

PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2020 | Vol. 27, No. 1



Arsenault Exhibit | Fiala Honored | 'Putting on the Ritz' | Sue Stone



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Cover image: Richard Nixon tees off at the Island Country Club's first annual Tony Lema Memorial Golf Tournament on February 27, 1966. From the Spring/Summer 1967 cover of *Marco Islander*. Photo by Howard Holsberg.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael J. Rourke III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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David Lupo Jeff Lutz

Allyson Richards Myrt Rose

Shirlee Vann Barcic Jory Westberry



Patricia Rutledge *Exec. Director*

Greetings to all of our members and friends.

With a fantastic array of outstanding exhibits, World Class Entertainment and interesting programs, The Marco Island Historical Society and Marco Island Historical Museum continues to generate an exciting energy in our community. Over 3,200 visitors came to the campus in January 2020. With so many visitors it is a wonderful time to introduce new guests and members to such an amazing experience. They will love it and thank you for doing so!

The "Putting On The Ritz" event was successful and a great deal of fun for all of those who attended. Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard making this event a reality and to everyone who contributed to helping us achieve our goal.

Your participation and contributions continue to make this wonderful experience possible. We welcome members interested in volunteering their time and/or participating on MIHS committees. We are making progress but we realize that we can do so much more to preserve our history and add to this incredible community. We are very excited about this year and the future of the MIHS as we build upon the momentum. Let's continue to make MIHS one of the shining stars of this beautiful community!

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

PUTTING ON THE RITZ

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2020



'PUTTING ON THE RITZ' WAS THE CAT'S MEOW!

PAULA ROBERTSON

The Marco Island Historical Society's recent gala — Putting on the Ritz — had the aura and energy of a movie scene right out of the Jazz Age. The Island Country Club porte cochère served as the glamorous backdrop for the arriving parade of guests who were resplendent in 1920s finery.

Gala arrivals were in high spirits as they were greeted by MIHS volunteers who presented feathered boas to the ladies and fedoras to the gents. Couples and friends struck playful poses for photos alongside a gleaming black classic 1936 Packard loaned for the evening.

Ladies sashayed into the party in fringe-adorned flapper dresses, ropes of pearls, feathered and sequined headbands, lacy black gloves and elegant cigarette holders (sans lightups). Gents were appropriately accessorized with striped suspenders, bow ties and spats.

A casino and "speakeasy" included an enticing array of 45 silent auction items. Here, the fun was elevated even more during the cocktail hour with steady play at the Roulette tables. A phone booth-like "Cash Cube" money machine also entertained as guests stepped inside and reached for real dollars among a whirlwind of flying bills. A champagne pyramid and ice carving depicting a giant bottle of Grand Cru brandishing the MIHS logo completed the picture.

As guests entered the dining room, many ladies couldn't wait to put their fringe dresses to the test on the dance floor, and guests swayed and shimmied to the fabulous vocals and Jazz Age sounds of Suzanne Sole & Company. Beautiful centerpieces with tall white ostrich feathers and sparkling lights created a glamorous setting for the Island Country Club's delicious surf and turf dinner of beef tenderloin and shrimp followed by a melt in your mouth dessert.

Prior to starting the live auction led by professional auctioneer Jay Zeager, MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge presented a brief overview of the contributions made by MIHS and the award-winning professional team. "Over the past 25 years, the Marco Island Historical Society has kept every promise it has made to the community," she noted. "We built a permanent museum on Marco Island. We completed four award-winning permanent exhibits in four years. We returned the precious Key Marco Artifacts, including the Key Marco Cat, to their home on Marco Island, bringing them together again for the first time in over 100 years." She then reminded guests that there is still much to be done in the continued preservation and sharing of the island's unique history and that their continuing support is needed.

Enthusiastic bidding followed for enticing items that included a private Chef's Table for four at The Island Country Club; stunning 14k white gold diamond heart by Katheine Jewelers; three-hour sunset cruise for 10; six-night stay in a private residence in the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas, and opportunity to have your name included in Marco Island's first "selfie mural," entitled "Historic Island Wildlife," by renowned local artist Jarrett Stinchcomb. A fun and lively twist was put on the traditional cash call that resulted in dozens of bidders raising their paddles strategically in a quest to be the last pledge of \$100 in order to win a luxurious stay at the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort.

