Letter from the Chair

I’d like to start off by thanking Larry Yerdon for his remarkable passion, innovation, and tireless efforts as president and CEO of Strawbery Banke Museum for the past 18 years! As you may have read in recent member communications or newspaper headlines, Larry publicly announced his plans for retiring in January 2023. It has been an honor to work with him through the years and witness his leadership play a transformational role in making Strawbery Banke the jewel that it is.” There will be much more celebration of Larry in this newsletter’s next issue, which will be delivered to your mailbox in mid-November.

This summer was an incredible season for Strawbery Banke. Based on the high number of visitors to the Museum’s grounds throughout the summer, it’s clear that Portsmouth has once more resumed its role as a premier arts and cultural destination. Perhaps you saw that Strawbery Banke was featured in a recent article by Conde Nast Traveler of “The Best Things to Do in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.”

In addition to daily activities, Vintage & Vine – A Wine Festival in Historic Style is the first of many exciting autumn activities. I’d like to give special thanks to my fellow trustees especially to Robyn Aldo, Vintage & Vine Event Chair, sponsors, donors of auction items, restaurants, chefs, wine vendors, the band, Museum staff, and volunteers. The event’s success could not be possible without their support.

As you may know, proceeds from Vintage & Vine and its online auction support ongoing preservation and education efforts. If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to browse the many exciting experiences and unique items in this year’s auction. If you have the itch to travel, you might find that the luxury Santa Fe Cooking, Art, and Culture Trip for Two is your next vacation destination. Or perhaps dinner and a show at Jimmy’s Jazz & Blues Club for a night out in Portsmouth is more appealing. Either way, be sure to make your bids before the online auction ends at 6 PM on September 25.

Soon to come are the Friends of the South End’s Portsmouth Fairy House Tour (the world’s largest) and Ghosts on the Banke – the family-friendly, trick-or-treat event. Additionally, Strawbery Banke Museum is proud to once more host the Dawnland StoryFest, New Hampshire’s annual Native American storytelling festival. This year’s event takes place in the Visitors Center and features five traditional Indigenous storytellers.

Thanks to your continued support of the Museum and its many events and programs, Strawbery Banke continues to be popular and vibrant. I look forward to thanking you in person at an upcoming event.

Cynthia Fenneman, Chair of the Board of Trustees

A History of Portsmouth NH in 101 Objects

Now available for pre-publication purchase!

A collaborative group of local historical institution leaders launched the “Portsmouth History in 101 Objects” project, an initiative designed to create a commemorative book and website for the Portsmouth NH 400 anniversary in 2023. The book features full-color photographs of 101 objects unique to Portsmouth and short essays by local authors to represent the prehistory, birth, history, present, and future of the City of Portsmouth. For more information, visit 101objectsportsmouthnh.org.

Download and Play the BankeQuest App!

Download the BankeQuest App, a family-friendly quest that guides visitors throughout the Museum with a series of rhyming clues from JD the Cat! Developed by Graphic Details, Inc. in partnership with Strawbery Banke Museum, the app allows users to find their way around the grounds, learn more about their surroundings, and discover interesting facts along the way. Available for free from the App Store or Google Play.
Fall & Winter Homeschool Programs

Strawbery Banke welcomes families to step into the past either in person or virtually for learning and discovery in the historic neighborhood of Puddle Dock. Explore traditional arts and crafts such as basket weaving and woodworking, learn how to write a historical fiction book, develop scientific experiments blending history and science, and so much more. For more information, visit StrawberyBanke.org/school/homeschool.cfm.

New Staff Members

Poleena Vassilev, Collections Manager — Poleena joins Strawbery Banke as Collections Manager in 2022. She also works in public library Special Collections. In 2021 she completed her Master’s in Library and Information Science at Simmons University and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Art History from the University of North Florida. In her free time, Poleena enjoys reading, making dumplings, and the ocean.

Katelyn Ledouef, Parking Lot Attendant — Katelyn Maloney, Historic Interpreter — Marcia Paz, Historic Interpreter & Roleplayer — Penny Remick, Visitor Services Associate — Elsa Rogers, Historic Interpreter & Roleplayer — Katie Spencer, Historic Interpreter

Thank you, interns!

Many thanks to Strawberry Banke Museum’s six summer interns for all they work this season. Staff members have greatly enjoyed having them as a part of the team.

Maeghan Brennan, Summer Camp Intern
Savannah Krugger, Summer Camp Intern
Miranda Leclerc, Archaeology Intern

IN MEMORIAM

Howard S. Crosby, Capt. USN Ret., dedicated Archaeology Department volunteer and friend of Strawbery Banke, died on April 6, 2022.

STRAWBERY BANKE FUND

The Strawberry Banke Fund is critical to the success of programs, providing an expanded base of financial support. Unrestricted gifts to the Fund enable Strawbery Banke to meet the Museum’s daily and unexpected costs. Contributions support Education, Roleplaying, Restoration, interpretation, Curatorial, Horticulture, Visitor Services, Collections, and Architecture initiatives by providing essential resources.

To make a gift, visit StrawberyBanke.org/donate.cfm, contact Megan McIntyre, Membership and Stewardship Manager, at 603.432.7508, or mail a check payable to Strawbery Banke Museum to PO Box 300, Portsmouth, NH 03802.