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## Our Mission

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a not-for-profit educational institution whose mission is to promote an understanding of the iron and steel history of Coatesville, Chester County, Southeastern Pennsylvania and the region to audiences of all ages and interests by collecting, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting iron and steel's history and its relationship to the region and nation beyond.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer was full of projects and programs!

On the project side we completed the window restoration behind the World Trade Center trident and the steel workers memorial giving a more respectful look to one of our most visited and photographed artifacts.

We also paved the road from the visitor parking lot to the visitor center. This is a very welcome upgrade from the rocky worn out surface that previously existed. And Terracina was painted again which usually happens about every five years. We basically paint one building a year and rotate accordingly.

On the program side we were very busy this year! We hosted the Chester County town walking tours, we also hosted Chester County Day, as well as the Daughters of the American Revolution who honored Rebecca Lukens in August. The Grand Prix was in September along with our annual September 11<sup>th</sup> commemorative event. Visitations were slightly up over last year and certainly up from 2020 - however, still behind our pre-pandemic levels. Our digital visitors

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Did you know that the museum provides offsite lectures on a variety of iron and steel related topics to community groups, either in person or via Zoom? In 2022 the following presentations were given: Oxford Area Historical Association, Chester County Iron & Steel Partnership, West Chester Women's Club, Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Chester New Century Club, and the Coatesville Rotary Club. Upcoming talks

and those using our online resources has remained steady. We could not do this important work without our membership, those who donate to our annual appeal and our sponsors. I am looking forward to the Holiday Open House December 9 which will again feature running trains, the Lukens band, an auction, refreshments as well as welcoming Santa to the museum!

Sadly, though we lost two important members of our family. Peter Nunn, who was my uncle, also served as the Graystone Society's treasurer. He served for over 10 years in this capacity and was immensely valuable in his guidance and oversight. We also lost Charles Lukens Huston IV. He served on our finance committee and our property committee as well as helping secure the necessary funds for the administrative work that the foundation does. Both of these people will be missed immensely.

I want to wish everybody a great holiday season and a happy New Year. We hope to see you around the museum soon.



Scott G. Huston

include the Henrietta Hankin Branch Library, the East Brandywine Historical Commission and the Warminster Questers. Please consider requesting a future presentation for your group!



Jim Ziegler

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum is a project of the Graystone Society, Inc., a 501(c)3 public charity registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum, 50 S 1st Ave, Coatesville, PA 19320 | 610-384-9282

## LUKENS HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

What were the holidays like for Lukens employees in the past?

Fortunately, you don't need the "Ghost of Christmas Past" to guide you. Anyone can search the database on our website titled "Lukens Steel Newsletter Collection." There, you can find, in the days before this newsletter, an employee newsletter called *Lukens Plate*. It was published monthly through the 1930s and then renamed *Lukens Life* in 1949, ushering in an era of staff photographers and a large format like that of the old *Life* magazine.

Instead of glossy spreads of mill machinery or images of workers, the December issue typically featured handmade decorations or breakfast "feasts," but also smiling children of "Lukenites." Indeed, with the exception perhaps of the World War II era, there was always one issue devoted to Christmas – with the newsletter tone varying widely.

During the depths of the Depression in the 1930s, quaint pen & ink illustrations were used in lieu of photographs and somber announcements proclaimed that the "Mills Won't Run Christmas Day" and that mill office employees were busy preparing food baskets for needy families.



Things were looking up by the late 1940s when *Lukens Life* offered tips about last-minute gift ideas (e.g. a lace stole garment for the lady of the house) and stories were penned by Lukens employees (their job position and department



routinely listed) such as the photo-filled feature titled "Christmas Around the World."

Beginning in the 1950s, the big celebration was the Lukens Veterans Guild's annual Christmas party held at Scott High School.

The 1960s era of "do-your-own thing" inspired many holiday décor and craft stories including a 1967 feature on making decorative eggs for your Christmas tree. The Guild's December activities also expanded into the community, with members wrapping 900 boxes of handkerchiefs – gifts for Coatesville's "pensioners."

By the time *Lukens Life* was discontinued in the late 1980s, the Christmas stories were focused on the Guild's holiday party, with Santa and the Lukens Band the key draws. Still, there was the time in 1980 when Santa may have been overshadowed by a real magician and a "trick" Arabian horse named "The Sheik." The following year, free turkeys were given to every laid-off worker and Lukens closed for the holidays from December 24th to January 3rd. (2)



## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT THE NISHM

You won't want to miss this year's Holiday Open House & Auction on December 9th. The event is very popular for its magical setting and old-fashioned traditions including live holiday music by the celebrated Lukens Band, one of the few brass ensemble bands in the region. What else is in store?

