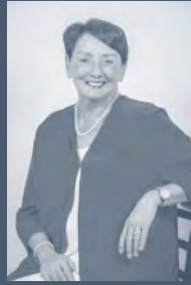


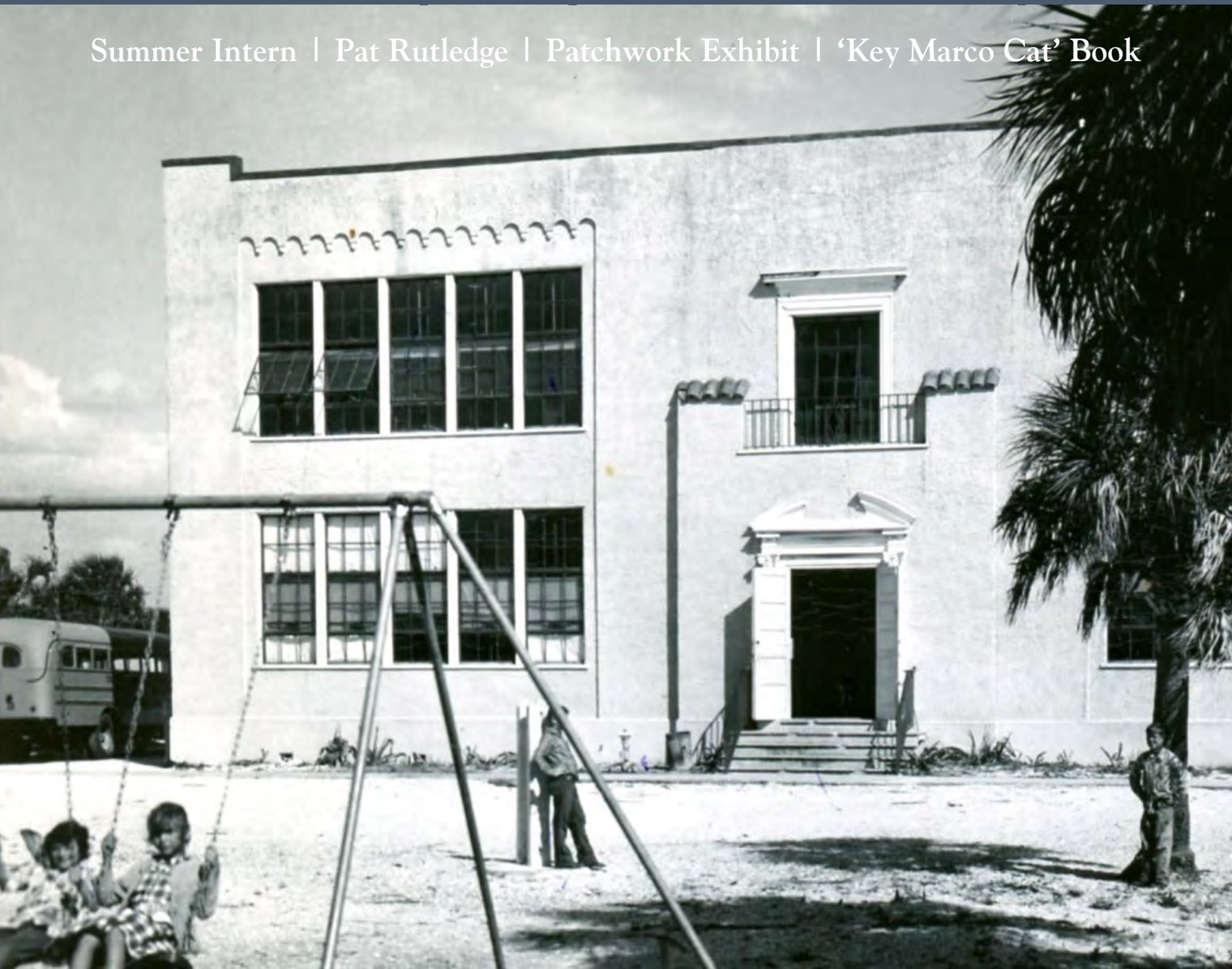
# PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2021 | Vol. 28, No. 3



Summer Intern | Pat Rutledge | Patchwork Exhibit | 'Key Marco Cat' Book





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Cover image: Postcard, "Collier's school on Marco Island." Addison Family Photos, Gift of Jim Addison.

