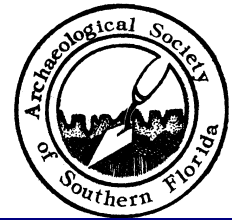




The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida



Volume 39, Issue 7

Newsletter of the Society

September 2014

President and Newsletter Editor: Mary Ellen Gray

Catalhoyuk, Turkey: Living with the Dead, Goddess Worship and Gender Equality

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Çatalhöyük was first discovered in the late 1950s and excavated by James Mellaart between 1961 and 1965. The Neolithic site rapidly gained international fame due to its immense size and dense occupation of the settlement, as well as the spectacular wall paintings and Venus figurines found at the site. As an archaeological site, Çatalhöyük is unique in that it has been continually excavated for over 20 years (since 1993) with teams of over 100 archaeologists from multiple countries working in the field and at the on-site laboratories. Interestingly, the site has also gained recognition by contemporary Goddess worshipers and various Pagan organizations from around the world as a sacred space. Çatalhöyük is most known for its unusual burial rites, evidence of gender equality, and lavish mural paintings.

Our presenter, Dr. Meryl Shriver-Rice, is an Assistant Professor in the Arts & Philosophy Department at Wolfson campus for Miami Dade College. Dr. Shriver-Rice received her dual Bachelors of Arts in Anthropology and Biology from the University of Miami. She earned her Master's degree in Archaeology (Paleoethnobotany) from the University of Nottingham in England. She received her Ph.D. in Communication (Film, Media, and Visual Arts track) from the University of Miami. She has taught at the University of Miami, Barry University, and Metropolitan College of New York in New York City.

As an archaeologist, Dr. Shriver-Rice has experience in Cultural Resource Management as a "rescue archaeologist" excavating at urban sites where development threatens archaeological remains. She has dug on Brickell Ave. and at the current Met Square sites in Miami, as well as in California, Missouri, and Illinois. She is on the Register for Professional Archaeologists (RPA), and is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. She also excavates overseas with international teams in Turkey, the Czech Republic, Scotland, England, and Italy. Her Master's work focused on the incredible UNESCO World Heritage Site Çatalhöyük. For up-to-date archaeological research see: <http://www.catalhoyuk.com>



Site photos courtesy of UNESCO.com

Please join us for an informative and intriguing presentation on Thursday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Deering Estate Auditorium, 16701 S.W. 72nd Ave., Miami. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend or two for this lecture and see if you'd like to become a member of the Archaeology Society of Southern Florida.

Out and About This Summer

As I was saying.....

So here we are In Israel, June 2014. My son, his wife and I are with a friend of whom I spoke earlier -- he's the guy who found the mosaic stones in a wooded area after a rain (1/9/14 newsletter article.) We're within a few miles of his town of Shoham, just West of the Tel Aviv airport and he brushes away the soil, folds back a burlap sack, and shows us the stones. About three-quarters of an inch square, some colored, linear pattern, about ten by twenty-four inches. The archaeology people had been notified and after examining the area had "put it on their list" to be gone on in more detail when "they get around to it". Remember, Israel is one big "site" -- history under every rock. We spent a couple of hours there, pottery littering the ground as well as a nickel-sized piece of green glass (did the Byzantines have Coca-Cola?).

A short drive through the trees to another area that had been part of an extensive "estate", complete with small church and huge floor mosaic. No fences, no guards, a few interpretative signs -- Israelis respect their history and an area like that, known to many of course, would neither be vandalized nor looted.

A longer drive through this uninhabited wooded area took us to a small Roman mausoleum standing alone in a field. Again, open and undisturbed, with only a descriptive plaque to explain why this well-preserved piece of history was unusual. We ended the long day with a visit to a Crusader castle on a hill overlooking a lot of the country -- farms, towns, open areas. This site was closed to visitors, but only, as the sign read, because of "Danger of Collapse". One could look in, but not walk in.

After spending hours in museums and at formal sites, to see these, open and unadorned (and free), left us with a new appreciation of the country and its value to historians.

