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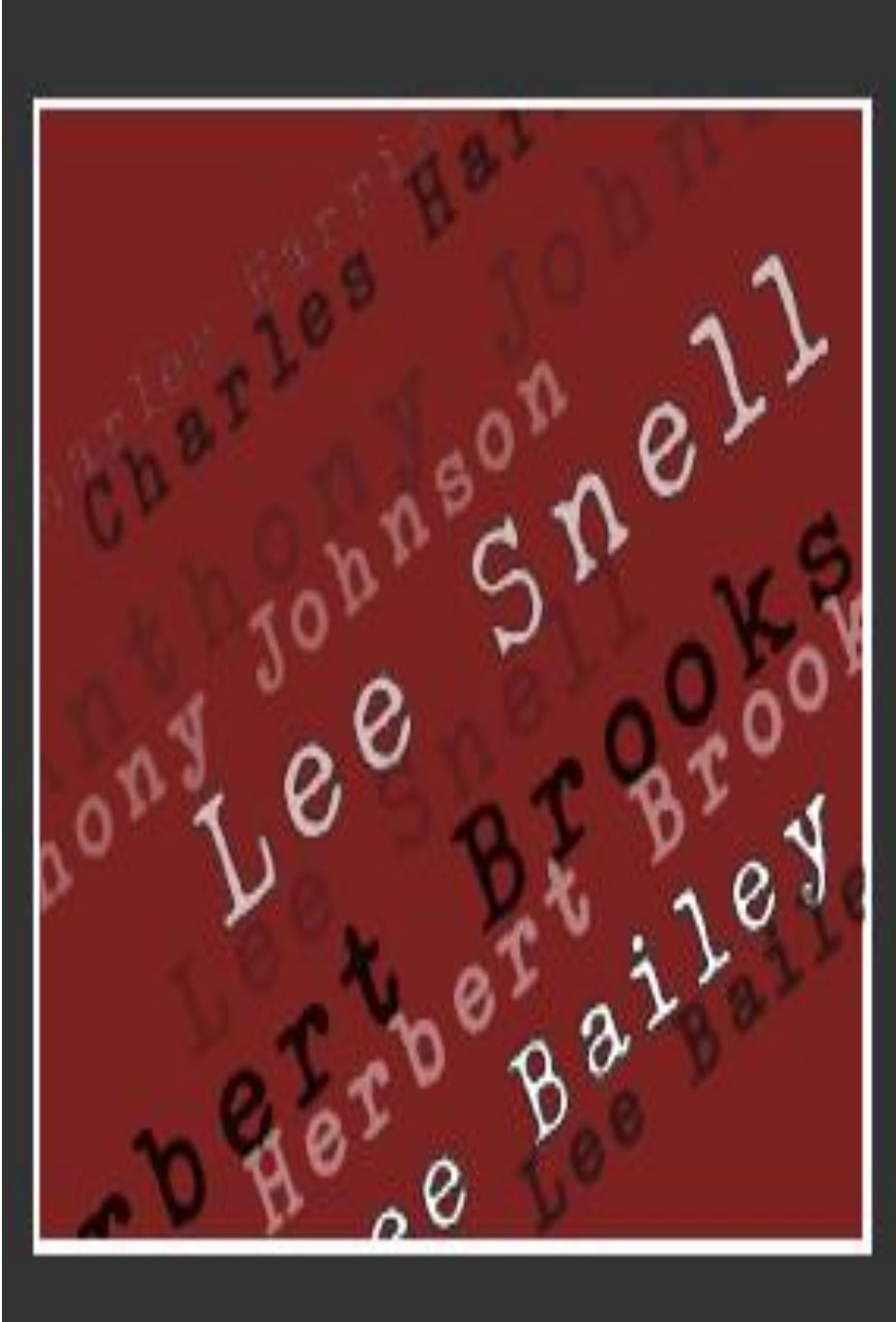
Remember, acknowledge, and reflect upon our history of racial terror by partnering with the Equal Justice Initiative to install monuments to victims of lynching in Volusia County.