Image (above): MIHS Intern Rebecca Coffman processes a sample of archaeological material. Photo by Heather Otis.

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Patricia Rutledge

Rebecca Coffman

Heather Otis

Paula Robertson



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael J. Rourke III*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Patricia Rutledge	<i>C.E.O.</i>
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Greetings to all of our members and friends.

The wonderful volunteer members, talented staff, terrific partners at the Collier County Museum, and dedicated board members are working together to make your Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and Marco Historical Museum experience as interesting and exciting as possible.

As you read this newsletter you will get a good sense of the excitement and momentum we are building every day! We can make a difference in preserving the incredible history of our area. This is a great time to introduce your friends and family to an amazing experience of the outstanding exhibits and interesting programs you already love. They will appreciate it and thank you for the introduction to the MIHS!

Your participation and continued support are encouraged and appreciated. We welcome members interested in volunteering their time and/or participating on MIHS committees. We need your help to preserve our history and add to this incredible community. Together we can make a difference through the MIHS!



Artwork by Merald Clark.



AUSTIN J. BELL

# The Nine Lives *of* Florida's Famous Key Marco Cat



# MIHS CURATOR PUBLISHES BOOK ON THE KEY MARCO CAT

— UNIVERSITY PRESS OF FLORIDA —

**E**xcavated from a waterlogged archaeological site on the shores of subtropical Florida by legendary anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing in 1896, the Key Marco Cat has become a modern icon of heritage, history, and local identity. This book takes readers into the deep past of the artifact and the Native American society in which it was created.

Austin Bell explores nine periods in the life of the six-inch-high wooden carving, beginning with how it was sculpted with shell and shark-tooth tools and what it may have represented to the ancient Calusa—perhaps a human-panther god. Preserved in the muck for centuries on Marco Island and discovered in pristine condition due to its oxygen-free environment, the Cat has since traveled more than 12,000 miles and has been viewed by millions of people. It is one of the Smithsonian Institution’s most irreplaceable items. In this fascinating account, Bell traces the clues to the Cat’s mysterious origins that have emerged in its later lives.

Captivating readers with the miracle and beauty of this rare example of pre-Columbian art, Bell marvels at how an object originally understood to hold cosmological power has indeed transformed the people and places around it. *The Nine Lives of Florida’s Famous Key Marco Cat* is the story of a timeless masterpiece of staggering simplicity that has prevailed over impossibly long odds.

“An outstanding book on one of North America’s most iconic artifacts. We follow the Cat from its origins as a tree in a forest a few centuries ago to its manufacture and use by Native Americans in Florida to its rediscovery by archaeologists in 1896 and its continuing odyssey.”—Torben C. Rick, curator of North American Archaeology, Smithsonian Na-



Photo by Brian Tietz.

tional Museum of Natural History

“Painstakingly researched and cleverly written, this comprehensive exploration will appeal to historians, researchers, and those who, like so many, have simply been captivated by the Cat’s powerful mystique.”—Laura Lott, president and CEO, American Alliance of Museums

“Mysterious, iconic, and compelling, the Key Marco Cat defies facile characterization. In this well-researched book, Bell reveals stories of its nine lives that are sure to surprise and entertain. Does any cat really give up its secrets? Austin lets us in on some of them, and the result is a delight.”—William H. Marquardt, curator emeritus, Florida Museum of Natural History

# CALENDAR

September 14, 2021

**“MADE IN FLORIDA”**

Presentation by Art Levy

6:00PM

Online “Zoom In” Series

Presented by the Florida Humanities Council

September 23, 2021

**BOOK SIGNING, “THE NINE LIVES OF FLORIDA’S FAMOUS KEY MARCO CAT”**

5:00PM—6:30PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

Books will be available for purchase in the MIHM gift shop.

