

BANKENOTES

STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM

ISSUE 3 2020

Letter from the Chair

AS CHAIR OF THE BOARD of Strawberry Banke Museum, I wanted to take a moment to discuss the Covid-19 pandemic and how it relates to the museum as a business. As the Chair, along with the President and staff, I have to keep in mind the fiscal oversight with which the Board of Trustees is charged. The primary business of Strawberry Banke is delivering an extraordinary experience to you, our guest — whatever “extraordinary” means to you. You might love us for our educational experiences, or for our ability to take you back in time. Maybe you love to get together with your friends at one of our events, or to strap on skates in the winter. Perhaps you volunteer with our Archaeology department or in our gardens. Whatever brings you to Strawberry Banke, it is our primary charge when faced with challenging times to make sure we have the financial wherewithal to sustain the museum so we can deliver that experience to you, year after year.

When the Governor announced his Stay At Home orders, we had to take drastic steps to protect our staff and everyone we serve, and to ensure the survival of our beloved museum. In addition to the pandemic’s impacts on employment, travel, health and business, it has had a tremendous impact on the non-profit world. Every organization we know and love in town has modified its schedule and programming. We are too. And we, too, are worried about the financial impact we’ll experience over the coming months.

Our fixed costs don’t change. The campus and our 39 buildings need the same level of maintenance and upkeep. But on the revenue side, we have experienced dramatic declines. To start, we delayed the season opening and the ability to collect daily admissions, until July 1st. Our wildly popular “Baby Animals” became a virtual event. The moving July 4th Naturalization Ceremony does not take place this year. And Vintage & Vine, our largest fundraiser of the year, is being reimaged. Our robust educational programming and summer camps will be operating in virtual form.

So, what to do? To start, we have to cut costs. To meet the guidelines of life under the pandemic, we will be offering guided tours to a limited number of participants at a time, with appropriate PPE and cleaning protocols in place, and maintaining physical distancing by focusing on experiences outdoors and in our gardens. Ticketing online will eliminate lines in the Visitors Center and reduce exposure for the visitor services staff. That means, however, that museum members will have to plan their visits more carefully than when membership meant open access at all daily admission times.

We are committed to maintaining the special access to Strawberry Banke you are entitled to as a member. You are the ones who support the museum, day in and day out.

(continued on page 2)



Summer Camps at a Distance 2020

One of the best things about summer camp at Strawbery Banke is the magical feeling of being in such an historical place. However, the pandemic has demonstrated how to adapt to difficult circumstances and find happiness in new things. So, rather than cancelling summer camp, Strawbery Banke introduces Summer Camps at a Distance, adapting tried-and-true camp activities into projects and experiences for kids to meet and learn from the museum's talented camp staff via Zoom.

Each camper receives a kit containing all the materials needed to engage in several hands-on activities and interactive experiences for the week. In addition, they will have an agenda for each Zoom meeting so they can pick and choose when they want to take part and when they would like to do something on their own. Zoom calls will be offered between 9 am and 12 noon and will not exceed 90-minutes. Activities are designed so that kids 8+ can be successful without an adult. 6- and 7-year-olds are welcome to join with an adult. For details on all the camps, visit StrawberyBankeCamps.com Cost per camp: Members \$25; Non-members \$35. For questions, please contact Bekki Coppola, Director of Education, bcoppola@sbmuseum.org



Led by Alexandra Martin, Strawbery Banke Museum Archaeologist, the 2020 Archaeological Virtual Field School offers students in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, history, or related fields, training in archaeological methodology. The course will culminate in participants' development of an online StoryMap and/or blog post to share the results of a self-led research question. The instructor provides videos from the museum grounds and lab, course readings, and exercises. Field School participants meet briefly each day on Zoom. No previous archaeological experience required.

Members \$20; Non-members \$35. To register, please visit StrawberyBanke.org



Strawbery Banke Museum is pleased to offer this online program at a discounted rate thanks to the Thomas M. Lynch Archaeology Field School Scholarship, made possible through a donation from T. M. Lynch Pellet Stove Services.

Congratulations, Graduating Junior Roleplayers!

2020 has brought plenty of challenges, but at Strawbery Banke, it is a year to celebrate. This spring, the largest group of Juniors Roleplayers in the history of the program graduated! Together, these incredible young adults have contributed over 1500 hours of volunteer time to the museum since joining the Junior Roleplayers program. Strawbery Banke is endlessly grateful for the time and effort that each of them has dedicated to the organization over the years, and applauds their individual accomplishments.

