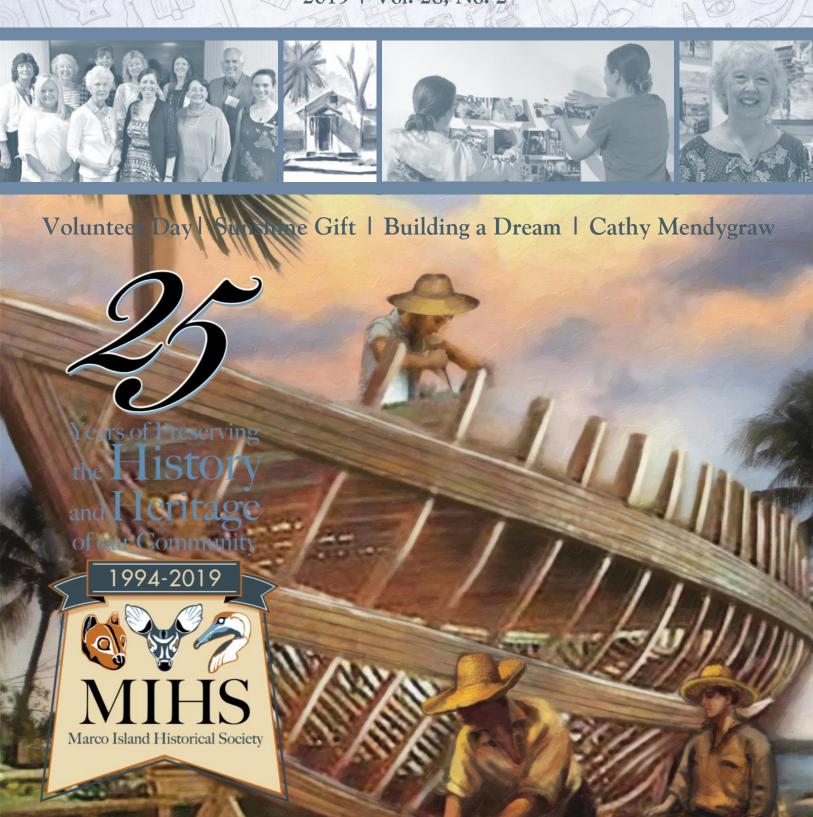
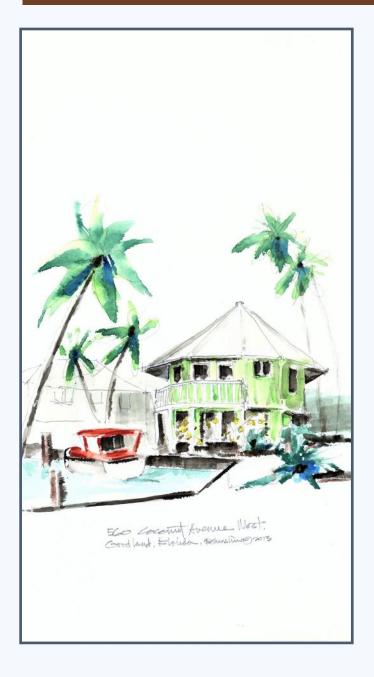
# PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2019 | Vol. 26, No. 2



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael Jakombe III

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Patricia Rutledge

Exec. Director

#### Greetings to all of our members and friends.

The Marco Island Historical Society and Marco Island Historical Museum have delivered one of the most talked about and exciting events this island has experienced in recent memory. The Key Marco Cat and the returning Calusa artifacts are blockbusters! The visitor traffic at the museum has been tremendous as 26,158 visitors have joined us between January 1st and April 30th of this year. We've also had thousands of people connect with us via our website and social media. We invite you to enjoy this experience firsthand.

The "Building a Dream" exhibit is opening June 4th and will be available to enjoy through September 26th in The Sandlin Gallery. This exhibit celebrates the 25th anniversary of the MIHS by looking back at its history, exploring not only how the organizations role has changed since its establishment, but also by asking the visitor where it goes from here. This is the second Sandlin Gallery exhibit created inhouse by the MIHS and was generously sponsored by The Island Country Club Charitable Foundation.

