



The Staff of The Historic Village at Allaire: Hance M. Sitkus, Executive Director; Bonnie R. Brown, Director of Historical Interpretation, Kathy Geiser, Office Manager; Timothy Brown, Village Manager; Angela Larcara, Group Tour Coordinator; Gina Palmisano, Volunteer & Intern Coordinator; Leah Wilderotter, Events Assistant; Felicity Bennett, Curatorial Assistant.

The Board of Trustees.: Patricia Lundervold, Chairperson; Linda Cafone, Vice Chair; Ray O'Grady, Treasurer; Charles A. Brisbane; Jason Bryant; Russ McIver; Cindy Turner; Tom Laverty, Secretary; Inga Gabliks; State Park Supt.; Sgt. Michelle Sharp, NJ State Park Police; Paul Taylor.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY

18th - Saturday - **History Kids Club** (Chose 10:00am - Noon or 1:30pm - 3:30pm) Make a wooden bird feeder. (\$10 per child)

25th - Saturday - **Allaire Arts Musical Entertainment** \$5 per person.

FEBRUARY

8th - Saturday - **History Kids Club** (Chose 10am-Noon or 1:30am-3:30pm) Try your hand at leatherworking! (\$10 per child)

8th - Saturday - **Adult Village Workshops** - Hearth Cooking, Tin Smiths, Blacksmithing. \$40 per person Classes 10am - 2pm (Blacksmiths must be 18yrs or older) 16 yr. old minimum for Tin Smiths & Cooking)

15th - Saturday - 1830's **Presidents Day** 11am-4pm - **A Conversation with Mary Todd Lincoln** 2pm (\$20 per person)

MARCH

7th - Saturday - **A Conversation with P.T. Barnum** - performance by Neil Hartley - 7:30pm - \$20 per person.

14th - Saturday - St. Patrick's Day Celebration - 11am-4pm Adults \$5; Children \$3

21st - Saturday - **Flea Market** - 8am- 2pm - \$2 per person (Vendors \$30)

continued:

21st - Saturday - **History Kids Club** - (Activity to be determined - check our web site for details) \$10 per child.

28th - Saturday - Noon - 3pm **Volunteer Appreciation - Allaire Arts Program** - 7:00pm - \$5 per person

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FEES FOR EVENTS GO TO: www.allairevillage.org and click on the Events tab.

Become a Member of the Historic Village at Allaire! receive member benefits and special discounts in our shops. For information Check out the "Get Involved" tab at our website: www.allairevillage.org or call: 732-919-3500 ext. 12



4263 Atlantic Ave., Farmingdale, New Jersey - 732-919-3500

For Directions please use: 4265 Atlantic Avenue, Wall, NJ 07727 in your GPS.

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Allaire has been so open and encouraging of my ideas and I am happy to have the support and knowledge of my coworkers to help foster new education programs and events for the village. My greatest decision was to decide to break out of my comfort zone and sign up to become an Allaire volunteer. As I stated in my closing sentence in my college essay, "Allaire has changed my life by teaching me about the past, helping me to realize my potential in the present, and discovering the path to the future." Thanks to Allaire I have not only discovered my future life path, I am now living it!

Cont. from page 1 "Interns"

with a concentration in History. Although he has not settled on his project yet, he will be with us during the spring semester so he'll definitely be working on the upcoming spring exhibition in the museum. Trevor is a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and volunteers at the Trenton Soup Kitchen and coaches a team with the Brick Little League.



Spotlight on Our Interns

For the Spring Semester we will be hosting some new interns from the Rutgers University Master of Information program and The College of New Jersey. Kristianna Chanda (above) is a graduate of TCNJ, and Middlebury College David School of Russian. Currently at Rutgers she has been an AmeriCorp teaching volunteer, an intern assistant at the NJ State Archives, and a docent at the Trent House in Trenton, NJ. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta and the Golden Key International Honour Society. Kristianna will be researching the Allaire family with concentration on Hal Allaire and his life-long devotion to a father who was often absent in his life and died before he was in his teens. Trevor Mitchell Rowe is a senior at TCNJ studying Humanities and Social Sciences Cont. on page 4 "Interns"

The Village Star

A Personal Essay 2012 - by Gina Palmisano, Mgr. Volunteers & Educ.

It is important for a community to have an understanding of and be involved in their local history, to learn from the past for the betterment of the future. Of all the activities I am involved in, the one I enjoy the most is volunteering as a historical interpreter at Allaire Village, a historical village set in the 1830's. My family and I have always been active visitors to the village, each time learning ne facts and discovering new nature paths. When it came time to decide how I was going to serve my community service hours for the National Honor Society, most of my friends went to places like the Food pantry or the library, but I preferred to try something unique. It was not until I went to the New Jersey State History Fair at Allaire State park that I decided I wanted to volunteer in the village. Little did I know how volunteering at Allaire Village would change my life. Before volunteering at Allaire, I paid little attention to the history of the village. At the time my love of Allaire was based mainly on its bucolic environment, but once I started my training as a historical interpreter, my passion for history blossomed. Working at Allaire is more than just stating facts to local tourists; it is exiting the 21st century and becoming a part of a working village in the 1830's. When I change into my long-sleeved, floor-length dress and walk through the village on a hot summer day, I can genuinely appreciate the sacrifices in

comfort made by the women of that time. When I smell the wood burning from the blacksmith shop and hear the pounding of the mallet in the carpenter shop, I no longer feel as if I am portraying a villager, but that I have become one. It is through these eyes that I am able to truly understand living in an industrial village in the 1830's, which makes it easier for me to elucidate my knowledge of the village to its visitors. As I continue volunteering at Allaire, my understanding of the village and the lifestyle of the people who lived there expands, and my interest in a career in history is heightened.

