Just when we thought the season was ending quietly and that this annual report would focus entirely on our success and progress throughout the year past and a preview of things to come, a malevolent force named Irma made an appearance and left us all dazed, scattered to the wind, and concerned about the wellbeing of friends, family, and property.

We were very fortunate that Sanibel was not quite directly in Irma’s path, and as Executive Director Emilie Alfino reassured us in the email she sent the moment power was restored, there was no structural damage to any of the buildings. The storm did fell a large seagrape between Rutland House and the parking lot, and branches were strewn everywhere; but all in all, the Village withstood the onslaught admirably. There’s a reason those buildings have been around so long!

With Irma behind us, let’s get on with a review of the 2016-2017 fiscal year in photos, charts, lists, and text that together tell the story. You’ll also find a calendar for the season that’s just starting. We encourage you to post it conspicuously so you won’t miss a single one of our wonderful upcoming events and programs.

To those who made the past year a great success, no matter how you helped, we offer a rousing “thank you!” and a heart-felt “Hope to see you soon!”

Brothers Ben and Will Lejeune, 6th and 8th graders at the Sanibel School, braved the heat and pitched in to clean up after Hurricane Irma.
Dear Friends,

As president of the Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, I’m privileged to see firsthand the many elements that contribute to its success. Of course, it has much to do with the appeal of our buildings and setting, but even more than that, it’s about people.

It’s about visitors as they discover our island’s remarkable past. Whether they’re young or not so young, long-time islanders or first-time tourists, they’re astonished at what they see and learn at the Village. They vow to visit often and bring their friends and family next time.

It’s about members and donors who support us year after year, many since the Village was a new and unproven organization. They respond to the thoughtful improvements we continually make and recognize the importance of keeping history fresh and interesting.

It’s about volunteers in action: tour guides who keep their audiences enthralled with the stories that reside in every nook and cranny of every building; docents who inform visitors and make them feel welcome; committee members who put together events and programs to keep us afloat financially and inform our public; and those who keep our buildings ship-shape and our gardens growing.

And it’s about the staff, who work hard to make every facet of the Village’s operation run smoothly. They are on the forefront, creating rewarding experiences for visitors, members, donors, and volunteers.

To all of you, I want to extend heartfelt appreciation for your dedication to this wonderful and important organization. The Village’s past and future success is your success. Thank you!

Alan Lessack, President

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM? WHERE DOES IT GO?

INCOME*

- 11% Other ($42,537)
- 4% Museum Store ($17,870)
- 20% Admissions ($80,516)
- 12% Memberships ($49,115)
- 36% Fundraiser ($139,222)
- 12% City of Sanibel ($49,012)
- 5% Contributions ($21,127)
- 446 with special group tours
- 17 returned with rainchecks

EXPENSES*

- 37% Wages ($93,585)
- 4% Museum Store ($9,016)
- 22% Capital Improvements ($57,487)
- 20% Programs ($51,890)
- 9% Administration ($22,057)
- 8% Fundraiser ($20,816)

*October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017

A YEAR AT THE VILLAGE: BY THE NUMBERS

8,082 adults—paid admission
1,014 children—1,014 children—free admission
303 members—free admission
115 with library pass—free admission
112 complimentary admissions
446 with special group tours
17 returned with rainchecks

10,089 VISITORS

PLUS:
300 Free Admission Day guests
600 Luminary celebration guests
Sanibel's past is chock full of intriguing stories and colorful characters. Our job is to do justice to this vibrant history, to present it in such a way that people of all ages enjoy their visit and leave with both an understanding of the island's past and a desire to learn more. If you’re wondering how you can become involved—or become more involved—read on.

**VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Historical Village. We’ll give you all the information you need to do the jobs you prefer. We’ll make sure your schedule is a good fit. We’ll reward you with a discount in the shop and invitations to special volunteer luncheons and gatherings. Here are a few ways you can volunteer:

- Become a docent. Lead tour groups through the Village; spend your shift in the building of your choice, offering information to visitors; or serve as a “roaming docent.”
- Be a shopkeeper in our museum store stocked with unusual and beautiful items.
- Help plan and implement special projects, displays, and events.
- Decorate for seasonal celebrations and special events.
- Dig in the dirt—help keep our kitchen garden growing strong.
- Join the “Hammerheads,” who keep the buildings and other structures ship-shape.

