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## HEART-SHAPED SAILOR'S VALENTINES AT HISTORICAL VILLAGE

January 31, 2014 – The gift shop at the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village, located in the Old Bailey Store, carries the perfect gift for Valentine's Day: heart-shaped sailor's valentines lovingly made in the United States.



The artists are Jim and Rose Prestigiacombo of Texas. Rose loves seashells and her husband Jim loves wood – a perfect combination for creating sailor's valentines.

"I've been fascinated with seashells from the time I was old enough to go beachcombing with my father," Rose said. "I've had a flair for arts and crafts for as long as I can remember, so when I first spotted a sailor's valentine in a shop on Sanibel Island, I knew immediately that I needed to make my own one day."

Rose draws her inspiration not only from the traditional geometric patterns used in the valentines sold to sailors passing through Barbados in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century but also from the more ornate floral patterns being created by contemporary artists.

Jim started making octagonal sailor's valentine display boxes, and as his wood shop advanced, so did the quality and precision of his work. He now creates exotic hardwood frames in a variety of shapes, including heart-shaped.

The sailor's valentines range from about \$55 to \$155.

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS) and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is handicap access to all buildings. Admission is \$10 for adults (18 and over). Members and children are free. For more information, call 472-4648 during museum hours, or visit [www.sanibelmuseum.org](http://www.sanibelmuseum.org).

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