



**Minnie McNeil**  
**14th Annual**  
**Rebecca Lukens**  
**Award Recipient**



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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.

## Front Cover:

Minnie McNeil, the 14th recipient of the Rebecca Lukens Award.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One important function of many museums is the role of being a social and community place where people come to share. We enjoy sharing Coatesville's rich history and its place in the story of our nation's iron and steel industry. Visitors come not only from Coatesville and the surrounding region but we have also hosted guests from all around the United States, and the world. Our tours, lectures, trips, events and programs are all opportunities for like-minded individuals to come together and interact by not only learning about the past, but sharing memories with one another.

In recent years, our digital world has expanded our means of communicating, especially over a wider geographical area. We can now express our ideas with more efficiency and at a reduced cost than many of us could ever imagine before. Our Instagram feeds, Facebook posts and our informative websites have enabled us to expand our world and connect with a larger community.

These all continue to be important issues, but we now have a new focus. The safety of our guests, dedicated staff and volunteers, on all levels, at the NISHM is paramount and our number one concern. Therefore, closing our physical space and halting our public programs due to the recent outbreak of COVID19 was necessary.

The NISHM staff collectively agree that social distancing as a means of lowering the rate of infection — the "flattening of the curve," to use

a now universal expression — is the responsible thing to do. However, taking these cautionary steps and embracing uncertainty at times seems so contrary to our mission as a community museum. Our staff has all moved from working on-site to working remotely, giving us time to reflect on our common purpose.



Scott G. Huston

While the diversion of sporting events entertains, arts and culture certainly offers other opportunities to reflect on us as human beings and connected communities

This time of quarantine and self-reflection is a perfect opportunity to explore the virtual offerings of art, history and science museums as well as the area's many cultural sites. Take in a virtual tour or an online exhibit to learn, appreciate art or listen to a musical performance. In times like these, the value of the arts and cultural organizations truly comes through.

Preparing and conducting online programs is a direction we have all been moving towards for sometime. Now the focus will be on strengthening those platforms and programs

I encourage you to take time to use the tools offered digitally to explore not only our museum but others as well. We love feedback so feel free to inform us of sites you visited and liked. Have you discovered any cool online exhibits or classes? Let us know what you liked.

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

## MINNIE MCNEIL— 2020 REBECCA LUKENS AWARD RECIPIENT

As our crowning moment during National Women's History Month, we were excited to announce that we have selected our 2020 Rebecca Lukens Award Recipient, Minnie McNeil, a longtime resident of Coatesville!