Enjoy delicious holiday refreshments and fare from Wegmans and BJ's holiday menus; visit with the knowledgeable museum staff; and make memories with this holiday annual event. As always, children are admitted free; they can look forward to the Christmas season by enjoying traditional holiday music and seeing displays that include a giant decorated tree and the sweeping grand staircase of Lukens Executive Office Building festooned with garlands.

Share your child's delight with our train display,  
(3) a large and elaborate "0-gauge" layout

with a Christmas and winter theme. Families can also visit Santa for photographs and to share their holiday wishes (don't forget your list for Santa).

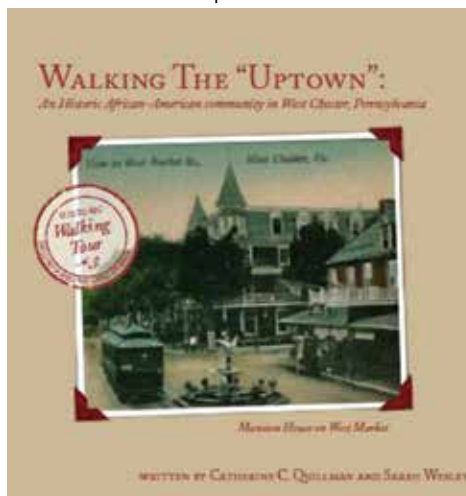
Stroll the grounds of the Lukens Historic District where luminaries will light the way and candles will glow from the numerous windows of our historic houses, each decorated with period displays. Tour guides will be stationed at both the stately 1889 Graystone Mansion and nearby Terracina, the region's rare example of a Country Gothic homestead built in 1849. In addition, you can purchase your Lukens-themed gifts at our museum store. You can also bid on a range of items in our online auction at [www.32auctions.com/NISHM2022](http://www.32auctions.com/NISHM2022).

The Holiday Open House will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. The event is free although a \$5 donation is gratefully requested for each adult. Children are admitted free.

## DON'T MISS OUR HOLIDAY AUCTION

You don't have to wait until December 9th when we open the doors for our Annual Open Holiday House & Auction: an online auction site will allow you to peruse the wonderful gifts and items open for bidding. They include rounds of golf, sports memorabilia, tickets to area museums, gift baskets, restaurant gift certificates, balloon rides, and much, much more.

The auction site is [www.32auctions.com/NISHM2022](http://www.32auctions.com/NISHM2022). Bidding will start on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be open until the close of the Holiday Open House at 8 p.m. on December 9th. Visitors that evening can see a photographic display of the auction items and can bid online using one of the museum's computers.



Auction items include: an autographed baseball signed by All-star pitcher Aaron Nola, and the illustrated guide book of "Underground Railroad" sites in West Chester, part of a guided tour by the author.



Pictured here is Joy Rowland with her handmade rug that she has donated to this year's fundraising auction.

In the center of the rug, brown-flecked burgundy and cranberry yarn represents the warmth and colors of the open hearth, said Joy, a Coatesville native whose father and husband both worked at Lukens.

## COLLECTIONS

### NEWCOMEN SOCIETY LIBRARY

Graystone Society Vice President Al Giannantonio was the docent on several occasions at the Newcomen Society Library and Museum in Uwchlan Township in the 1990s. The Society was moving their corporate offices and was looking to downsize its library and museum artifacts. Al submitted a letter offer to the Society in 2000 to purchase the remaining portion of the library that was initially offered to Harvard University, but remained after Harvard extracted articles of their interest. Al had done research in the library, was impressed with its content, and intended to keep the collection together here in Chester County. After not hearing from the Society for 3 years he was then contacted by their new director, who found his letter in a file and accepted the offer. In the hottest part of July, 2003 with no air conditioning in the Newcomen building; the more than 2,700 volume library was carefully vacuumed, boxed in over 200 bankers boxes at 35 to 40 pounds each and moved to Al's home in over a half dozen trips in his Chevy Suburban. Having been stored there until this donation was made, they will serve as a part of a future research facility at NISHM.



Harry Quinn & David Ferguson transfer the library to NISHM selves. (4)

# 2022 EVENTS IN REVIEW



In July, the Lukens Historic District was one of the featured sites on the annual Town Tours & Village Walks, organized by the Chester County Historic Preservation Network. The event centers on summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, villages.

The theme of this summer's tours was "Founding Mothers and Fathers." Appropriately, visitors who came to Coatesville could learn about the city's namesake, Moses Coates, as well as Rebecca Lukens, who ran the iron works after the death of her husband, Dr. Charles Lukens, in 1825.



In August, Scott Huston greeted members of the Chester County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and was honored to accept a national DAR award that recognized the work of his ancestor, Rebecca Lukens, from Kyle Gibson. Rebecca has been recognized by other organizations as America's first female industrialist, but the DAR award was the first to honor her place in history. Known as the National DAR Award for an Outstanding Woman in American History, the national award is given by DAR chapters across the county and emphasizes how women, both past and present, have shaped the course of the nation.



Each year, we gather to commemorate the attacks on September 11, 2001. Ten of the tridents made by Lukens that survived the collapse of the buildings and were returned to Coatesville in 2010.

Pictured clockwise above, one family who attended the commemoration, Congresswoman Chrissy Houlahan, Coatesville Police Lieutenant Rodger Ollis, and South Coatesville Police Chief Kevin Pierce.

(5)

This year's Chester County Day theme, "Ironmaster County," was well suited and the reason why we participated for the first time since 2013. Nearly 300 Chester County Day participants stopped to see the Lukens Historic District.






## PROJECTS AROUND THE LUKENS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

The year 2022 saw the completion of several projects in the Lukens Historic District.

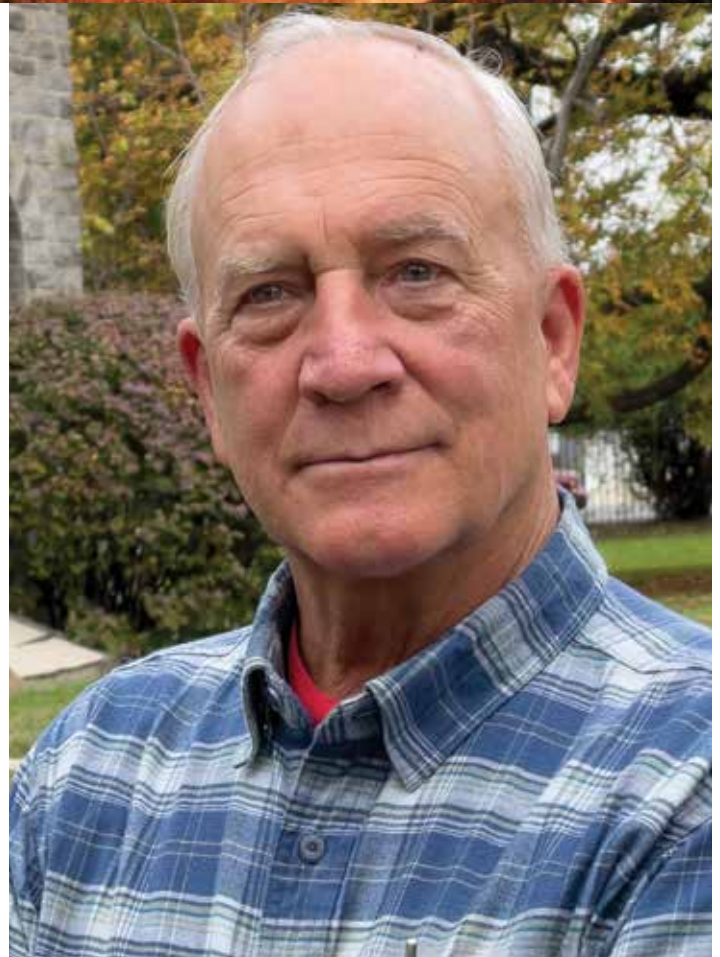
To complement Terracina's new cedar shake shingle roof, painters from M. R. Cockerham Painting Contractors Inc. were brought in to carry out a two-week painting job, using historic colors for all the exterior woodwork including numerous shutters and intricate lattice work.

Another major project – the window restoration of the 120" mill – began more than a year ago with an evaluation by rehab specialists from Patterhn Ives in West Chester. Seventeen of the original 1940s-era windows were restored rather than replaced by new windows, mainly because the old window frames and mullions were made from solid old-growth wood and the glass could easily be recycled, according to

workers from R&B Restoration Carpentry, Inc.

Thanks to Charlestown Paving & Excavating, Inc., we no longer have to worry about the old cracked asphalt and gravel drive, and visitors can now safely tour the grounds. The new asphalt drive extends from the parking lot, past the Visitor Center and just beyond the gate entrance to the Motor House.

Pictured clockwise is the lift that was used for the window restoration project at the 120" mill; painting the lattice on the back porch of Terracina; laying the new paved road in front of the Visitor Center; painting the flag pole near NISHM's visitor parking; a lift was used to reach the upper shutters on Terracina; at work on one of the large 120" mill windows .



## SUSANNAH BRODY

Historian and author Susannah Brody may be more familiar to readers as her alter ego, Rebecca Lukens. That's because Susannah has embraced the role of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century ironmaster since the mid-1990s, when the former special education teacher took a sabbatical and expanded on her earlier research while interning at the former Chester County Historical Society.

Susannah's third book, a history of Dowlin Forge written before she retired from teaching in 1997, first led her to Rebecca (who bought pig iron from the forge). At one point, before Susannah developed her first "living history" program for the historical society, Susannah formally studied the story-telling process and has now lost count of the number of times she has re-enacted the life of Rebecca who, in Susannah's words, "modernized and rebuilt the ironworks," among other innovations.

Since joining NISHM as a volunteer in 2008, Susannah has lent her talents to the museum as a tour guide, educator, collections assistant, and as a member of the Round Table and the committee that selects the annual Rebecca Lukens Award (7) honoree.

## JONATHAN FAIROAKS

There are not many arborists who know trees so intimately, a tree can speak to them about what type of tree house suits the design of their branches. Jonathan Fair Oaks has used that skill for the past 41 years making custom tree houses through his Glenmoore-based business Living Tree LLC.

Of course, there are no tree houses planned for the Lukens Historic District, but Jonathan's expertise as a certified arborist for the past 38 years is not wasted. The District is filled with specimen shrubs and trees, many of them ancient and unusual such as the multi-trunked American sycamore (one of his favorites) and the century-old weeping beech.

Jonathan was introduced to Lukens 16 years ago when he was hired as an arborist by NISHM. Today, Jonathan's weekly duties at NISHM include overseeing the general landscaping such as growing roses or maintaining shrubs.

When he is not anticipating the next project – walking the District grounds with his dog Philomena "Phil" – Jonathan works with the board property committee. "One thing I have done recently is to encourage the planting of summer and fall flowering trees and shrubs."



# REBECCA LUKENS AWARD 2023

Each year NISHM honors an individual that inspires and makes our regional community a better place. The honorees also demonstrate the qualities of our nation's first female industrialist, Rebecca Lukens:

*Leadership - Self-motivation and commitment in pursuing their service.*

*Resilience - Dedication and excellence.*

*Courage - Perseverance and courage in the face of adversity.*

*Strategic Outlook - Honesty and fair dealing in all business transactions.*

Do you know someone in the region who is deserving of the Rebecca Lukens Award? Email your nomination to [admin@steelmuseum.org](mailto:admin@steelmuseum.org). Please include a short biography and reasons why the individual is deserving of the award.



## PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS

- 2007: Mary Sullivan / 2008: Jane Davidson
- 2009: Barbara Travaglini / 2010: Gladys Flamer
- 2011: Nancy Penn-Smith Hannum / 2012: Tamara Miles
- 2013: Regina Lewis / 2014: Molly Morrison
- 2015: Mary Ann Rossi / 2016: Barbara Cohen
- 2017: Frances Sheehan / 2018: Janet Klein
- 2019: Sandra Momyer / 2020: Minnie McNeil
- 2021: Karen Marshall / 2022: Dr. Lorna Stuart

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Bob & Jennifer McNeil

Joy Rowland

Gunnard Berry Carlson Memorial Foundation

Peter & Ruth Nunn



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS WHO JOINED OR RENEWED FROM JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

NEW MEMBERS

BOLD DENOTES 120" MILL CLUB MEMBER & ABOVE

Stephanie Bean  
Harry Byrne  
Larry Harrison

Lisa Leff  
Kathy Lizotte  
Sandie Mather

Diane Nicholson  
Kirk Weaver

RENEWING MEMBERS

(\* DONATES 5+ YEARS, BOLD DENOTES 120" MILL CLUB MEMBER & ABOVE)

Norm & Roxalyn Alexander\*  
Paul Backenstose\*  
Tom Barnett\*  
Bill Beible  
Rob & Eve Biamonte\*  
Patty Biffen\*  
Viola Bird\*  
Sharon Bowyer\*  
Martha Boyd\*  
**Chip & Maureen Breun-  
inger\***  
Al Brown  
Dan & Elaine Burgess\*  
Jay Byerly\*  
Justin Chan  
Allan & Barbara Cohen\*  
Peggy Coleman\*  
Carolyn Comitta  
**Francis Cooper**  
Sherry Deets\*  
Tina DeLiberato\*  
Earl & Eliza Derring\*  
**Eugene DiOrio\***  
Lisa Doan-Harley\*  
Eleanor Donato\*  
Joseph & Lindsay DuBarry\*  
Patricia Edge\*

**Gail Ekstrand\***  
Ellen Endslo  
Charlotte Fiske\*  
**Jim Friedman\***  
James Fulton  
Gary Gill\*  
Nancy Gill\*  
Dominic & Verona Grady\*  
Allyn & Robert Greeney\*  
Jim Groome\*  
Gus Gustin\*  
Carol Haag  
Bill & Linda Handy\*  
Thoms Hanna\*  
Maurice & Judith Hare\*  
Larry Harrison  
Tina Heffner\*  
Tim Hennessey\*  
**Lowman Henry\***  
Herb Hoffman\*  
**Kevin & Priscilla Holleran\***  
Mary Holleran & David Proctor\*  
Carol Holloway\*  
Chuck Hossack\*  
Ed & Ann Hudock  
Barbara Huston\*  
Jonathan Inslee\*  
Jim Jackson & Karl Marking

Dorothy Johnson\*  
Karen Jorgenson\*  
Mary Alice Keen\*  
Clair & Charlene Leaman\*  
Joan Levenite\*  
**Harry Lohr\***  
Lou Mandich Jr.\*  
Deen McKillips\*  
**Bob & Jennifer McNeil\***  
**Michael McNeil\***  
Pat Morroney  
Barry Mowday\*  
Mark & Anna Myers\*  
Christopher Parks\*  
Marion Piccolomini\*  
Nancy Pitcherella\*  
Carol Poinier\*  
Catherine Quillman  
Barbara & Richard Reczek\*  
**Joyce Rowland**  
Robert & Illaria Steele\*  
Charles Stone  
Richard Toland  
Christopher Trunk\*  
Donald Van Horn\*  
Greg Vietri\*  
Bill & Elva Wright\*  
Susan Ziegler\*

WE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS' SUPPORT!  
WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

## PLACES TO VISIT

The Holiday Open House Auction offers a chance to learn history at three of Philadelphia's most popular destinations.

The auction includes eight tickets to the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial in Camden, N.J. This museum is housed in the USS New Jersey, considered to be one of the most decorated and largest U.S. battleships ever built. In self-guided or guided tours, visitors can explore all seven of the ship's levels and decks.

Bid on a year's free membership to the Independence Seaport Museum, a large complex with two vessels – a historic steel warship and a World War II-era submarine – at Penn's Landing. In addition to housing the nation's largest collection of maritime art, archives, and artifacts, the museum hosts special events and offers interactive exhibits, paddleboats, and kayak excursions.

Named for art collector Albert C. Barnes (1872–1951), the museum houses a range of paintings, Native American ceramics, African sculpture, metalwork, and decorative arts. The diverse collection is based on Barnes' belief that creating art is a universal impulse. Renoir, Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso are just a few of the artists represented.



<https://www.battleshipnewjersey.org>



<https://www.phillyseaport.org/>



THE BARNES FOUNDATION

<https://www.barnesfoundation.org/>

## IN MEMORIAM – PETER NUNN & CHARLES "CHIP" HUSTON



The museum lost a dear friend, Vice President/Treasurer of the Museum's Board of Directors, in October with the passing of Peter M. Nunn. Peter and his wife, Ruth, both most recently of New Holland, were staunch supporters of the museum. He was always ready to lend that extra push, when needed, whether in the form of advice or financial support. He spent 40 years with Coopers & Lybrand, becoming a partner. Mr. Nunn, brother-in-law of Charles L. "Skip" Huston III, will be deeply missed.

Charles L. "Chip" Huston IV cast a tall shadow in Coatesville. The son of Charles L. "Skip" Huston III, his passing on September 11<sup>th</sup> from pancreatic cancer dimmed one of the brightest shining stars in Coatesville. As a loving father and doting husband, he was the consummate family man. Whether as a member of NISHM's many committees, the Rotary Club, president of The Huston Foundation, executive director of Chester County's Habitat for Humanity, or as Coatesville's assistant city manager, Chip influenced and profoundly changed the lives of many people in Chester County. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.



THE NATIONAL  
**IRON & STEEL**  
HERITAGE MUSEUM

