

PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2018 | Vol. 25, No. 2



I Remember Marco | Summer Interns | Unsung Hero | AAM



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Greetings to all of our members and friends.

Now that our seasonal members and many visitors have departed our island paradise, the MIHS has become a bit quieter. But Season was anything BUT quiet. We had a record number of visitors to our campus this season.

As we prepare for the return of the Key Marco Artifacts, there is so much activity around the Museum. Eleven new exhibit pieces will be added to the Calusa Gallery. These are currently under construction with installation slated to begin in October.

The "I Remember Marco" exhibit officially opened on June 5th in the Sandlin Gallery. The exhibit was curated and constructed completely in-house by Austin Bell and Katie Romey and our summer interns. It opened to rave reviews and will remain on display in the Sandlin Gallery through October.

By now, I am sure that everyone knows that the Key Marco Artifacts (including the Key Marco Cat) are coming back to Marco Island and the MIHS late this year and will be on display for 2½ years. This will be the first time they will be displayed together since they were discovered on Marco in 1896. There is much preparation required for the return of the Artifacts and that is keeping the staff of the MIHS busy all Summer and Fall. The official public opening of the exhibit will be Saturday, January 26th, 2019.

The MIHS staff and volunteers are working on several new and exciting programs and educational events around the return of the artifacts. You will hear more about these in the near future. We are looking for volunteers to help with our exciting programs. If you are interested, please call the MIHS.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that 2019 will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of the MIHS and any surprises are planned to celebrate that milestone. Be on the lookout for more information about that.

There is still time to be a part of our "Fund and Artifact" campaign. Your \$500 or greater donation to this campaign will assure you of your name being permanently recognized in the museum for helping to bring back the Cat. The deadline is July 31st, 2018. For more information call the MIHS.

There is always something new at your MIHS, where the Past is Always Present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Graev".

EVENTS

June 6, 2018

“I Remember Marco”

Exhibition by the MIHS

Sponsored by the Island Country Club
Charitable Foundation

Opening Exhibit Reception

5:00-6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

Exhibition will be on display from June 5—
October 4, 2018

July 16, 2018

“Mid-Year Dolphin Update”

Presentation by Bob McConville

7:00-8:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)



June 18, 2018

“All About Eagles”

Presentation by Bob
McConville

7:00-8:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) /
\$10 (non)



July 28, 2018

Family Days, Pioneer Fruits

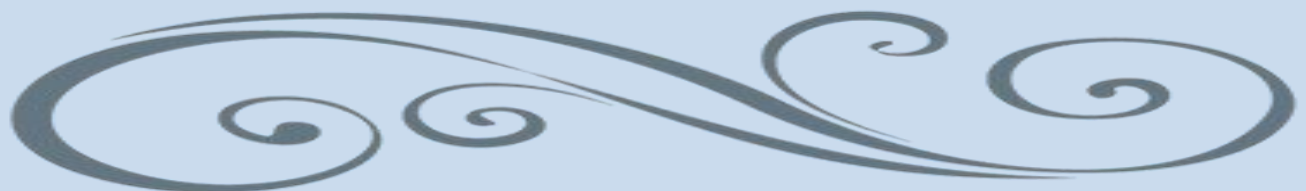
Hosted by Collier County Museums

11:00AM-2:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

FREE

Learn about some of the fruits harvested and grown by the pioneer families and learn how to plant your own fruit tree. Meander through the museum, enjoy story time with your little one, and play a game of Then and Now.



I REMEMBER MARCO: A NEW KIND OF EXHIBIT

AUSTIN J. BELL

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) is pleased to announce the opening of its innovative and endearing new exhibit, “I Remember Marco.” The exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Island Country Club Charitable Foundation and will be free and open to the public from June 5 to October 4, 2018 at the Marco Island Historical Museum. It is the first exhibit to be fully developed, built, and installed entirely in-house by the MIHS curatorial staff.

“I Remember Marco” is an interactive exhibit that invites the public to share its stories, thoughts, and recollections about Marco Island and its history. Visitors to the museum will help curate the exhibit through custom social media and photo opportunities, interactive question stations, and memory-inspiring artifacts and images – all while creating entirely new Marco memories to take with them. Prizes will be awarded each week to lucky participants in a hashtag contest, and custom mementos will be given away to all visitors.