And what party of the 1920s would be complete without the Charleston? Pat Rutledge and MIHS Board Member Linda Sandlin made sure that no one would be disappointed by delivering a skilled and enthusiastic version of the most famous dance of the period.

Photo left: Alan and Linda Sandlin cutting up the dance floor.

PUTTING ON THE RITZ

Island Country Club
February 8, 2020
Photos by Rael Aguilar



Ashley Lupo & Allyson Richards.



Emily & John James.



Mary Pat & Aldo Palombo.



Donna Fiala, Linda Cassens, & Shirlee Vann Barcic



Sherri Morrison & Jim Freeman.



(L to R) Back Row: Ray Jean, Tish Champagne, Rene Champagne, Bill Young, & Karen Young. Front Row: Rick Eichman, Margi Eichman, Louise Jean (center), Mike Pangborn, & Patti Cramer.



Ashley Lupo.



Alan & Linda Sandlin.



Donna Fiala.



Diana & Kevin Dohm.



(L to R) Debbie Silvestri, Patti Bruno-Porter, Alisha Pacheco-Garcia, Allyson Richards, Cathie Burns-Riloff, & Michelle Richards.



Ron & Pat Rutledge.



(L to R) Linda Cassens, Diana Dohm, Esther Alvarez, Shelly Krygier, & Shirlee Van Barcic.



Sergio & Hanai Meza.



Mike Pangborn & Patti Cramer.



(L to R) Gloria Mabry, Bo Mabry, Douglas DeCamp, Myrt Rose, Karen Young, & Margaret DeCamp.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER FIALA HONORED

Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director

On February 4th, Commissioner Donna Fiala hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Rose History Auditorium where the Marco Island community received an informative update on the progress of the county in several areas of interest to the residents. During the meeting, Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) President Mike O'Rourke invited Pat Rutledge, MIHS Executive Director, Steve Carnell, Collier County Public Services Department Head, and Amanda Townsend, Collier County Director, Museum Division, to join him in a special presentation. A certificate and facsimile of a plaque that will adorn a bench on the Marco Island Historical Museum grounds recognized Commissioner Donna Fiala for all that she has done as a champion of the Historical Society and Museum. The plaque proclaims Commissioner Fiala to be "The Guardian Angel of the Marco Island Historical Museum." Commissioner Fiala told the assembled that she is rarely brought to tears but today she had tears of joy and gratitude in her eyes for the honor that was bestowed.

PIONEER GARDEN DEDICATION

Photos by Heather Otis (February 28, 2020)



PAUL ARSENAULT EXHIBIT RECEPTION

Photos by Heather Otis (February 28, 2020)



2019

BY THE NUMBERS

Celebrating Another Historic Year at the
Marco Island Historical Society



Artwork by Merald Clark.

10,616

Collections Database
Pageviews

831

New Facebook
Followers

4,207

Volunteer
Hours

2,546

Program Attendees
at RHA

342

Collections
Acquisitions

8,233

March Visitors
(Monthly
Record)

98

Image Requests

16,566

Objects
Inventoried

5

State/Regional
Awards

8

Cushing
artifacts
"home"

1

Grand Opening

35,783

Visitors to the
Marco Island Historical Museum
(Annual Record)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

SUE STONE

How well do you know the people behind the friendly faces of the Museum? In honor of our amazing group of volunteers, the MIHS is launching a series of interviews spotlighting one of the many whose dedication and efforts are vital to this institution.

When did you start volunteering?

Approximately four years ago.

How or why did you get involved?

You know the way I got involved was Kathy Miracco. She's very active here and is in one of my other groups. One day she was telling me about how she volunteers in the gift shop, and I love working the cash register and being where all the gifts are and everything, and I decided I would come over and see if I could do that. They very graciously said yes. It's a very fun thing to do, because that way I get out and see so many wonderful people, and they're thrilled with the museum. When they come into the gift shop after going through the museum, they're just bubbling with all these wonderful words of praise, and you know, that's kind of fun instead of hearing people complain about things.

