to everyone who came and offered a hand as well as their superior decorating expertise.

There is a little part of each of you at the Cottage now. We couldn't have done it without you!



### January 2015 Guest Speaker

~ Mei-Mei Chan ~

We have a very exciting program planned to kick off our New Year! Please join us at The Cottage on January 12, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Our Guest Speaker will be **Mei-Mei Chan**, President and Publisher of The News Press Media Group. The topic of discussion will be on *Education and Leadership*.

Ms. Chan is very passionate about our schools and making sure every child knows how to read and that each and every one receives a proper education. Because of this passion, Ms. Chan won the Apex Award of 2013 from The Women in Business Committee at the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce. It is truly an honor, not only to be nominated, but to win the Apex Award.

Mei-Mei Chan writes a column in the News Press which runs the last Sunday of each month if you would like to read some of her writings, we encourage you do so.

### In this Issue:

- Our Holiday Cottage Décor Revealed
- January 2015 Program
- Upcoming Christmas Luncheon ~ December 11<sup>th</sup> ~
- Essay Contest of 2015
- A Big Thank you and Member of the Month
- Letter from the President
- Unique Holiday Gift Ideas

Our Cottage Winter Hours  
Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday and Saturday  
1:00 p.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

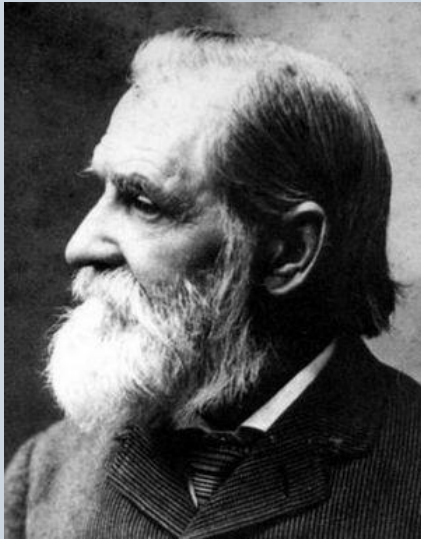
We have some great gift ideas for the holidays...stop by and see us at The Cottage!



Mei-Mei Chan at the 2013 Apex Awards.  
Photo Courtesy of the News-Press



## ~ Essay Contest of 2015 ~



Capt. Gustave Damkoehler ~ First Homesteader in Estero.

Capt. Damkoehler is an example of a significant historical figure which the students may choose to write about.

The Estero Historical Society and The Estero Chamber of Commerce have come together to sponsor an ESSAY CONTEST for Middle School and High School students living in ESTERO. The topic of the contest is to write about a significant historical figure from S.W. Florida. The EHS has been meeting with Three Oaks Middle School and Estero High School staff, as well as other educational resources, to develop the guidelines for the contest, which will be announced January 1st to the public.

The contest will also be open to private school attendees and home-schooled students, as well, with a requirement that the student live in *ESTERO*.

Cash prizes for the two categories (middle-school and high school grade students) are being provided by the Estero Chamber of Commerce as follows: **1st prize = \$100; 2nd prize = \$50; 3rd prize = \$25.** Additional prizes of historical biographies will be presented to each school library and to our Estero Library.

Formal applications will be available after January 1, 2015. An Award Ceremony will be held at the end of March 2015. The top 20 Essays will be considered for publication in a Biographical Collection of Essays on Notable S.W. Floridians. For more info call Carolyn at 239-949-1518 or email questions to [sunnytraveler@comcast.net](mailto:sunnytraveler@comcast.net)

## A BIG thank you for your support and Honoring our Member of the Month

Thank you very much for your continued support to the following members, Dottie Brown, Pamela Fernandez, Eileen Galvin, Carol Gelacek, Sis Newberry, Joe & Donna Reynolds, Rosalee Rice, and Lillian Rossi

Please give a warm welcome to our new Members, Megan McShane and Marie Jaquette

### Steve and Betty Shandor

We are honoring the Shandor's for the month of December as Members of the Month. Betty was Secretary and Steve was the Director at Large on the Board.