With all of the excitement and positive energy we have going on, it is very important for us to build upon the momentum we have established. We strive to continue to educate and inspire people about the history of this amazing area. With this in mind, your Board of Directors and staff members have worked together to develop the MIHS Strategic Goals for 2019 through 2022. Our five goals are:

- 1. Preserve and share additional elements of the History and Heritage of Marco Island and the surrounding community.
- 2. Re-imagine programming to support our mission and to better serve the community from children to adults.
- 3. Grow the MIHS Membership by 10% per year beginning in 2019, adopt a membership cultivation culture and expand our donor base beyond Marco Island by 2020.
- 4. Grow the MIHS Endowment Fund Target \$5mm by 2025.
- 5. Enhance Board Governance and Committee Structure to support the attainment of the Marco Island Historical Society Strategic Goals.

These strategic goals provide an exciting foundation for our future. They allow us to continue building upon the dream that started 25 years ago. I look forward to sharing our progress as we develop implementation plans and tactics to achieve our strategic goals.

Your participation and contributions continue to make this wonderful experience possible. Thank you for all you do. We are very excited about this year and the future of the MIHS as we build upon the momentum. Let's continue making this a year to remember!

# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS THE MIHS REFLECTS ON ITS BEGINNINGS IN NEW EXHIBIT

he Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) is pleased to announce the opening of its newest exhibit, *Building a Dream: The 25 Year History of the Marco Island Historical Society*, at the Marco Island Historical Museum. An opening reception was held on Tuesday, June 4, from 5 to 6 p.m. The exhibit is open to the public from June 4 to September 26, 2019. Admission is free.

The Building a Dream exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Island Country Club Charitable Foundation. Curated by MIHS Curator of Collections Austin Bell, the exhibit celebrates the silver anniversary of the MIHS by looking back at its history, exploring not only how the organization's role has changed since its establishment, but also by asking the visitor where it goes from here. Since 1994, the MIHS has been educating and inspiring people about Marco Island's history and heritage. What began as a small-but-passionate friends' group ultimately resulted in the construction of the Marco Island Historical Museum, an award-winning institution now staffed by a team of career professionals.

"This exhibit is very special in that it is the second one created directly from the collections of the Marco Island Historical Society," notes MIHS Executive Director Pat Rutledge. "The first exhibit, *I Remember Marco*, was enjoyed by visitors of all ages. This new exhibit will answer the question, 'What does it take to build a museum?"

In developing the exhibit, Bell called on MIHS leaders past and present to share their reflections on the organization's change and growth during the past quarter-century. "There are no better people to share our history than those who were

here to make it happen," Bell said. "It was important for us to include their voices, recognizing that the MIHS and museum as they exist now would not have happened without them." Contributions from more than a dozen prominent MIHS figures are complemented by objects, photos, and videos from the early days of the MIHS, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at the development of the Marco Island Historical Museum that opened in 2010.

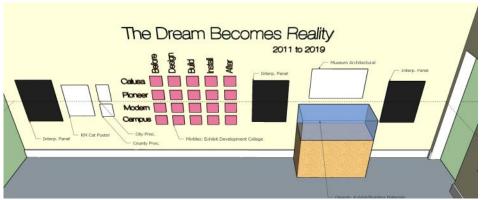
"There are no better people to share our history than those who were here to make it happen..."

Austin Bell, MIHS Curator of Collections

For MIHS Collections Manager Heather Otis, the exhibit presented an opportunity to showcase seldom used objects from the MIHS institutional collection. "The most rewarding aspect of this is being able to take objects that are familiar to many who have been a part of the MIHS over the years and elevate them through display. It's a rare opportunity to be able to install a MIHS t-shirt in the room next to where the Key Marco artifacts are on exhibit. It drives home that we are all a part of shaping history. Exhibiting these physical pieces of the MIHS history with care and thoughtfulness is another way the curatorial staff hope to honor the importance of everyone who has contributed to our institution's history."



