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Seneca Museum of Waterways & Industry Spring 2021 Newsletter

Since our Winter Newsletter, the incidence of COVID-19 has been declining in the Finger Lakes Region, so that once again we can begin to plan for future in-person events, still observing the necessary cautionary behaviors. Executive Director Rhonda Destino is back from maternity leave, and has hit the ground running. Below, she outlines a number of plans for future programs. Also, co-chair of the Development committee, Cheryl Terryberry, outlines several exciting fundraising events to support the Museum's programs. In addition, this month we begin highlighting the work of our volunteers, and describing some of the Museum's important historical artifacts.

Board President's Message

By Sheila Giovaninni

Spring has sprung!

The Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry is springing forward to bring you a new calendar of events! You can look forward to the return of our First Fridays, new Virtual Opportunities, a Chicken BBQ, a Golf Tournament, new Exhibits, children's programming (including the return of "Summer in a Box"), a spectacular Wine Dinner, local partnerships and much more!



We look forward to welcoming you at 89 Fall Street where you will continue to find a COVID-safe environment as a result of our state-of-the-art heating/AC system, sanitizing wipe stations, routine cleaning, and mask mandate.

Come enjoy the new season at Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry!

Executive Director's Message

By Rhonda Destino

In this edition of the newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of our 2021 programs that we are dedicated to creating a fun, safe, and COVID compliant environment for all:

First Friday Program: We are creating a unique calendar of First Friday programming for the rest of the year. We have started out the year doing virtual events for these Fridays, and we are delighted to start back with in-person events in May for this program. Please stay in touch via our eblasts, our website calendar and Facebook posts for all of the details that will be happening every month.

Book Club Series: We have more room left in our book club series. This is a free program and focuses on the strength of fictional and nonfictional female characters as a continuation of the centennial celebration of the women's right to vote. There are three different books with three different facilitators- come learn with us! Please find more information here: <https://sfheritagetourism.com/bookclub/>

Summer Camp In-A-Box: We will be providing our summer camp via "box" again this year due to COVID recommendations for children's programming. This popular program will launch in July and we are thankful to all of our volunteers assisting with this program again this year. Our theme for this year's box is "**Connecting Through Waterways**". More to come on this in our next newsletter!

It's A Wonderful Life: 75th Year Celebration: This year is the 75th anniversary of the release of the It's A Wonderful Life movie. We will be having regular programs and activities all year long that will focus on this remarkable celebration. We will be supporting and advocating for LEGO to create a special set dedicated to It's A Wonderful Life. Creator Jason Middaugh has provided more information for our newsletter audience about this project here:

It's a Wonderful LEGO LIFE

By Jason Middaugh

Did you know that anyone can be the creator of an official LEGO set? Through the LEGO Ideas process, LEGO has opened this door for fans all over the world to design and submit their product ideas, and since 2011, the company has released multiple LEGO sets each year based on fan-based creations. With your help, a LEGO model with a local

connection could become a reality along with previous ideas like "Steamboat Willie", "Back to the Future", and "Friends", which all became official LEGO sets through the LEGO Ideas process.

Our family is from Upstate NY, and we have a dream of being the creators of the next LEGO Ideas set. Wouldn't it be fitting if that set was also based on an Upstate NY inspired idea? In April 1946, 75 years ago, filming began on one of the all-time classic movies, which has its roots in Seneca Falls, NY. Frank Capra's timeless masterpiece, "It's A Wonderful Life", is set in the town of Upstate NY town of Bedford Falls, and its similarities to Seneca Fall with the truss bridge, Italian population, and references to other nearby cities in the film, coupled with the fact that Capra passed through the town in 1945 while writing the script for the movie, make the connection rather obvious.

Now we would like to immortalize the film even more with the world's most iconic toy. The proposal for "It's A Wonderful LEGO Life" would include the Granville House, the Bailey family, Mr. Potter, Clarence, George's car, the YOU ARE NOW IN BEDFORD FALLS sign, and of course, the famous truss bridge. In order to make it to the product review phase with LEGO, a project must receive

10,000 votes on the LEGO Ideas website. The great news is that this idea is already more than 40% of the way to the goal; however, there is still a long way to go to get there, and your help is definitely needed. It is totally free to vote, but LEGO does require a log-in to their site to prevent duplicate votes. The links to vote and pictures of the models are all on the It's A Wonderful Life Museum website:

<https://wonderfullifemuseum.com/LEGO>

What can you do to make this idea a reality?

