Our annual report is more than a look at a fiscal year’s statistics and figures; it’s also a snapshot of the Historical Village as a whole, including the people who make it all happen. This time around, the report focuses on a year marked by intense challenges that continue today and reach far beyond our museum’s boundaries.

We are pleased to inform you—our members and volunteers—know how we’ve successfully overcome obstacles and continue to take positive steps on behalf of this vital local treasure in our care.

Opening day, October 19, 2021, launched a year that will bring additional challenges. Fortunately, nearly four decades of thoughtful growth, strong leadership, and incredible support have created a solid framework, enabling us to continue telling the fascinating story of Sanibel’s past, now and into the future. To learn more about our exciting plans for educational and fun-filled exhibits, programs, and events, read on!

Above: There’s a lot to learn about both Sanibel and world history from the timeline featured in our spacious new pavilion, located in front of the Village’s Old Bailey Store (see p. 3 photo). Right: Volunteers Sally Shelton (left) and Catherine Anderson helped make Opening Day 2021 a great event.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Recently, two teenage visitors told me they really enjoyed visiting the Museum and Village. I asked what they liked best about it. Their reply was it shows how the people lived. At first that observation might seem fairly simplistic. But as I thought about it, I think what they were really saying is the museum tells the story of the Sanibel pioneers. It is a story of extreme hardship, danger, hard work, sweat, and toil, of perseverance, resilience, ultimate triumph, and care for nature and neighbors. What a great lesson for young people! Seeing physical evidence makes the story all the more vivid. And as a tour guide, I have heard similar comments many times from young and old.

The Village is a unique treasure. Few communities have preserved their history so well. I am deeply humbled by the work of so many past volunteers and donors who did the noble work of establishing and preserving the Village. Your Board of Directors is committed to seeing that the work goes on, telling the story better and better, making our history come even more alive.

To that end, a lot of new features and programs are in progress. Refer to page 3 for our exciting calendar of events. I am happy to report the early December dedication of our new pavilion and timeline. Our fundraising gala will feature the premiere of our newly commissioned documentary about the history of the Sanibel Lighthouse. Also, our volunteers are preparing an unprecedented holiday display of the story of each Village building with specially created decorations. Be sure to come by and see for yourself.

As always, your membership and donations are crucial to the continuation of this work. Please join us and all our volunteers and staff as we move forward with our mission of “preserving, sharing and celebrating” the history of Sanibel.

Bill Rahe, President

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

By the Numbers

August 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

INCOME
$220,342

EXPENSES
$320,173

5,523 ADULTS (paid)
1,169 CHILDREN (free)
252 MEMBERS (free)
161 NARM (free)†
111 LIBRARY PASS
86 RAINCHECKS
24 with SPECIAL TOURS
7,326 TOTAL

† North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) benefits are available to all our members at the $100 level and above. You, too, can take advantage of free admission and/or discounts at more than 1,000 cultural institutions.

CONTRIBUTIONS
($25,120)

ADMISSIONS
($54,957)

ADMINISTRATION
($87,741)

PROGRAMS
($8,044)

CAPITAL
($74,963)

WAGES
($122,776)

MUSEUM STORE
($13,617)

MUSEUM STORE
($8,296)

FUNDRAISING
($28,437)

FUNDRAISING
($2,437)

CITY OF SANIBEL
($50,000)

TICKET SALES
($13,921)

MUSEUM STORE
($8,296)

MUSEUM STORE
($8,296)

BILL RAHE

President
DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Thank you for your support of the Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, especially through the difficult times we all have faced since March of 2020.

Your membership or other gift has helped us commission a new video on the history of the Sanibel Lighthouse. The premiere will be presented at our annual Gala fundraiser on February 22, 2022 (2/22/22!). It contains not only many interesting stories about the history of the lighthouse but also about Sanibel.

We are hoping this fundraiser, along with your memberships and contributions, will enable us to make the key improvements we are planning for the museum. We are working with Creative Arts Unlimited, Inc., a museum consulting firm, to develop upgrades to our exhibits that we think will add lively interest for all visitors. Our new pavilion with a timeline and large photographs is the initial output from this effort, and we will dedicate it in early December of this year in coordination with our holiday exhibit, “Trees, Timelines, and Special Memories.”