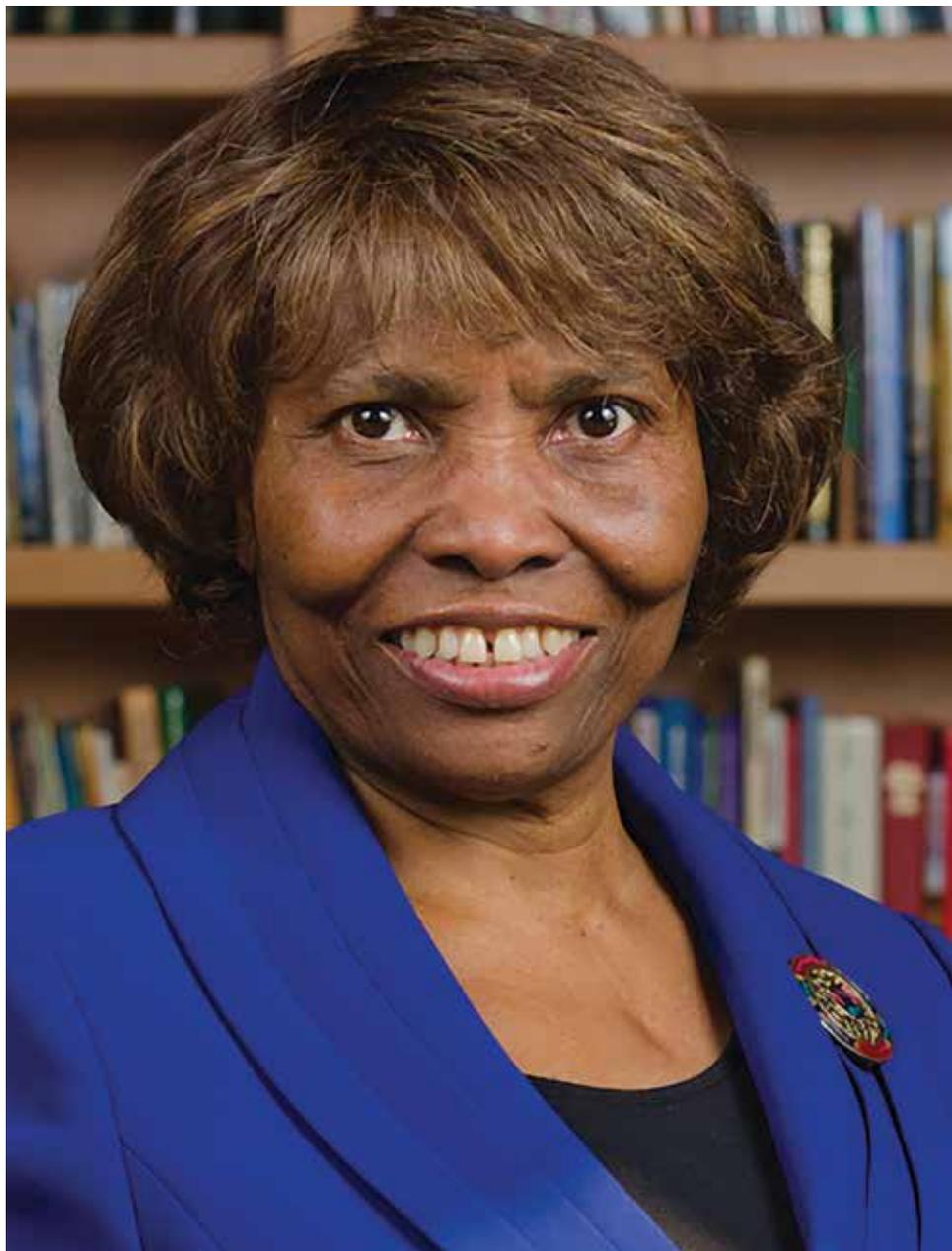
The principles of Simplicity, Peace and Equality are based on the Rules of Discipline espoused by The Society of Friends (Quakers). Rebecca Lukens employed these principles not as a theology but applied them in a practical manner as a means of regulating her business and personal life.

The Rebecca Lukens Award has been established by the Graystone Society in order to honor an individual who exemplify the qualities of Rebecca Lukens.

Minnie McNeil was an integral contributor to the task of opening and operating the W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center in Coatesville. The center includes a men's shelter and in partnership with Brandywine Hospital, a primary-care clinic.

Minnie has also worked to enhance neighborhood revitalization by providing community resources, referrals and housing for lower income individuals and families, as well as transitional housing and a shelter for homeless men in the greater Coatesville area. Minnie has also worked with the center to promote a healthy lifestyle through education, preventive, supportive, and cultural services.

Throughout the years, the center has created community programs and services to empower people in their personal



lives, including diabetic support groups, grandparent support groups, computer literacy classes, English as a second language classes, music lessons, youth summer camp, community gardening, creative arts and photography, after-school homework assistance, weekly health seminars, and so much more.

The influence of Minnie McNeil has invoked community-wide revitalization—not only in the Coatesville environment but in the lives of the people served.



## NISHM Exhibits - Are Getting A New Home

Recently, the decision was made to create a new Visitor Center for the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum. It was decided to convert the former Barn/Firehouse into the Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center. The conversion into the Visitor Center offers a larger exhibit hall to reconfigure our exhibits for an improved visitor experience.

