



THE GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

RI President 2008-2009: Dong Kum "D. K." Lee, Korea

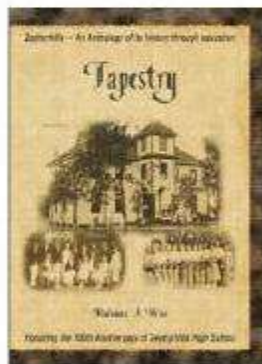
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Rotarian Publishes History of Zephyrhills

Madonna Wise, Daybreak Zephyrhills Rotarian just published a history book entitled, *Tapestry-Zephyrhills... An Anthology of Its History Through Education*. It is a 740 page anthology of the history of Zephyrhills from 1910 until the present. Over a two year period, she painstakingly researched the archives of the local museums, all of the microfilm of the Zephyrhills News (formerly The Colonist and Pasco Free Press) and Dade City Banner and tapped into the personal resources and the history of many, many local citizens who shared stories, donated artifacts and answered questions or made clarifications. Many Rotarians in the area contributed vital information to her book. For example, the book cover features a photo of Mr. George Nookem's 1920's era high school diploma which Mrs. George Nookem, Jr., allowed Madonna to photograph for the book. The book has a recurring Rotary theme of the Zephyrhills Noon Rotary as it is featured over and over again in the anthology with the projects, scholarships and leaders of the community. Zephyrhills Noon Rotary Presidents over time included Henry Douglas, Fred Renninger, Stewart Brown, Ray Stewart and so many more. In Anthology form, the stories in *Tapestry-Zephyrhills* are told in Ken Burns-historical fashion with precise attention to detail from many original sources. The book is indexed with over 5,000 local names and all of the research and writing was donated



by Madonna as a gift to the community in commemoration of the school's 100th anniversary. A unique feature of the Zephyrhills School was the yearbook, *Zephiloco*, named by Betty Jo Turner Hyder (a member of the Zephyrhills Daybreak Rotary and retired Zephyrhills businesswoman) in 1948. The yearbook had an annual queen and king who were selected by celebrities. ZHS had the distinction of having their queens and kings selected over the years by the likes of Red Skelton, John Wayne, Steve Spurries, Johnny Carson, Jackie Gleason

and so many more celebrities. In researching this with yearbook companies, they told me that this practice was very unusual. The penned letters from these era-celebrities are included in the book.

The book commemorates local celebrities which have included not only sports heroes like Ryan Pickett, David Eiland, Keith Chaucey, David Reutimann and Andra Douglas but also those that have achieved status in other capacities. Did you know that ZHS god, Donald Harrison guarded Air Force One during the Reagan administration assigned to first lady, Nancy Reagan. Musician, John Floyd Gore, was a legendary guitarist for country singer, Mel Tillis. The list is endless and many are captured in the book, *Tapestry, Zephyrhills*.

The Amazon.com description of the book is at:
<https://www.booksurge.com/TapestryZephyrhills-An-Archology-of-Its-History/141956408.htm>

The book was published in May by Book Surge and is available in paperback form from a variety of vendors: Amazon.com, Book Surge, Mbrs, Abebooks; the ISBN number is: 1-4196-5640-8. Madonna also has signed and numbered, special-edition copies for those true community enthusiasts.