We were in Israel as volunteers with the IDF to work with other vols and soldiers on this non-combat base, packing medical kits for corpsmen and doctors to use in the field, under fire, to stabilize wounded before transport. Other bases, other jobs. Eat, sleep, work with the soldiers. Army food, fatigue uniform, obey the rules, Jews and non-Jews, from many countries, all ages and come away with one pin, one certificate and a ton of good feeling. Google Sar-El or VFI. I'm gonna go again in November. Wanna come along? Call, we'll talk.
Seth Lefkow



Tiles mentioned in Par. 1, and 1/9/14 newsletter



Mausoleum with Seth in the doorway

Passing of John Carruthers

The Archaeology Society of Southern Florida offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of longtime member John Carruthers who passed away on May, 21 2014. John was actively involved for decades, holding the position of Treasurer for many years. In recent years his annual attendance at our holiday party always elicited stories and fond memories from the group. We mourn his passing but are thankful for his time and dedication to the Society. We are also very thankful to Roberta Carruthers for the generous donation sent in John's memory.

Letter to ASSF from Roberta Carruthers

Dear ASSF,

Wanted to send a small token to honor John's memory. He so much enjoyed his participation in the activities and digs, and fellowship of the gatherings - it brought him pleasure.

He was a good man. He was and is loved and is terribly missed.

Carry on your good works and remember John fondly - as he felt this way about all of you. John was happy being part of the Society and for that I am grateful - just wish he was graced with more time.

As ever,

Bobbi

Time to "Go Green"- Cost of Postage Increased

"Thank You," to several members who recently asked to be switched to the E-Newsletter. If you are still reading a paper copy of this newsletter, please email or give your email address to Mary Ellen Gray (meg007@comcast.net) so you can be added to our e-newsletter list. Come on into the 21st Century and make it easier on our budget. The \$.03 postage increase per newsletter, along with the printing cost, adds up quickly. Help save trees and ASSF's \$\$\$\$.

Raffle Items Requested

What do you have that an ASSF member might enjoy owning?

Do you have any treasures that could be used as a raffle or auction item at a future meeting? As our meeting attendance continues to increase, this is another opportunity to help our treasury. Please look around, and then bring your items to the September meeting.

"Thank You" to members Barbara Zyduck and Juan Riera for your valuable donations!

ASSF 2014 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

October 9- Bob Carr: Tri-County Archaeology Update

November 13- Mario Ferrante: Spanish Culture and Archaeology

December 2014- Holiday Party for Members

Florida Anthropological Society
FAS membership application/renewal form

YES, I want to join **FAS**. I enclose \$ _____
 STUDENT, \$15 REGULAR, \$30 FAMILY, \$35
 INSTITUTIONAL, \$30 SUSTAINING, \$40
 PATRON, \$100 LIFE, \$500 BENEFACTOR, \$2,500

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

PHONE (W) _____ (H) _____

Mail to: Florida Anthropological Society
c/o Pat Balanzategui
P.O. Box 1434
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-1434

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA
ASSF membership application/renewal form

I have read and will abide by the Objectives and Code of Ethics of ASSF listed below, and I wish to apply for membership.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone (w) _____ (h) _____

CHECK ONE: New Member Renewal
CHECK ONE: Individual (\$20) Family (\$25)

Mail to: Brian Conesa
22425 S.W. 162 Ave.
Miami, FL 33170

ASSF CODE OF ETHICS:

1. Members of the Society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material Society projects are the property of the Society.

ASSF OBJECTIVE:

To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefit.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday September 11, 2014, 7pm

LOCATION: The Deering Estate, Auditorium

SPEAKER: Meryl Shriver-Rice Ph.D.

OFFICERS: Mary Ellen Gray, President; Carter Burrus, Vice President; Brian Conesa, Treasurer; Susan Hangge, Secretary, FAS Rep., Jim South

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Bob Carr, Barbara Tansey, George Cummings, Curtis McKinney, Juan Riera, Beth Read, Richard Haiduven, Stanley Kiem, Darrell Cunningham, Seth Lefkow.

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ASSF web page at: www.ArchSocSouthFl.org

Deering Estate: www.deeringestate.org

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