We hope you will come by to experience the exciting new features and events we have planned.

Of course, none of this is possible without your generous memberships and donations. An envelope is enclosed to make it easy for you to join or contribute. Various benefits apply to each level of membership, but all contributions, whatever the amount, are most welcome and appreciated. If you have any questions or want more information, call me at (239) 472-4648.

Emilie Alfino, Executive Director

SanibelMuseum.org

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Thank you for your support of the Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, especially through the difficult times we all have faced since March of 2020.

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Emilie Alfino, Executive Director
A Look at the Past Year

Thanks to inspiring commitment and hard work, we had a better year than anyone could have imagined.

- Admissions rebounded sharply from the 2020 season to 2021.
- We followed CDC guidelines to make visits to the Village as safe as possible for everyone.
- While there were no drop-in tours, docents led groups of 6-to-10 visitors who made prior reservations. Docents were also stationed outdoors, where they could answer questions and give directions.
- Well-attended Volunteer Updates featured presentations by people who know our island history best. Visit the Volunteer Updates page on sanibelmuseum.org for links to videos including “Shelling and Its Sanibel History,” “Black History on Sanibel,” and “The Algiers.”
- Two COVID-safe Twilight Talks were held on the Village grounds: “Taking a Bite out of Sanibel; the Mosquito Story” and “Fish-and-Fishy! Stories of Sanibel.”
- At the outdoor annual meeting in March, we elected new members Gary Kebbekus, James C. LaVelle, and Celina Kersh Monte-Sano to our 15-member Board of Directors.
- New officers are Bill Rahe, president; Tracey Tenney, vice-president; Annette Hendrick, treasurer; and Sherry Halleran, secretary.
- We bid farewell, with gratitude for their long and valued service, to President Bill Bachman, Secretary Gail Garlinghouse, and Blair Wyatt.
- While the gift shop was closed whenever volunteers were not available, it nonetheless showed a good profit for the year.
- Jan Symroski retired after five years as our volunteer coordinator. We miss her and are grateful for her service. We’re happy to report that Sandy Nering is our new volunteer coordinator and former volunteers Jan MaGirl and Kathy Choquette are front desk assistants.
- Executive Director Emilie Alfino kept the Village front and center through her regular articles in local and regional newspapers and frequent updates to members and volunteers. She profiled volunteers (contact her if you’d like to be interviewed) and offered an in-depth look at various aspects of Sanibel history, as well as fascinating information about the Village and its buildings.
- The treasure hunt for children continues to be great fun for all—and a source of a treasure chest full of prizes.

Left: Museum Store Sunday at the end of November is a favorite day at the Village. Last year, the volunteers pictured here, Frankie Tozzi and Kathy Choquette, as well as Nancy Siegel and Buzz Griffin, successfully planned the day and tended the shop.

Volunteers visited the Noah’s Ark thrift store in March to stock up on decorations for the 2021 holiday season. This year, we’ll again welcome visitors during Sanibel’s Luminary celebration.

We celebrated our longtime volunteer coordinator, Jan Symroski (left), and wished her a very happy retirement. Sandy Nering (right) now serves as volunteer coordinator.
Celebrating the Past in Our Future

Exciting plans and improvements are coming to fruition as we find ever-better ways to help visitors explore our island’s rich history.

- **Mule Appreciation Week** in October 2021 launched a new exhibit in front of the Packing House. It offers a great photo op; but more importantly, it’s a tribute to the animals that helped Sanibel’s early settlers farm and traverse this rugged island.

- **The new pavilion** will be a delightful—and educational—addition. More than a shady spot to relax and regroup, it’s home to timeline panels and banners that illustrate Sanibel and world history. (See cover)

- Throughout December 2021, “*Timelines, Trees, and Special Memories*” will focus on the families and celebrations specific to nine of our historic buildings. What a great idea—and what great work by several dozen volunteers!

- An added attraction at our **Gala Fundraiser** on February 22, 2022, will be the premiere of a fabulous film about the **Sanibel Lighthouse and the island**.

- **Upcoming exhibits** will focus on Valentine’s Day and Black History Month in February 2022, and Women’s History Month and quilts in March 2022.