Both Betty and Steve are roller coaster enthusiast. They worked hard in restoring the Estero Historic Cottage and Schoolhouse. They both could be counted on anytime the Society needed extra hands to work on a project. Thank you Steve and Betty!

The Estero Historical Society  
**Christmas Luncheon**  
 December 11, 2014  
 12:00 p.m.  
 \$25 per person prepaid

The Villages at Country Creek  
 21131 Country Creek Drive, Estero, FL 33928

Please make your reservation to  
 Jean Pryal 498-5296 or Eileen Galvin 947-4471  
 by December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Please make your lunch selection below:

Roasted Turkey Breast  
 Tender white meat served with homemade stuffing,  
 turkey gravy, cranberry sauce and Chef's choice of vegetable of the day.

Lemon Tilapia  
 Pan seared lemon pepper Tilapia fillet with rice pilaf and Chef's choice of  
 vegetable of the day.

Chicken Piccata  
 Chicken breast pan seared served with lemon caper sauce, whipped  
 potatoes and Chef's choice of vegetable of the day.

Dessert ~ Chocolate Mousse  
 Soft Beverages Included

*Estero Historical Society*

Mailing Address:

Post Office Box 1314

Estero, FL 33929

Physical Address:

9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd

Estero, FL 33928

Inside the Estero Community Park

*2014 Board Members*

Bob Morris, President

Ken Wisen, Vice President

Dave Pryal, Treasurer

Marlene Fernandez, Secretary

Sis Newberry, Director at Large



## A Special Message about your Membership Renewal

Be sure to get your membership renewal all paid up no later than December 31, 2014. This way, you are eligible to vote for the election of the Board of Directors in January 2015.

You may renew your membership by stopping by the Cottage or you may print the renewal form from the website and mail the form with your check to the Estero Historical Society, Post Office Box 1314, Estero, FL 33929.

If you have any questions about your membership, call Sis Newberry at 239-992-4431.

~ Reminder ~

**We will not be having our Monthly Meeting in December.**

**However, we are having our Holiday Luncheon instead.**

**See you January 12, 2015**

**Happy New Year!!**



The New Year is going to be an exciting one at the Estero Historical Society. We are so pleased that you all are here to enjoy it with us!

We truly appreciate your support in keeping our vision of the Estero Historical Society a reality.



*Estero Historical Society*  
*Post Office Box 1314*  
*Estero, FL 33929*





1904 Schoolhouse after the Exterior Renovation.



Interior Walls still need to be completed.



Interior Ceilings are also awaiting completion

## *A Letter from the President of the Estero Historical Society*

*Thank you "Estero", Board Members and Volunteers for your many years of hard work! Our goal of preserving part of Estero's history is finally a reality. The Hanson-Hall-Collier house has been restored in recent years. At Last, we see the 1904 Schoolhouse completed on the exterior. The interior flooring is in the process of being restored while we still require money to be donated in order to finish the interior walls and ceilings. Thank you again for all of your caring and donations.*

*We still need donations of approximately \$40,000 to complete the interior and build an outside assistance ramp to the side door of the schoolhouse. Please help us complete this part of Estero's history.*

*I consider it a privilege to serve as President along with Board Members and individuals who give so much time and effort in carrying on "Mimi's Dream". Together we will complete and carry on the history of Estero.*

*Bob Morris, President*

*P.S. Please join Carla and me in giving \$400 = 100 donors = \$40,000 to complete our 1904 Schoolhouse Restoration Project.*





# UNIQUE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

EXCLUSIVE TO THE ESTERO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CHUTNEY, JAM AND JELLY.  
WOODEN CRATE ALSO SHOWN HERE

## ~ CHUTNEY, JAM AND JELLY ~

*Edith Trebell's Mango Chutney Meat Sauce*

½ Pint Jar \$6.00

Pint Jar \$11.00

Quart Jar \$25.00

*Mango Jam and Surinam Cherry Jelly*

½ Pint \$5.00

Display jars in a beautiful Wooden Crate (\$3.00)

made by local Pioneer, Bill Horne.

