Strawbery Banke introduces visitors of all ages to those who lived in the Puddle Dock neighborhood through immersive experiences: playing games, dressing in costumes, interacting with roleplayers and practicing traditional crafts. Learning history through their own personal investigations of the past, schoolchildren, families and adult guests participate in the stories of Strawbery Banke. The 2019 calendar offers an exciting variety of vacation camps, school programs, craft workshops and special events. 

Continued on page 3
From the Chairman

This year’s Candlelight Stroll was one of the best ever in the 39 year history of the events. We thank you and all of your guests for making this a ‘don’t miss’ event on the holiday calendar. And we trust you had an opportunity to enjoy the special welcome provided to members in the Walsh House and admission discounts.

My own experience was that the campus was full of holiday activity, with smiling guests, lots of very entertaining costumed roleplayers and double the number of horse-drawn carriages filling the candle-lit lanes, against the backdrop of the skating rink. Then inside the houses, roleplayers (including more Juniors than ever), the signature handmade decorations and music filled the hours with lights, seasonal sounds and action.

Candlelight Stroll is everything Strawbery Banke strives to be, year round: an experience, not just a place — a unique, fun, immersive way to experience historic Portsmouth. Strawbery Banke offers an authentic interpretation you don’t often see anywhere else, a distinctive destination, thanks to the museum’s curation of original historic buildings and their contents, and the skilled staff who present the stories of Puddle Dock.

Being the stewards of this experience is a tremendous responsibility. It takes every imaginable resource (not the least of which is a creative entrepreneurial spirit), passion, a deep appreciation for the museum’s physical, historical and human treasures, and a solid group of friends and families — you — at our back.

The end of 2018 marked only the three-quarters point on the museum’s year. The last quarter of FY19 is spent looking ahead to another season in the historic houses, new exhibits and features, new programs and new guests. It is also the time that we look at the balance sheet and make course corrections to adjust for shortfalls (all the rain really impacted everyone who relies on attendance at outdoor events). The Museum’s Annual Fund drive is in full swing between now and March 31st and we welcome any contributions you might want to give. Know that we deeply appreciate the support of Members. And that the months ahead at Strawbery Banke will be filled with unique, immersive and unforgettable fun.

Thank you for your support.

Zach Slater

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Saluting Junior Roleplayers

Over the course of the 2018 season, historical roleplayers between the ages of 12 and 17 volunteered over 1000 hours at museum special events! In order to qualify as a museum volunteer, Junior Roleplayers must participate in a two-week summer training camp where they learn about the time periods and individuals they portray, as well as historical crafts and the basics of museum interpretation. Congratulations to these incredible young people for giving so many hours of dedicated attention to Strawbery Banke Museum!

Stephanie Pixley and Augusta Manchester portray Sally and Lydia Shapley in the Shapley Driscoll House during Stroll.

Seacoast skating with the stars

Ice Dance International professional skaters return to Portsmouth for a special 5th anniversary celebration of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond!

In addition to professional performances, this show features five local “stars” paired with the pros and competing to become the Seacoast champion!

Saturday February 9, 2 pm
Rain date: Sunday February 10, 10 am
Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond
Strawbery Banke Museum
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth NH
Tickets at StrawberryBanke.org
Post-show public skating session included in ticket

[Image of skaters]

[Image of Seacoast skating with the stars advertisement]
Strawbery Banke is one of the leading outdoor history museums in the country. Through events, collaborations with local and statewide organizations and dedicated members and volunteers, Strawbery Banke contributes to a community with a deep and resonant sense of its place in history. Museum visitors drive $5 million into the local economy ($2.37 for every $1 spent at Strawbery Banke). So it is vital to support Strawbery Banke through donations to the Annual Fund. The museum’s fiscal year ends March 31, 2019. Please use the enclosed envelope or make a secure donation at StrawberyBanke.org/Donate.cfm While there, take a look at the short videos that members of the museum’s National Council (above) taped to explain the various reasons they support Strawbery Banke.

Dr. Lucy Salyer presents *Under the Starry Flag*

D r. Lucy Salyer, Associate Professor of History at UNH with special interest in American immigration, assisted Strawbery Banke and community partners by moderating the “Becoming American” film discussion series. She extends the discussion, focusing on Irish-American immigrants with an illustrated talk based on her new book, *Under the Starry Flag: How a Band of Irish Americans Joined the Fenian Revolt and Sparked a Crisis over Citizenship* on March 20th.

As the publisher, Harvard University Press notes, “In 1867 forty Irish American freedom fighters, outfitted with guns and ammunition, sailed to Ireland to join the effort to end British rule. Yet they never got a chance to fight. British authorities arrested them for treason as soon as they landed, sparking an international conflict that dragged the United States and Britain to the brink of war. *Under the Starry Flag* recounts this gripping legal saga, a prelude to today’s immigration battles.”

**Recent Gifts Put “History Within Reach”**

Thank you to the following generous donors whose gifts make possible Strawbery Banke’s “History Within Reach” scholarships to underserved schools. These gifts fund scholarships for the 2018-19 school year.

- The Windover Foundation
- Wilfred and Emily Hall
- Georgia-Pacific Foundation
- Marion C. Cohen Trust
- The Jack and Dorothy Byrn Foundation

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Richard Schubart**
Board member

**Ronald Eugene Pecunies**
Lifelong resident of Puddle Dock
This watercolor and ink-on-paper Wendell Family coat of arms (2000.274) was drawn in 1804 for Jacob Wendell. The depicted tulip and rose indicate the family's Dutch and English heritage and the ship flying the American flag surely signifies Wendell's mercantile endeavors. The motto, portrayed on three panels, reads "Nec, Asperra, Tennent" which translates to "Difficulties Be Damned." The artwork was purchased at auction by Strawbery Banke in 2000.

Merchant and businessman Jacob Wendell purchased a home for his family on Pleasant Street in Portsmouth in 1815; and subsequent generations occupied the house until 1988. Chase House is largely furnished with furniture and other domestic objects owned by the Wendell Family. Strawbery Banke features Wendell Family objects from the museum’s and other private collections in the special 2019 Rowland Gallery exhibit, “The Wonderful World of Wendells: Curators of Community.”

Horticulture Learning Center
Opening May 2019

Strawbery Banke Museum’s Horticulture Learning Center in the restored Cotton Tenant House is configured to be a teaching space for the Historic Landscape Department. Complementing the Traditional Crafts Center in the adjacent house and bordering the Ethnobotanical Herb Garden (created in 2013), the Center’s programs are designed to preserve and interpret heirloom plants and gardens, teach hands-on garden crafts, and archive on-line learning opportunities utilizing the museum’s garden-related historical collections. Stay tuned for details.

Visit strawberybanke.org for updated schedules and event details

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH