Letter from the Chair

As we enter the new year, there is much to look forward to. Equally, there is much to reflect on and celebrate from the past year.

In 2022, Strawbery Banke completed a full calendar of events and programs, including welcoming more than 10,000 individuals for the 43rd Candlelight Stroll. Over the course of three weekends, members and visitors enjoyed touring the decorated historic houses, listening to carols and performances by wandering musicians, and learning about seasonal and holiday traditions from costumed roleplayers and historical reenactors. I particularly enjoyed hearing about Victorian Christmas traditions from Governor Goodwin and learning how to spin the dreidel from the Shapiros as they celebrated the seventh night of Hanukkah.

This year marked Lawrence J. Yerdon’s eighteenth year at the helm of Strawbery Banke Museum as the President and CEO, Thomas W. Haas Endowed Chair. I hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating Larry’s transformational leadership on Sunday, January 22 from 4:30-6:30 pm, for a joint birthday and retirement celebration in the newly renamed Lawrence J. Yerdon Visitors Center. We invite you to drop in, enjoy a piece of cake and light refreshments and wish Larry a happy birthday and retirement. Additionally, for those who wish to skate, Strawbery Banke is offering complimentary skating admission and rentals on a first-come, first-served basis.

Now that it’s January, we are well into the ninth season of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond and the first season of online ticketing for skating admission. It is the Museum’s hope that this is a convenience for you when making plans to skate as well as taking advantage your member benefit of 50% off skating admission tickets. Sprinkling of benefits, be sure to mark calendars for Wednesday, January 4, 2023, from 2-3 pm, Ice Dance International and Strawbery Banke partner to host this fabulous event where local “stars” are paired with IDI pros in a skate-off for audience votes.

Visit strawberybanke.org for updated schedules and event details.

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Strawbery Banke is blessed to partner with Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International & Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond Artistic Director, and his company of extremely talented skaters, who take up a winter residency at Strawbery Banke during January and February. Be sure to take advantage of community skating classes and keep a lookout for pop-up performances and other events.

Perhaps most importantly in 2023, Strawbery Banke welcomes a new President and CEO, Thomas W. Haas Endowed Chair, to lead the Museum in this new chapter of fulfilling its mission. I look forward to introducing Larry’s successor to the Strawbery Banke community and trust that you will all welcome the new leader with open arms and offer great support.

May your New Year be an inspiring one!

Cynthia Fenneman
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The Best Ever!: Parades in New England, 1788-1940

Jane Nylander, former Director of Strawbery Banke Museum and President Emerita of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities / Historic New England, released The Best Ever!: Parades in New England, 1788-1940 in 2021. The Best Ever! is illustrated with nearly 300 photographs, including “never-before-seen pictures of actual parades, including floats and banners that have mostly disappeared.” Check with your local bookstore on availability. Also sold at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

Keeping History Above Water

MAY 7-9 | PORTSMOUTH, NH
A national, multi-disciplinary conference on Saving Historic Structures and Neighborhoods in the Face of Rising Tides

HISTORYABOVETWATER.ORG
Last year’s event sold out! Directed by Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International & Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond. Artistic Director, local “stars” are paired with IDI pros in a skate-off for audience votes. As in “Dancing with the Stars,” esteemed judges give their marks on skill and expression. Tickets for rinkside viewing are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. VIP tickets include the opportunity to meet & greet the skaters and skating admission immediately following the show until 4 PM.

VIP (meet & greet the skaters)  General Admission
- Adult $35  - Children ages 5-17 $18  - Children (under 5) free, ticket required

Thank you, Grantors! Many thanks to the following organizations:
- Evergreen Dental  - HDC General Contractors  - Northeast Delta Dental
- W. Winter Holben Architecture + Design  - Edward F. Browning, AIA  - Lorne Jones & Laura Brown

Additional programs
- The Fuller Foundation
- The Museum has established The Roger R. and Theresa S. Thompson Endowment Fund
- Strawbery Banke offers annual library membership passes
- Community programs: Directed by Douglas Webster, Artistic Director of IDI and Labrie Family Skate, with support from the IDI company, these adult skating classes are open to all and do not require advance registration. Additionally, IDI provides up to three free pop-up youth classes throughout the season. Check the rink schedule for weekly updates.

Seacoast Skating with the Stars
Saturday, February 4, 2023, 2 PM

Library Passes: Strawbery Banke offers annual library membership passes to many libraries in NH, ME, and MA. Library membership offers patrons complimentary daily general museum admission and admission to select Strawbery Banks events, as well as 10% discount on ice-skating at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond.

Blue Star Museum: To honor and thank those currently serving in the United States military, including the National Guard and Reserve, Strawbery Banke provides complimentary general museum admission to active Military and their families.

History Within Reach: Strawbery Banke offers economically underserved schools complimentary or deeply discounted workshops and field trips through the “History Within Reach” program.

Tickets to “Run Through History” half kilometer Saturday, February 11, 2023, 1 PM
A half-K run? Not a type? Join Strawbery Banke for the second annual “Run Through History” half kilometer. Enjoy 260 years of architectural heritage in one loop that can be walked, jogged, or run on the historic campus of the Museum. Historical costumes are encouraged, as is bringing a watch for self-timing. $20 donation per person. Proceeds from the run benefit the “History Within Reach” program, providing workshops to economically underserved schools that would not otherwise be able to afford field trips.

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