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Downtown Hollywood Festival Honors Those Who Helped Shape the Community

HOLLYWOOD, FL – February 20, 2009 – The 4th Annual Vintage South Florida Festival of History & Architecture will honor several South Floridians who have had an impact on the community as part of the free festivities from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 1 at the ArtsPark at Young Circle in Historic Downtown Hollywood.

Honorees include longtime Hollywood residents Alice and Bill Foster, community activist Annie Thomas, developers Dr. Howard Berman and Steve Berman, legendary radio personality Rick Shaw, and two dozen centenarians from throughout South Florida.

Other festival highlights will include live themed entertainment, historical talks, tours, exhibits, book signings, a classic car show and pre-WWII vehicle display, old-time speakeasy, vintage tiki bar, Antique & Collectible Market and Kids' Fun Zone.

The six community honorees will be presented with plaques in a 4 p.m. ceremony in the Chautauqua Pavilion. They are:

William "Bill" Foster

The longtime owner of the Johnson Foster Funeral Home, Bill Foster, 90, is well-known for his more than 50 years of service in the Hollywood Rotary Club, where he has held numerous leadership positions and serves as the auctioneer for the annual charity fundraising event. Foster's civic involvement also has included the Greater Hollywood YMCA Family Center, the Committee of 100 and the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

Alice Foster

Alice Foster, Bill's wife, was the public relations director for the Diplomat Hotel from the late 1970s to the early '90s. The Fosters have made many contributions to the community in the more than 60 years that they have called Hollywood home.

Annie L. Thomas

Annie Thomas first made her mark on South Broward in 1940 with a successful beauty salon she operated in Hallandale and Hollywood's Liberia and Liberty Heights neighborhoods. Thomas closed Parlor's House of Beauty in 1998 to become a Liberia community activist at age 79. She currently serves on Hollywood's African American Advisory Council and the board of the Millennium senior organization.

Dr. Howard Berman and Steve Berman

Real estate developer Dr. Howard Berman, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon, was responsible for much of the development of the Sheridan Street corridor west of Interstate 95 in the 1970s and '80s. Dr. Berman serves as a consultant to FIRM Realty in Downtown Hollywood and is its former chairman of the board. In the late 1990s, his son Steve, FIRM Realty's president, began pursuing development

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opportunities in Downtown Hollywood, which had seen no new development in 20 years. His completed projects include La Piazza at Young Circle, Harrison Executive Centre and Radius Condominium.

Rick Shaw

The popular on-air personality enjoyed a 51-year career in radio, the last 47 on South Florida stations, as well as a Saturday Hop program and "The Rick Shaw Show" that ran on Channel 10 in the 1960s. Shaw finished his on-air career at MAJIC 102.7 in May 2007 and remains active with the Majic Children's Fund, a nonprofit charity that assists needy youngsters.

Twenty-four South Florida centenarians also will be recognized at the Vintage South Florida Festival with a birthday cake and awards ceremony at 3 p.m. in the Centenarian Celebration Pavilion. Those centenarians scheduled to attend are:

Dorrie Aber-Noyak, 102 (Hallandale Beach); Linda S. Amorosa, 101 (Hollywood); Betty Aronson, 102 (Pompano Beach); Martin Baskin, turning 100 March 2 (Lauderhill); Josephine Bell, 107 (Hollywood); Lillian "Liz" Benjamin, 100 (Hollywood); Ida Bronne, turning 100 March 12 (Fort Lauderdale); Alice Carey, 101 (Fort Lauderdale); Luigi Carusillo, 105 (Boca Raton); Libby Ciaburri, 101 (Fort Lauderdale); Sadie Crystall, 101 (Boca Raton); Modesta "Molly" DiPetrillo, 103, (Plantation); Beatrice Gonchor, 100 (Boca Raton); John Henry Jones, 110, (Fort Lauderdale); Yeoman Keen, 101 (Hollywood); Daniel M. Merlini, 102 (Hollywood); Dina Jay Miller, 100 (Hallandale Beach); Theresa Porpora, 101 (Boca Raton); Anna McKenzie Pounsford, 102 (Fort Lauderdale); Lillian Rosencrantz, 100 (Dania Beach); Harry Rubin, 102 (Margate); Samuel Shaw, 100 (West Palm Beach); George Sims, 100 (Fort Lauderdale); and Dr. Max Silberman, turning 100 March 12 (Pembroke Pines).

"It is a pleasure to honor our South Florida centenarians and those residents who have helped shape our community," said Lisa Liotta, Deputy Director of the City of Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District. "These honorees embody the very spirit of the festival, which celebrates South Florida's rich past."

The ArtsPark at Young Circle is a 10-acre arts and entertainment attraction at Hollywood Boulevard and U.S. 1 in Historic Downtown Hollywood. Convenient parking is available for 75 cents an hour at the Radius Garage at 219 N. 19th Avenue (between Polk and Tyler streets) and the Van Buren Street Garage at 251 S. 20th Avenue.

Vintage South Florida is produced in partnership by the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency-Downtown District; the City of Hollywood Division of Records & Archives and Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts; and Project Marketing, Inc.

For more information, call Lisa Liotta at 954-921-3016 or visit www.downtownhollywood.com.

The Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was created under the authority of Florida's Community Redevelopment Act of 1969. The CRA's mission is to encourage economic development through the use of tax increment financing by funding development, special projects and enhanced services that address areas of community concern. The Downtown District was established in 1979 to promote Hollywood's central business district including Historic Hollywood Boulevard, Young Circle and nearby residential neighborhoods. The Downtown District is approximately 580 acres and extends from 22nd Avenue on the west to generally 17th Avenue on the east, Johnson Street on the north and Washington Street on the south.

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