Rebecca Lukens Award Recipient Announced

The Graystone Society is proud to announce the recipient of its 2013 Rebecca Lukens Award – Coatesville’s own Regina Horton Lewis. The Rebecca Lukens Award honors individuals who exhibit the qualities of Rebecca Lukens, America’s first female industrialist – resilience, leadership, courage and strategic outlook.

Executive Director Jim Ziegler had high praise for the organization’s newest recipient. “Her effervescence, her passion, and her love for the city of Coatesville mirror Rebecca’s own ambitions for Coatesville. Like Rebecca before her, her community and the people within it are all important to her. Both women exemplified how strong convictions and deep roots are the building blocks for change.”

Ms. Lewis was born and raised in Chester County, and started her career in management in the late 1960s. She spent 23 successful years in that world before bringing those skills to the Coatesville Area Partners for Progress in 1994. Since 1998 she has played instrumental roles at the Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children and the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, and now serves as Executive Director of Chester County Community Dental. She possesses all of the best traits of Rebecca Lukens: savvy businesswoman, passionate advocate for the Coatesville community, and champion of those in need. Strategic — Courageous — Resilient... and a true Leader. We are honored to welcome Regina Horton Lewis to the ranks of Rebecca Lukens awardees.

Collections Lukens Life Magazine

From 1934 to 1989 the employees of Lukens Steel and their families enjoyed reading the popular company newsletter “Lukens Life”. Unlike most company newsletters, Lukens Life chose to focus more on its employees than the company. While employee work accomplishments were always highlighted, it focused more on the lives outside the mill. Each issue proudly listed births, engagements, weddings and retirements, as well as articles on school activities and the Lukens’ softball and bowling teams. These newsletters provide more than a great history of Lukens Steel; they let us know the people who made Lukens, Coatesville and the other surrounding communities.

The Graystone Society is fortunate to have an almost complete collection of these newsletters with only the years 1944 and 1954 missing. Because they tell the history of so many people, the Society wants to make them easily accessible to everyone through the internet. Working in conjunction with the Chester County Archives and the Chester County Library System, The Graystone Society is working on a project to scan all of the issues of Lukens Life and make them available to the public through www.steelmuseum.org, the Chester County Archives’ and the Chester County Library System’s websites. Keep an eye on our website as the project continues.
With all the amazing work we’ve done over the past year, and the programs we have planned for the year to come, it’s hard not to be excited about the way our Museum is growing and evolving. We are especially proud to welcome Regina Horton Lewis to the ranks of our Rebecca Lukens Award recipients. Her tireless work in our community and the exceptional strength of her character has been an inspiration to all of us here at the Graystone Society, and nothing will please us more than to celebrate her achievements at our March 21st award ceremony.

The award ceremony also gives us the perfect opportunity to showcase our recent art acquisition. Through the hard work of our new Collections Manager, Kathy Bratton, we are ready to unveil dozens of works by Industrial Precisionist artist Klaus Grutzka. These paintings will be available for “adoption” at this event, and funds raised will help us continue the conservation of thousands of Grutzka’s paintings and illustrations.

We continue work on improving our website and outreach efforts. In April we’ll throw our first-ever Member Recognition Social in celebration of those individuals who have supported us every year, and those who are supporting us for the first time. On May 2nd we will welcome local historian Bruce Mowday, who will discuss his new book “Defending Pickett’s Charge,” followed by a bus trip on May 16 to Gettysburg for the 150th anniversary of that pivotal battle in the Civil War. Finally, save the date for our annual Garden Party on June 22. It’s shaping up to be an amazing year, and we hope you’ll be part of it!

Our 2013 Membership drive is underway, and we’re looking forward to surpassing our 2012 numbers of 150 members donating $15,868 in revenues. Our goals for 2013 are 257 members giving $27,000, which will provide for administrative costs. Benefits of membership include discounts on trips, at events and in the museum store.

The Graystone Society and the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum put up some impressive statistics in 2012:

- 1,153 visitors came to the Historic District (1,763 in 2011, 1,529 in 2010, 541 in of 2009)
- Increased visitation helps us raise money to enhance and improve our visitor experience
- 793,349 hits on our website (737,557 in 2011, 1,018,176 in 2010 due to return of World Trade Center Trees)
- An average of 3,262 unique visitors to our website every month
- 3,299 views of our videos on 3CTVLive.com since March of 2010 and over 5,000 views on YouTube
- A list of 2,800 contacts, which we would like to increase to 3,500 next year
- 975 email addresses
- 271 Facebook likes
- 1,810 volunteer hours donated by our core of active volunteers

Please join us as we grow by becoming a new member, or renew your current membership. Membership packets were mailed in January, or you can join, renew and pay online at SteelMuseum.org. We are excited to announce that we now accept Master Card, Visa, Discover, American Express and PayPal as payment options.

Be part of the museum. We can’t do it without you!
Recent Events

Holiday Open House

Susannah Brody as Rebecca Lukens

Millicent Sparks as Harriet Tubman

INTERESTED IN...