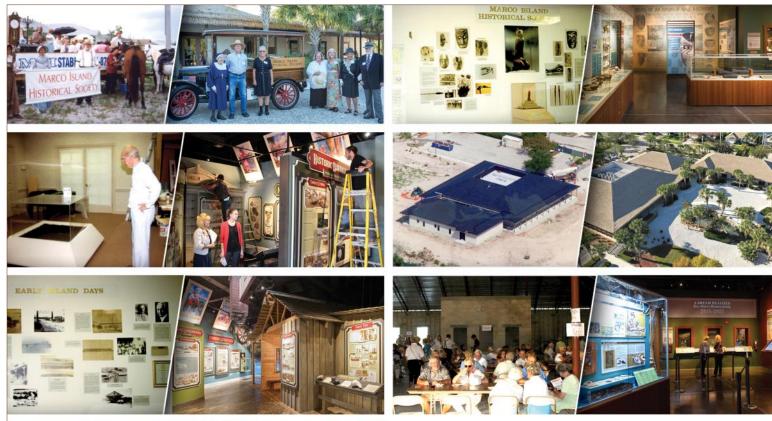
Meagan Boritz and Heather Otis install vinyl images in the exhibition. Photo by Austin Bell.



Early computer rendering for the exhibition. Design by Austin Bell.



The same section of the exhibition after installation. Photo by Austin Bell.





# Building A DREAM

The 25 Year History of the Marco Island Historical Society

JUNE 4 - SEPT. 26, 2019

# EVENTS

June 4, 2019

Building A Dream: The 25 Year History of the Marco Island Historical Society

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 4—September 26, 2019

June 21, 2019

Pirate Day

11:00AM-2:00PM

Presented by Collier County Museums

Marco Island Historical Museum FREE

June 24, 2019

#### Happy Hour for Hope

Presented by the MIHS

Games! Corn hole, bowling, horseshoes, giant cards, & a selfie station. 50/50 raffle. Hors d'oeuvres courtesy of DaVinci's Restaurant.

5:00-7:00PM

Rose History Auditorium

Suggested Donation: \$20



#### MIHSNEWS

### HELLO, SUNSHINES...

#### Heather Otis, Collections Manager

It was a bright, sunshine-y day on March 20, 2019, when artist Donald Sunshine and his wife, Joanna, walked me out to their Jeep and opened the trunk, but not before mentioning I might want to grab a cart. The couple generously decided to donate not just one, but 38 original artworks that Mr. Sunshine created of historic Goodland during 2013 and 2014. According to Sunshine, these plein-air paintings, which were featured in a 2014 exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum titled, "The Goodland Cottages: Architectural Watercolors and Artifacts from Historic Goodland," attempt to capture the "visual character" and "fine spirit" of Goodland. As professor emeritus of architecture at Virginia Tech and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, he also hoped to document the fishing village's disappearing architectural history, and the majority of these works capture Goodland structures that date to the first half of the 20th century. Although we will miss this lovely and talented couple, who moved permanently back to Virginia this spring, the MIHS is honored to be entrusted with the care and preservation of this unique and valuable depiction of Goodland history.





## A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE

#### Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director

Volunteer (verb): "to offer to do something that you do not have to do, often without having been asked to do it and/or without expecting payment."

On April 15, 2019, the Collier County Museum System celebrated Volunteer Week and all of the generous Museum System volunteers who give freely of their time and talent to guide visitors through the rich history of Collier County.

Public Services Department Head, Steve Carnell, Museum Division Director, Amanda Townsend, and Museum System Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Connetta hosted a special recognition luncheon for all museum volunteers as a "thank you" for their service. Each volunteer received a Certificate of Appreciation and a round of applause for their commitment to the five museums of Collier County.

Karen Connetta and Joy Murphy, Curator of Education, then encouraged all present to spread the word about the interesting opportunities available in Everglades City, Immokalee, Marco Island, and Naples to join this team of exceptional volunteers.

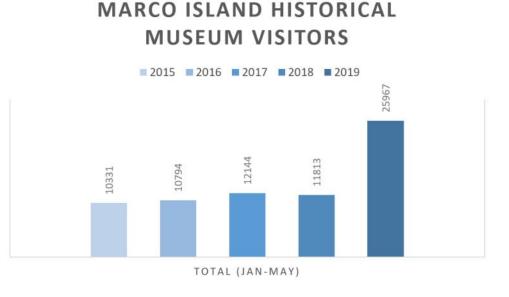
For more information about how you can be a part of sharing history, please contact Karen Connetta, Volunteer Coordinator at Karen.Connetta@CollierCountyFL.gov.