The Barn/Firehouse formerly housed the two Lukens fire engines and ambulance, in addition to the collection of equipment from the G.O. Carlson Test Lab. All three vehicles and the lab equipment have been moved and put on display inside the 120" Motor House building, allowing visitors a much more comprehensive look at the collection. NISHM's tour guides are excited to share with visitors how the test lab equipment is used in the steelmaking process.

The process and products exhibits, that were housed in the Lukens Executive Office Building, have been moved to the new Visitor Center that is located between Terracina and the 120" Mill building on the west side of the Lukens National Historic District.

Renovations to the Visitor Center are currently underway. In addition to adding insulation and finishing the ceiling and walls, we will be adding heat and air conditioning as well as making other modifications to allow us the opportunity to make this a wonderful entry point to the museum. A heart-felt thank you to the following contractors working to finish this project: Harrington Electric, Brandywine Valley Heating and Air Conditioning, McComsey Builders, Lantz Insulation and City Construction.



## COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHANGES MUSEUM LIFE

In light of the encouragement for all citizens to practice measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum will remain closed to visitors and public tours until further notice.

We also canceled all events scheduled so far but we will keep you updated if any of those events are rescheduled by posting at our website at [steelmuseum.org](https://steelmuseum.org).

The staff will continue to implement preventive and responsive strategies to ensure vigilance in sanitizing frequently touched surfaces such as exhibits, tabletops, doorknobs and handrails.

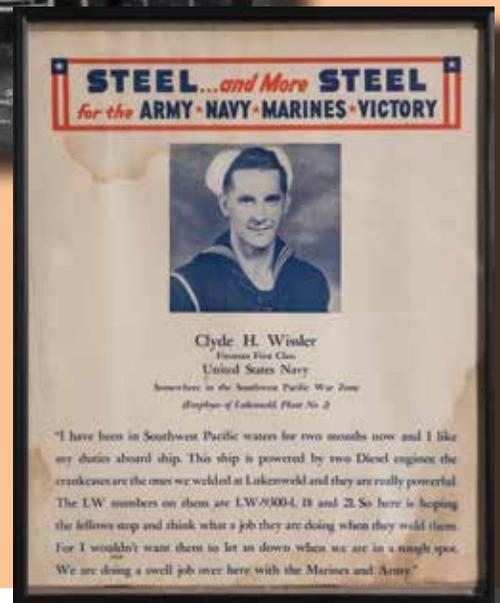
While the museum remains closed, we're pleased to offer many resources to assist you during this time, including online presentations on a range of conservation and preservation topics.

You may not be able to see the Locomotive

or Guppy Submersible face to face, but YOU CAN discover their history online. Visit <https://steelmuseum.org/RestoredArtifactExhibit/index.cfm>

During these difficult times, art becomes more important than at any other time. Art helps us process our negative emotions, and more importantly it helps us channel our emotions into a form that can be shared with others. The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum has ownership of the entire personal collection of industrial artist Klaus Grutzka, who was a prolific artist in the style known as Industrial Precisionism coined in the 1930s. We invite you to browse the collection and share your favorite work of art. Please visit: [https://steelmuseum.org/grutzka\\_LEOB\\_exhibit/grutzka\\_leob\\_march\\_2014.cfm](https://steelmuseum.org/grutzka_LEOB_exhibit/grutzka_leob_march_2014.cfm).

For more of NISHM's online exhibits go to <https://steelmuseum.org/exhibits.cfm>.



*Clockwise from left:*

- Sentinels of Safety Safety Award
- Structural Plate Division of the General Sales Department of Carnegie Steel photograph
- World War II poster featuring Lukenweld employee Clyde Wissler

## RECENT COLLECTION ADDITIONS

NISHM recently received a framed poster that urged Lukens employees to support one of their own while doing their jobs. The poster features US Naval Fireman First Class Clyde H. Wissler, an employee at Lukenweld Plant no. 2, then serving in the South Pacific during World War II. On this poster, he asks that his fellow Lukenweld employees to “stop and think about what a job they’re doing, when they weld” the crank cases for diesel engines powering the US Navy warships. The poster was donated by Sharon Wissler Cooper, Clyde’s daughter.

