



STRAWBERY BANKE MUSEUM

# BANKE NOTES

ISSUE 1 2018

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ZACHARY SLATER,  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Before another issue of this newsletter appears, I wanted to thank two groups of people without whom Strawberry Banke would not be possible. In fact, these two groups are indistinguishable, as their roles and contributions to the museum's success overlap.

I think of donors and those who work at the museum. But to define either group narrowly would be to overlook the difference they make together to the institution. It would also seem to prioritize money over talent when both are essential. (As when members of each group are members of both — such as volunteers and staff who write checks.)

The reason I take your time to highlight these two groups is that we saw extraordinary effort from both in the past months. And because “they” are “you,” the readers of this letter.

In December, Strawberry Banke welcomed nearly 9,000 guests to the 38th Annual Candlelight Stroll — one of the highest attendance numbers in the four decades of the event. Welcoming such numbers and providing the extraordinary experience that keeps bringing people back — and that just keeps getting better — takes a huge effort. It takes the entire staff (the permanent and seasonal staff without whom Stroll wouldn't happen) and the scores of volunteers (who create those fabulous decorations, stand

*Continued on page 3...*

## FUN AND LEARNING NEVER STOP!

“Lizzie Sullivan” led a back-stairs tour of the Goodwin Mansion during the “Inside/Out” program. Her guests traveled in time and space to experience the daily life of an Irish maid in the 1872 household on Islington Street. Wrapping heads around such a journey is exactly the type of experience being incorporated as the museum explores its Long Range Interpretive Plan.

Educational opportunities like this abound at Strawberry Banke, affording learners of all ages the chance to imagine themselves in others' shoes, whether at Winter Vacation Camp (February 26 to March 1), a new slate of Summer Camp options or at a traditional craft workshop (hearth-cooking and basket-making fill the February to April calendar).

**WINTER VACATION DAYS,  
FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 1, 2018**

### SUMMER CAMP, NEW!

THEMED CAMP WEEKS, FULL DAY CAMPS FOR AGES 6 – 17  
STORIES ALIVE CAMP, HALF-DAY CAMP FOR AGES 5 – 7  
JR. ROLEPLAYERS, TWO WEEK CAMPS FOR AGES 12 – 17  
Registrations now open for all camps. Visit [StrawberyBanke.org](http://StrawberyBanke.org).



## TRADITIONAL CRAFTS: HEARTH AND BASKET MAKING

### HEARTH COOKING

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| FEBRUARY 10 | ROASTED CHICKEN IN THE TIN KITCHEN         |
| FEBRUARY 24 | PORK AND APPLE PIE                         |
| MARCH 17    | CORNED BEEF                                |
| APRIL 7     | FRIED FISH                                 |
| APRIL 21    | FRITTATA BREAKFAST (for children & adults) |

### BASKET MAKING

|          |                                  |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| MARCH 24 | MAKE A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET |
| APRIL 14 | MAKE A MINIATURE BASKET          |

*For Winter 2018 workshop reservations, go to [StrawberyBanke.org/tickets](http://StrawberyBanke.org/tickets)*

# IMPORTANT GIFT TO NATIONAL ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In a fitting conclusion to a year that saw Strawberry Banke Museum making significant contributions to city, local and state historical and collaborative initiatives, in December the museum de-accessioned an antique cabinet organ and transferred the rare musical instrument to the collection of the Organ Historical Society.

Last July, following up on initial discussions between the museum and the Society, Bill Czelusniak, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for The Organ Historical Society and President of Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc., Organbuilders inspected the Hilbus organ stored in the museum Carter Collections Center and determined that, with reconditioning, it would be an excellent example to add to the Society collection for research and study. In his report on the specific condition of the organ pipes, pedals and cabinet Czelusniak noted, “The instrument is a ‘very antique’ one manual tracker organ. Even held protectively in its present condition, this instrument is a valuable example of early American craftsmanship.” He declared the Hilbus organ as a historical artifact, “a tremendous gift to the OHS, and a worthy occupant of the new OHS Headquarters, Library and Archives in Stoneleigh at Villanova PA.”

Jacob Hilbus (1787–1858) was an immigrant from Westphalia, Germany who settled in Washington, DC and was known for being an organ and piano tuner and a music teacher. He was also an organ builder (and from all indications, the first) active in the Washington, D.C. area in the early 1800s. Few of his works survive. One was originally installed in Christ Church in Alexandria, Virginia somewhere around 1811 or 1812 and is now in the care of the Smithsonian Institution.

After both the Strawberry Banke Museum board of Trustees and the OHS Board voted to approve the transfer, Byrum Petty, OHS Archivist commented, “We at the Organ Historical Society are grateful for the gift, and assure you that the organ will be in good hands for its safekeeping and eventual restoration.”

---

## DONOR RECOGNITION

### THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

**ROSAMOND THAXTER FOUNDATION** for Horticulture Center Exhibit

**NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** for a Community Impact Grant for Operating Funds

**DAVIS FAMILY FOUNDATION** for 2018 Exhibit “Vice”

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES** for Becoming American: A Documentary Film and Discussion Series



*Chris Walton and Austin Storo of Foley-Baker prepare the Hilbus organ for transfer from Strawberry Banke under the watchful eye of Lawrence J. Yerdon, museum president and CEO.*

Larry Yerdon noted, “The deaccessioning of this piece for transfer to an organization who will maximize the further study of the Hilbus in the formal research setting of the Organ Historical Society is exactly the kind of curation and collaboration Strawberry Banke seeks in all of the museum’s collecting and preservation efforts. Without specific Portsmouth connections, the Hilbus organ belongs with the OHS.”

