

# Coral Gables news

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## Villagers' exhibit at museum celebrates '50 years of Saving Places'

BY KAREN BUCHSBAUM

**T**he Villagers hosted the premiere of their curated exhibit, "The Villagers, Quilts and 50 Years of Preservation," on Friday, Oct. 7, at the Coral Gables Museum during Coral Gables Art Walk Night. The exhibit will run through Saturday, Oct. 23, during museum hours.

The Villagers Inc. is Miami-Dade County's oldest historic preservation organization, founded in 1966, to help save Coral Gables' landmark Douglas Entrance. Today, with membership of more than 200 women and men, The Villagers have supported more than 60 local projects, many with multiple grants, as well as funded college scholarships for those studying historic preservation.

With a clear-cut mission, "dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic sites," special events and publications were launched to serve as fundraisers. During their annual Holiday House Tour, The Villagers have raffled an historically inspired quilt for the past 26 years.

Fourteen of the quilts, handmade by members, are a featured part of the museum exhibit to help illustrate The Villager's story and, simultaneously, the story of historic preservation in Miami-Dade. The quilts showcase the unique, and often quirky, tapestry that makes



Pictured with a quilt are Villagers Joan Bounds and Louise Petrine.

Miami-Dade so special.

Visually, the quilts transport visitors on a journey through SoBe Art Deco and Biscayne Bay, through the Coconut Grove Jewels of El Jardin and Old School House, environmentally significant Everglades, iconic pop-culture of the "Tan Don't Burn" Coppertone sign, and Key Biscayne's light keeper's cottage at the Cape Florida Lighthouse.

Members of The Villagers will be on-hand to answer questions.

Regular museum hours are Tuesday

through Friday, noon until 6 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon until 5 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays. Admission is \$7 per adult, \$5 per student, and \$3 for children 6-12; children under 6 and military families are free. The Coral Gables Museum is located at 285 Aragon Ave.; on-street and garage parking are nearby.

For more information about The Villagers' history, projects, events, the Gardens of Miami coffee table book, and membership opportunities, visit online at <[www.thevillagersinc.org](http://www.thevillagersinc.org)>.