See pp. 12-13 of this newsletter for pictures from the Volunteer Week celebration.

### THE BALL KEEPS ON ROLLING

#### Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant

Last newsletter, I reported the record-breaking numbers of visitors through our doors, but that trend has continued. In fact, March ended up surpassing February as our highest attended month EVER, and we have already surpassed last year's total by more than 5,000 visitors at the time that I write this article! The press recently reported the entire County has seen an "exceptional" tourism year and we agree. See the breakdown (right) for a comparison of visitation between January and May over the past five years.



## MIHS PRESENTS AT ANTHROPOLOGY CONFERENCE

#### Austin J. Bell, Curator of Collections

Austin Bell, Curator of Collections, presented the results of an 18-month collections rehabilitation project at the 2019 Florida Anthropological Society Conference on May 11, 2019 in Crystal River, Florida. The project, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), enabled the MIHS to rehouse the entirety of its archaeological collections.

Between January 2017 and July 2018, with the assistance of student interns, the MIHS successfully rehabilitated these collections so that they not only be adequately preserved, but also be made readily available to academic researchers and the general public. Poster co-authors included Katie Romey, Morgan Andrews, Kristin Conwill, Rosemarie Fusco, Mara Reynolds, and Casey Wooster, all of whom made significant contributions to the project.



Austin Bell presenting a poster at the 2019 FAS Conference. Photo by Amanda Wagner-Pelkey.

Disseminating results is an important obligation of receiving an NEH grant. By presenting at FAS and elsewhere, Bell hopes to increase academic awareness of the MIHS collections as a potential resource for archaeologists and other researchers. The MIHS was the only non-university-affiliated recipient of an NEH grant in the State of Florida in 2017.

## MARCO MEMORY PROJECT ENDS WITH A DEGREE

#### Meagan Boritz, University of North Carolina—Greensboro

Over the course of two semesters, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, I partnered with the Marco Island Historical Society at the Marco Island Historical Museum to embark on a new and exciting capstone project, the "Marco Memory Project." Over the summer, I interned at the museum on Marco and really became attached to the history, the people, and the learning environment. It was during my summer internship that I asked to do my capstone project with MIHS. This project is a new chapter in the society's and the museum's history because they have never hosted a master's thesis or a capstone, so this was a great opportunity for both of us.

The Marco Memory Project is an interdisciplinary project aimed to assess, collect, and analyze information of photos within the collection using various vignettes such as newsletters, e-blasts, newspaper publications, and social media to employ visitor engagement and participation. We wanted to gain contextual information on photos using visitor participation, raise awareness of the museums digital media platforms, elevate the visitor's engagement and experience, create a new lens for the community to view online collections, and create exhibit banners



detailing the project for visitors in the museum's lobby. This project is important because it is a stepping stone for the museum to engage with other meaningful projects that stem from the foundation of this project. We designed this project to bring exposure to the MIHS Collections while offering multiple entry points to yield the best results. To do this we posted photos on the MIHS social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. For those in the community who do not have social media, we set up a table in the museum lobby with a binder of photos for the entire month, as well as contributed columns to the *Coastal Breeze* newspaper.

I looked through the MIHS PastPerfect database and chose photos that contained people, I narrowed down photos and separated them into themes, themes that were paired with a particular month, February is lifestyle, March is archaeology, April is community, and May is museum memories. For February, lifestyle coincided with the content of the photos (fishing, boating, golfing) archaeology month for the state of Florida, community had the largest amount of photos so that was put into the month with the extra week, museum memories bridges into the temporary exhibit that is celebrating 25 years of the museum opening. More importantly, the need to preserve the past while those individuals are still alive and can contribute to the project. This project is rooted in the community's participation so we really valued their engagement and feedback. The Marco Memory Project is a recursive project of appreciation and valuing the community for their input while receiving context and information on the photos in the collection.