The exhibit has been under development by MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell and MIHS Collections Manager Kaitlin Romey for 11 months. It began in earnest after MIHS interns and University of Florida graduate students Kristin Conwill and Casey Wooster conducted a poll of museum visitors and MIHS members in June 2017, asking what topic they would like to see covered in the museum’s Sandlin Gallery. Out of six possible topics (and other write-in suggestions), “I Remember Marco” was the leading vote getter, receiving 40 of 167 (24%) total votes.

From the very beginning, the team wanted the community’s input on the project. Wooster, now Curator at the Florida Maritime Museum in

Cortez, says “I love knowing what people think and enjoy about their local history because we as museums serve our communities.” Each museum visitor has their own story to tell, but together, these stories shape the Marco Island community and its identity. The Marco Island Historical Society wants to facilitate and collect these stories so that it can better understand and engage with the community it serves.

“I love knowing what people think and enjoy about their local history because we as museums serve our communities.”

Fabrication and installation of the exhibit occurred in 2018 with the assistance of new MIHS graduate student interns Meagan Boritz (UNC-Greensboro) and Mara Reynolds (University of Florida). For Boritz, the opportunity to help piece together an exhibit offered a valuable learning experience. “It’s an opportunity for me as well as the staff to engage in new areas associated with curating an exhibit. This kind of exhibit is new for [the] MIHS and it’s very exciting to be a part of this while gaining hands-on experience.”

Participatory exhibits are increasingly popular in museums, with more emphasis placed on crafting a positive or meaningful visitor experience than on the amount of content – words, objects, or pictures

(cont. p. 6)



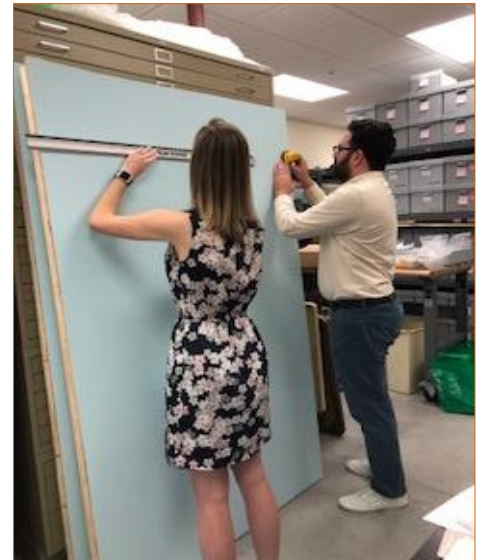
Kaitlin Romey and Austin Bell hang a vinyl exhibit title for the “I Remember Marco” exhibit. Photo by Meagan Boritz.



MIHS Intern Meagan Boritz paints an outline of the United States. Photo by Austin Bell.



MIHS Intern Mara Reynolds places objects in a display case. Photo by Meagan Boritz.



Kaitlin Romey and Austin Bell measure a panel onto which chalkboard paint will be applied. Photo by M. Boritz.

– in the displays. Through the innovative use of chalkboards, index cards, stickers, live social media feeds, photo opportunities, and more, the MIHS hopes that its visitors will become active participants in history rather than passive recipients. This unprecedented approach at the Marco Island Historical Museum reflects the MIHS’s continual ambition to be at the forefront of innovation, professionalism, and best practices in the museum field.

Most of all, Bell hopes visitors enjoy their experiences and have fun. “History doesn’t have to be boring and stuffy. It’s happening around us every day and everyone is a part of it and experiences it differently,” Bell says. “I’m so excited about this exhibit because not only was it fun for us to put together, but I really think it will be the most fun people have ever had in an exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum.”



BENEATH THE WAVES AND BEYOND THE MANGROVE TREES

Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant

Our most recent multi-media exhibit featured in the Sandlin Gallery proved to be a hit! Local Master Naturalist and photographer, Bob McConville, presented his collection of photographs along with natural history on dolphins and alligators. He and his team of naturalists engaged visitors for an hour every Tuesday afternoon, appropriately titled “Teaching Tuesdays.” Many visitors reported coming to see Bob’s exhibit specifically and were sent by Bob himself, and then found the Museum as a result. Others who came into the Museum left with an excitement for wildlife and looked forward to catching one of Bob’s Ecotours or joining him on the Dolphin Explorer!



Bob McConville and Nancy Anderson. Photo by Jessica Patel.