What do you love most about volunteering?

I love the people. Nancy's wonderful, very easy to work with, has such wonderful ideas, and buys beautiful things. It gives me that excitement so that when I go into a store, I see things and I think I've got to go back and tell Nancy!

How long have you lived on Marco Island?

18 years, but I'm a snowbird. I'm a resident of Florida, but we go back to Indiana five months every year. I have the best of both worlds, because Indiana is beautiful in the summertime, and so it's like I always have summer!



Sue Stone on the museum campus. Photo by Heather Otis.

What brought you here for the first time?

We had some friends who lived here. We always took our kids to Fort Myers for Spring Break, and we thought that's where we want to be, because we're used to it and we had always gone there. Then our friends said, "Would you come and try Marco, just once? We think you'll like it." So, when we were in Fort Myers, we drove down to Marco, and my husband said, "I really do like this." And, before I knew it, he had bought a condo.

What is your favorite story from volunteering?

There was a necklace in the store that I loved and I kept saying to myself I didn't need it, you know how you do. I did this for a year. I would look for it and make sure it was still there every time I would volunteer, and then one day I came in and Nancy said, "We sold that necklace." Well it was maybe a week or two weeks later, and Nancy said, "The necklace is back." I said, "What?" Someone had bought it for his wife for Valentine's Day, and she already had so much of Nancy's jewelry that they came in and exchanged it for something else. Well, would you believe? So, I said to her, I was meant to have that necklace. I'm going to get that necklace, so I bought it right there.

What is the most surprising question you've been asked by a visitor?

Well, a lot of times, visitors think the cat is well, *big*, so they come back in and say we've been through the whole museum and can't find the Cat! I always feel really bad, because I understand. I did that too one time when I first heard about the Cat.

What is your favorite item in the Museum?

I love the Calusa Indians in the village display. They are absolutely beautiful, and they look so real that I have to really stop and look, at their toes, everything! As a matter of fact, they scared my granddaughter, and she was twelve years old. She was like, Grandma, they *really* look real. I told her, "They do, they *really*, really do."

What is your favorite food?

Chicken. Any kind of chicken.

Favorite color?

Probably either pink or lime green. I love bright colors; they make me feel good.

Favorite animal?

Dogs. We had three terriers at one time - Alex, Gabby, and Sadie - but they've passed away.

Favorite place or thing to do on Marco?

My favorite thing to do is to walk. I'm a walker, and I

love walking to Residents Beach and back. I just walk down to the concession, get a drink, talk to the guys at the gatehouse because they have become my friends, turn around and walk back. I'll tell you, it's so much fun to walk, because you meet so many people as you're walking. I have gained so many friends from walking on Collier Boulevard. Isn't that crazy? I see people on the road that I recognize just by car, and they wave, because they recognize me too.

What are your interests outside of volunteering at the Museum?

I have a book club that I'm in. I was the trustee at my church. I'm in Island Girlfriends - it's a group that was in Newcomers Club. There are about 30 of us, and we all sponsor different things and have all kinds of trips. We went to the nature preserve out in Golden Gate last week, and we are going to the Holocaust Museum next week. We also had Guadalupe come the other day, telling us about the school and volunteer opportunities. All kinds of things like that, so I love being a part of it.

What is one thing people might not know about you?

I am a pretty open book, but nobody probably knows that I volunteered for the hospital back home, and that's why I wanted to come here and help in the gift shop. I volunteered there at the snack bar and worked the register, and it was really fun until the hospital was sold...I was so disappointed, because I would come here and volunteer in the winter and go there and volunteer...a couple days per week in the summer. It still makes me sad, because that was another place where I would meet so many people, and I was in a good spot, one where they weren't being told bad news.

If you were to improve the museum in some way, what would you do?

I would be the last one to tell anyone how to improve the museum, because it's beautiful and everyone's done such a great job. I have not heard anyone have a bad comment about this place. All the visitors are so positive!

