

Boilerplate

Winter 2007

The Graystone Society brings you the newsletter of the National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum in the Lukens National Historic District.

Events

A Busy Calendar for 2007

We have a full slate ahead of us in the Lukens National Historic District in 2007. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- We start off in January with a celebration of **Rebecca Lukens' Birthday Party** and kick off our Annual Membership Drive.
- A repeat of the popular **Concerts** held at Graystone Mansion. Top-notch musicians performing in this wonderful venue is a treat for the ears.
- **Victorian Dinner** on May 24.
- The **Spring and Fall Lecture Series** is back with all-new interesting and informative topics. See page two for details on the Spring series.
- The **Victorian Ice Cream Festival** — this popular event will be bigger and better than ever on July 14

We also have some new events planned, including a Victorian Dinner, Scavenger Hunts, Holiday House Tours, maybe even a Barbeque Cook-off. To keep up-to-date on what's happening in the Historic District call us at 610-384-9282 or visit the events page at www.lukensnhd.org.

Membership

Three Ways to Get Involved

Collections

Our collection of artifacts from Lukens Steel is growing, and we are looking for former employees to help identify and explain the significance of these items. The programs will take place in April and October. If you are interested, please contact us at 610-384-9282.

Administration

There is always a need for help in the offices at the Graystone Society. If you have office skills and would like to get involved in the exciting work going on in the District, give us a call! We can work with you to fit time spent at Graystone into your schedule.

Membership

Our Annual Membership Drive for 2007 begins in January. Membership benefits include unlimited free admission to Terracina, Graystone, and the Lukens Executive Office Building, as well as special exhibitions. Members are also invited to special activities, receive free or discounted admission to events, the quarterly newsletter and activities calendar, annual report and are eligible for discounted use of the library.

Become a member and be a part of the rich past and exciting future that the Graystone Society represents. Applications are available at www.lukensnhd.org.



Join Us

January Celebration — Rebecca Lukens Birthday

Born January 6, 1794, Rebecca Lukens was raised in a typical Quaker household in Chester County. With the untimely death of her husband in 1825, she took



over operation of the iron mill on the Brandywine River in Coatesville.

Rebecca not only continued ongoing operations, but expanded in

new directions and embraced new technologies. Under her guidance the mill flourished despite an adverse economic environment and the restrictions placed on a woman in business in the 19th century.

It's no wonder that we consider Rebecca Lukens our patron saint in the Lukens National Historic District. She is the keystone upon which the National Iron and Steel Heritage Museum will be built.

We marked Rebecca's 213th birthday with a celebration at Graystone Mansion on January 11. We also presented the First Annual Rebecca Lukens Award to Mary Sullivan for her achievements and service to the Graystone Society and the community.

If you are interested in attending events like this in the future, give us a call at **610-384-9282** or send an email to graystone@lukensnhd.org.



Contact

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 in the Lukens National Historic District
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14' X 14' X 21'

Collections

**Sonarsphere
 Returning to Lukens**

14-foot, 27-ton spheres of steel, the sonarspheres were built by Lukens in the 1960's and 70's for the US Navy. They were placed in the bow of attack submarines to detect enemy submarines.

The sonarspheres were transported to shipyards on a specially constructed trailer. A similar trailer has been refurbished and will be used to return a sonarsphere to Coatesville where it will be on display outside in the Lukens National Historic District.

Special thanks to the *Robert D. and Jennifer C. McNeil Fund* and *The Huston Foundation* for their help in acquiring this important part of our history.

Programs

Spring Lecture Series

March 1: Rebecca Lukens — In honor of Women's History Month, Scott G. Huston will give a presentation about this remarkable woman.

April 5: Melters Roundtable — Charles Lukens Huston, III will chair a Roundtable discussion with a panel of former melters from Lukens Steel.

May 3: The Architectural Heritage of the Lukens Historic District — To celebrate Historic Preservation Month, Eugene L. DiOrio will discuss the architecture of the Lukens Historic District buildings.



For information, pricing, and reservations: call Gene DiOrio at 610-384-9282, email graystone@lukensnhd.org or visit the Events page at www.lukensnhd.org.

*Fall Lecture dates: September 6, October 4 and November 1.
 Do you have a topic you would like to hear about? Let us know!*

Properties

Tenant House Restoration

The interior of the Tenant House, located directly behind Terracina, has been restored to its 1870's appearance, and is open for tours. Exterior painting of the building and the reconstruction of the porch will complete the restoration.



Tenant House interior before and after restoration



A few words with . . .

Sharon Tandarich

Sharon Tandarich has been the Property Manager for Huston Properties, Inc. for five years. She deals with the maintenance of Graystone Mansion, Terracina, the Tenant House and Primitive Hall. Most of her time, however, is spent at the Lukens Executive Office Building. Because space in this building is rented out as offices, she is responsible not just for maintenance but for tenant services issues as well.

Sharon's duties include contracting for renovations and repair of the properties, and in processing invoices for these contractors. She also handles tenant requests, works with their leases, and collects the rents.

Where did Sharon acquire the skills needed for this demanding job? How about 40 years of on-the-job training at Lukens Steel. Sharon was responsible for maintenance, landscaping, cafeterias and more for three office buildings during her career at Lukens. She was also involved in the renovation of the Executive Office Building in the 1980s, and still gives tours of this wonderful structure. Sharon says her work is very rewarding, and that she enjoys the amazement of the people, on her tours, at the beauty and history of the buildings in the Lukens Historic District.

— by John Gutekunst

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