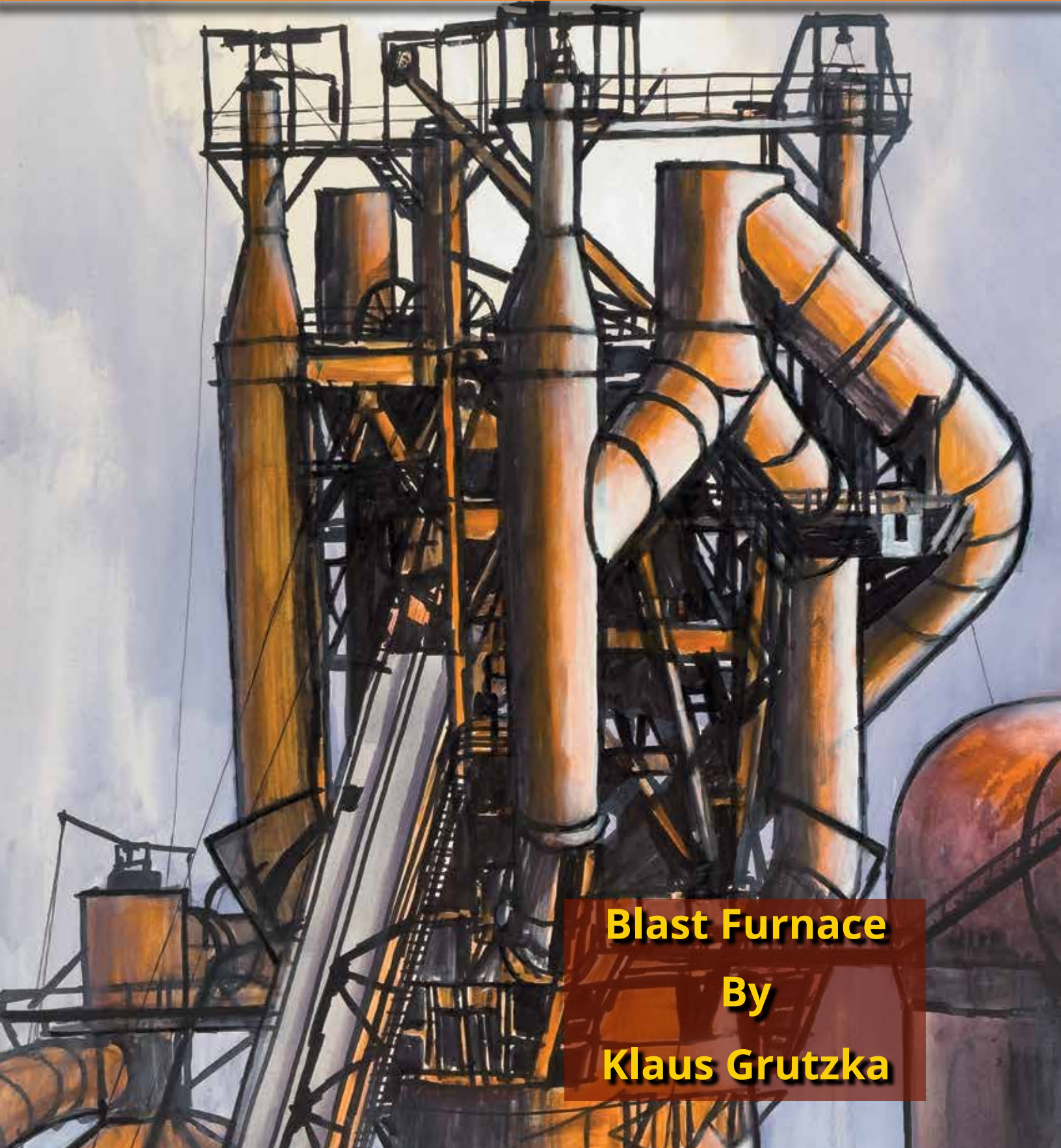


THE NATIONAL
IRON & STEEL
HERITAGE MUSEUM

BOILERPLATE

Spring 2023



Blast Furnace

By

Klaus Grutzka

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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.