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

Single Membership

Benjamin, Marsha
Brieger, Karen
Bungert, Patricia
Dennison, Allan
Dubey, Donna
Ecklof, Jurgen
Ferrier, Ann Mea
Frame, Joyce
Glynn, Irene

Irwin, Becky
Karas, Robert
Kenney, Judith
Lachmund, Rita
Levert, Catherine
Mieras, Barbara
Milorio, Sam
Molloy, Patricia
Morgan, Judy*

Murat, Natalie
Negrouk, Valentine*
Reynolds, Kathleen
Roman, Charlette
Schmidt, Deirdra
Shiffrin, Madeline
Troemner, Anne
Turrell, Hall & Associates
Inc.

Family Membership

Atkins, Sumner & Carolyn
Batdorf, Lori & Rich*
Baton, Scott & Janet
Benson, Sonya & Cates Donald
Bohn, Terry & Ruth
Bowbeer, Hildy
Boyd-Ridyard, Susan & David
Ridyard
Brown, Linda
Cline Foundation
Cohen, Edwin
Delventhal, Bruce & Allie
Flaherty, Richard
Garrick, Michael & Laura
Gaynor, Lavern
Glasper, Fred & Barbara
Graf, Steven & Mary

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Houghtaling, J Roberts
Johnson, Claire & Marjorie
Jones, Logan & Cindy*
Klinger, John*
Lacy, Franklin & Patricia
Letham, Meridith
Levos, Debra
Lovett, Ray & Ginny
Lyons, Patricia & Daniel
McKenna, Sherri & Tom
Mena, Joe & Hope
Miller, William & Ginger
Parson, Pat & Roger
Pepin, Tom & Carol
Pidherrny, Dennis & Anne
Reagan, Larry & Karen

Rechtin, Michael & Elisabeth
Schuh, Fred & Jane
Spell, Linda & Raymond
Rosenberg
Stevens, Erland & Ellen
Stone, Robert & Susan
Thompson, Roger & Judy
Tobin, Mark & Mary Beth
Van Nagell, Ellen Quinn Yim
Vandenbergh, Susan & Jim
Volp, Susan & Bill
Watson, Janet & Steve
Stefanides
Whitley, Frank & Kathleen
Yale, Jeffrey & Lenore
Zook, Diane & Wally

*New Member

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

Patron Membership (\$250)

Claire Buffardi
Alan & Carol Chalmers*
Linda Derleth
Anita & Dave Koch*
Theresa & Steven Morgan
Ron & Pat Rutledge

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Pat O'Rourke
Candice Zalvski

Tommie Barfield Circle¹ (\$1,000)

Brian & Shirlee Barcic
Neil & Vicki Bretthauer
Rene & Tish Champagne
David & Vicki Curtis
Doug & Margaret DeCamp
Raymond & Louise Jean
Jean King
Sonja Laidig

Jeffery Lutz & M.C. Nowosielski
Scott & Brenda Rhinehart
Jim & Allyson Richards
Myrt Rose
Ron & Pat Rutledge
Alan & Linda Sandlin
Paul Tateo



Artwork by Malenda Trick.

¹Active Members
*New Member

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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)

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- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

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- Email Notification of Upcoming Events
- Free Entry to our MIHS Monthly Program & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- Receive NARM benefits for addtl. \$25

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

All Membership Levels include special Gift Shop promotions.

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

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Single | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle |

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

CARDHOLDER NAME

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PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION

☐ Mr. & Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Other: _____

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Thank You For Your Support!

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Thanks to your generous support, the MIHS works every day to preserve and share the more than 50,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.

"Marco Memories"

1984

Music and Lyrics by Frankie Ray and Maryellen

Vinyl Record, 45 RPM

Found in Collections (MIHS 2014-14-67A)



now appearing
**Frankie
& Ray
Maryellen**



"Frankie Ray & Maryellen" Promotional Poster

c. 1980

Commissioned by the Marco Beach Hotel

Paint on Paper, 17"x25"

Gift of Frank Ray Ortiz (MIHS 2019-39-002)

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