- 1) VOTE! (it is the only way to make it happen)
- 2) Leave a nice comment on the LEGO project page for LEGO to read

Make *It's A Wonderful Life* an official LEGO Set!

George
Lasso's
The Moon

LEGO IDEAS

Help us get to 10K VOTES on the LEGO site!
<https://wonderfullifemuseum.com/LEGO>

Have ideas on how to help generate support for this LEGO family project? Contact the creator directly: jason.m.midddough@gmail.com
Follow the progress on Facebook: www.facebook.com/IAWLL

3) Spread the word! Tell everyone you know, and make sure that they vote and share too!

Copies of our prototypes are currently on display at the It's A Wonderful Life Museum, and we are happy to report that starting in mid-April, our original models will also be on display at the Seneca Falls Heritage and Tourism Center. Be sure to stop in and see them, along with a LEGO model of the Bailey Building and Loan, and even a LEGO version of the Bedford Falls High School gym floor that opens and closes! My wife, Tina, and our 12-year old daughter would just like to say thank you for all of the support we have received so far, and to thank everyone in advance for helping to make our family dream come true. Hee-Haw and Merry Christmas (a bit early).

Share Your Story! Did You Or Someone You Know Work for One of the Companies that We Showcase in our Museum?

We are creating virtual content and want to add more voices to our online and virtual projects. We are looking to share your stories of what it was like to work for one of the companies of Seneca Falls industrial history that we showcase in our space. You can be recorded for just audio or full video telling your story or a story of a family that has been passed down of their work. We will provide everything that is needed- you just bring you and your story! Some of those companies include: The Seneca Knitting Mill, Goulds Pumps, Sylvania, Westcott Rule, Seneca Falls Machine, Seneca Falls Manufacturing, Marshall and Adams Clock, Cowing and Company, Downs and Company, Gleason and Bailey, Silsby Manufacturing, Rumsey, local foundry/railway/farming/dairy and/or NYS Canalways. If interested, please contact our Director at director@senecamuseum.com for more information.

Fundraiser Updates 2021

by Cheryl Terryberry; Co-Chair, Development Committee

Golf Tournament

On Wednesday, June 2, the first annual Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry golf tournament will be held at the Seneca Falls Country Club. For further information see <https://sfheritagetourism.com/golf-tournament/>. On the website, you can sign up to sponsor a hole/tee or can register your 4-person team. Proceeds will support children's programming.



Father's Day Chicken BBQ

On Saturday, June 19th the Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry will hold a chicken barbecue at the Five Star Bank, Waterloo starting at 11 a.m.. The event, catered by Ace Automatics (formerly Manhill Food Service), will benefit children's programming. Tickets are \$10 presale and \$12 day of the event. They can be purchased from any board member or at the Heritage and Tourism Center (home of the Seneca Museum), 89 Fall Street, Seneca Falls, NY. June 19th coincides with Father's Day weekend. What a great way to celebrate dad and benefit children's programming at the same time!

Exhibit Showcase

In the 1840's, most shellers did not separate the cob from the corn, and Burrall's was perhaps the first to invent a sheller that did. In use, shellers of the 1840s simply deposited cobs and kernels in a pile on the ground. The working mechanisms of most were fully exposed and made no accommodation for a bucket to catch the corn. Patented in 1845, the Burrall sheller was an important improvement in corn shellers.

Burrall also designed and produced threshing machines, cultivators, corn shellers, plows, mowers, reapers and a drill that applied seed and manure in a single operation.