(1)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is my favorite time around the museum and Lukens National Historic District. The magnolias and the daffodils add a tremendous amount of color and signal the arrival of warmer weather. 2023 is off to a great start.

We are excited to announce that Mary T. Holleran is this year's Rebecca Lukens award recipient. Mary owned and operated Studio 3 in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, where many photographs, paintings, maps, and other keepsakes, were framed and preserved. She operated that business for 31 years, from 1978 to 2009. She was also very instrumental in many community organizations over the years, including being chair for the Brandywine Health Foundation's garden party, as well as being on the boards at the Brandywine YMCA, and Downtown Main Street Program. Mary is a true asset to our community.

We are also very excited to have visitors returning at similar levels to 2019. People are coming from all over, such as Connecticut, Alabama, even Germany and the UK. While we may not be the principal reason for their visit, we

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We invite you to enjoy the stories about Coatesville's thriving iron and steel history (as well as the current steel plant owner, Cleveland Cliffs), by visiting the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in the upcoming weeks. Your tour can be customized to fit your time and interests with opportunities to get "behind the scenes" to see the mechanical techniques of iron and steel making from the Visitor Center exhibits and videos. The extensive

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certainly enjoy the fact that they include us in their itinerary of things to see in Chester County. We feel that our visitors certainly get an understanding of how to make iron and steel, the products they go into, as well as getting a glimpse into the life of Rebecca Lukens. The emergence of the restaurant scene is certainly a welcome addition to the amenities visitors can enjoy when visiting Coatesville. We are looking to partner with these local restaurants and adding images of the iron and steel process so their diners can have an understanding of the drama that is making iron and steel.

Our grounds continue to be improved with the addition of a badminton net on the former site of the lawn tennis court behind Terracina. We are also excited to be working on our educational website that will offer course curriculum in different areas such as history, science, and art. None of this would be possible without the help of our members, staff, volunteers, and corporate partners. I am very humbled by the fact that these strong groups of dedicated people, such as yourself, choose to support NISHM.



Scott G. Huston



Jim Ziegler

grounds include a large variety of flowers, trees, and other plants, which create a gorgeous backdrop for photographs. Host your next event at Graystone Mansion, and we promise that your event will be perfect. We hope to see you soon!



*Clockwise -
Scott Huston presents
Mary with the Rebecca
Lukens Award
certificate, Chester
County Commissioner
Josh Maxwell presents a
proclamation honoring
Mary, 2016 Rebecca
Lukens Award honoree
Barbara Cohen shares
experiences with Mary.*

MARY T. HOLLERAN - 2013 REBECCA LUKENS AWARD RECIPIENT

Mary T. Holleran, a Coatesville native, and well-known community builder in Chester County, accepted the award in a special morning ceremony at NISHM.

For the past 45 years, Ms. Holleran has been entwined with many community-service projects in Coatesville and Downingtown, as well as being the owner of Studio 3 framing shop in Downingtown from 1978 to 2009.

Scott Huston, pictured above, spoke of Holleran's personal connection to his family and to NISHM. "Mary Holleran has been a true friend to Coatesville. For years, I took many treasured artifacts to Studio 3 for framing. Mary always treated these irreplaceable documents with professionalism and care," Huston said, "She and her brother, Kevin, have been staunch supporters of all we do here at the museum. We're grateful for the voice they lend to our institution."

Mary has received many community awards over the years and has served on several boards including that (3) of the Brandywine Health Foundation (now the

Alliance for Health Equity) in Coatesville for which she chaired the group's popular garden party fundraiser for ten years. She was also a board member at the Brandywine YMCA and the Downingtown Main Street program.

Today, Mary credits her strong family ties and growing up in Coatesville for inspiring the life goals she set for herself. She credits her passion for art to the liberal arts education she received at the all-female Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts. In 1976, Mary married David Proctor, now a retired legal librarian, and together they raised two daughters, Elizabeth Holleran Hess, and Laura Holleran DeMatteo.