MIHS REPRESENTED AT 2018 AAM CONFERENCE

Austin J. Bell, Curator of Collections

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections, and Kaitlin Romey, Collections Manager, represented the MIHS in May at the 2018 American Alliance of Museums Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Austin was one of a four-member panel presenting to a national audience about working with exhibit design and fabrication companies. Titled “Who’s the Boss? Examining the Relationship between Exhibit Contractor and Museum Staff,” Austin co-presented a “talk show” format session with a team of professionals representing the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri, and a professional museum consultant.

Kaitlin was the recipient of a competitive travel scholarship from the Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) to attend the conference. As part of her scholarship requirements, Kaitlin will be authoring an article about her experience in SERA’s upcoming newsletter. Read more about Kaitlin’s experience on page 14 of this newsletter.



Kaitlin Romey and Austin Bell. Photo by Erin Bell.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant

The third week of April was Volunteer Appreciation week and Museum staff made sure that all the wonderful volunteers who help us bring Marco's history alive knew how much they were appreciated by staff and visitors alike! In the first four months of 2018, the front desk greeters, tour docents, and gift shop volunteers have donated over 1,529 hours of their time to keep the Museum running and in tip-top shape! We couldn't provide a quality experience without them!

In March, our volunteers gathered in the Rose History Auditorium to receive updates from County and MIHS staff on topics such as preparations for the artifacts' arrival, Calusa Gallery renovations, and educational program updates. Once everyone was up to speed, they got a special treat – a behind the scenes look at the MIHS Collections room with Curator Austin Bell and Collections Manager Katie Romey! "It's so rewarding to see how far the organization of the Historic Society's Collections has come since MIHS was founded, through the talent and dedication of Katie, Austin, and with the help of interns who have been through our doors," said Kathy Miracco, a long-time member and volunteer. "The volunteers truly appreciate the staff keeping them informed on what's happening so they can get excited and share that excitement with others... and the Pineapple Lemonade was good too!"

KAITLIN ROMEY RECEIVES UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Rotary Club of Marco Island Sunrise

On March 6, 2018, the Rotary Club of Marco Island Sunrise presented its Unsung Hero Award for Fourth Quarter, 2017 to Kaitlin Romey. Kaitlin was awarded for her services to the Marco Island Museum.

Prior to Kaitlin's arrival, the Marco Island Historical Society was in desperate need of full-time dedicated collections care. Founded in 1994, the MIHS had collected materials for 16 years before the Marco Island Historical Museum was built in 2010, providing the first permanent home for the collections.

Along came Kaitlin, and in the 19 months since she was hired, has cataloged, labeled and recorded nearly 10,000 items in the Museum collections, assisted in the development of the Museum's fantastic new exhibits, supervised graduate and undergraduate museum interns and volunteers, facilitated research requests with the public, and otherwise performed the

daily work essential to the preservation and accessibility of the history and heritage of the Marco Island community. Indeed, the mission of the MIHS is "to preserve and to share the history and heritage of Marco Island," and no one at the museum performs those duties more literally on an everyday basis than Kaitlin.

As Sunrise Rotary's Unsung Hero, Kaitlin was awarded a plaque commemorating the recognition. In addition, the Club will donate \$100.00 to a charity of Kaitlin's choice and 20 polio vaccines in her name as part of Rotary International's effort to eradicate polio.



MIHS WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS

Meagan Boritz, University of North Carolina—Greensboro

Yo ho, yo ho, a museum life for me. Ahoy, my name is Meagan Boritz and I am the new intern at the Marco Island Historical Society. I am a Native Floridian from Sarasota and I received my bachelor's degree in history from Florida Gulf Coast University. I am currently pursuing a master's degree in history with a concentration in museum studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and will graduate in the spring of 2019. Before attending graduate school, I lived in the Naples area for a few years and I am engaged to a Naples native. After my degree, I will make Naples my home. My interests in museum work include working collaboratively between departments, curating exhibits, building relationships with community partners, research, program planning, strategic framework, and collections. The depth of projects and the welcoming atmosphere of the staff drew me into the Marco Island Historical Society. The museum captures a unique history of Marco Island that interests and excites me. As an emerging museum professional, I greatly appreciate the exceptionalism and focus of projects at the Marco Island Historical Society.