In 1855, with a workforce of forty, Burrall Manufacturing produced two hundred and fifty reapers and other implements with a total value of thirty-thousand dollars. (approximately seven hundred seventy thousand dollars today)

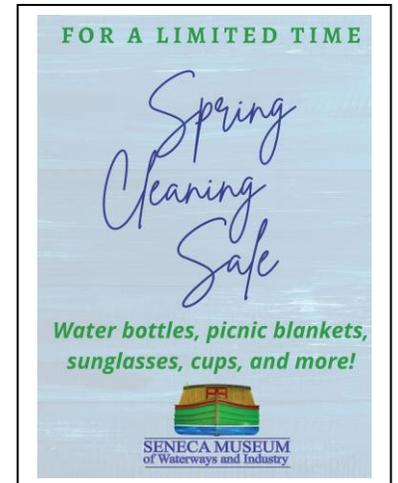
Almost no formal documentation exists on Burrall shellers. However, by the 1880s, other companies -- including Goulds Manufacturing Company and Rumsey & Company, both of Seneca Falls, NY - also manufactured Burrall shellers. Decades later, it remained a hot commodity. Even after 1900, it was still shown in the *Farm Implement News Buyers Guide* as being produced by a number of companies.

Gift Shop Sale

We are doing a bit of Spring cleaning and are having a 50% off gift shop sale on select items starting in the month of April while supplies last. Come on in and see what we have to offer and get a great deal.

Meet our Volunteers

Beginning this quarter, volunteers will be highlighted in our Newsletter. This issue we introduce long-time, regular volunteers at the Center and Museum, a brother and sister duo, Mike Midey and Joan Blanchard. They are lifetime Seneca Falls residents, and love to reveal local history to visitors, and to provide them with interesting things to see and do in our region. Both are retired educators: Joan was an Elizabeth Cady Stanton teacher, and Mike a superintendent in both Romulus and



Joan Blanchard



Bloomfield. True to their backgrounds, Joan especially enjoys speaking with the visitors, and learns something new every week that she volunteers. Mike is a history buff, also passing on his local knowledge (such as the Geological Survey marker at the post office and the fossils in Trinity Church), but like Joan, Mike is willing to do anything needed for the Museum, even

Mike Midey



down to sweeping the floors and changing light bulbs. They are really looking forward to a time when the pandemic is under control or eliminated, and sponsored activities can once again proceed without restriction. They are both looking forward to Music in the Park continuing in the future. Joan expressed her wish that hands-on activities for

children could once again be implemented. Mike would like to see children's events that would bring kids in, for example hands-on activities emphasizing science. With all the events coming up, they are enthusiastic helpers for such events. As volunteers, Mike and Joan see future opportunities here and find pleasure for in being a part of creating an even improved visitor experience for locals and tourists.

A graphic with the text "We ♥ Volunteers" in a stylized, bubbly font. The word "We" is in a smaller font, followed by a red heart symbol, and then "Volunteers" in a larger font. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin black border.

Love What We Are Doing? Come Be A Part Of It

We are always looking for volunteers and have a couple of seats on our board open that we would love a dedicated person who shares our passion for history and tourism to join us. Please contact our Director at director@senecamuseum.com for more information on these opportunities.

Membership Appeal:

The Seneca Museum of Waterways & Industry annual membership appeal is continuing. Our community activities are partially funded by grants, but we depend on our memberships to help defray increasing costs of operation and activities. Some of the perks of being a member are a 20% discount on items in our gift shop, a quarterly e-newsletter, paid event discounts, member-only events, and advance notice of events. More importantly, your membership supports an important community resource! Please visit our website at <https://sfheritagetourism.com/> for more information. In addition, membership information appears on the last page of the Newsletter, as always.

Membership and Volunteers

Like all non-profits, SMWI needs YOU - as a volunteer and as a member in order to fulfill our Mission and Vision.

Memberships may be paid via check or credit card to: **Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry**, PO Box 388 Seneca Falls, NY, 13148. If you prefer, you may also pay via credit card over the phone (315-568-1510) or in-person at 89 Fall St. Seneca Falls. **Please, know that your Membership is greatly appreciated!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level:

Individual \$35 Family \$50 Junior \$10 Veteran \$25 Veteran Family \$40

Method of Payment:

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____
Code _____

Check payable to *Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry*

Mission Statement: *The Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry is dedicated to captivating and educating audiences of all ages with the town's rich industrial and waterways industry.*

Vision Statement: *The Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry will be the gateway to the community, providing interactive and engaging experiences for all visitors.*