September 29, 2021

**CLOSING EXHIBIT RECEPTION, “CREATING HOME: ARTWORK BY JESSICA OSCEOLA”**

4:30PM—6:30PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

October 14, 2021

**OPENING EXHIBIT RECEPTION, “PICTURE PERFECT: MARCO ISLAND IN POSTCARDS”**

4:30PM—6:30PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

This reception will also commemorate the 10th anniversary of the full-time opening of the MIHM.

October 20, 2021

**“FROM ODDITY TO COMMODITY: IMAGES OF FLORIDA IN POSTCARDS”**

Presentation by Amanda Townsend

2:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

October 22, 2021

**MIHS REENACTORS PRESENT, “SET SAIL WITH THE CREW”**

7:00PM

Rose History Auditorium



# OF EVENTS

November 2, 2021

## “FLORIDA KEYS OR BUST! A HISTORY OF TOURISM”

Presentation by Cori Convertito

2:00PM

Online “Zoom In” Series

Presented by the Florida Humanities Council

December 9, 2021

## “THE SOUND OF THE SEA”

Presentation by Cynthia Barnett

6:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Presented by the Florida Humanities Council

November 18, 2021

## “WINTER WONDERLAND”

4:00PM—6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

Holiday shopping, carolers, Santa Claus!

December 14, 2021

## “A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER”

Holiday Concert

7:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Featuring international soprano Jodi Keogan

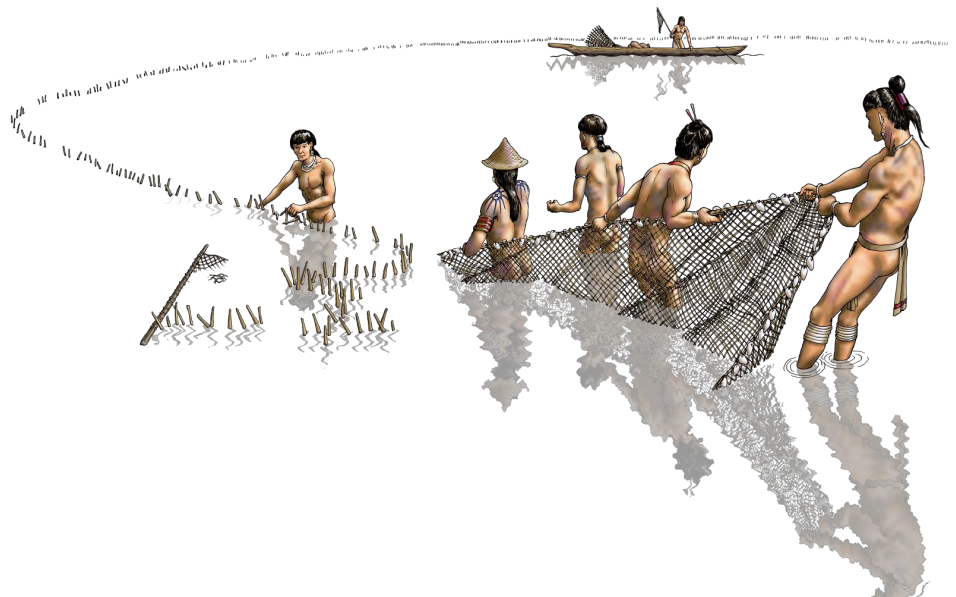
Tickets: \$25

December 3, 2021

## MIHS ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

11:30AM—1:30PM

Marco Island Yacht Club



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE MIHS SUMMER INTERN

REBECCA COFFMAN

**H**ello! My name is Rebecca Coffman. I have had the honor of being MIHS' summer intern these past few months. I will soon be graduating from Florida Gulf Coast University with a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Spanish. Being a local to SW Florida, I have always had strong appreciation for our past and present cultures. One of my fondest memories of grade school was recreating our famous Key Marco Cat from a small lump of clay. During my time at FGCU, I've had the privilege of helping create an exhibit about Seminole Patchwork for the IMAG museum, as well as being a student researcher for FGCU's Communities in Transition Initiative student

documentary about Hurricane Irma's impact on the Everglades region. Interning with MIHS Collections was an amazing step on my journey of exploring my love of archaeology and history.