Working on this project with Austin, Heather, and the Marco Island Historical Society has been a pleasure, a great learning experience, and a rewarding opportunity for me to grow as a public historian. Thank you so much for all the time, support, and effort that you all put into this project. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to work alongside this organization for the past year and work on such a meaningful project.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLICHT: CATHY MENDYGRAW

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 at the MIHS?

I started in July of 2013.

#### How or why did you get involved?

Well, I've been a donor. I'm up on the wall, up on several walls here for different donations I've made. And then they sent out an email asking for volunteers for the museum and I happened to walk in, and Lori Wagor was the manager of the gift shop at the time, and I said, "I'm here, I'd like to volunteer," and she grabbed me and said, "We need people in the gift shop!" so off I went to the gift shop.

## What it is that you love most about volunteering here?

I love meeting the people. By the time they get through to the gift shop they are so awestruck with this museum it is just wonderful, because who'd have thought a little island like this could have such a wonderful, sophisticated museum like we have. And I love the museum too. I love the history of Marco.

#### How long have you lived on Marco Island?

Nineteen years full time, and I've been actually coming to the island since 1987.

#### What brought you here for the first time?

Somebody I worked with was coming to Southwest Florida and told me, "When you're in Southwest Florida, don't miss Marco Island!" I said, "Oo!" and so I went to my AAA book and looked it up and came down, my husband and I, and came over the bridge and that was it. I think that's the story a lot of people have.

## What is your favorite story or moment from volunteering?

Seeing Herb and Emily Savage when we had their celebrations for them and named the exhibit in their honor.

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

Well some of them get to the gift shop – and this is before we got the cat – and ask, "What's the Marco Cat?" Apparently they haven't paid too much attention coming through!

## What is your favorite object or item in the Museum?

Well, I like the gift store (laughs). Because I volunteer there, and Nancy will probably tell you I'm one of their best customers so, as I say, I spend all my volunteer dollars in the gift store. I always try to buy my Christmas presents in there, because I know it's good for the historical society, and Nancy and her predecessor, Lori Wagor, always brought in beautiful things. But I love the movie in the pioneer cabin, I love that movie, and I just watched it again for the third time. You can pick up so many things from it. And I love the Calusa diorama because that's well, startling!

#### Do you volunteer for any other organizations?

Yes, I volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce a few times a month, and that's again people coming in asking questions and talking about Marco Island which I love, and telling them what to do, where to go, and now the first thing we tell them is, "Don't miss our museum!" A lot of them don't know anything about it, so we tell



Cathy Mendygraw in the museum gift shop. Photo by Heather Otis.

them directions to get here, and sometimes they come in around 1 o'clock and I tell them to "Get over there – you'll get to see the movie before they shut it for the day!"

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

Well I think a lot of people know, but I do love to travel. I've been traveling actually my whole life with my husband, and then after he passed away I started doing a lot of international traveling, and I've been to Africa four times, twice last year, and I'm going again in two years. I've been to Australia, New Zealand, China. Now I'm concentrating on Europe – I have three trips planned for this year and I'm very fortunate, because I'm on Marco and have a lot of friends who like to travel, and I'm in a good position that I can do it.

#### What is your favorite food?

Probably pizza (laughs). I love pizza! I could eat it every night.

#### What is your favorite color?

Blue, and if you come into my house you'll see a lot of blue furniture. And, oh, I have blue on today!

#### What is your favorite animal?

I would have to say the elephants in Africa. Those baby elephants are so adorable.

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

Let's see. Probably dining out with my friends and just being on Marco. I'm not really a beach person – I'm very fair. I love to walk along the beach but I actually don't get to do it that often – it's what drew me to Marco, our beaches, they're just so beautiful.

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

Traveling. I like to read – I'm a big reader although I'm so busy a lot of times I don't get to it. I love to go in my pool, although I had a lot of damage from Hurricane Irma so that just got fixed up after a year and a half.

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

Maybe I'd do another movie. I really like the movies, because I think you can learn a lot from them. There's a lot of reading in the exhibits, and you know a lot of people can get overwhelmed with all the reading, but I think when you sit and watch a movie you learn a lot. I don't know where we could put it –but I'd like that.



(L to R, clockwise) Susan Pernini, Cherry Smith, Mary Pat Palombo, Myron Johnson, Mike O'Rourke, Pat Rutledge.