- Two **Twilight Talks** in March and April 2022 will enlighten audiences, first on the history of Tarpon Bay and then, at a later date, religion on Sanibel.

There’s so much to look forward to at the Village. Let’s celebrate!
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Despite the challenges of the past year, you—our fabulous volunteers—put in more than 3,000 hours, serving wherever and however you were needed. Thank you so much!

Thank you!!!

OUR BENEFACTORS

Thank you!!!

Charles & Linda Adams
Thomas & Judy Addison
Allegra Printing & Imaging
Edward & Catherine Anderson
William & Gail Bachman
Bank of the Islands
Jeffrey Beale
Mike & Bea Becher
Cliff & Susan Beittel
Karen Bell
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Ralph & Bonnie Frankel
Gene’s Books
Douglas & Sherry Gentry
Kenneth & Carol Gertsen
William & Mardi Glenn
Porter & Mariel Goss
Steven & Amanda Greenstein
Roger & Sandy Grogman
William & Jeanie Haas
Steve & Laurie Hafener
Allan & Elise Hall
Peter & Janet Halliday
Gene & Mary Jo Hardy
Martin & Brenda Harrity
Heidrick & Co. Insurance
Ed & Annette Hendrick
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DBA Doc Ford’s Rum Bar
& Grill
Island Real Estate Associates

Island Yacht Sales
Friedrich & Daniela Jaeger
John Grey Painting
Kenneth & Sharon Kaltenmark
King Contracting Services of Sanibel
Kingfisher Real Estate, Inc.
Billy & Sally Kirkland
L.A.T. Foundation
Alan & Edina Lessack
Lorken Publications, Inc. / Island Sun
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Michael & Mary Miller
Vincent Monte-Sano & Celina Kersh
Robert & Patty Moore
John & Kay Morse
Kevin & Deidre O’Donnell
Ellen O’Neill
Timothy & Julia O’Neill
Jeannie Olinger
James Pigott
Philip & Roberta Puschel
William & Stephanie Rahe
Raymond & Mary Jo Luebbers
Charles & Nancy Roach, Jr.
Rosemary Ryan
Sanibel Captiva Trust Company
Sanibel Packing Company,
Bailey’s General Store
William & Karen Sartorius
Shawn & Laura Shaffer
Tom & Judie Sharbaugh
Ada Shissler
John Simler
Robert & Anita Smith
Stephen & Steve Sorensen
Robert & Nancy Sperte
Maurice & Tracey Tenney
The Garlinghouse Foundation
The Grog Shop
LeaAnne ‘Trout
Martin Uble
Rodney & Gerry Verblaauw
Alexander & Karen Werner
Edward Wheeler
Antoinette White
Bill & Patty Zimmerman

Left: Among the volunteers who made the Village sparkle for the holidays with wreaths and other traditional décor were Judy Addison and Donna Oberhill.
OUR SUPPORTERS

We can’t say it enough: Our volunteers, benefactors, and supporters are essential to the past, present, and future existence and success of the Historical Village.