Like Rebecca Lukens before her, Mary realized the value of believing in her community. "When people ask me where I am from," recalls Mary, "I always say, 'Coatesville'. I'm a Coatesville girl! I'm so very proud of Coatesville with all the wonderful changes that are happening in the city right now. I just know it's destined for success!"

VISITORS

Visitors to the museum are rebounding from the low levels we saw during the COVID pandemic. Some of the groups that have visited this year so far have included (Clockwise from top), the Harford County Photography Group in March, also in March a history class from Albright University, and in February Senator Carolyn Comitta pictured with Jim Ziegler, Scott Huston and NISHM Treasurer Greg Cary.



EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

As an educational institution, NISHM is always looking for ways to help public, private and homeschool groups. When looking at the reports of what visitors look at on NISHM's website, steelmuseum.org, and talking to teachers and homeschool groups that visit NISHM, we see that the people, products and processes are usually the areas of interest.

To that end, NISHM has begun development of an expansive addition to our website. Lisa Doan Harley, a retired educator and member of NISHM's Board of Directors, along with John Wickman, a former Lukens metallurgist and educator, are developing curriculum that ties into Pennsylvania's educational standards. Lesson plans will be grouped around the historical, scientific and artistic thinking areas.

Miller Designworks, with a long record of working with history institutions in designing websites and on-site displays, has begun the production of our new website highlighting these areas.

RELIGHTING THE LUKENS NEON SIGN

For those of you who recall the giant Lukens neon sign on the end of Open Hearth #3, get ready for déjà vu. The sign, which was rescued by Eugene DiOrio (in the late 80s when it was removed), is in the process of being renovated. The inspiration came from Joy Rowland, whose father and husband both worked at Lukens. "I remember that sign all lit up from when I was a child," recalls Rowland. "I know it's the dream of many in Coatesville to see that sign illuminated again." So Joy provided the seed money for its restoration. But we still have a long way to go. If you'd like to be a part of "Relighting the Lukens Neon Sign", reach out to Melinda Williams (610.384.9282) for details.



COATESVILLE CULINARY FUTURE IS TAKING SHAPE



Going to a restaurant in Coatesville? You will soon be able to enjoy viewing items from NISHM's historic collections while you dine. Three new restaurants on Lincoln Highway have requested items to give their dining areas a historic Coatesville "vibe." The first of these is The Iron Eagle On Lincoln. Located in the former Coatesville Cultural Society Building, the walls will display posters made from artwork in our Klaus Grutzka collection.

The next restaurant is Steel City Brewing. Developed by Mark Milanese, the restaurant and brewery is located in the original YMCA building, currently under

restoration. With the opening planned for Summer 2023, patrons will enjoy an exhibit from NISHM's collections. However, there is an even better reason to visit. For each purchase of their Lukens' Lager, Steel City will donate a dollar to NISHM. The diner gets great beer, NISHM gets cash. No way to go wrong with this one!

The last restaurant is 30 Prime Seafood and Chophouse. Decidedly upscale, the restaurant will be in the restored National Bank of Coatesville building. Renovations are scheduled to be completed in time for a 2024 opening. Diners will enjoy the menu offerings of Chef Phil Ferro while being surrounded by vintage images from NISHM's photo collection of Coatesville in "the good old days". We encourage you to enjoy each of these restaurants that are helping to shape Coatesville's culinary future while surrounding their patrons with memories from (5) Coatesville's past.



*Clockwise from left:
Pennock Apple tree,
Preston Thomas'
Lukens Rose bush,
Victorian-era tennis
court on Terracina's
back lawn.*



*What we have been given
Is ours to share with those beings
Who appreciate the gift*

*Jonathan Fair Oaks
NISHM Grounds Manager*

HISTORIC ROSES, APPLES AND GAMES RETURN TO NISHM

In keeping with the historic background of the Lukens National Historic District we strive to make the grounds and plantings reflect the tradition that has been established here.