I interned in collections with MIHS Collections Manager, Heather Otis, and Curator of Collections, Austin Bell. My internship project focused on tackling the mountainous task of processing 40 boxes worth of archaeological materials collected from various Marco Island sites within the past 20 years. For someone interested in archaeology and potentially working in collections, this task was a dream come true. I was able to apply the knowledge and education I have gained in my







courses to help identify, clean, sort, and label the unprocessed archaeological material. Once my project was completed, I was able to learn how to catalog these materials in our PastPerfect database. From this experience, I have learned a great deal and gained newfound appreciation for everything that goes on behind the scenes at a museum- even the unexpected! From emergency preparedness and hurricane prep, to helping set up for gallery talks and receptions, and even giving the Key Marco Cat sculpture a spa day, there was always a new experience to be had at the museum!

I am grateful to have been able to participate in various events, exhibit installations, and educational programming while at the museum. This experience has been priceless and provided me the confidence and skills for my future endeavors. I would like to thank every Marco Island Historical Society member and museum staff I have met during my time here in Marco. You all have made my experience worthwhile.





## PAT RUTLEDGE NAMED CEO

*Paula Robertson*

**M**arco Island Historical Society (MIHS) Board President Mike O'Rourke announces that MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge has been named as the non-profit organization's chief executive officer. Prior to being appointed as full-time executive director of MIHS in 2017, Rutledge served as MIHS board president and volunteer executive director.

In 2010, Rutledge and her husband Ron moved to Marco Island upon her retirement from the position of vice president of operations with Pitney Bowes, where she was responsible for managing a 1,500-person nationwide operation.

According to O'Rourke, "Pat has demonstrated strong leadership, commitment and passion as executive director of the Marco Island Historical Society. The title of chief executive officer better represents Pat's many contributions to the success achieved by MIHS, as well as the vital role this leadership position has in the exciting future of MIHS by preserving and protecting the unique history of our community."



Photo by Rael Aguilar.

## CAITLIN BENNARROCH PROMOTED

*Paula Robertson*

**M**arco Island Historical Society (MIHS) announces that Caitlin Benarroch has been promoted to manager of operations. Her responsibilities have been broadened to include MIHS business office support, program management, administrative and office management, and support for fund-raising initiatives and marketing campaigns. She joined MIHS in January 2021 as administration coordinator.

Benarroch was born and raised in Marco Island. She graduated from the University of Central Florida with a bachelor's degree in hospitality management and a minor in mathematics. She and her husband Joe, also a Marco native, returned to the area in 2020.





## 'KIDD KRADDICK' VISITS THE MUSEUM

*Paula Robertson*

**M**arco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) hosted a special group of visitors on August 3 — the very personable on-air personalities and production crew of the nationally syndicated Kidd Kraddick Morning Show. The popular long-running radio show is based in Dallas, Texas and airs in 90-some markets around the country.

The visit to Collier County was hosted by the Naples, Marco Island, Everglades CVB. In addition to MIHM, the group toured from Naples to Everglades City. They then talked about highlights of the area on the show during live broadcasts from the JW Marriott Marco Island August 2 through 5.

CVB Executive Director Paul Biernes and PR and Communications Manager Sandra Rios brought the group to MIHM where they were greeted by Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and MIHM team members Pat Rutledge, Austin Bell, Rebecca Mazeroski, Heather Otis, Lauren Reuter, Nancy Judd, and Caitlin Benarroch. After a brief reception and refreshments, the first stop on the Museum tour was to see the world-famous Key Marco Cat and other rare Key Marco artifacts on loan to the Museum from the Smithsonian and University of Pennsylvania.

