

THE NATIONAL
IRON & STEEL
HERITAGE MUSEUM

BOILERPLATE

Fall 2023



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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

(1) region and nation beyond.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe how time flies!! The end of summer is gone and fall is well underway, with the holiday season right around the corner.

Therefore, it is only natural to look back at the accomplishments of the year and plan for the future.

Summer was an exciting time at the Steel Museum. We were very pleased to work with the National Museum of Industrial History and accept a loan of 8 iron and steel related models. We received models of a coking plant, a blast furnace, an open hearth furnace, a degasser, a continuous caster as well as 3 oil rig models. These models of course demanded a quick shifting around of our exhibits. They allow us to better tell visitors the story of producing iron and steel and they compliment our existing models extremely well.

We also continued to improve our grounds with the addition of a badminton court where the Hustons had a grass tennis court behind Terracina. Upkeep of a grass tennis court is beyond our means but having the racquet sport on the same

spot is a great way to have a recreation tradition on the same grounds.

Additionally, we improved the sidewalk on the south side of Terracina to get one step closer (or less) to having full ADA access to this historic property.

Of course we are looking forward to hosting the community with the Holiday Open House. Fellow Board member Al Giannantonio and I will once again set up our train set and snow village as the centerpiece of the December event and ongoing decorations. The auction will once again be a great way for our visitors to support us while obtaining great experiences.

Of course none of this would be possible without our very dedicated staff, sponsors, and members. So I thank you and encourage you to look though the lists on pages 9 and 10. Without the help of this community, none of this would be possible.



Scott G. Huston

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A visitor's perspective: "We didn't know there was so much to see and learn here!", referring to the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum. Visitors to the museum come from far and wide – Alaska, California, Germany and Scotland ... and that's in 2023.

The #1 site chosen to visit here is the Steelworkers' Memorial of the World Trade Center steel columns, followed in order by the Lukens Executive Office

Building, the Visitors' Center, Graystone Mansion and the 120" mill motor house.

Hot spot of the season is the sonarsphere, where the question is often – "What is that?"

Come and see for yourself!



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



THE MODELS ARRIVED!

On a recent fall day, we were thrilled to unload an unusual tractor-trailer shipment – display models now on loan from the National Museum of Industrial History (NMIH), a museum housed in a former facility of Bethlehem Steel in Bethlehem, Pa. A special thank you for assisting us goes to Mike Piersa of NMIH (also pictured on cover) and Rob Biamonte, a longtime NISHM volunteer who is skilled at repairing and maintaining models of all kinds.

Aside from steel products such as oil rigs, most of the models illustrate different steelmaking processes. They include a 1950s method still used today known as continuous casting, or strand casting, as well as a model of today's Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF). Another model officially known as the Stokes Induction Stirred Degasser is part of the electric arc furnace process.

Of special interest are open hearth models like those used at Lukens. Visitors can also see another process: one model offers a cutaway or side view of a blast furnace once used at Bethlehem's Sparrow's Point facility.

Many of the models have working lights. Shown here is the Coke Oven model, which has a fan and orange streamers to illustrate the glowing coal conversion, turning out industrial coke that fueled blast furnaces.





HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & AUCTION

We hope you will join us for the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum's 2023 Holiday Open House & Auction from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on December 8th. It's going to be a grand event! Our guests will enjoy the magical beauty of the Lukens Historic District, dressed in holiday finery. Luminarias line the pathways, refreshments abound, the music of the Lukens Band wafts through the air, and Santa waits for wish lists from eager children.

This year, we are also continuing a wonderful component to the revelry: an on-line auction filled with enchanting items for all. Proceeds from the Holiday Open House and Auction financially support our mission with the implementation of events and programs, providing education and community involvement.

Cost: Adults/\$5.00 Children/Free

(3)



DON'T MISS OUR HOLIDAY AUCTION

Start bidding on fabulous items, tours, and adventures, in the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum's on-line auction, which goes live after Thanksgiving (visit our website at www.steelmuseum.org for a quick link) and ends on the night of the Holiday Open House, Dec. 8, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Just visit 32auctions.com/nishm2023 (after Thanksgiving) to see all of the auction items. Be sure to click "View All" to see the total array of gifts that could be yours!

You will not need a credit card to bid. You can simply mail a check to the museum if you are the winning bidder or pay on-line, whichever suits you.

Watch our social media and email announcements for the start date after Thanksgiving.

Good luck bidding!!!



