The snows of this past winter are a fading memory. The spring flowers are just beginning to poke through the ground with the increased sunlight. The purple “Glory of the Snow” (*Chionodoxa*), as well as the yellow daffodils are beginning to emerge. It is a time of hope and anticipation. As we put the winter and hopefully lockdowns behind us, I know you, like me, are eager to visit some of the places that make Pennsylvania so special. While we have had some great engaging programs recently, such as Dawn Riley on her America’s Cup journey and Tyree Warner on African American-Named Liberty Ships in WWII, we have so much more to look forward to. First, we are very honored to announce Karen Marshall as the 2021 Rebecca Lukens award recipient. I have worked with Karen since she began working with Chester County to jump-start the iron and steel region project. Karen has worked with countless preservation organizations and history projects, being a great advocate of all that makes Chester County great. We look forward to recognizing both Karen and 2020’s Rebecca Lukens award recipient, Minnie McNeil at a digital event on May 5, 2021. While our programs for the near future will remain online, we do anticipate re-opening our exhibits for visitations this summer. I am very excited about displaying Charles Lukens Huston III’s (Dad’s) train collection, as well as reinstalling exhibits about the Lukens Steel Company including the people and the process that made great products.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Spring is here and 2021 looks brighter already. Karen Marshall has been selected as the Rebecca Lukens Award Recipient as you will read in the following pages, and details of honoring both Karen and our 2020 Rebecca Lukens Award Recipient Minnie McNeil are forthcoming.

You can visit the grounds of the Lukens National Historic District on a self-guided walk with interpretive signs throughout. We have taken this time of closure to refurbish a new Visitor Center (still in process) which will hopefully open in early July. In the meantime, please visit www.steelmuseum.org to immerse yourselves in the many expanded online exhibits and lectures to learn more about iron and steel making in the region and beyond. Online visitors grew from 31,000 in 2019 to 78,000 in 2020! We look forward to having you come onsite to see what the team has been busy doing to provide for your experience here. Take care.
Karen Marshall — 2021 Rebecca Lukens Award Recipient

The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum (NISHM) is honored to present their 2021 Rebecca Lukens Award to Karen Marshall. Ms. Marshall is the county historic preservation officer for state and federal projects within Chester County.

Former Rebecca Lukens Award Honoree, Sandy Momyer comments, “Karen is retiring from her position as Heritage Preservation Coordinator, Planning Services Division of Chester County in April. In addition to all of her work on iron and steel, Town Tours and Village Walks, she has done so much more.”

Another former Rebecca Lukens Honoree, Molly Morrison, recalls Ms. Marshall’s numerous accomplishments, “Karen has provided phenomenal direction, encouragement and technical assistance to citizens, historical commissions and organizations throughout Chester County. During her tenure, she has worked in most, if not all of Chester County’s 73 municipalities, as well as the county Parks and Recreation Department, to identify, document, interpret and preserve Chester County’s remarkable built heritage. As a member of the Chester County Planning Commission, I know that Karen prefers to stay behind the scenes and defer credit to local communities whenever possible, so that they are able to build on their own successes. But behind the scenes, her assistance in explaining processes, encouraging volunteers, and making connections between those with interest and those with technical expertise, has been invaluable in many Chester County success stories. Historic resources have been saved and the public has benefited from a stronger and more direct connection to our history.”

Karen Marshall has always admired Rebecca Lukens. “When we were mapping the 1777 road network in the county for the Brandywine Battlefield study project,” Karen writes, “we began to notice all the early “Roads to the Great Valley. That great limestone and Brandywine Creek valley that was Caln and Sadsbury would give birth to a famous migration route and industrial might for our region. There is no irony that Downingtown and Coatesville emerged as industrial centers. Rebecca Lukens correctly gauged the many resources available to her and went to work. The making of iron and steel is no place for the faint of heart – we need to honor and remember everyone who came before us and the enormous sacrifice that many made.”

The Rebecca Lukens Award is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors: Citadel, PECO, Prosper Bank, Unruh Turner Burke & Frees, Brandywine Health Foundation, Edge Wallboard Machinery Co., JacobsWyper Architects, Patterhn Ives, Peter & Ruth Nunn, and Rainer & Co.

The Rebecca Lukens Award will be presented to last year’s Honoree, Ms. Minnie McNeil and Ms. Karen Marshall on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at a digital event. Please join us by referring to our website, www.steel museum.org for full event details.
Visitor Center Nears Completion

Renovation of the Charles Lukens Huston III Firehouse into the new Visitor Center is clicking along at a rapid pace. The newest installation is the “Train Wall”. Expertly designed by longtime NISHM member and Board Member, Albert “Al” Giannantonio, the train wall was physically created by Bob McComsey of McComsey Builders in Parkesburg. The multiple shelves will have ridges that hold the train’s wheels in place and a plexiglass covering to protect them from dust.