Received from member Ann Fayles was a Sentinels of Safety trophy. It was awarded by the US Bureau of Mines for the best safety record in mining operations. The trophy depicts a mother cradling an infant. Its message reminds workers that the

happiness of their families depends on their safe return home each day. This particular trophy was awarded in 1961 to the US Steel/ Pioneer Mine/Oliver Mining division.

Another recent donation is a framed photograph that takes you back to a different, more elegant time. Long before the concept of “business casual,” this was the era when businessmen dressed in studded shirt fronts, stiff high collars and had pomade hair. The photo was taken in December of 1905, and shows us the First Annual Banquet of the Structural Plate Division of the General Sales Department of Carnegie Steel. This wonderful photo was donated by Rocky Pavkov.

Posters, trophies, vintage photographs and more. We are always eager to see what will arrive next.



## TOM DEAN

NISHM's newest Board of Directors member, Tom Dean, was born in Philadelphia and grew up in the Philly suburbs.

Tom graduated from Lafayette College with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering and started working at Lukens Steel in 1968 in the Metallurgical Dept. He spent the last 40 years in market development and the commercial sector in the technical/marketing/sales divisions. Focused on the defense markets in his last 20 years, he retired in 2016 after 48 years of service at the Coatesville plant. However, he returned to the plant in 2018 - 2019 to help with some significant capital projects. Tom has lived in West Chester for over 45 years. Has been married over 50 years, and has two sons and three grandchildren.

Tom says he is looking forward to working with such a distinguished group of current board members.



## RACHEL CATHELL

NISHM's new Communications Manager, Rachel Cathell, creates, curates, and manages content for the museum's communication outlets and social media platforms.

A Delaware native, Rachel came to Chester County to fill a position at the Western Chester County Chamber of Commerce.

Rachel started her professional journey by completing her Bachelors of Science in Media Design, Digital Publishing at Wilmington University. She interned at the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Governor John Carney, and then continued on to the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce. Her background includes print and digital design, public relations, media marketing and editorial photography.

Rachel has worked as a freelance photographer for 9 years, utilizing her images in her communication strategies.



## TERRACINA CHIMNEY PROJECT

NISHM has also been experiencing problems with some chimneys at Terracina for some time. Replacing roof flashing and sealing the chimneys has not solved our problems. So we are initiating a larger and more extensive project to address all the chimneys on the building. It will include raking and repointing of the brick, resetting all loose brick, and capping three of the chimneys. Currently we are selecting a contractor and hope to begin before the end of summer.

## LEOB CHIMNEY REPAIRS

During the past year, with damp walls and crumbling plaster showing up under some of its nine chimneys, it became apparent that there were some maintenance issues with the chimneys at the Lukens Executive Office Building.

After consultations with roofing specialists and chimney experts, who conducted both drone and hands-on examinations of the chimney conditions, GSM Roofing was selected to replace some of the flashings around the chimneys. Next Paul's Pointing proceeded to power wash all nine chimneys and then replaced or reset any loose or damaged brick. After this was completed, Paul's sealed the bricks to prevent any further water infiltration and wall damage. Fortunately, the repairs were able to be completed prior to our shutdown in 7 mid-March.



## GRAYSTONE MANSION PAINTING

It has been several years since all the outside of Graystone Mansion has been painted. We have completed painting projects on some portions such as railings, some windows, and interior walls, but currently the entire exterior of the Mansion requires painting. Later this spring, we will begin this large undertaking. M. R. Cockerham Painting has been working with us and will be handling this project for us.

## NEW MUSEUM FEES COMING

Even though the NISHM is currently closed, plans are underway on how to be even better when we reopen and finish our move into the new Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center.