**DONATE**

- Support the village so we can continue to offer visitors a memorable experience, to maintain the buildings and grounds so they are historically accurate, and to curate our remarkable collection of period furnishings and artifacts.
- Offer your personal items for displays and events.

**BE A MEMBER**

- Membership not only helps the village; it brings benefits including free admission and a 20 percent discount in the museum store. You’ll also receive timely invitations to events and programs.

**SHOP!**

- Every time you make a purchase in the museum store, you’re helping the village. With a membership, your 20 percent discount makes shopping even more fun.
- You’ll discover items you didn’t know existed, as well as fascinating books, historically inspired toys, Calusa artifacts, jewelry, food, and more.

**Thanks to Executive Director Emilie Alfino, this report is filled with terrific photos we hope will bring back memories of the past year’s highlights. Enjoy!**
A GALA WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE
“Let’s Get Historical: Dine and Dance in the Days of the Ferry,” our spring gala, raised over $118,000! The committee members who created this delightful evening of fun, frolic, and fundraising were Liz Clarke, Gail Garlinghouse, Sherry Halleran, Jan Halliday, Jane Holder, Nanette Laurion, Ellen O’Neill, Harriet Pattison, and Blair Wyatt; and many other volunteers helped make the gala a great success.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES
At our annual volunteer luncheon, we applauded all our volunteers and celebrated the following “anniversaries:”
- 5 years: Julie Kocourek, Terry Jewett, Gerri Perkins, Sally Shelton, Irene Kaplan
- 10 years: Bill Bachman, Connie Bukowick, Ann Heymann, Kathy Lear, Gail Garlinghouse
- 15 years: Paula Newton, Deb Gleason, Annette Cantalupo

TABLECLOTHS, CLOCKS, AND HOLIDAY DISPLAYS
In time for our Luminary festivities in early December, we displayed colorful tablecloths from years past. Then, throughout the holidays, decorations and photos of Sanibel dating from the 1950s, along with a replica of the Sanibel ferry’s wheelhouse, were on view. In March, visitors enjoyed an exhibit of vintage clocks.

GRATEFUL FOR GRANTS
The Historical Village was awarded $4,000 from the Charitable Foundation of the Islands for website development and $3,000 from the Rotary Club to cover children’s admissions. We’re very grateful for their support!

TWILIGHT TALKS
Monthly programs drew enthusiastic audiences in 2016–17. “Tween Waters Inn owner Tony Lapi shared entertaining stories from the inn’s past. Members of the Mayieron and McQuade/Gleason families enjoyed a conversation about their many years on Sanibel, to the delight of a sell-out crowd. Author Jeri Magg presented a vivid picture of women who helped shape our islands—the subject of her latest book. A panel of six members of Sanibel’s Historical Preservation Committee talked about different facets of island life and how they’re reflected in the new Heritage Trail.

RENOVATIONS
We’ve been working on the Packing House to expand storage capacity and allow for future growth and more orderly systems regarding our collection.

HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW? BETTER NOW!
Volunteer Mike DiCorpo works his special magic on our historically inspired garden, week in and week out, year after year, to grow an impressive number of fruits and veggies. Still, Sanibel’s ubiquitous rabbits managed to wreak havoc on the crops. But this year will be different. The garden at the heart of the Village is now surrounded by a neat picket fence with a nearly invisible wire barrier at its base.

In 2016, the huge mango tree next to the garden yielded plenty of flowers but no fruit, but it produced a bumper crop this year. Most of the fruit went to the F.I.S.H. food pantry on the island, to the delight of clients. The bananas in our garden were amazing, too.

We owe a huge thank you to the Shell Islands Garden Club members who put in two days in sweltering heat to beautify the area in front of Rutland House, near the main entrance. They plan to make beautifying the Historical Village an annual project!
IN THE SHOP
Our small-but-mighty store in Rutland House is full of new items, as well as favorites from past years. Nancy Siegel, Robin Coleman, Doris Dewitt, and Connie Bukowick have done a great job planning and stocking our popular shop.

AN ORIGINAL HOOKED RUG
A rug that’s truly a work of art is now a part of the village’s collection, thanks to the talent and generosity of volunteer Barbara Broadhurst. She designed and spent 500 hours creating the rug that depicts each of the buildings at the village.