Donald & Betty Abbott
Carole Albero
James Koma & Emilie Allino
Susan Andrews
Christine Armbricht
James & Valerie Bab
Mary Lou Bailey
Joseph & Anne Balboni
John & Judy Barbieri
Ken & Patricia Barbour
Sheila Barboza
Sally Barley
Ron Nixon & Clair Beckmann
Valerie & Wendy Berninger
Larry Bessert
Frances Bingham Kerr
Naomi Bloom & Bloom and
Steve King
Wallace Alfino
Jonathan & Nancy Helmreich
Hanns & Christel Heidecker
Heidi Hazzard
Linda Harvey
Steven & Shirley Harris
Laura Harkey
Lee Ellen & Patrick Harder
Libby Hanson-Dickinson
Lee Ellen & Patrick Harder
Laura Harkey
Steven & Shirley Harris
Linda Harvey
Heidi Hazzard
Hans & Christel Heidecker
Kate Helmer
Jonathan & Nancy Helmerich
John & Jane Henshaw
Mal & Jill Hepburn
Bluma Herman
JoAnn & Hilliard
Gregory & Joan Hoskins
Jack Thomas & Janie
Howland
Guy & Judith Hunter
Sandra M. Hutchings &
Sandra Hutchings
David & Cynthia Jacob
Andrew & Teresa Jacob
Richard & Mary Jallut
Edward Jayne
James & Sue Jefferson
Tom Jessen
Richard & Shirley Jewell
Skip & Terry Jewett
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Johnstone
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Michael Kelly
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John & Kathleen Kennedy
Charles & Helen Ketteman
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John MacLennan
Jeryln A. & K. G. Magg
Anna M. "Polly"
Angela Marsland
Mike Marston
John & Judith McBroom
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Ray McDonald
Louise McDonald
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Norman Minsky
Joseph & Linda Mondelli
Philip & Elizabeth Mosbaugh
Robert & Rebekah Moyle
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Thomas & Cheryl Mulqueen
John P Muskoff
Mary J Nagle
John & Kathryn Namovic
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James & Sandy Sauer
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Scherer
Verena Scheu
Shirley Schulz
Heather Scott
Peter & Ellen Scrivner
Linda Seifert
Edward & Penny Sessa
She Sells Sea Shells
Dwight & Sally Shelton
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Joyce L. & Joseph Sirkin
Dean & Shirley Skaugstad
Alan Smith
Ley & Sharon Smith
Craig & Julie Spitzfaden
Ann & Sprote
Tony & Myra St. John
Hannah Stevens
Ralph Stevens
Mary Lou & Stephen Stockwell
Edward & Virginia Stringer
Ellen M Strobel
Ty & Jan Symrski Jr.
Tarpon Bay Explorers
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Dee Templeton
Jeff & Veronica Tenut
Terrence & Clara Terrana
August & Maureen Thomas
Janie Howland & Jack Thomas
Sally Thorburn
George & Linda Toft
Susan Tracey
Kirk Trachy
Charles & Kay Trainor
Nancy Travis and Kevin Tidd
Cynthia Trimbley
Thomas & Linda Uhler
Robert & Betty Van Tassel
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Rick & Judith Wagner
Jill Canterbury & John Walfeld
John & Norma Waley
Anne Walter
John & Jane Wardell
Tom & Judy Ware
John & Ann Wellauer
Andrew & Eileen Welchett
Jim & Sandy Westwick
Robert & Kathy Wiesmann
Kaye Wightman
Barbara Wilgus
Robert Williams
Dave Williams
Barry Wilson
Willie Winkler
George Witte, Jr.
Michael & Mary Wood
Ralph & Jean Woodring
Mary Woodward
Lawrence & Judith Yenkole
Diane K. & Frederick E. Zimmer

SanibelMuseum.org

* These lists cover the period from August 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021. If your name should be included but is not, or if the information is incorrect, we apologize—and we want to know. Please contact us at info@sanibelmuseum.org, or call 239-472-4648.
**HISTORICAL VILLAGE ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**A GLANCE AT THE PAST YEAR AND A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE**

While preparing for the 2021 holiday season, volunteers added seashells to evergreen wreaths, just as early Sanibel settlers might have done.

“Check” it out! Emilie Alfino (left) and Sandy Nering must have been on the same wavelength when dressing for their workday at the Village.

When you next visit the Village, you will likely meet Front Desk Assistants Kathy Choquette (left) and Jan MaGirl.

**HOURS**

**Mid-October–April:**
10 AM–4 PM, Tues.–Sat.

**May, June and July:**
10 AM–1 PM, Tues.–Sat.

Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays

**ADMISSION**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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President

Tracey Tenney
Vice President

Annette Hendrick
Treasurer

Sherry Halleran
Secretary

Judy Addison
Mary Bondurant
Virginia (Ginny) Darby
Dorothy Donaldson
Bonnie Frankel
Pete Halliday
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Gayle Pence
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Richard Johnson
Vice Mayor

**STAFF**

Emilie Alfino
Executive Director

Sandy Nering
Volunteer Coordinator

Jan MaGirl
Kathy Choquette
Front Desk Assistants

Barbara Freeman, Editor

Before and After!

Left: In advance of the Village opening for the 2021-2022 season, we replaced the sign at the entrance off Dunlop Road.