Strawbery Banke Museum is confident that while not all the graduates plan to study history, this generation will make history. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Brianna Baker, York ME
Carnegie Mellon University
Sammy Drumm, Medfield MA
Santa Clara University
Clarissa Gowing, Exeter NH
University of New Hampshire
Lucy Gilchrist, Portsmouth NH
Yale University
Cate Hanley-Miller, Durham NH
Adelphi University
Shea Hogan, Newington NH
Occidental College

Sarah Hoskin, Rye NH
Bryn Mawr College
Emma Katona, Portsmouth NH
Lesley University
Pari Kim, York ME
York Community College
Emma Kinsey, Durham NH
Scripps College
Mari Patch, Portsmouth NH
Keene State College
Annabelle Svahn, Newbury MA
Williams College

Letter from the Chair from page 1

Members can call or make online reservations in advance for your visits. Walk-ins may not always be able to secure a ticket for the day or time they want. Your membership ensures the privilege of access and priority. At the same time, if you can extend a voluntary contribution to help support this radically different structure and its reduced numbers of daily visitors, that would be very much appreciated.

Thanks for your continued and much needed support. With your help, I know Strawbery Banke will make it through this. In the meantime, stay healthy and safe.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Zach Slater
Chair, Board of Trustees

Telling the Story of Kenneth Richardson in Penhallow House

Strawbery Banke has made a commitment to exploring a richer and more detailed understanding of the history of this neighborhood. Preparing to interpret one story on Portsmouth's Black Heritage Trail — Judge Samuel Penhallow whose home and office were in the Penhallow House (now part of the museum) when it was two blocks away — Strawberry Banke found a deeper, more recent history.

When last occupied, just before the museum was created in 1958, Penhallow House contained three apartments and the daily lives of an extended African-American family. Curator Elizabeth Farish will be working with JerriAnne Boggis and the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire to research one member of that family, Kenneth Richardson, and his 20th century story of Black Portsmouth and Civil Rights.

Young Kenneth attended the Whipple Junior High School and played the saxophone, and then trombone. As an adult, Mr. Richardson worked at the



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and became the first Black Supervisor. He sat on the Equal Employment Opportunities Committee (EEO), administering and enforcing civil rights laws against workplace discrimination. He also offered barbershop services in his home and led a brass band. His band's performances around the Seacoast were documented in the *Portsmouth Herald*. He is buried in Harmony Grove Cemetery in Portsmouth.



Make a Plan for Giving – Join the Puddle Dock Society!

With a planned gift, you can make a significant and long-lasting impact on Strawberry Banke Museum and the museum's programs and services for years to come. Make a planned gift through a will or Living Trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or a more sophisticated estate planning vehicle. Those who make planned giving arrangements as part of their legacy become members of the museum's Puddle Dock Society and are recognized:

- ◆ in the annual Honor Roll of Donors;
- ◆ with special event invitations;
- ◆ with annual updates from President & CEO Lawrence Yerdon.

To learn more about supporting Strawberry Banke Museum with a planned gift, please contact Joe April, Director of Development, at japril@sbmuseum.org or 603.422.7551.

IN MEMORIAM



TOM PERRON, CHEF OWNER OF MOMBO RESTAURANT. On June 4th, Strawberry Banke lost a dear friend and supportive partner, Tom Perron, chef owner of Mombo Restaurant. Always ready to donate his time and talent generously to events from

Vintage & Vine, and PASSPORT, to special occasions like the luncheon he prepared for President and Mrs. Obama and the Bidens during their visit in 2016, Tom and his incomparable hospitality will be missed.

Before opening Mombo, Tom ran Diamond Award-winning hotel kitchens such as The Four Seasons in Hawaii and The Tides in Miami Beach. He was also an American Culinary Federation Certified Executive Chef and was nominated as Chef of the Year 2006 for the Miami Chapter.



JAMES MULHOLLAND VAUGHAN. Jim Vaughan former President of Strawberry Banke, died on April 23rd in Washington DC after devoting his entire career to historic preservation and museums. He retired as the

executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and served previously as vice president for historic sites for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and led The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson in Tennessee; Strawberry Banke and others. He served on the board for the American Association for State and Local History, as a reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the National Endowment for Humanities and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and also organized two influential national conferences around rethinking historic houses and sites. He was named to AAM's Centennial Honor Roll as one of the 100 American museum leaders who "worked to innovate, improve and expand how museums in the United States serve the public."





14 Hancock Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Visit strawberybanke.org
for updated schedules
and event details



EMERGING RENEWED

An Interpretive Tour of the Historic Waterfront Neighborhood of Strawberry Banke Museum
90-minute tours, 10 am to 3:30 pm, July 1- Oct 31, 2020 • Reserve timed tickets at StrawberyBanke.org

A Virtual American Celebration

Absent the possibility of celebrating Independence Day with a Naturalization Ceremony, the Timeline of American history, the Swing Dance or an Old-fashioned Field Day this year, Strawberry Banke launches a Virtual American Celebration featured short videos from some of the reenactors and roleplayers from celebrations past.



Support Strawbery Banke!

During these uncertain times, we rely on donors more than ever to help keep Strawberry Banke a community resource. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax deductible gift to Strawberry Banke. Thank you.