COLLECTIONS

MUHS' DENTED HARD HAT

Recently, The Graystone Society received a donation from John Muhs of Lewes, Delaware. Included in the donation was his father's hard hat. You are probably thinking "A hard hat? We have dozens. What is so special about this one?" Well, how about this? This hard hat saved a life.

John Edward Muhs worked for Lukens Steel in Industrial Engineering and Labor Relations. He rarely needed to go to the factory floor but on those occasions, he always wore the proper safety gear including his hard hat. Standing 6'5", John stood out in any crowd and was known as Big John. One fateful day Big John's height worked against him, but his hard hat worked for him. A T-beam came loose, swung down, and hit John square in the forehead. John was knocked out cold and went down like the proverbial ton of bricks. Fortunately, his hard hat took the brunt of the impact, leaving him with a monster headache but avoiding a crushed skull. Remember that John was 6'5"? It took eight men to carry him to a waiting ambulance. John was always fond of that hard hat even though it was too damaged to wear after that.



EVENTS IN REVIEW



Clockwise From Upper Left:

State Senator Carolyn Comitta, Manufacturing Day Students, Steelworker Al Fuller, Invitational Vintage Grand Prix, Heidi Marcelli, Chief Kevin Pierce



We were fortunate that the rain held off for us to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks. Among the speakers who presented their personal stories about that tragic day were Coatesville City Manager James Logan, U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlihan, State Senator Carolyn Comitta, and State Rep. Dan Williams. Chester County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz and Josh Maxwell also spoke.

A special thank you goes to two talented vocalists: Heidi Marcelli and South Coatesville Police Chief Kevin Pierce. The Lukens Band was also on hand to provide musical interludes throughout the ceremony.

We also had a chance to share the community spirit, taking part in Coatesville's First Friday events and the Invitational Vintage Grand Prix. As part of the museum's (5) educational mission, we also hosted

several tours including one for Reading's Albright College.

We were especially pleased to co-host a first-time program with Cleveland-Cliffs. This marked the first time Cliffs partnered with NISHM to draw students for an outreach program called "Manufacturing Day."

Designed to highlight careers in the steel industry and what it's like to work in manufacturing, the joint project began with students from Coatesville Area Senior High School arriving by bus. Joined by several homeschoolers, the students saw a short video on the history of the Coatesville iron and steel operations before touring the museum. The program ended with lunch in NISHM's picnic grove and remarks by steelworker Al Fuller and Shelley Hoffman, Cliffs' community relations representative.



HISTORIC DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS

Since the last issue of *Boilerplate*, we have been completing many much-needed maintenance jobs and repairs on the grounds of the Lukens Historic District.

Maintaining the specimen trees in the district is an especially important task for Jonathan Fair Oaks, NISHM's arborist who is shown here trimming one of several American Sycamore trees on the property.

Other jobs were related to cosmetic improvements such as resurfacing a driveway to the Visitor Center and adding parking space lines. Projects masterly undertaken by Charlestown Paving, Inc.

In addition, the cracked and uneven sidewalks surrounding our historic home Terracina were replaced with new pavers by City Construction.

Last but not least was the repair and re-installation of a period door leading from the c.1870 addition on Terracina. That job was completed by Matthew Roberson of R&B Restoration Carpentry Inc., pictured here in the baseball cap, and John Hutchinson of Rose Valley Restorations. They were tasked with the job of repairing old glass and refinishing the door, which has an unusually large doorlight as well as a single-glass transom.





ROBERT WILLIAMS

Many of you may recognize the work here at the museum of our still photographer for events, Bob Williams. Bob's photos of the "Trees Coming Home to Coatesville" are posted next to the Steelworker's Memorial.

Bob is a 35-year staff photographer formerly with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In his 45 years as a photojournalist, he has had the opportunity to photograph eight Presidents of the United States, legislators, key civil rights leaders, musicians, and Americans who made a difference.

Along the way Bob was nominated in 2001 for a Pulitzer Prize for his 9-11 coverage.

The decline of many American institutions has led to him publishing two books, one on the stainless-steel diner entitled *Hometown Diners* and a book about mid-century modern motels called *Wildwood Neon Nights and Motel Memories*, written along with his (7) wife, Melinda Williams.



KRISTEN FUELLE

Kristen Fuelle meets all our accountant and bookkeeping needs through her own company, Woodfield Financial Services LLC. On days when she works in-house, she skillfully manages everything from paying bills, preparing payroll, and reconciling bank accounts, to preparing internal financial reports and statements and participating in NISHM's finance committee meetings.

Kristen, a resident of Exton who established her company there in 2008, came on board in 2011, when she was introduced to NISHM's founder Gene DiOrio. Kristen says they had an "instant connection," having both studied commerce and finance at Villanova University. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and playing the guitar. An avid sports fan, her favorite teams include her alma mater's Wildcats, and the Philadelphia Eagles.