On the recommendation of the Society, the organ was placed in the care of Foley-Baker, Inc. of Tolland, Connecticut, a nationally respected organ maintenance and restoration company, and a long-time member of the Organ Historical Society. Foley-Baker will restore the instrument to playing condition.



### BANK OF NEW HAMPSHIRE IS A MAJOR SPONSOR OF LABRIE FAMILY SKATE AT PUDDLE DOCK POND THIS YEAR

Pictured left to right: Larry Yerdon, President & CEO, Strawberry Banke; Mary Ellen McKenney, Mortgage Loan Officer; Mary Henderson, Assistant Vice President – Portsmouth Banking Office Manager; Wendy Rayno, VP Commercial Banker, all of Bank of New Hampshire.



# FUTURE IN SIGHT SELECTS STRAWBERRY BANKE MUSEUM FOR ANNUAL ACCESS AWARD

Future In Sight (formerly NH Association for the Blind) has selected Strawberry Banke Museum as the honoree for the organization's annual Access Award. Stephanie Hurd, FIS community relations coordinator and organization president David Morgan presented the award at a recent meeting of the Strawberry Banke Board of Trustees, noting that the honor "recognizes a business, organization, or individual who exemplifies access in terms of inclusion for those who are blind and visually impaired here in New Hampshire."

Stephanie Hurd, who is visually impaired herself, nominated Strawberry Banke Museum to the FIS board on the basis of a year-long collaboration that enabled vision impaired members of Future In Sight to participate in four seasonal programs at Strawberry Banke. In presenting the award, Ms. Hurd commented on the creativity and enthusiasm with which the museum team greeted the group, making sure to interpret Strawberry Banke's programs and campus through senses beyond the visual and answering the many questions the visitors had.



Larry Yerdon accepts FIS Access award from Stephanie Hurd, Community Relations Coordinator and David Morgan, president.

---

*Letter from the Chairman, continued from page 1*

in the cold at the gates to greet our guests and cheerfully answer questions, all night long).

At practically the same moment, dozens of you, "the friends of Strawberry Banke" were writing year-end checks, contributing to the Annual Fund. Each year you respond to the museum's appeal for your tax-deductible gifts among dozens of others; and each year you open your hearts as well as your wallets to the work done here: to ensure Strawberry Banke is "a place to learn, a place to gather and a sustainable resource for the community." (Our fiscal year ends on March 31st, so if you haven't yet, there's still plenty of time to contribute to the FY18 Annual Fund!)

As if all that weren't enough, the skating rink was whipsawed by the weather. Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond is now an essential component of Strawberry Banke. We depend on attendance and revenue to meet our goals. The frigid temperatures (and immediate January thaw) put us off the pace. So what happened? The staff and donors — most particularly Rink Services Group, the rink manager — created a challenge match and raised more than \$18,000 in four days to "Keep Portsmouth Skating."

We could not be more grateful for such community goodwill.

Looking forward to the season ahead, we thank you for your support and promise to continue to live up to your expectations — and more. Watch this space!

**Winter Ice Dances**  
featuring US Men's Champion Ryan Bradley and Olympian Beata Handra  
Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond  
Strawberry Banke Museum  
Saturday February 3, 2018 at 3pm

Adult \$15 / Child (ages 5-17) \$10  
Family (2 adults/2 kids) \$40  
VIP: Adult \$22 / Child \$18  
Under 5 and Military: free  
Tickets: StrawberryBanke.org

Pre-show Edge Class for advanced freestyle skaters  
1-45-2:30, \$50 includes show and VIP meet & greet

nefa IDI  
Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond  
Strawberry Banke Museum  
14 Hancock Street, Portsmouth, NH  
603.433.1101

Bank of America  
JUMPIN' JAY'S  
D&S AMIGOS  
East Portsmouth  
at Strawberry Banke Museum

We welcome your comments about this issue of Banke Notes and encourage your ideas.  
Please contact us at 603-433-1100 or [info@strawberybanke.org](mailto:info@strawberybanke.org).



14 HANCOCK STREET  
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

#### ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

## STRAWBERRY BANKE PRESENTS A NEW EXHIBIT IN 2018, “VICE”

Curator Elizabeth Farish explains that the 2018 “Vice” exhibit “will be exploring the customs of the past and present that represent the attitudes and tastes for luxuries and indulgences of Portsmouth residents and visitors over the past three centuries.”

The exhibit is made possible in part by a grant from the Roger R. and Theresa S. Thompson Endowment Fund that has awarded grants to Strawberry Banke since 2000 for the creation of new programs and exhibits, including “Thread” and the new maritime history exhibit, “Port of Portsmouth: War, Trade and Travel.” The Davis Family Foundation is also providing funding for the exhibit.



## ANNUAL FUND

EACH YEAR THE ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTS NEW INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES THAT SERVE THOUSANDS WHILE ENSURING STRAWBERRY BANKE IS A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO GATHER AND A SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Every donation is appreciated. Please reply with the enclosed envelope, online at [StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm](http://StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm), or call 603-422-7508 for assistance.