Holds two ½ Pint Jars of Chutney, Jam or Jelly.

## OTHER IDEAS...

- Consider giving a one year membership to the Estero Historical Society. It is exactly how I got hooked and I haven't left yet!
- A beautiful set of note cards by artist D.R. Martin. Each note card has a sketch of one of the old houses and the schoolhouses, which were located on Highlands Avenue, in the heart of Estero.
- Unique T-shirt that says "Save Estero".
- 'Buy a Brick' on our walkway.
- We have a wonderful selection of books by local authors, available only at the Estero Historical Society.

OVER ...

## BUY A BRICK AND JOIN OTHER PIONEERS AND FRIENDS ON OUR BRICK WALKWAY...

After all, every brick tells a story. Imagine our story when we are done filling in our walkway.

You may also buy a brick for a friend and they will become a part of Estero's history. Or you may choose to honor a beloved family member, friend, or even a family pet.

We have over 1500+ clipart for you to choose from when designing your brick. There are two sizes of bricks to choose from:

4 x 8 ~ \$75.00  
8 x 8 ~ \$100.00

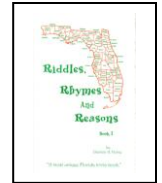
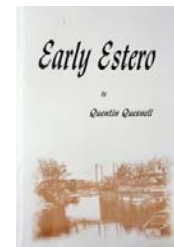
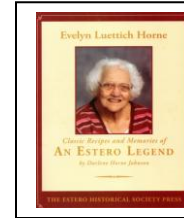
If you choose to get a brick for someone other than yourself, we can send a gift note that a brick has been bought in their honor.

To order a brick or two, stop by the Cottage to look at the clipart book and fill out the form to order your brick. The sooner the better!

Once your brick is installed we will notify you so you may stop by and visit your part of Estero history.



If you have any questions, call Sis Newberry at 239-992-4431 or email your questions to zelne4@aol.com



## GREAT READS BY LOCAL AUTHORS

EXCLUSIVE TO THE ESTERO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Beside The Still Waters ~ Pamela Fernandez

The story of Antonio and Mary Fernandez is fascinating, and it has been the longtime wish of their descendants to tell their story to future generations as they remember it. The focus of this book is on the couple who took a brave journey across the sea from Portugal to America with three young children. It gives a real perspective on what it was like to live on Mound Key and in the village of Estero so long ago.

**Signed by the Author**

### Evelyn Luettich Horne Cookbook ~ Darlene Horne Johnson

Darlene truly celebrates her Mother's life and work as one of Estero's most loved and memorable pioneers. This collection of images, recipes, and memoirs is intended to capture a few fleeting glimpses of that remarkable life led in a remarkable town. Some recipes are written in Evelyn's own hand or by a family member or friend. The artwork throughout the cookbook was also done by Evelyn. You will truly appreciate this very unique cookbook.

### Early Estero ~ Quentin Quesnell

In this book, the author takes a look at what Estero was like before 1882 and after 1899. Such as what kind of town it was, what families were here, how did they survive? During the period of 1882-1899 the first homesteader, Gustave Damkoehler kept journals in which his son, Captain E.E. Damkoehler shares with us in another book called "The First Settler". Along with the notes of Mr. Damkoehler and years of research, Mr. Quesnell has done a superb job at giving us a look at this little town we call Estero. *This book is dedicated to Mimi Straub, Dreamer and Builder, Founder and the First President of the Estero Historical Society.*

### Riddles, Rhymes & Reasons ~ Patricia A. Horne

The first thing Patricia does is give you *Riddles and Rhymes* in Part One to see if you can guess the name of the town being described. In Part Two, a story is told for 56 Florida towns with detailed descriptions on how the town once looked, what was it known for, who lived there. Part three concludes the book with "Bits & Pieces". This section offers interesting tidbits on famous people such as Christopher Columbus, Henry Ford, Juan Ponce de Leon just to name a few. It is an excellent book to use for reference material because of all the research Patricia has done.