Mara Reynolds, University of Florida



Hello, my name is Mara Reynolds, the newest intern at the Marco Island Historical Museum. I am currently working in the archaeological collections, rehousing and photographing the artifacts. I earned my Bachelor's Degree at East Tennessee State University in Anthropology in 2016. Before applying for graduate school, I volunteered and worked part-time at ETSU's Valleybrook Archaeology Laboratory, where I made 3D models of ceramics using photogrammetry and made recreations with clay. In 2017, I began my graduate studies at the University of Florida where I am pursuing a Master's degree in Museum Studies with a focus in Anthropology. Currently, I am a graduate assistant within the University Galleries at UF, helping plan and actualize exhibitions. I plan to pursue a career focused on preservation and access of collections. The accessibility of information to researchers and the public alike is important to me, so I am looking into learning more about databases for

cultural heritage institutions. I chose apply to Marco Island Historical Museum's internship program because I love artifacts and what they can tell us about the past. I am excited to work here and learn more about Marco Island's unique history, environment, and the people who call it home.



AN AFFAIRE TO REMEMBER

2018 Appraisal Faire Celebration Gala

March 3, 2018

Photos by Vandy Major



I REMEMBER MARCO

Exhibit Reception

June 6, 2018

Photos by Samantha Husted





MY AAM EXPERIENCE

KAITLIN ROMEY

For four days in early May, Austin and I had the great opportunity to attend the annual American Alliance of Museums (AAM) conference in Phoenix, Arizona. We were able to connect with other passionate museum professionals from all over the country, visit world-class and community-engaging museums, and attend informative and inspiring sessions.

The sessions I attended focused on transcription and digitization, education collections, small museum archives, and object experiences. It's so wonderful to listen to others from institutions all over the country explain and share their various projects. While not all of these projects are totally applicable to the work being done here at the MIHS, I came away with bits and pieces from every presentation that I can utilize moving forward with our specific collections projects.

I also attend a session where Austin was a presenter entitled "Who's The Boss: Examining the Relationship Between Exhibit Contractors and Staff." Here, Austin was able to share his experiences working with our great team of exhibit designers/fabricators at Creative Arts Unlimited. It's an incredible honor to have a session selected for presentation at AAM and Austin did an awesome job representing the MIHS.

Beyond the sessions, I was lucky enough to visit several local Phoenix museums including the Huhugam Heritage Center, the Heard Museum, and the Musical Instrument Museum. Additionally, fun evening events were held at the Children's Museum of Phoenix and the Arizona Science Center where adult museum professionals got to act like kids for a few hours. If you're ever in the Phoenix area, I would highly recommend any one of those fantastic institutions.

All in all, I had a great time in Phoenix connecting with and learning from passionate museum professionals. I brought back some new and fresh ideas for the MIHS that will continue to progress our collections and community engagement forward. I came back refreshed and inspired and hope to implement some new and exciting ideas here at the MIHS!