With all the interest around the 100th anniversary of Titanic’s sinking last year, we here at the museum decided to jump on the bandwagon and talk about the not-so-insignificant part that Lukens Steel had to play in the Titanic story. Commissioned on June 5, 1964, the Alvin was designed as a replacement for earlier deep submergence vehicles called bathyscaphes, which had to be tethered to a surface support vehicle and thus had little freedom of action. Alvin, on the other hand, could operate under its own power at depths up to 8,010 feet and proved to be far more maneuverable than previous DSVs. Due to the concerns about the extreme pressures of deep ocean research, the United States Navy commissioned Lukens to provide a special superstrong alloy steel called HY-100, which had never before been sold commercially by the company. Lukens crafted this steel into two hemispheric “spun heads,” shaped by flanging experts and gas cut to exact dimensions. Given that these spun heads would form the personnel sphere of the vehicle, protecting a two-man crew and 1,200 pounds of equipment at a total surface pressure of 57,634,200 pounds, testing of the product was intense. In July 1965 the Alvin made its first manned dive to 6,000 feet. It went on to have a successful career, and was upgraded in 1973 with a Lukens-produced titanium personnel sphere (which measures a mere 78” in inside diameter!)

Probably Alvin’s most famous adventure came in 1986, when the crew of the submersible discovered the wreck of the Titanic at a depth of 12,415 feet. Exploring at this depth was made possible by the 1973 titanium hull upgrade — so, in a very real way, Lukens Steel helped to rediscover the Titanic.

We highly encourage everyone to visit the Titanic artifact exhibition at the Franklin Institute, running through April 7th. In addition, NISHM will host a lecture this fall by Dr. Susan Humphris, who serves as the principal investigator for the Alvin upgrade project at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. More details to be announced.

PROPERTIES

Graystone Mansion

With all of the wonderful mansions that call the Lukens National Historic District home, the Graystone Society has enjoyed a wealth of indoor space. With the acquisition of Graystone Mansion, it became clear that sharing that space with other organizations would be an ideal use of our wonderful historic treasures. With that in mind, the Board of Directors agreed to a lease of the second floor as classroom space to an innovative partnership of Life Transforming Ministries, Harcum College and the Institute for Leadership Education, Advancement and Development, Inc. (I-LEAD). This partnership offers three degree programs: Leadership Studies, Human Services and Early Childhood Education, compressing four full-time courses in two evenings a week.

In agreeing to lease the space, Graystone also pledged to make certain code upgrades to the building. These upgrades included the remediation of remaining lead paint in the building; installation of a permanent Handicapped Accessible ADA compliant ramp at the rear of the building; the addition of a wireless internet connection for use by the students and upgrades to the building’s heating system. All of these code upgrades will also benefit the use of the mansion as future event rental space.

Spring Events

April 4
Lecture: Nancy Webster — Quaker Women in Chester County

April 13
Volunteer Day: Collections Management

April 19
New Member Reception & Annual Meeting

May 2
Lecture: Bruce Mowday — Defending Picket’s Charge: 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg

May 16
Trip: Gettysburg National Military Park
**MEET THE STAFF**

**Kathy Bratton, Collections Manager**

Kathy is very excited about her new position at Graystone as Collections Manager.

A museum professional for over 25 years, she has served as Museum Director at both the New Castle Historical Society in New Castle, Delaware and the James Buchanan Foundation in Lancaster. She also worked at the American Helicopter Museum, where she created a toddler friendly, hands on learning area and while at Newlin Grist Mill she increased attendance at a summer day camp by 200 percent.

Kathy earned her Masters Degree in History and Museum Studies at the University of Delaware, where she was a fellow in the prestigious Hagley program in the History of Industrial America. She confesses to being a long time lover of the “physical stuff of history”.

On the personal side, Kathy studied dance for over 16 years and has performed with many local community theatres. She actually met her husband of over 21 years, Bill, while doing a show. Kathy and Bill share a love of history, wine, used book sales, Walt Disney World and their daughter, Christina.

Kathy lives in Atglen, with her family and two friendly cats.

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**Rebecca Lukens Award Presentation & Grutzka Industrial Art Collection Exhibit**

The award ceremony honoring Regina Horton Lewis will be held on Thursday, March 21st from 5:00 to 8:00pm in a new location, Coatesville Country Club. The celebration is open to the public, and will also feature representative art from Graystone Society’s recent acquisition of thousands of original works by Industrial Precisionist artist Klaus Grutzka. Select pieces will be available for adoption, which will benefit the conservation efforts for the collection. Guests can also support the museum’s efforts by participating in a silent auction featuring two tickets to the 2013 US Open at Merion Golf Club, or a round of golf for three at Merion with Scott G. Huston, President of Graystone’s Board of Directors.

Tickets are $50 per person ($25 tax deductible) and include the art exhibit viewing, cocktails and light fare. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Graystone Society at 610-384-9282 or online at www.steelmuseum.org. The Coatesville Country Club is located at 143 Reservoir Road, Coatesville, PA.