GOALS:

- HONOR** – Remember lynching victims and celebrate civil rights victories.
- EDUCATE** – Explore our divided past and chart a united future.
- RECONCILE** – Cultivate healing and reconciliation

CONNECT:

- WEB** – volusiaremembers.org
our national partner | eji.org
- EMAIL** – info@volusiaremembers.org
- SOCIAL** – facebook.com/volusiaremembers



The Steering Committee of Volusia Remembers Coalition hopes that you and your loved ones are staying healthy. Our hearts go out to those of you who have suffered from COVID-19 and its many impacts. If you have lost loved ones, our hearts go out to you. If you are experiencing hard times, we hold you in our thoughts and send you hope for better days to come.

As you will understand, *we had to cancel meetings we planned for April*, and we will likely have to wait until June, at the earliest, to meet face to face in smaller groups. We have been steadily working on this project, however, and we regret not being able to share more of it with you in person. We hope this brief Newsletter will help to keep you informed about the progress we're making. In a Zoom meeting in June, we will report to the Coalition on these items, answer your questions, and gratefully hear your ideas and advice.

Partnering with the Equal Justice Initiative

Our most important news is that *we have been officially invited to partner with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)* in acknowledging racial terror lynchings in Volusia County during the Jim Crow era. We have gratefully accepted that invitation.

As most of you know, the three steps of our project, are:

1. Gather soil at the sites of where victims were lynched in our county
2. Erect historical markers to commemorate their lives and injustice of their deaths
3. Install here a replica of the Monuments to Volusia County lynching victims at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.

Honoring the Lynching Victims

The monument at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and our replica here in Volusia County, will list the names of the five victims whom we have identified and documented thus far: **Lee Bailey** (1891, near DeLand); **Charles Harris** (1896, near DeLand); **Anthony Johnson** (1896, near DeLand); **Herbert Brooks** (1920, between Ormond Beach and Daytona Beach); and **Lee Snell** (1939, between Daytona Beach and DeLand). Our goal is to recognize the humanity of these men and to acknowledge and reflect on that period of racial injustice, known as Jim Crow, when these brutal murders were accepted and even condoned by community members, law enforcement officials, and elected leaders. By acknowledging this "hard history" of

racial injustice in our county, we are confident we can build a more honest and united future.

Our Historians and Undergraduate Researchers

We continue to research the history of the Jim Crow era in our county. We are grateful to our professional historians, **Dr. Richard Buckelew of Bethune-Cookman University** and **Dr. Andy Eisen of Stetson University**, for their dedication to searching for the facts surrounding these lynchings. We also want to acknowledge the student researchers for our Coalition, including **Maiya Fudge**, (BCU senior), and **Zykira Williams** and **R'Keria Davis**, (Stetson undergraduates) who are served as Volusia Remembers Fellows this spring. **Mary Allen** and **Reginald Williams**, Steering Committee Members, are also among our important community historians.

Discovery of Lee Snell's Gravesite

One very exciting discovery, thanks to great detective work by **Daisy Grimes**, with the help from **Dr. Richard Buckelew** and others, is that we have identified of the gravesite of **Lee Snell** in a "colored" cemetery now maintained by a private African-American organization in Daytona Beach. Knowing the location of a gravestone for a lynching victim is unusual—one of many unusual parts Mr. Snell's story. (*He was a WWI Veteran, for instance, and his murderers were brought to court, rarely the case, but then release when no one was willing to testify against them*). We look forward to sharing Mr. Snell's story and having a moment to reflect on his life and service and the injustice of his death.

Services and Memorials

While we will collect soil from the site of Mr. Snell's lynching, just west of Daytona Beach on the old DeLand highway, we will begin our formal work of memory and reflection with a small service, in coming days, at Mr. Snell's grave.

