



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 in-person events, still observing the cautionary behaviors which have led to this result. . Executive Director Rhonda Destino is back from maternity leave, and

Executive Director's Message

By Rhonda Destino

Meet our Volunteers

Beginning this quarter, one or two volunteers will be highlighted in the Newsletter. This issue we introduce long time volunteers at the 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 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, is willing to do anything needed for the Museum, even

down to sweeping the floors. They are really looking forward to a time when the pandemic is under control or eliminated, and activities sponsored by the Museum can once again proceed. Music in the Park in the summer is something to which they and we are looking forward, and 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 into the Museum, for example hands-on activities emphasizing science. I told them about the

Mike Midey



Joan Blanchard



upcoming events the Museum will sponsor, including the golf tournament. They would be enthusiastic helpers for such events. As volunteers, Mike and Joan see future opportunities for the Museum: for now, though, they emphasize the pleasure they gain in being Museum volunteers.

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 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. For further information see <https://sfheritagetourism.com/golf-tournament/>

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.

Staying Connected With Us:

There are several ways to stay connected with us in addition to becoming a member: become a volunteer, donate, like us on Facebook, read our website blog, and join us at our events. You can find out how to do all of these things on our website!

Board President's Message

By Sheila Giovannini

As always, we appreciate the support of our members and look forward to seeing all of you soon!

Bedford Falls Gingerbread House Contest

By Judy Pipher, Board Member

Although the Gingerbread House Contest had fewer entries this year because of the pandemic, (29 as opposed to more than 50 last year) there was no diminution in quality. New staff member Teresa set up 3 tables for the age groups 8 years old and younger; 9-13; and adult (14 and above). All who came to vote on their favorites commented favorably on the displays this year. Board member Wendy Sparks and I made 27 houses to decorate, and there were a few entries with houses built at home.

8 years and under top; Adult (14 and over) middle; 9 - 13 years bottom



And the winners are:

3-8 years old Harper Tanner and Grayson Kinsley

9-13 years old Maddox McCully

14 and above (adult) Casey Powless

We thank the following vendors for providing prizes, or a gift card to purchase prizes for all the children and special prizes for the winners: Wegmans Geneva; TOPS Seneca Falls; Walgreen's Pharmacy Waterloo; Kinney Drugs Seneca Falls; Walmart Waterloo. Congratulations to all the contestants!

Fundraiser Updates 2021

by Cheryl Terryberry

Development Committee co-chairs, Jim Terryberry and Cheryl Terryberry, with their committee members have solidified plans for fundraising events and activities for 2021. Since they take place later in the year, and the first two are outside, we have high hopes that we can proceed with them. Seneca Falls Country Club has confirmed the first annual Seneca Museum of Waterways and Industry golf tournament for Wednesday June 6, and the Winemaker's Dinner for Friday October 1. Ace Automatics (formerly Manhill Food Service) has confirmed our chicken barbecue for Saturday June 19. It will be held at Five Star Bank parking lot, located at 1940 Routes 5&20, Waterloo.

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 village'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.