Eugene L. DiOrio Retires from Graystone Society Board of Directors

Eugene L. DiOrio may be known to many as an authority on the history of the Lukens Steel Company and the City of Coatesville, but that is not all there is to the man. He is also an author, talented photographer, avid traveler, and a collector of many things, including political and musical autographs. Most importantly he has been a mover and shaker in the world of historic preservation in Coatesville, Chester County, and Pennsylvania. Gene was working in the accounting department at Lukens Steel when he met Stewart Huston, and a friendship developed through their mutual interest in history and opera. Stewart invited Gene to become involved with the Primitive Hall Foundation as accountant, and after Stewart’s passing, he served for many years as a foundation Board Member, President & Treasurer, and worked for the further restoration of the historic hall.

In 1984 Gene, along with Mary Sullivan, founded the Graystone Society in order to restore and preserve Graystone Mansion. Eventually the Society acquired both Graystone Mansion and the Huston family home, Terracina, and Gene was a catalyst for the creation of the Lukens National Historic District.

Some of Gene’s other endeavors include service on the Chester County Parks & Recreation Board, Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania Board, and the Pennsylvania Capitol Preservation Committee in Harrisburg.

There is not enough room here to list all of Gene’s accomplishments, but after decades of service to the Graystone Society and the City of Coatesville Gene has decided to retire. However, he will remain in Coatesville and will be serving the Graystone Society on an advisory, emeritus basis, and will continue efforts for recognition of Coatesville and Lukens Steel Co. history and the development of the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum.

Be a part of the Graystone Society!
We can’t do it without you!

Upcoming Events

Sixth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award Presentation — March 22, 2012

The recipient for this year’s Rebecca Lukens Award will be Tamara Cansler. Ms Cansler is the founder of Cansler Investment Group, a real estate investment firm specializing in the development of housing for low and moderate income families in Chester County. Cansler Investment Group has developed hundreds of affordable housing units in Chester County, primarily in the Coatesville area.

The Award will be presented at a reception in the Lukens Executive Office Building, 50 South First Avenue, in Coatesville. Tickets for this event are $40 and reservations are required. Light refreshments will be served.

The award plaque is permanently housed in The Lukens National Historic District, mounted to a scale replica of Rebecca’s original rolling mill. A commemorative etching with each recipient’s name is affixed to the plaque.

This invitation-only event is sponsored by the Huston Foundation and the Stewart Huston Charitable Trust.

You can RSVP this event by going to SteelMuseum.org and clicking on the Register Now button.

Keep up with all the latest events and developments in the Historic District!
Like us on Facebook
Donate now using PayPal
You can view videos of our events at 3ctvlive.com
You can also view our videos on YouTube

The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.
Jim Ziegler, our new Executive Director

Jim Ziegler first started working with the Graystone Society in 2009 when he joined the Board of Directors to help structure the Finance Committee.

Jim has a long history with Coatesville. His father worked at Lukens Steel, and Jim is a past President/CEO/Board Member at Coatesville Savings Bank.

He serves on the Board of the Brandywine Health Foundation, and is currently a Producer at Breuninger & Son Insurance, Inc.

Jim has developed extensive executive expertise over the years.

As our day-to-day needs are increasing, Jim’s non-profit experience will prove invaluable. He will be assisting with Development, Programs and Administration, increasing our eligibility for certain Grants.

Welcome Jim Ziegler!
The first battle between ironclad vessels took place on March 9, 1862 between the USS Monitor and the Confederate Virginia (USS Merrimack), a battle that changed naval warfare forever. The Monitor sank in 1862 and the wreck wasn’t discovered until 1973, at which point the site became the first National Marine Sanctuary.

The Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, Virginia is the home of artifacts from the Monitor, which they are working to conserve after almost 140 years of immersion in saltwater. Visitors to the museum can view the Monitor’s revolving gun turret, steam engine, screw propeller and other artifacts. Many of these articles are displayed within huge tanks containing treatment solution, with ongoing conservation work being done.

The Mariners’ Museum is more than just the USS Monitor, it has a wealth of permanent and traveling exhibitions concerning naval history, plus educational programs. The collections contain photographs, ship models, art and thousands of other objects having to do with the sea.

The Mariners’ Museum is located in Newport News, Virginia. For more information visit MarinersMuseum.org.

Graystone Mansion

We are pleased to announce that Graystone Mansion has been leased by Life Transforming Ministries, who have partnered with Harcum College and The Institute for Leadership Education, Advancement, and Development, Inc. to bring an accredited college program to Coatesville. There are currently three degree programs currently being offered: Early Childhood Education, Leadership Studies Major, and Human Services.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the courses, degree options and financial aid should call the Life Transforming Ministries office at 610.384.5393 or send an email to Inbox@QuietRevolution.org

Interested in . . .

Union Monitor 1861-65

By Angus Konstam, Illustrated by Tony Bryan

This easy-to-read book is devoted to the history of the earliest American iron-clad warships — the Monitors. It is full of information on the development of all Monitor style ships, not just the first well-known Monitor that fought at Hampton Roads.

Following this battle more of these vessels were built, until a squadron protected the ships blockading the Southern coastline. By the end of the war the US Navy possessed a modern coastal fleet carrying the most powerful artillery afloat.

Union Monitor 1861-65 contains rare archival photos, period engravings, cut-away drawings of the interior workings, and specially commissioned paintings.

Available online at http://lukensnhd.org/store.htm!

Recent Events

Gene DiOrio speaking at one of his Touring Italy slide shows (sample slide at left).

The first 2011 Fall Lecture featured Scott Huston speaking about the Lukens Athletic League, pictured above at right.

Your Donation is Tax Deductible

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The Graystone Society and
The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in
The Lukens National Historic District
50 South First Avenue, Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-9282
programs@lukensnhd.org
www.SteelMuseum.org
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2012 Events in the Lukens National Historic District

March 22 — 5 to 8 PM ($40)
Sixth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award Presentation
honoring Tammy Cansler

April 12 — 6 to 8 PM ($5, Members Free)
Lecture: USS New Jersey lecturer Jason Hall —
Battleship Development of the Monitor to USS New Jersey

April (date TBD) — (Cost TBD)
Day Trip: USS New Jersey / Independence Seaport Museum

May 3 — 6 to 8 PM ($5, Members Free)
Lecture: Eugene DiOrio – The Lukens Steel Connection
with the Creation of the Chester Valley Bank

May 19 — 10 AM to 3 PM (Free Event)
Volunteer Day: Collections Management

June 16 — 6 PM ($75/seat, $45 Tax Deductible)
Garden Party & Scholarship Award Dinner

July 1 — Noon to 9 PM ($5 Tours)
Celebrate Coatesville Day: Open for Tours

July TBD — one day a week ($15 All sessions, $5 Per session)
Story Telling with Susannah Brody
Ages 8-12 — 3 Hour long Sessions & 1 Final Show

Go to www.steelmuseum.org/events for a full listing.

Recent Events

Trip to World Trade Center Memorial
October 19, 2011

Left: Full bus of eager participants heading to the
Tribute WTC Visitor Center

Left: Full bus of eager participants heading to the
Tribute WTC Visitor Center

Above: Massive North Tower reflecting pool with
the museum visible behind

Right: Personal photograph exhibit of First
Responders and Victims on display at the
Tribute WTC Visitor Center

Inaugural Lukens Reunion a& BBQ
October 8, 2011

Above left (L to R): Louis Pieri and his
daughter Debra.
Above right (L to R): Janet Steen,
Carol Slody and Rich Smith look at old
photographs.
Left: Jimmy’s Barbecue cook.