We are monitoring the guidelines from the State Department of Health and the CDC. They will govern when we can safely reopen to the public. With the Visitor Center providing a new central hub for your museum experience, museum fees will be streamlined, and custom options we will be offered.

Based on visitor feedback and tailored to visitor time available for tours, NISHM guides will provide exhibit access according to the interests and time availability of you, the visitor. Admission hours will be 10 am to 4 pm with guided tours at 10:30 and 1:30. We look forward to seeing you soon!

### General Admission:

**\$10 per person**

**Includes:**

**The Lukens Executive Office Building  
Charles L. Huston III Visitor Center  
Exterior Exhibits & Grounds Booklet**

\$3 Discount for:

Coatesville Residents — Steelworkers — Military — Seniors — Students

### Guided Tours: 10:30 am & 1:30 pm

- **\$5 — 120" Mill Motor House**  
(1942 Mill Building)
- **\$5 — Terracina**  
(1849 Victorian)
- **\$5 — Graystone Mansion**  
(1889 Collegiate Gothic)

### Pre-Scheduled Group Visits:

**Includes: General Admission & All Three Tours**

**15+ Adults - \$20/person**

**Students - \$10/person**

*Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 4pm*

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**Peter & Ruth Nunn**

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS  
WHO JOINED OR RENEWED FROM  
AUGUST 1, 2019 TO MARCH 31, 2020

NEW MEMBERS

Cheryl Baker  
Lewis Branson Jr.

Ginny Pierce  
Fay Purvis

Elizabeth Wilson

RENEWING MEMBERS

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

Thomas Barnett\*  
Norman Bernard\*  
John Bertram\*  
Viola Bird

**Chip Breuninger\***

Lindsay Brinton\*  
Susannah Brody\*  
Tony Buck\*  
Jay Byerly\*  
Alex Cann Jr.\*

**Gregory Cary**

Robert Coulter\*  
Gregory DePedro\*  
Clyde Deck

**Eugene DiOrio\***

Joseph DuBarry\*  
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Alan Grubbs\*  
Maurice Gustin\*  
Thomas Hanna\*  
Maurice Hare\*  
Donald Harrop\*  
Timothy Hennessey\*

**Lowman Henry**

Charles Hossack\*  
**Barbara Huston\***  
**Scott Huston\***

Stockton Illoway  
James Jackson  
William R. Keen\*  
Ross Kershey\*  
Margaret Kistler\*  
Clair Leaman\*  
Rodney Linderman  
Marguerite Martin\*

Authur Moore\*  
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Mark Myers  
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David Nunn  
Peter Nunn\*  
Steven Nunn  
Peter Patukas  
Richard Phillips  
Carol Poinier\*  
Cynthia Quinn  
James Sacco  
**Richard Saha\***  
**Ted Skiadas\***  
Robert Steele  
Ronald Stoudt\*  
Sharon Tandarich\*  
Trudy Wendt\*  
Howard Wright\*

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

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

## WELCOME NEW TOUR GUIDES

NISHM welcomed new tour guides to our Saturday staff.

**Catherine Quillman**, former staff reporter for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, historic preservationist, contributor to many local and national publications and president of Quillman Publications.

**John Ross**, a principal at Ross Deacon Design (an architectural and interior design firm), a longtime member and tour guide at Hibernia Mansion and president of the Friends of Hibernia.

**Melinda Williams**, also formerly with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and now managing partner at The Williams Group, a marketing and photography firm.

**John Wickman**, formerly a career metallurgist for Lukens Steel, now an adjunct professor at Immaculata University.

Although NISHM is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, once it reopens please join these staff members for guided tours every Saturday at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm.



Catherine Quillman



John Ross



Melinda Williams



John Wickman

## IRON & STEEL WEBSITES TO VISIT



Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark  
<https://www.slossfurnaces.com/>



Steel Plant Museum of Western New York  
<http://beta.steelplantmuseumwny.org>



Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site  
<https://www.nps.gov/hofu>

THE NATIONAL  
**IRON & STEEL**  
HERITAGE MUSEUM