Regretfully, because of the COVID-19, this initial event must be limited to only ten (10) attendees. (We hope, however, to be able to video it for our webpage.) We will next invite all Coalition members to join us in planning for the soil collection events for each of the five victims we have documented. When it is safe to do so, we will hold a large public ceremony to receive soil collection jars for the sites of all five lynching victims and to reflect on the injustice that took their lives.

The Volusia Remembers Website

Webmaster **Bobbi Baugh** is working diligently to develop our Coalition webpage. This will be a key connection point between us, as a Coalition, and the wider public. In addition to telling the stories of the humanity of our lynched victims and the “hard history” of racial injustice in our county, we also hope to lift up stories of Volusia County’s champions for racial equality and justice- including **Mary McLeod Bethune** and **Harry and Harriette Moore**, who were prominent opponents to lynching, and **Joyce Cusack** a student leader in Florida’s very first civil rights sit-in, February 9th, 1960, at the segregated Woolworth’s lunch counter in DeLand.

Collaboration with CIVITAS, a 501c3 Community Organization

We are grateful to **CIVITAS**, a nonprofit community organization in our county, and their liaison **Judy Thompson**, member of our Steering Committee, for partnering with us in setting up our financial structure. We thank the CIVITAS board, including **Larry Arrington**, **Dr. Mike Abels**, and **Dr. T. Wayne Bailey**, for their support of our collaboration. Under CIVITAS’s 501c3 status (www.thecivitasproject.org), we have opened a bank account and implemented processes to assure careful financial record-keeping with oversight by **Nazrine-N Navetia**, Finance-Chair, and **Tom Robertson**, Treasurer. Early on, our expenses will be focused on publicity, public ceremonies, and educational efforts. Later, with generous support from EJI, we will need to pay for installation of historical markers and the Volusia County monuments to lynching victims, a replica of the one at the National Memorial.

Fundraising

Rina Tovar Arroyo, Fundraising-Chair, is working on ways for donors to support our work and receive documentation of their gifts for tax purposes. We hope soon to have a donation link on our webpage, or you may contact any Steering Committee member to make a donation to support our project.

Our Coalition

We are glad that you have joined this project, and we look forward to moving onward with you! We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas with us to bring this project to Volusia. We are in this together.

If you have questions, please reach out to any of the Steering Committee members!

Email us: info@volusiaremembers.org

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Visit us online: Volusiaremembers.org [*in progress*]

[Facebook.com/volusiaremembers](https://www.facebook.com/volusiaremembers) [*in progress*]

Our National Partner: eji.org

PLEASE JOIN AND VOLUNTEER WITH US!!!

Together Everyone Can Accomplish More!

Special Thanks to: **Equal Justice Community Initiative Program Officers: Gabrielle Daniels, Trey Walk and Jonathan Kubakundimana**

We are so grateful to the awesome community team working with us!

STEERING COMMITTEE

Sharon Stafford, Co-Chair
Grady Ballenger, Co-Chair
Daisy Grimes, Ceremonies and Monuments
Felicia Benzo, Educational Outreach
Nazrine-N Navetia, Finance Chair
Tom Robertson, Treasurer
Judy Thompson, Secretary and CIVITAS Liaison
Rina Tovar Arroyo, Fundraising Chair
Evan Keller, Communication and Public Relations
Bobbi Baugh, Webmaster
Reginald Williams, Community Historian
Mary Allen, Community Historian
Rick Buckelew, Professional Historian
Andy Eisen, Professional Historian



Protecting Yourself Against Coronavirus (Covid-19)



1. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness

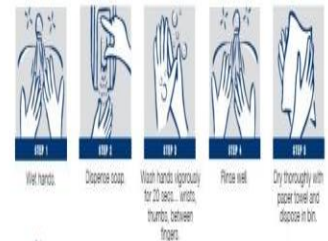
2. Practice Social Distancing



3. Wear gloves, wash or change them daily



4. Wash your hands



5. Wash your towels if they have touch your hands



6. Avoid touching doorknobs and banisters



8. Wear a facial mask



7. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze



9. Cook food thoroughly