(L to R) Cathy Mendygraw, Cindy Crane, Pat Rutledge, Joan Scherer.



(L to R, back row) Mary Pat Palombo, Cathy Mendygraw, Cherry Smith, Cindy Crane, Susan Pernini, Mike O'Rourke. (L to R, front row) Lee Bostick, Joan Scherer, Jessica Patel, Pat Rutledge, Alexandra Bates.

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Collier County Museum, Naples, FL April 15, 2019 Photos by Ron Rutledge





Amanda Townsend (Director, Collier County Museums).



(L to R) Lee Bostick, Alexandra Bates, Pat Rutledge, Jessica Patel.



Karen Connetta (Volunteer Coordinator, Collier County Museums).



Steve Carnell (Department Head, Collier County Public Services).

# PIRATE DAY RETURNS



JENNIFER PERRY

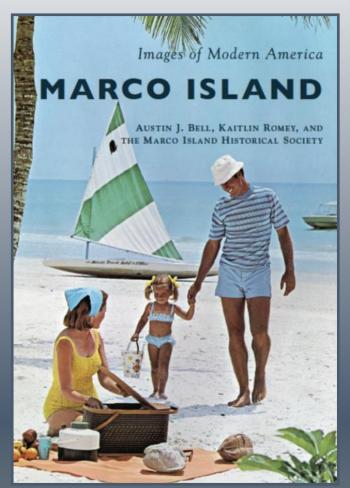


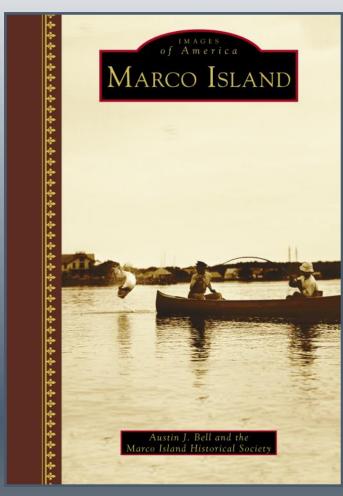
arauding pirates were a constant headache for the Spanish sea captains during the 1600s, and tall tales of swashbucklers and buried treasure abound in Southwest Florida to this day. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon on the high seas if ye dare, rain or shine. Piratethemes activities games, face painting, special pirate appearances and a puppet show, will make this an adventure into Florida's past for the whole family! Come dressed as your favorite swashbuckler! Children's Pirate Costume Contest awarded at noon! Event is free and food will be available for purchase. This year's event is sponsored by the Marco Island Historical Society.

Yo ho~ho, come if ye dare!



## Available Now

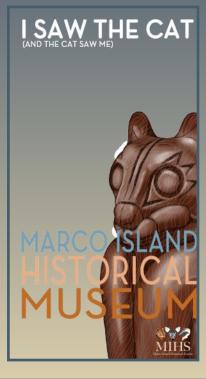






marco island

historical society



## Snapchat Filters

Don't forget to use the specially designed MIHS Snapchat filter (far left), available now through September 26th in our "Building A Dream" exhibit at the Marco Island Historical Museum.

There is also a special "Key Marco Cat" Snapchat filter available on museum grounds until April 2021.

Download the Snapchat app, take a picture or video, and swipe through the filters while on museum grounds to activate the special filters.



# NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS + 3.

### MARCH - MAY 2019

## Patron Membership (\$250)

AP Builders - Alex Parker Gerald & Virginia Holzgrafe\* Francine Klein & Albert Golden Ed & Pam Long Paul & Marcia Merlo Kevin O'Neill & Anne Boyce Jim & Allyson Richards Julie Riley

# Benefactor Membership (\$500)

John & Ginger Finlayson Susan Garber Douglas & Barbara Johnston Rita Kusler

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# Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Jeff Fisher - In Memory of Eileen Fisher\*
Jeffrey Lutz & M.C. Nowsielski
Scott & Brenda Rhinehart
Preston & Keely Stiner



