

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

## Events

### Second Annual Rebecca Lukens Award and Celebration at Graystone Mansion

We will honor the memory of Rebecca Lukens with the presentation of the Second Annual Rebecca Lukens Award on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Graystone Mansion.

Rebecca Lukens, at a time in history when the role of most women was restricted to that of wives and mothers, was successfully running an iron rolling mill, securing her place in history as the first female industrialist.

Our award recipient this year is **Jane L. S. Davidson**, well-known for her service to historic restoration. Like Rebecca, who became the driving force behind the company which eventually became known as Lukens Steel, Jane L. S. Davidson was the catalyst for National Park Service designation of the Lukens Historic District as a National Historic Landmark.



We will gather at Graystone Mansion on March 20, 2008 at 5 pm for light fare and presentation of the Rebecca Lukens Award. 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 Rainer & Company, Inc. If you are interested in attending, please give us a call at **610-384-9282** or send an email to [graystone@lukensnhd.org](mailto:graystone@lukensnhd.org).

### The Rebecca Lukens Award

The Rebecca Lukens Award has been established to honor individuals who exhibit the qualities of Rebecca Lukens.

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Resilience</b>   | <b>Insightfulness</b>  |
| <b>Loyalty</b>      | <b>Tenacity</b>        |
| <b>Caring</b>       | <b>Resourcefulness</b> |
| <b>Practicality</b> | <b>Patience</b>        |



## Membership

Membership packets for 2008 have been mailed. Our membership more than doubled over last year — please help us to continue this growth so that we can continue our mission here in the Lukens National Historic District.

**We can't do it without you!**

### Be a part of the Graystone Society!

It's easy — go to [www.lukensnhd.org](http://www.lukensnhd.org) and click on the **Donate, Join** or **Sponsorship** tabs or call today 610-384-9282.

*The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.*

## Year in Review

### Milestones Mark a Busy Year in 2007

This has been an eventful year in the Lukens National Historic District. Here's a quick revue of what happened in 2007.

#### Events

We continued our Spring and Fall lectures in 2007, with topics including: The Architecture of the Historic District; C.L. and A.F. Huston; A Steel Melters Roundtable; as well as others. Graystone Mansion was again the venue for our Concert series, and of course the Victorian Ice Cream Festival in July was better than ever.



We also included some new events this year, starting with the First Annual Rebecca Lukens Award in January (see article at left). Later in the year we hosted our first-ever Victorian Dinner — a formal, gourmet, nine-course meal in

the Great Room at Graystone Mansion. We concluded the year with a Holiday House Tour which was combined with a very successful food drive to benefit the Coatesville Food



Cupboard. All three new events were well received and will remain a regular part of our Calendar of Events each year.

#### Acquisitions

Some of the new items acquired this year in the Historic District:

- A Sonarsphere — on display next to the Lukens Executive Office Building
- A 1964 GMC Fire Engine used by Lukens Steel
- New signage throughout the District



We are also in the process of acquiring funding for restoration of Brandywine Mansion and the other buildings in the District.

#### Looking Forward

2007 was a year with many achievements, but we are now focused on the new year. There may be some exciting new acquisitions in the coming year, and we plan to build on our successful programs and events. Most of all we will try to make the Lukens National Historic District a better and more meaningful place for our members and everyone who visits us.



**Programs**

**Upcoming Events  
in the Lukens National Historic District**

**Thursday, March 20 — Rebecca Lukens Award**  
and celebration at Graystone Mansion will include the presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rebecca Lukens Award.

**Sunday, April 27 — Spring Concert**  
Concert Operetta at Graystone Mansion

**Thursday, May 1 — Spring Lecture #1**  
Our speaker is Ed Frey,  
Arcelor/Mittal Plant Manager

**Thursday, June 5 — Spring Lecture #2**  
Living History Performance of  
Rebecca Lukens by Susannah Brody

**Saturday, July 12 — Victorian Ice Cream Festival**

For details call 610-384-9282  
or email to [graystone@lukensnhd.org](mailto:graystone@lukensnhd.org).

**A few words with . . .**

**Al Giannantonio**

The Graystone Society is proud to introduce our newest Board Member — Albert J. Giannantonio. Mr. Giannantonio, a Professional Civil Engineer, is President of Yerkes Associates, an engineering firm where he has practiced since 1971.

Al earned his engineering degree from Villanova University, after which he served in the US Navy. He then worked for Baldwin Lima Hamilton in Production Planning before joining Yerkes. His interests include railroads (he is President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society), and photography.

Al has always been intrigued by the architecture in the Lukens Historic District, and is excited with the plans for building a steel museum here. "The museum concept provides a fantastic view of the future" he says, "The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum will provide a huge boost to the City of Coatesville."

We are delighted that Mr. Giannantonio has consented to join the Graystone Society Board of Directors. With all of the great changes happening in the Lukens National Historic District, his unique combination of management skills and technical knowledge will prove to be invaluable.

— by John Gutekunst

**Interested in**

**The Battleship USS New Jersey?**

Lukens plate, being the largest, was used in many military applications, including the *USS New Jersey*, built in Philadelphia, and launched in 1942.

The *New Jersey* is notable for having earned the most battle stars, and for being the only battleship of the class to have served a tour of duty in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

The *New Jersey* is now open for tours where it is anchored at the Camden Waterfront, just a short Ferry ride from Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. For more information visit: [www.battleshipnewjersey.org](http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org).



**Events**

**Graystone Society Hosts  
Holiday House Tours and Food Drive**

Luminaries lit up both sides South First Avenue for the Holiday House Tours and Canned Food Drive held on the evening of December 8.

All three of the main buildings in the District were decorated for the season. Terracina was decorated in Victorian fashion, and featured Santa greeting guests on the front porch. Visitors to Graystone Mansion were



treated to holiday cookies, cider donuts, hot apple cider and coffee. Children were encouraged to make an ornament to help decorate the tree at Graystone.

The Lukens band provided holiday music at the Lukens Executive Office Building, where over 350 food items



were collected for the Coatesville Food Cupboard.

The Holiday House Tours were well-received by all in attendance, and are bound to become a fixture in our series of programs.

**Properties**

**New Barn to House Safety Equipment**

We're building a new pole barn on the site once occupied by Terracina's garage. The new structure will have three garage doors to accommodate the two Lukens fire trucks and ambulance in our possession. There will also be room to house a great many more items in growing collection of artifacts. Construction begins this month and, weather permitting, will be completed in early February.

**We've Moved!**

No, not the whole Historic District, just the Graystone Society administrative staff offices. We now occupy the Tenant House, the small building behind Terracina facing the 120 Mill (next to the new barn site). The interior of the house has been fully restored, and will soon have new exterior windows and paint.



*Your Donation is Tax Deductible*

*The Graystone Society is a 501(c)3 corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.*