The wall will house the train collections of Charles L. “Skip” Huston III and Eugene DiOrio (and his family members). Over the course of three mornings, staff and volunteers have so far accessioned (includes photographing and numbering each item), 379 model train cars. Past visitors to the museum may recall the trains in live action at our annual Holiday Open House. Visitors to the Lukens Executive Office Building may also recall the train exhibit with interactive designs, such as horns that blow, track sounds, and conductor’s calls. That exhibit will also be housed in the Visitor Center.

Clockwise from upper left: Bob McComsey from McComsey Builders and Al Giannantonio prepare shelves as Dereck Lewis and Andy White from McComsey’s work on the train wall. Dereck from McComsey’s is attaching wall brackets. Kathy Bratton, NISHM Collection Manager, marks a train car with it’s accession number. Volunteer Lauren Tushar photographs a train car. Shelving is pre-grooved for the wheels of the trains. Al Giannantonio, the display designer, test fits one of the shelves. Al, a member of NISHM’s Board of Directors, tests out cars on the pre-grooved shelves.
One Mega Watt Vacuum Tube Donation Received

We are proud to announce a truly unique addition to our collections: a 1 mega watt vacuum tube. The tube, made by THALES in France, came through a generous donation from Richardson Electronics of Le Fox, Illinois. It made possible the welding of steel pipe up to 8” in diameter and with a wall thickness of 0.3”. It was used in an Electronic Resistance Welding (ERW) machine that manufactured both steel tube and pipe.

Vacuum tubes for use in the steel industry were first introduced in the 1980s and could produce steel tube and pipe up to 18” in diameter at a rate of up to 300 feet / minute.

Today, newer ERW machines use solid state components instead of vacuum tubes. However, far from being sidelined, similar high power vacuum tubes are finding uses today in other applications such as laser cutting, plastic welding, textile drying and many others.

Phoenixville Historical Society Offers Artifact Donation

NISHM is benefiting from the generosity of another museum. Last year, we were contacted by Barbara Cohen from the Phoenixville Historical Society (PHS). The Society has a large collection of objects from Phoenix Iron & Steel Company. Several of their pieces are on display, but many more are in storage. PHS thought we might be able to make better use of some these stored items, and are donating any of the items that we may be able to use.

The PHS collection includes a wide variety of wooden molds used in making steel objects. One such mold was used to make the original street lamps for the Golden Gate Bridge. Along with that mold, NISHM has also selected a number of molds for railroad switches, gear boxes, line shaft assemblies, and others. We also selected a set of metal bins that contain alloying elements. These molds and the alloy bin will be used to interpret the steel making process.

While PHS is very generously donating these items to NISHM, it is up to us to transport the items to Coatesville, which is estimated to cost $6,000. NISHM will be looking to its members and sponsors to cover the this. Until these funds can be raised, the items will remain in storage in Phoenixville. NISHM is currently looking into ways of off-setting this moving expense and welcomes members’ suggestions.
Steel Stories Series Begins 2021 Program Season

We began 2021 with three diverse offerings. To celebrate Rebecca Lukens’ 227th birthday we dug deep in the archives to view a living history presentation — with a twist. Bethlehem Steel hosted Charles Schwab and Rebecca Lukens, or at least actors portraying the figures, at its 1996 Operating Meeting. Historically accurate? Interesting, for sure!

The February 4th Black History Month presentation of “Liberty Ships Named for African Americans” proved to be immensely popular. Led by Tyree Warner and supplemented by Larry Freeman (of the Liberty Ship John W. Brown Museum in Baltimore, MD), each story of African American- Named World War II Liberty Ships proved more riveting than the next.

A 22-year-old Coatesville native, Tyree spent three years in the Coatesville Youth Initiative and one year in the Coatesville Youth Philanthropy Program. At Coatesville Area Senior High, he was elected Vice President of the Junior Class. Larry Freeman, a longtime NISHM member shared his own personal experience on the ship John W. Brown and the enduring significance of the Liberty Ships during WWII.

For Women’s History month, on March 4th, we welcomed a Zoom call with Captain Dawn Riley for “Steel Stories—America’s Cup”. As an American sailor and pioneer in sailboat racing, Dawn discussed the “America’s Cup 1995”. It celebrated the 25th anniversary of an all-female crew and the challenges and opportunities that it presented.

Dawn spoke to a full audience and was happy to take questions from participants, who were mesmerized by her stories of life and racing on the water. She was the first woman to ever manage an entire America’s Cup syndicate.

Steve Tsuchiya opened up the discussion, as an America’s Cup historian and Chairman of the Selection Committee of the America’s Cup Hall of Fame, located in Bristol, RI.
Spring Finally Arrives

Hopefully, we have seen the last of the snow this season. The snow removal project this winter proved another mammoth operation, with the need for six plowings this year. Not only does Manley Fence Company plow, but they also shovel all of the walkways in and around the Historic District. How much snow is removed/pushed? Your guess is as good as ours!