Artwork by Malenda Trick

\*New Member

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS \*\*

### MARCH - MAY 2019

#### Single Membership

Bensman, Katherine Edwards, Edward Berger, Litha Gady, Nancy Heeter, Beverly Boltz, Beverly Burton, Dolores Horvath, Jeanne Case, Evelyn Child, Susan Kenning, Susan Chronowski, Kecia Kiester, Jane Dunn, Joyce Lacy, Patricia Ediss, Susan Langan, Katharine

Levy, Donna Lindgren, Eva McDaniel, Bertha McIntosh, Mary Jankowski, Mary Lou Mendygraw, Catherine O'Hara, Katherine O'Neill, Tara Porter Korb, Kimberly

Reynolds, Joyce

Ross, Martha Sanborn, Jo-Ann Sottong, Peter Spencer, Jave Strasberg, Yona Tenace, Karol Woolaway, Shirley

#### Family Membership

Arsenault, Paul & Eileen Ballentine, David Barcic, Shirlee Bilbrey, Kenneth & Valinda Hogan, Mike & Lisa\* Blackwell, Wes & Karen Burfield, Tim & Schieferdecker, LuAnn\* Camm, Bill & Ellen Devon, Nancy

Edwards, Felsenthal Feller, Douglas & Brenda Felsenthal, Edward

Gates, Van & Iean Gibbions, Patricia Gillespie, Nolberto & Yuskaitis, Karen

Green, Kathy & David Guerin, Peter & Darcie Gurnitz, Robert & Ellen Johnson, Tom & Vicki Kelly, Dennis & Theresa Kramer, Thomas & Cindi Levine, Michael & Linda Levison, Michael & Carolee McCoy, James & Bette McCreanor, Terry & Andrea Tasker, Jerry & Carolyn McGlade, John & Brenda McKenna, Sherri\* Murphy, Mike & Barbara

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Robellard, James & Ju-

\*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)

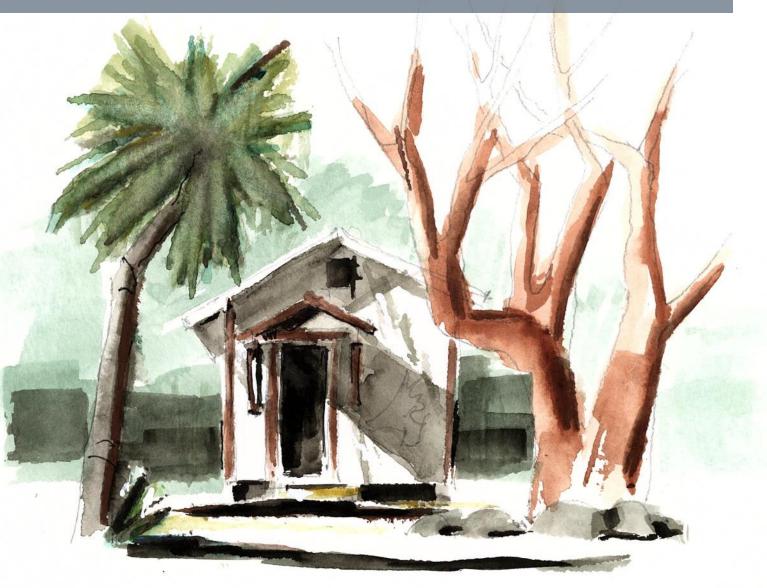
- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

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

EVEL OF MEMBERSHIP		PLEASE PRINT CONTACT INFORMATION		
\$25 Student \$75 Single \$125 Family	\$250 Patron \$500 Benefactor \$1000 Tommie Barfield Circle	Mr. & Mr	rs. Mr. Mrs. C	Other:
PAYMENT OPTION	ONS	( )		
My/Our Check Made Payable to the MIHS is Enclosed		ADDRESS		
Charge My/Ou	Membership to: MC VISA DISC			
		CITY	ST	ZIP
CARDHOLDER NA	ME			
		PREFERRED	PHONE	
CREDIT CARD NO.				
		EMAIL	met 1 vv. re	V C .I
EXPIRATION DATE	CVC		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.



about 337 Pear Tree Drive, Good land, Florida

about 337 Pear Tree Drive, Goodland, Florida

2013

**Donald Sunshine** 

Pencil/Watercolor on Paper

Gift of Joanna Sunshine (MIHS 2019-17-32)

## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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