



# Thomas Center

ASSOCIATES INC.

www.ThomasCenterAssociates.org • P.O. Box 12752, Gainesville, Florida 32601-9997

MARCH 2026

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I am honored to begin a term as president of this affable, hard-working board and want to thank Brenda Rainsberger for her long and productive service, making my job much easier! Thanks to board member Carolyn Turner for agreeing to serve as Vice-president. I would say that the highlights of 2025 were the creation of the Morning Room with newly acquired furniture and displays, the luncheon recognizing Dr. Thomas Hawkins, grandson of Major Thomas, who played a key role in preserving the building, and the enhanced garden appearance thanks to our new gardening expert, Bruce Cavey, who will continue to do his good work in 2026. In addition, the Jingle Bell Ball was a great success, and enjoyed by a large crowd. We'll do it again in 2026! Other activities to watch for this year are the American 250 Plays, being organized at the Thomas Center by City of Gainesville Cultural Affairs and planning for our centennial celebration of the opening of the Hotel Thomas in 2028. The board will also be doing a deep cleaning of the Major's bedroom. Thanks to all our members who support this wonderful historic home and gardens.

—Ben Smith, President



## FEIBER MEMORIAL UPDATE

After an initial \$40,000 gift from **Craig Salley**, another generous former board member has donated \$26,000 to replace the decaying beams on the Feiber Memorial Pergola in the northwest corner of the gardens. New lighting will be added, and the surrounding grounds refreshed. Work will begin soon, and we look forward to seeing this cherished focal point beautifully restored.



## NEW TCA BOARD MEMBERS

We were pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors at the January annual meeting, **Annie Bzoch** and **Sal Cumella**. Annie, a Gainesville native who works in the Dean's Office at the College of Veterinary Medicine, holds fond memories of the historic Thomas Center—formerly the Hotel Thomas—and looks forward to helping preserve this treasured part of Gainesville's history. Sal, executive director of the Matheson Museum, brings extensive experience in historic preservation and museum operations. Please join us in welcoming Annie and Sal!



## IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to share that board member **Sharon Connell** passed away on October 26, 2025. She joined the Thomas Center Associates board in 1980, served as president from 1980–1981, and devoted 45 years of dedicated service to our organization.

### TCA Officers

Ben Smith, *President*  
Carolyn Turner, *Vice-President*  
Pamela Morse, *Secretary*  
Nancy Webb, *Treasurer*

### TCA Board Members

Annie Bzoch  
Sal Cumella  
Alora Haynes  
Pam Lahiff  
Bonnie Lykes

### Brenda Rainsberger

Chloe Richardson  
Judy Sayre  
Libby Smith  
Caeli Tolar

### TCA Emeritus Members

Tallulah Brown  
Rie Burton  
Clay Kallman  
Sandy Kramer

### Claire Lamar

Gardiner Myers  
Cyndee Park  
Ellyn Radson  
Brenda Robinson

# Thank You Members!

THOMAS CENTER ASSOCIATES INC. | 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Hawkins Memorial Fund last year. We would also like to acknowledge Bill Watson, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the listing in our fall newsletter.

## **\$1,000 LIFE**

Susan Mastin & Richard Allen  
Bill Appleton  
Ms. Rie Burton  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Caswell  
Mr. Frank Cellon  
Ms. Gladys Cofrin  
Mai & Cooper Dean  
Larry & Jane Fowler  
Mr. John G. Galm  
Lauren Groff & Clay Kallman  
Linda & Clayton Kallman  
John & Carol Koogler  
Sandy Kramer  
Rebecca & Paul Nagy  
Margaret & William Poteet  
Davis & Judy Rembert  
Russ & Brenda Robinson  
Mary Lou Hawkins Spates

## **\$500 MAJOR DONOR**

Elizabeth Alsobrook  
D.A. Fosser  
Michael & Michelle Jaffee  
Anthony Maurelli  
Ken & Linda McGurn

## **\$250 BENEFACTOR**

Ann D Bzoch  
E.J. & Janet Bolduc  
Bryce & Tracey Burger  
Bruce & Paula DeLaney  
Joel & Susan McCoy  
Thomas Hawkins & Sara Nash  
Gary & Mary Jane Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Marion Radson  
Todd & Brenda Rainsberger  
Jerry & Judy Sayre  
Mary Ann Williams

## **\$100 PATRON**

Rachel Bergen  
Azra Bihorac  
Phoebe H. Bowers  
Lynda Bucciarelli

Sue Butler  
Nancy & John Carswell  
Don & Marian Close  
Salvatore Cumella  
Anne D'Amico  
Shannon Dunn  
John & Christine Engels  
Sarah Farmerie  
Drs. Michael & Margaret Fields  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Funderburk  
Ira Gessner  
Timothy Hoskinson  
Anna Balkova & Robert Knechel  
Paul & Bonita Kremer  
Bonnie Lykes  
Dr. & Mrs. Walter Marshall  
Beth Mills  
Pamela Morse  
Gardiner H. Myers  
Beverly Haile Parrish  
James Parrish  
James Parrish & Sarah McKune  
Susan Parrish  
Ms. Ann E. Pierson  
Emily Black & David Pyne  
George & Laura Rafferty  
Gwendolyn & Lisa Richalson  
Larry & Bonnye Roose  
Paul Rothstein  
Dr. & Mrs. W. Robert Rout  
Gilbert A. Schaffnit  
Sandra W. Sharron  
Ronald Shorr  
Libby & Ben Smith  
Ashok Srihari  
Greg McEachern & Marti Stewart  
Pat Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. George Tubb  
Carolyn Turner  
George & Renee Wilson  
Edward & Willa Wolcott

## **\$50 SUPPORTER**

Carrie Adams  
David & Joanne Auth

Fred & Linda Cantrell  
Sharon Connell  
Doug Smith & Elizabeth Davis  
George & Jayne Elmore  
Beatriz Fernandez  
Christina Freeman  
Sally Goforth  
Joe Haldeman  
Alora Haynes  
Mr. Robert Hicks  
Kurt & Beth Kent  
John Krigbaum  
Pam & Larry Lahiff  
Claire LaMar  
Marcia Wiesel-Leary & James Leary  
Nancy Loeper  
Suzanne Newman  
Cyndee Park  
Kenneth & Colleen Rand  
Harvey Budd & Ilene Silverman  
Katherine Springfield  
Jennie Stringfellow  
Cynthia Vanlandingham  
Jan Scott & Bill Warinner  
Nancy J. Webb  
Cynthia White

## **\$25 CONTRIBUTOR**

Joan Griffin Anthony  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brandenburg  
Rhea Broyles  
Mrs. Ruth Conti  
John Engels  
Diane Farris  
Harvey Goldstein  
Cynthia White & Mark Hinnebusch  
Cannon House  
Wesley Jones  
Miha Kim  
Chloe Richardson  
Howard & Susan Shapiro  
Sadie Ryan & Mike Simonovich  
Rick Stepp  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Zegel



## JOIN US AGAIN FOR 2026

*We* invite you to renew your membership for 2026! You may renew by mail using the enclosed envelope or conveniently through our QR code. *Please include your email with your renewal.*