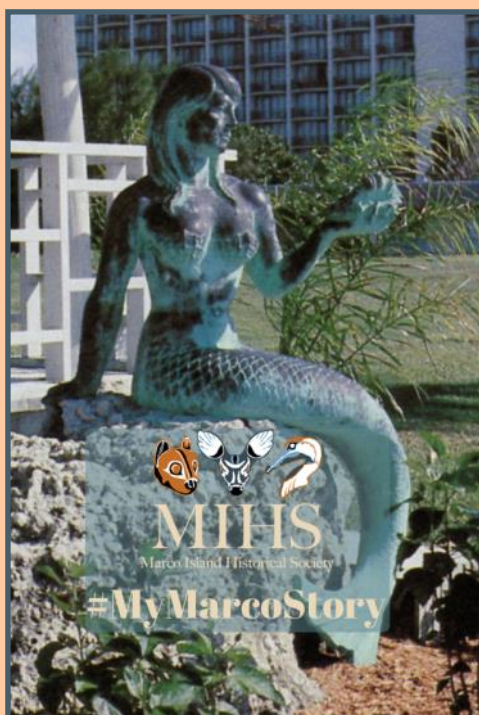
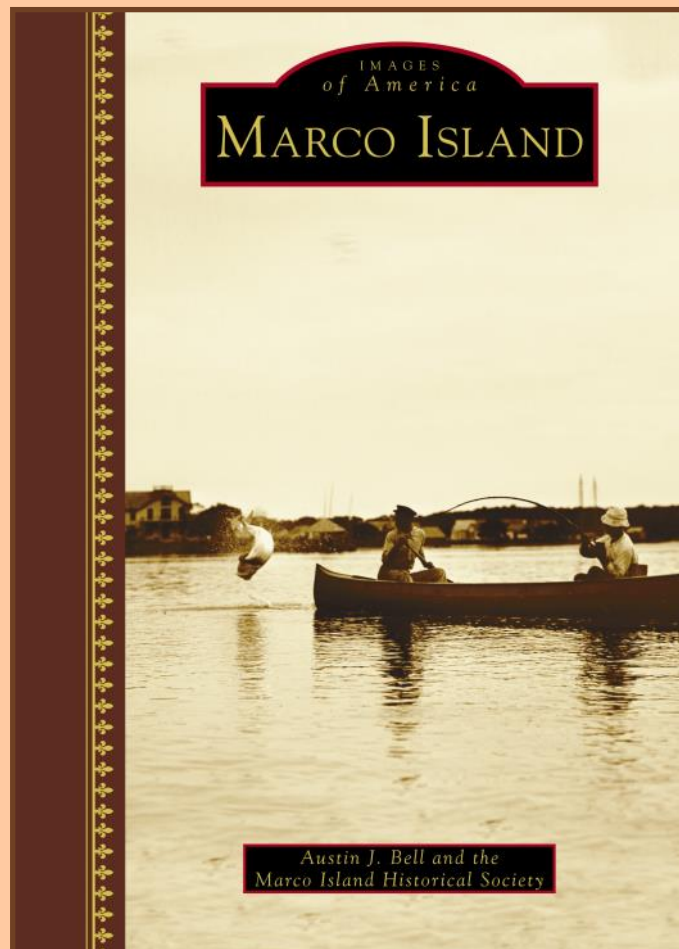
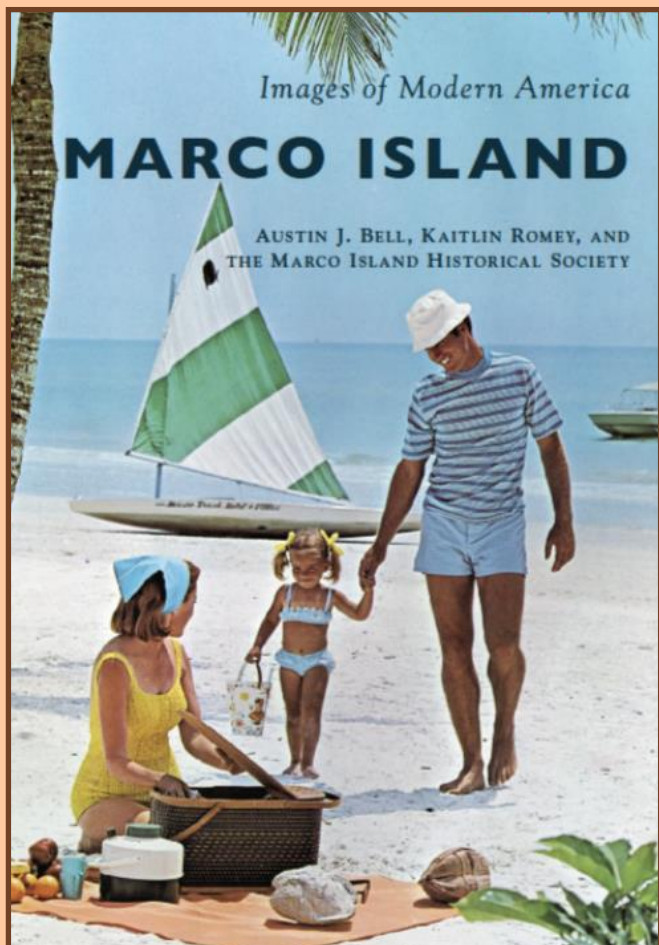
Austin Bell (center) presenting at AAM. Photo by Kaitlin Romey.



Exploring the Musical Instrument Museum. Photo by Austin Bell.