When you see the budding lavender, periwinkle, and white star-like flowers known as the “Glory of Snow” carpet the lawn of Graystone Mansion, it’s hard to believe that just two weeks earlier it was covered in a frigid white frosting.

But now, the *Chionodoxa* bloom, alongside over 900 daffodil and tulip bulbs, some graciously donated and planted by longtime NISHM Board Member, Martha Skiadas. Museum volunteers, Francis Ciarrocchi and Kevin Anderson aided in finding the “right home” for all of the bulbs and plants. A glorious Spring awaits here at the Historic District!
MEET THE MUSEUM

Janak Amin

As CEO and President, Janak leads the team at Prosper Bank with values-driven principles that he has cultivated throughout two decades of executive leadership experience in the banking industry in Pennsylvania and Florida. With a focus on enabling a pathway to financial success for associates, customers, and communities, he has built a culture that values knowledge, inclusiveness, integrity, and accountability. A graduate of The Wharton School Advanced Management Program, he received his MBA from Penn State University and BA in Accounting, Business Management, and Economics from the University of Liverpool. Janak has served on the Boards of Holy Spirit Hospital, Harrisburg Symphony, Susquehanna Art Museum, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Central PA, and as Board Chairman of the Hindu American Religious Institute. He resides in Exton with his wife, Alka, and their two daughters. Janak serves on three NISHM committees.

Tyr ee Warner

A former intern at NISHM, after graduating from C.A.S.H. learned the trade of contracting, interior design, remodeling, plumbing, and exterior design. Some of his biggest achievements in this field include 4 full remodels of distressed properties. He has also been investing in the stock market since 2012, (self-taught) with the help of some online courses in economics, finance, and accounting.

He recently started an Amazon store where he is selling watches. He is currently a mentor to several younger individuals, teaching them about investing in the stock market, IRAs, cryptocurrency, money management and the importance of credit.

Overall, he has a deep passion for learning and excelling, especially in science and real-life applicable studies. He believes in self-research. Most importantly, he feels no matter where anyone is in life there’s always a lesson to take from any individual you encounter.
Thank You To Our Sponsors
**Thank you to all of our members who joined or renewed from December 19, 2020 to March 23, 2021**

**New Members**
- Fred Kelso
- Thomas Lewis

**Renewing Members**
(* Donates 5+ Consecutive Years, Bold Denotes 120” Mill Club Member & Above *)

- Charlotte Asherman
- Al Brown
- Susannah Brody
- Robert Coulter*
- Ross Davis*
- James Fulton
- Dominic Grady*
- Bill Handy
- **Charles Huston III***
- **Scott Huston***
- Vonie Long
- Mark McGill
- Christopher Parks*
- Mary Ann Shumway*

**We are greatly appreciative of ALL of our members’ support!**

**We couldn’t do it without you!**

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**In Memoriam: Rosanna (Rose) Terriman**

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the family of Roseanna (Rose) Terriman who passed away on February 12, 2021, her 67th birthday. Rose was a longtime member and supporter of the museum. She directed her memorial gifts to the museum, and we thank her graciously for that honor. Rose was a Technical Specialist and Assistant to the President of Lukens Steel for 45 years. She was also an avid animal lover.
Available From The Museum Store

Taking the Helm/One of America’s Top Sailors Tells Her Story, by Dawn Riley & Cynthia Flanagan

America’s top female sailor tells how she brought the U. S. Women’s Challenge to an against-all-odds finish in the harrowing Whitbread Round-the-World Race in spite of dissent, disagreements, and life-threatening weather. Hardcover $40.00

Herreshoff of Bristol, by Maynard Bray & Carlton Pinheiro

1878 John Brown Herreshoff, a blind boat builder from Bristol, Rhode Island, went into business with his younger brother, Nathanael Greene Herreshoff, a naval architect and stream engineer. The name of their new firm was the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company.

The story of the Herreshoff Mfg. Co, is the story of a remarkable American dynasty. It is as complex and surprising as the minds and characters of the two brilliant Rhode Island brothers who founded the company over a century ago. Hardcover $95.00

Great Yachts, by Russ Kramer

56 Full-color pages and over 100 images of historic yacht paintings by one of America’s leading marine artists. Russ tells the fascinating stories behind classic vessels and colorful personalities vividly depicted in his oil paintings. Includes chapters on Russ’ inspirations and his detailed methods in recreating the nation’s yachting history. Hardcover $50.00

Iron & Steel Websites To Visit

Long Island Maritime Museum https://www.limaritime.org

Herreshoff Marine Museum https://www.herreshoff.org

American Merchant Marine Museum https://www.usmma.edu/museum