MIHS team members then took turns speaking briefly about selected aspects of the exhibits. In addition to the Key Marco Cat, the visitors were particularly fascinated by the life-size Calusa village, young pioneer Saloma Olds' diaries that are showcased in the Pioneer Era exhibit, and the 1960s development of the island depicted in the Modern Marco Island exhibit.

There was indeed a "Kidd Kraddick" who founded the show. While he passed away in 2013, the show has continued in his name. He believed that the show's crew was like a family so he took them on a family vacation each year that included remote broadcasts. The first family vacation was to Kraddick's Naples' condo near Vanderbilt Beach and the family vacations continue annually.



Photo by Paula Robertson.

## MIHM WELCOMES NEW MUSEUM ASSISTANT

*Lauren Reuter*

**H**ello! My name is Lauren Reuter, and I am a longtime resident of Southwest Florida. I come to the Marco Island Historical Museum from Trader Joe's, where I served as Section Leader. Prior to this, I worked as a historian at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. I currently reside in Fort Myers, where I live with my partner, a museum educator.

I received a B.A. in Art History from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Some of my other museum experiences include the Phillip's Collection and the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara.

Currently, I am most looking forward to getting to know the Marco Island Historical Society's board and members. In my work, I hope to support the Society in its mission to preserve the history and heritage of the Marco Island community. Many thanks to the MIHS staff for the warm welcome to this wonderful museum!



Photo by Heather Otis.

VISIT OUR

## MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Stop in and shop our wide selection of books, unique jewelry, work by local artists and artisans and Marco Island gifts of all kinds.

When you shop in our gift shop, you are contributing to the Marco Island Historical Society in our mission to preserve and share the history and heritage of Marco Island and the surrounding community while also supporting the Marco Island Historical Museum

**Summer Hours**  
**Tuesday - Saturday**  
**11am - 3pm**















# AN EXPLORATION OF IDENTITY AND PLACE

*Rebecca Mazerowski*

Artist Jessica Osceola is sharing with the Marco Island Historical Museum her recent artwork in the exhibit, *Creating Home*. Like so many of us, Jessica spent a significant amount of time at home and reflecting over the past year. Her new Seminole patchwork skirts and aprons express many of her thoughts on home, comfort, and nostalgia. A long patchwork skirt, white with black polka dots and a hot pink and turquoise patchwork strip, is an example that reflects a nostalgia for old comforts. It reminded her of a favorite sub shop in Miami. While another skirt, with a background pattern of gators on peach, is quintessential Florida.

Besides being a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Jessica is also an adjunct art professor for Florida Gulf Coast University in ceramics. She combines her traditional patchwork with bas-reliefs in clay and bronze. Three ceramic slab portraits explore Jessica's identity within the tribe and American culture. Meanwhile the bronze bas-relief, simply titled *Mother*, explores that role.

The pieces are visually stunning - boldly and brightly colored with rich details. The relationship between her portraits and patchwork are clear in the carefully placed pops of color. Deeper than the visual appeal, these works show glimpses into an artist who reflects on her culture and place in the world. She is a member of a Tribe with deep roots in Florida and Collier County, a mother, a woman, and a person with complex viewpoints. *Creating Home* is about how all those aspects make home a physical place and a part of the self.

*Creating Home* is on display through October 9th, 2021. A closing reception will be held on September 29th, 2021 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm.



Patchwork by Jessica Osceola. Photo by Rebecca Mazerowski.

# NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

MAY - JULY 2021

## Single Membership

Mary Aronin  
Catherine Auten\*  
Sandra Boy  
Karen Connetta  
Janet Deanna  
Mildred Emanuel  
Carol Gore  
Lisa Hammond

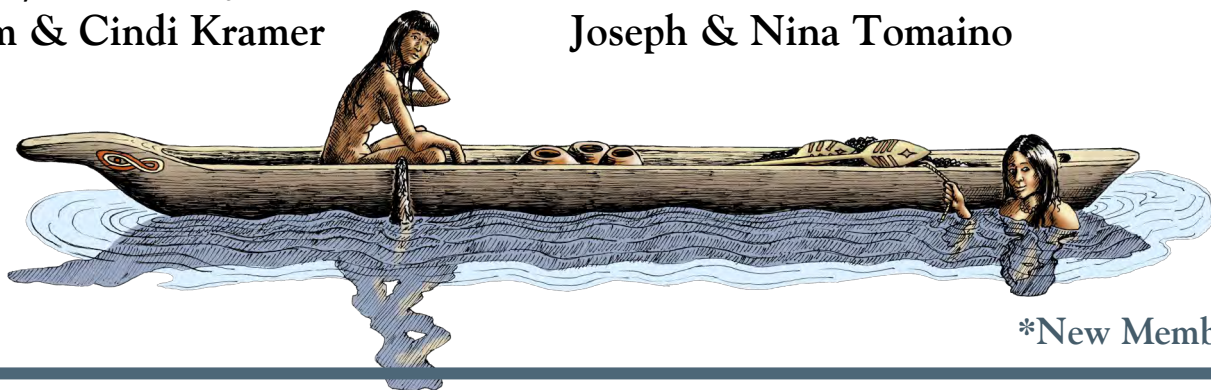
Mary Ann Iwinski  
Mary Lou Jankowski  
Herb Jermanok  
Barbara Markel  
Tara O'Neill  
Gwenn Patten\*  
Thomas C. Patterson  
Jonlee Peterson\*

Bonnie Piringer\*  
Patricia Raney  
Bruce Robertson  
Ellen Rothschild\*  
Louise Russell  
Dolores Siegel\*  
Deborah Silvestri

## Family Membership

John & Martha Brinkoetter  
John and Teresa Carr  
Bruce & Peggy Dahlquist  
Dan & Lyne Flaherty  
Michael & Laura Garrick  
David & Kathy Green  
Dick & Sharon Irwin  
Jay & Joan Janssen\*  
Darryl & Linda Johnson  
Tom & Cindi Kramer

Pam & Ed Long  
Charles Lussenhop  
Robert McGowan  
Ronald & Joan Myers\*  
Harry & Sandi Page  
JoAnn Sanborn & Michael Meguid  
Linda Spell  
Tom & Donna Swartz\*  
Gerald & Linda Swiacki  
Joseph & Nina Tomaino



\*New Member



# NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

MAY - JULY 2021

## Patron Membership (\$250)

AP Builders, Alex Parker  
Heyward & Ann Boyce  
Phillip & Sharon Dyskow\*  
Camille Giblin\*  
Eliot & Francine Huxley  
Kenneth and Mary Margaret McCombs

Richard McDonnell & Maureen McFarland  
Paul and Marcia Merlo  
Kevin O'Neill and Lisa Boyce  
Mike O'Rourke\*  
Carolyn Rosenfeld

## Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Bertil Engh

## Tommie Barfield Circle<sup>1</sup> (\$1,000)

Neil & Vicki Bretthauer  
Rene & Tish Champagne  
Doug & Margaret DeCamp  
Dave & Ellie Everitt  
Bruce Graev  
Lael Kilpatrick &  
Warren Williamson  
Jean King

John & Brenda McGlade  
Shiva Neyestani  
Doug Peterson &  
Susan Tan Chang  
Jim & Allyson Richards  
Myrt Rose  
Alan & Linda Sandlin  
Chris Sullivan



Artwork by Malenda Trick.

<sup>1</sup>Active Members

\*New Member

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

## EMORY BIANCHI

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*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.*

*This month's featured volunteer is docent Emory Bianchi.*

*Emory is a rising sophomore at Lorenzo Walker Technical High School.*

---

When did you start volunteering at the MIHS?

April 2021.

How or why did you get involved?

I'm earning volunteering hours for school and a Bright Futures scholarship. I'll have 107 hours when I finish on August 4th.