The creation of an orchard is an ongoing endeavor to restore the "Pennock Apple" to its rightful place. Using cuttings from trees at Primitive Hall we hope to procreate enough apple trees to make saplings available for everyone in the future! You can find our modest beginnings of grafted trees near the ingot, aka the 200th Anniversary Monument.

Rebecca Luken's yellow roses are also being reintroduced to the Historic District as a result of a donation of cuttings from Preston Thomas. According to Thomas family folk lore the 'Lukens Rose' (aka Harison Rose/ Yellow Rose of Texas/ Oregon Trail Rose) has been passed down through six generations of the Thomas

family. Legend maintains that the rose came from Rebecca Lukens' garden and was gifted to Ethel Thomas, wife of Rebecca's 2nd great grandson George Thomas III, by Rebecca's granddaughter Hannah Gibbons. After meeting with Preston Thomas, we took the young transplants to 3 locations; the greenhouse, the mulch pile and the established planting beds. At this time the planting in the mulch pile show the earliest new growth. We anticipate a spectacular performance in our landscape.

A favorite current non-agrarian project is to restore the lawn tennis court behind Terracina. Do to size limitations we will be setting up a badminton net. Rackets and birdies will be available courtside for anyone to use.

Come walk the grounds and admire the beauty of nature!



DICK HARRINGTON

Dick Harrington has been NISHM's go-to-man for all things electrical since the 1980s. He runs his Wagontown-based electrical services business with his brother, George, but generally works solo at the museum.

Like many at NISHM, Dick has a Lukens' connection. His father worked at the mill before starting his electrical business in 1952. Dick grew up in Wagontown, where he still lives with his wife, Sandra where they raised a son and daughter. Dick had an early start as an electrician while working in the family business (he's one of the sons of the name, Harrington & Sons, Inc). He also studied to be an electrician while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1973-1978.

Dick's work here has included jobs like rewiring dozens of Victorian hanging lamps. His most recent "challenge" was installing a fiber optic cable to connect the Executive Office Building, Visitor Center, and Motor House, a job that required digging past (7) old railroad tracks and "unknown walls."

KATHY FRANCISCUS

Kathleen "Kathy" Franciscus has worked for NISHM as an administration assistant since 2007, but that may be an understatement. Her part-time job entails more than proverbial "9 to 5" work. A Coatesville native, Kathy has connections to the museum that extend to former Lukens colleagues and friends, as well as volunteer work at NISHM's special events.

Kathy's history with Lukens goes back decades. She graduated from the Coatesville High School in 1960, but started work at Lukens in the sales department when she was still a high school senior. She took time off to raise her first daughter, but she remained at Lukens for more than 30 years, working various jobs in between two short-term "retirements." The first "retirement" happened after several years working for Lukens' industrial relations dept. She then returned to work to be the so-called "problem solver" in the service department.

Anyone who worked for Bethlehem's successor, International Steel Group (ISG) will remember Kathy's expertise in the human resource department.

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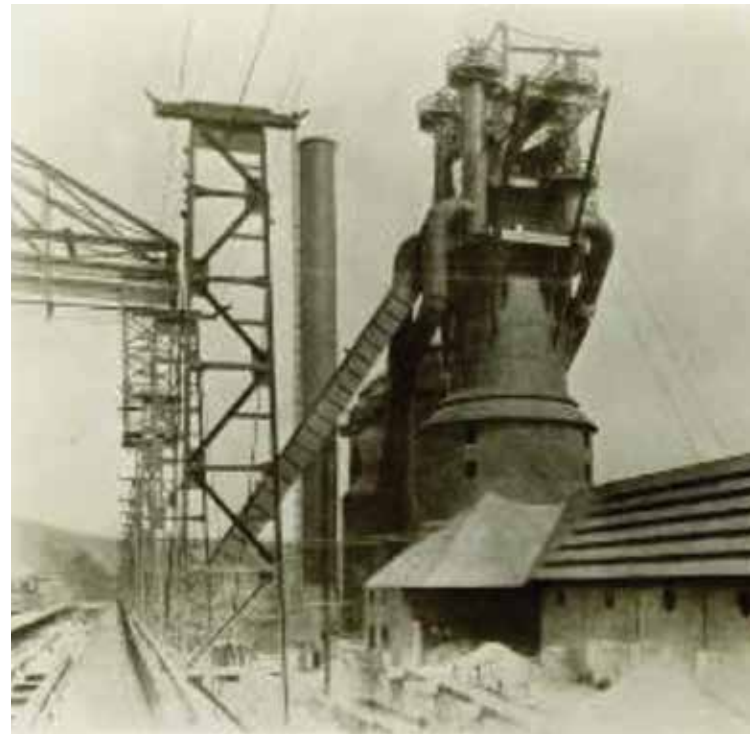
Susan Springsteen