CHARLES 'SKIP' LUKENS HUSTON III IS RETIRING

After an illustrious career with Lukens Steel and The Huston Foundation, and as a direct descendent of Lukens' founding mother, Rebecca Lukens, Mr. Huston is retiring from the museum's Board of Directors. Mr. Huston was also a founding member of the Graystone Society (the parent organization of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum --NISHM) with Mary Sullivan and Eugene DiOrio. Mr. Huston graduated from the Haverford School in 1953. From there he went into the United States Air Force, finally joining Lukens Steel by 1965. He held the position of Vice President of Government Relations, but Lukens' workers knew him differently. He was an "everyman's man".

Skip knew and understood the Lukens

Steel worker and worked hard to make their voices heard, while still remaining a respected member of the management team. This position was quite unusual for a member of management, but not to Skip.



Guests of the Holiday Open House at NISHM (12/8/2023 at 5:00 p.m.) are invited to stop in and say hello to Skip in his office in the Lukens Executive Office Building.

The staff and members of NISHM wish Mr. Huston the best in his new endeavors.

NISHM ON THE ROAD

This summer NISHM hit the road by participating in a number of community events!

Among them:

- Natural Lands "Stardust"
- Taste of Coatesville
- First Fridays in Coatesville
- Coatesville Unity Day
- Chester County United Ways Award Ceremony
- Dan Williams Day at Gateway Park
- Coatesville Grand Prix Preview Party
- Brandywine Active Aging's Moo & Brew
- Manufacturing Day with Cleveland-Cliffs
- Western Chester County Chamber's Annual Dinner



Here at home, Graystone Mansion played host to the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce's Gala On the Green, Coatesville Youth Initiative's graduation and Harcum College's graduation.

LISA DOAN-HARLEY '22 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Lisa Doan-Harley joined the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum Board in the Fall of 2018. Since that time, she has been working extensively with the museum's educational website for students, which is currently in development. Dr. Doan-Harley also boasts a plethora of volunteer hours at the museum in 2022, totaling over 57 hours.



Lisa is a lifelong resident of the Coatesville area, and a graduate of Coatesville Area High School, West Chester University, Wilkes University, and Neumann University. She has spent most of her life as an educator, most recently in the History Preservation curriculum at Coatesville Area High School.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS WHO JOINED OR RENEWED FROM NOV. 1, 2022 TO SEP. 30, 2023

NEW MEMBERS

BOLD DENOTES 120" MILL CLUB MEMBER & ABOVE

| | | | | |
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| Thomas Bullock | Ed Hepp | Ronald Jones | Casandra Olseski | Gregory Stevens |
| Joseph Catanese | John Hollinger | Sandra Mather | John O'Neal | Matthew Stuart |
| | | | | Kirk Weaver |

RENEWING MEMBERS

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

| | | | | |
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| Margaret Coleman | James Groome* | Paul Key | Joseph Pitts* | |

WE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATIVE OF ALL OF OUR
MEMBERS' SUPPORT!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

IN MEMORIAM - SUSANNAH 'SUZY' BRODY

We are sad to announce the passing of Susannah Brody on September 23rd. Susannah volunteered tirelessly at NISHM. In fact, she was our volunteer of the year in 2021, and our own Rebecca Lukens re-enactor.

Suzy grew up in Elkins Park and graduated from Cheltenham High School and Bloomsburg State College before embarking on a thirty-year career as a special education teacher.

In addition to teaching, she spent more than forty years researching the history of southeastern Pennsylvania and wrote eight books that were published by Uwchlan Township Historical Commission, Chester County Historical Society, and The History Press. In presenting stories from her series of Chester County biographies to schools in the area, she became interested in storytelling. She completed a Master of Arts degree in Oral Traditions at The Graduate Institute in 2004. As a



member of Patchwork: A Storytelling Guild and the National Storytelling Network, Susannah regularly shared folk tales, tall tales, local history, and contemporary stories with audiences of all ages, and developed living history portrayals of several important nineteenth-century women, including Dr. Ann Preston and prominent industrialist Rebecca Lukens.

She regularly volunteered at Hopewell Furnace, NISHM, the Chester County Historical Society, and the Philadelphia Folk Festival and was actively involved in community theater at The Barley Sheaf Players for many years.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Joy Rowland



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Chester County Chamber of Business & Industry



Susan Springsteen





'Fall' Hydrangea blooming behind the Tenant House.