What is it that you love most about volunteering here?

I get to interact with guests and get to know different kinds of people.

Do you volunteer for any other organizations?

No, not really. You're my first volunteer opportunity.

How long have you lived in the area?

I've lived right outside Marco for almost three years. Before that I lived in Estero, but I have lived in various places.

What is your favorite story or moment from volunteering?

It was probably when I first started. I was working with another volunteer, Stephen, and we were talking about Dunkin' Donuts. And then he had his wife bring in Dunkin' Donuts for us!

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

Oh, that's easy. That was actually yesterday. One of the ladies who came in asked me if that was "the real size of the turtle" (points to the very large, colorful loggerhead sea turtle sculpture in the Museum Lobby). She caught me off guard and I looked over and was like, "I don't know the answer to that..." She thought that was a life-size imitation of the turtle.

What is your favorite object or item in the Museum?

Hmmm, probably the shells.

What is your favorite food?

Chocolate.

Dark chocolate, milk chocolate, any chocolate?

So, I found these KitKat Duos where it's like dark chocolate and mint combined. It's so good!

What is your favorite color?

Gray.

What is your favorite animal?

See, I like wolves, but I have this thing where if there's any animal and I have to choose one – like a picture – I





Photo by Heather Otis.

always choose a leopard even though I really like wolves. So it's one of the two.

**Favorite place or thing to do on Marco Island?**

Library!

**What are your hobbies outside of volunteering at the Museum?**

I like reading. I like talking (laughs). I like eating. I like doing anything with my friends, even though COVID kind of made that hard, but anything social I love doing. My neighbor got me into crocheting. And then coloring, I guess. I like puzzles.

**What is one thing people might not know about you?**

I can have my moments where I'm in a really bad mood, but you wouldn't even know it's there. So,

when I'm volunteering and people talk to me, they can't tell that I'm having a bad day, because I don't let it show like that. I also have two cats – Sheba and Viper. Viper's a little devil. He attacks everything, including Sheba. Sheba's older, so she kind of just sleeps. She's too nice to even fight back with Viper.

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

That's hard. Hmmm. I mean, personally, I think it's doing pretty well! You could always, if you were able to add something on to the museum, add a little café area. I know people come in with food and drinks, but they can't have them in the museum, and it's hot outside. So maybe a little lounge area or café for the museum where they could enjoy them – and profits could go to the museum.

# 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!

## *Single (\$75 per year)*

- Free Entry to our MIHS Lectures & Exhibit Openings
- Free or Discounted Admission for Other Special Programs
- 10% Member Discount in Museum Gift Shop (Excludes Consignment Items)
- Invitations to Exclusive Member Only Events
- Email Notification of Upcoming Events and Exhibits

## *Family (\$125 per year)*

- All the Benefits of Single Membership for Two Adults plus Children and Grandchildren (18 and under)

For a Limited Time, All Membership Levels include NARM (North American Reciprocal Museum) Program.

## *Patron (\$250 per year)*

- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing as Patron on Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Private Collections Tour with MIHS Staff (Up to 6 people)

## *Benefactor (\$500 per year)*

- All the Benefits of Patron Membership
- Listing as Benefactor on Website & Newsletter
- Complimentary One-Year Family Membership to Gift to a Friend or Family Member

## *Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000 per year)*

- All the Benefits of Benefactor Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on Website & Newsletter
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions

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

### LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ \$75 Single      ☐ \$250 Patron  
☐ \$125 Family      ☐ \$500 Benefactor  
                                 ☐ \$1,000 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

CREDIT CARD NO.

EXPIRATION DATE

CVC

### 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 40,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.



Photo by Rebecca Coffman.

Lightning whelk Type A hammer; shell bead; possible net mesh gauge

Shell; bone (softshell turtle)

Key Marco, A.D. 500-1500

Transfer from the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.

MIHS 2021-15-27-001, MIHS 2021-15-35-001, 2021-15-33-003



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Marco Island Historical Society

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