BLAST FURNACES CONTINUED

In August of 1917, blast furnace #3 opened – or to use the industry lingo of the day, “was blown in” on a hot summer day. Along with improved gas burners, the draught of the furnace was assisted by stacks that could be seen for miles around.

Within a year, the company was producing 600 tons of steel per day and was the largest blast furnace on the East Coast. (By 1923, #3 furnace was expanded and was one the nation’s four largest blast furnaces.) The brothers sold their mills to Midvale Steel & Ordnance Co. in the fall of 1915. Then in 1923 Bethlehem Steel Co. purchased Midvale. Bethlehem abandoned their Coatesville mills in 1931 with the exception of the Viaduct Mill, which Lukens purchased in 1944. In 1946 G. O. Carlson Co. leased space from Lukens, eventually purchasing all the buildings on the old Viaduct Mill site. About 2005 after Carlson stopped production at the site the buildings were razed.



Worth Brothers Co. Blast Furnace #3

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL

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WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

LEARN MORE ABOUT OTHER BLAST FURNACE SITES

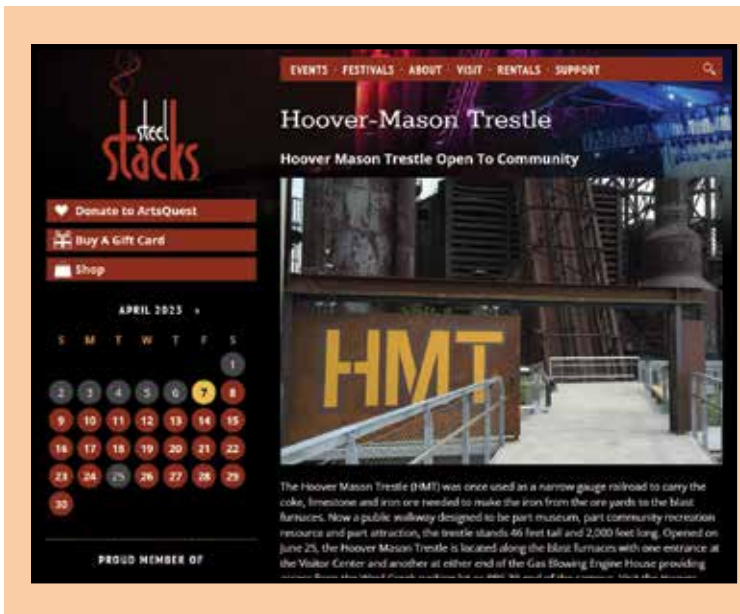
SLOSS FURNACES

<https://www.slossfurnaces.com>



HOOVER MASON TRESTLE

<https://www.steelstacks.org/about/venues-at-steelstacks/hoover-mason-trestle/>



CARRIE FURNACES

<https://riversofsteel.com/attractions/carrie-furnaces/>



NISHM NEEDS YOUR HELP - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to help with tours, collections, office work, and events. Museum tour hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. Available opportunities include:

- Special Events – set up, man registration table, clean up
- Collections (Tues., Wed., and Thurs.) – organize rooms, accession process, etc.
- Tour Guides (any day) – tour visitors through steel exhibits and historic homes.
- Saturday Office Help – answer phones, greet visitors when staff is unavailable.

If interested, please contact Jim Ziegler, Executive Director, at execdir@steelmuseum.org, or call 610-384-9282. Thank you!

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