NEW SIGNS
Attractive and informative signage was installed at the village, thanks to a donation from Al and Sally Hanser, on behalf of the Sanibel Captiva Trust Company.

PREVIEW of COMING ATTRACTIONS
Opportunities abound for fun, learning, and volunteering at the Historical Village. Add these special events, Twilight Talks, and volunteer activities to your calendar right now so you won’t miss out on a single one of the great times we have planned for you. Look for details in press releases and e-newsletters and on www.sanibelmuseum.org, or call 239-472-4648 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 1 (3:30-5:30 p.m.)
Luminary Celebration
Let us know if you can lend or donate items from the ’60s for our themed displays.

JANUARY 31 (5:30-7:30 p.m.)
The Bridge that Connects: Where Things Come & Go
An event about Blind Pass co-presented by the Captiva Island Historical Society at South Seas

FEBRUARY 19 (6:00 p.m.)
Footsteps in the Sand
Annual gala at the Community House

FEBRUARY 26 (10:00 a.m.)
Annual Meeting

MARCH 28
Calusa Day
Learn about the earliest inhabitants.

MAY (TBD)
Islands Night

JUNE 16
Free Admission Day

TWILIGHT TALKS

JANUARY 10 (7:00 p.m.)
All About Francis Bailey

MARCH 20 (7:00 p.m.)
Sanibel Restaurants of Yesteryear

APRIL 11 (7:00 p.m.)
55 Years After the Causeway

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

We offer information-packed sessions for new volunteers, updates for those who’ve already had the initial training, and get-togethers so volunteers can enjoy the company of a wonderful bunch of people—our Village Volunteers!

November 13 (1-3 p.m.)—Training
December 11 (noon)—Update with Village Board
January 8 (noon)—Update with Ty Symroski
January 15—Volunteer Gathering at Blair Wyatt’s
January 22 (1-3 p.m.)—Training
January 29 (1-3 p.m.)—Training
February 12 (noon)—Update with Jeri Magg
March 12 (noon)—Update with Jim Pickens
April 2 (noon)—Update, Captiva Island Hist. Society
April 9 (noon)—Volunteer Luncheon
MEMBERS and DONORS

Your generosity is vital to our continuing success and progress, and we are most grateful!

Donald & Betty Abbott
Charles & Linda Adams
Thomas & Judy Addison
Emilie Alfino
Edward & Catherine Anderson
Joe & Leslie Anding
Susan Andrews
Ann Arnoff
William & Gail Bachman
Mary Lou Bailey
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Sheila Barboza
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Betty Cater
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Aaron Cohen & Dorothy Donalson
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David & Robin Coleman
Jim & Carmen Courtier
Betsy Cox
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John & Susan Schmidt
Goodwin & Carmen Schramm
Richard & Geraldine Schrier
Ed & Hazel Schuller
Shirley Schulz
David & Karen Searles
Many thanks for your commitment, enthusiasm, and willingness to share your time and talents so that others can appreciate the wonders of our marvelous Historical Village.

We are most grateful for your gifts of time and resources. While we’ve made every effort to compile a complete and accurate list, there may be omissions and errors. If you notice any, please accept our apologies and send corrections to info@sanibelmuseum.org or call 239-472-4648.
HISTORICAL VILLAGE
ANNUAL REPORT
A LOOK AT THE PAST YEAR
AND A GLIMPSE INTO
THE FUTURE

Celebrating Sanibel
—Then and Now!

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Steve Greenstein, Vice President
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Gail Garlinghouse, Secretary
Judy Addison
Bill Bachman
Clivie Goodwin
Sherry Halleran
Jane Holder
Ellen O’Neill
Gayle Pence
Blair Wyatt

Two new members, Judy Addison and Sherry Halleran, were elected this year. We said goodbye, with thanks, to Sally Duffy and Gail Migliorini.

OUR STAFF

Emilie Alfino, Executive Director
Jan Symroski, Volunteer Coordinator
John Friedlund, Business Manager

Emilie Alfino  Jan Symroski  John Friedlund

Barbara Freeman, Editor

VILLAGE HOURS

Mid-October through April:
10 AM–4 PM
Tuesday through Saturday

May, June and July:
10 AM–1 PM
Tuesday through Saturday

Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Thanksgiving

VILLAGE ADMISSION

Members: free
Ages 18 and over: $10
Children under 18: free

239-472-4648
www.sanibelmuseum.org