COMING SOON

AVAILABLE NOW



DON'T FORGET

Don't forget to use the specially designed MIHS Snapchat filter (left), available now through October 4th in our "I Remember Marco" exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

While you're at the museum, be sure to grab a "Flat Margo" fan (right) and tweet a photo of it anywhere in the world using the hashtag #MyMarcoStory to be entered into a weekly drawing for prizes, including an annual membership and signed copy of "Marco Island" by Austin J. Bell.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

MARCH - MAY 2018

Patron Membership (\$250)

Maria Bachich*

Heyward & Ann Boyce

Evan & Cynthia Jones

Robert Schultheis*

Francine Klein & Albert Golden

Rita Kusler*

Jeffery Lutz & Cathy Nowosielski

Richard & Maureen McDonnell

Alex Parker - AP Builders

Sandra Schmadeke*

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Douglas & Barbara Johnston

Scott & Brenda Rhinehart*

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Neil & Vicki Bretthauer

Preston & Keely Stiner*



*New Member

Artwork by Malenda Trick

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

MARCH - MAY 2018

Single Membership

Bensman, Katherine*	Ediss, Susan	Kiester, Jane	Reed, William
Boltz, Beverly	Flagg, Terri*	Langan, Katharine*	Reynolds, Joyce
Bostic, Diane	Gill, Muffy	Lindgren, Eva	Saran, Stan
Burton, Delores	Gore, Carol	MacGlashan, Beverly*	Schafke, Harold*
Child, Susan	Heeter, Beverly	Maxwell, Paula*	Tarakdjian, Wendy*
Colombo, Linda	Horvath, Jeanne	McDaniel, Bertha	Tenace, Karol
Curtis, Janie*	Jankowski, Mary Lou	Mendygraw, Catherine	Vandervalk, Irma
Delucia, Anthony*	Johnston, Jayne*	Morgan, Debbra*	Vaught, Wendell*
Donovan, Virginia*	Keen, Lorraine	O'Hara, Katherine	White, William*
Dunn, Joyce*	Kenning, Susan	Pease, Patricia*	

Family Membership

Aiuto, William*	Goldstein, Edward & Arlene	Miracco, Edward & Kathy
Apolzan, John*	Gurnitz, Robert & Ellen	Moseley, William & Patricia
Arsenault, Paul & Eileen	Harrison, Dennis & Brenda	Murphy, Michael & Barbara
Bowbeer, Hildy	Irwin, Richards & Sharon	O'Neil/Boyce, Kevin & Ann
Camm, William & Ellen	Klein, Marvin & Natalie*	Page, Harry & Sandi
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Elliott, Sandra & Gary	Magenau, William & Mary	Smith, Garrett & Judy
Garrison, Brent & Nancy	Maly, Ric & Julie	Tasker, Jerry & Carolyn
Gates, Van & Jean	McCoy, James & Bette	Thomas, Patricia & William
Gibbons, Patricia	McCreanor, Terry*	Thompson, Charles & Paula
Gibbs, William & Maureen	McIntosh, Ronald	Volp, William & Susan

*New Member

BECOME A MEMBER

Since 1994, the Marco Island Historical Society has been preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our community. Join us as we make history!

Student (\$25 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

Single (\$75 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

Family (\$125 annually)

- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs

All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.

Patron (\$250 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Patron on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Benefactor (\$500 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1000 annually)

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

Yes! I/We Want to Make History & Join the MIHS!

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- \$25 Student \$250 Patron
 \$75 Single \$500 Benefactor
 \$125 Family \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- My/Our Check Made Payable to the MIHS is Enclosed
 Charge My/Our Membership to: MC VISA DISC

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CREDIT CARD NO.

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CVC

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Thank You For Your Support!

It's not too late to **DONATE!**

Help the MIHS with the return of the Key Marco Artifacts!



Images courtesy of: Penn Museum, image# 298908, 298906, 298886, 298907 and (A240915) Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution

While ALL donations are welcome, those donating \$500 or more will receive a special Key Marco Cat baseball cap, and their name, business or loved one's name prominently placed on a recognition plaque.



In order to be included on the plaque we must receive your
donation by **July 31, 2018**

To Donate:

Call to donate by credit card (239)389-6447 and ask for **Susan Pernini**

Or

Online at <https://themihs.info/teamkeymarcocat/>

Or

Mail your check to 180 S. Heathwood Drive Marco Island, FL 34145 **Attn: Pat Rutledge**

Thank You For Your Support

The Marco Island Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization and is registered with the State of Florida Division of Consumer Services and the IRS. Federal Registration number - EIN 59-3425001. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services at 1-800-435-7352 or www.floridaconsumerhelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

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