When I first began my volunteering at Allaire, I expected to learn about the history and the village, but I did not expect to learn so much about myself. As typical for most students my age, I had a fear of public speaking. When working the Christmas events at Allaire I was taught the Virginia Reel, a dance very common in the 1830's, and was told that I must perform this with my fellow volunteers as well as sing and act out the 12 Days of Christmas song in front of the visitors. When the event commenced and all the volunteers took their positions, I was terrified! As each volunteer started to sing and dance, I realized that all of the performances were Cont. on page 3



Home For the Holidays

This year the Historic Village at Allaire put on its holiday best by decorating with woodland materials that echo the park environment throughout the homes. While decorations would have been minimal during the mid-19th century, certainly it is easy to see how the village surroundings would lend themselves to bringing the outside beauty of the woods inside. Pinecones, evergreens, holly, berries, bows and vines came together to add a festive and homey feel to the village.



The Allaire Residence 2019



The General Store 2019

In addition, exhibitions with a holiday flair reigned throughout the Museum. Traditions from different cultures that were brought to the Howell Works, and have been adapted for the 21st century, were spotlighted through holiday table settings that lined the Museum halls.



France, pictured above, depicted the Buche Noel cake, the Advent calendar and the trinity candle.



Ireland, a country that was home to many immigrants to the Howell Works, was represented through the Advent wreath, mistletoe, bread and milk—emphasizing home & hearth.

Our train displays were thanks to the Palmisano family, who loaned their collection of antique Lionel trains, and the donation of a new display case from the Paterno's, features a variety of festive nutcrackers all dressed up for the holiday season!

We Thank Our Supporters For 2019!

This year, we are delighted to report that many of our funders have continued to support the work we are doing at the historic village and new funders have joined us in our efforts to expand programming and deal with capital repair projects in the Enameling Building and the Manager's House. In the coming year, some of the projects started in 2019 will be completed, and once again, grant funding will be sought to continue developing new ideas for community engagement opportunities, exhibitions, and general operating support. Below is a list of our 2019 corporate and foundation funders:

Fairleigh Dickinson Jr. Foundation

Monmouth County Historical Commission.

The 1772 Foundation

The New Jersey Historical Commission

Ocean First Bank

The New Jersey Historical Trust

The Questers/Sandpipers

Manasquan Bank

Spark Marketing Solutions

New Jersey Office Systems, LLC

The Flower Bar - Brick, NJ

Petschauer Insurance

We also would like to thank all of the individuals whose donations help to fund our educational programming throughout the year. Our continued gratitude for helping us keep The Historic Village at Allaire a thriving community.

Cont. from page 1 "Personal Essay" embarrassing and silly in some way, and yet they still performed confidently and proudly, as did I. It was then that I overcame my fear of public speaking for if I could sing and dance in 1830's attire in front of complete strangers, I could do anything.

My interpretation of the history reaches people of all generations, connecting them with the stories of the past. For example, after one event in which my fellow volunteers and I demonstrated the everyday lifestyle of the village, an elderly gentleman in a Korean War Veterans hat approached us wishing to express his appreciation of our program and the joy he felt from watching us perform it. One of my favorite days at Allaire had to be when I met Samantha, a nine-year old, first time visitor and fellow history enthusiast.

Samantha was completely captivated by the history of the village, as we sat on the porch of Mr. Allaire's mansion discussing the people and events that transpired there. She asked me questions about the house and commented on my costume, after which I let her wear my bonnet for the rest of her visit. I was pleased to see that someone her age could be so engaged in Allaire's history. It is through moments like these that I feel I am connecting with the visitors as well as contributing to the betterment of my community through the sharing of our rich local history. I have learned so much about myself due to my time spent at Allaire, and it is through these experiences that I have realized my

passion for history as well as my love of relating it to others. Before I volunteered at Allaire, I could never picture myself becoming a schoolteacher, but because of the impact I see I am making on the visitors and the thrill I experience in being a part of the Allaire community, I feel that teaching is a career that I would like to pursue. Allaire has changed my life by teaching me about the past, helping me to realize my potential in the present, and discovering the path to my future.

7 years have passed!!!

Now that you have read my college essay and gained insight into my thoughts and dreams as I entered college, I want to provide an update on how it has played out. While I was sad to leave behind the activities I loved, I was excited to start my new life in college and found that Allaire Village continuously played a large role in the experiences I had throughout my higher education. The communication and problem solving skills that I developed at Allaire made my transition into college very easy and gave me the confidence to explore the history field and further develop my passion of teaching. I printed pictures of Allaire and had them displayed on my desk as a form of motivation. These images represented the joy I felt in being a part of such a unique program and they reminded me of why I chose the history field. When applying to internships in college, the main experience on my resume that continued to stand out was my time at Allaire. It helped me earn

a unique opportunity at George Washington's Mount Vernon where I was one out of seven interns accepted across the country to be a part of their Entrepreneur Internship Program.

As I gained more insight into the inner workings of museums, I realized that my passion for teaching expanded outside the classroom. I wanted to engage learners using resources and tools that only museums could provide. The creative experiences you can develop may be limited in a classroom, but in a museum, the sky is the limit! While I continued my training in becoming a teacher, I starting planning my future with the idea of being a museum educator. Many times when I imagined my future career, I thought back on Allaire and all of the ideas I would like to incorporate into the place that has done so much for me. I never thought that I would actually have the opportunity to make those ideas a reality. Once I graduated college, I thought that Allaire had taught me all that it could and provided me all the opportunities possible. Little did I know that Allaire would once again come knocking at my door. After job searching for about 10 months, I received a call from a Board member at Allaire informing me of a job opening as the Volunteer and Intern Coordinator. I was so excited for the opportunity and so surprised at the timing of it all. It seemed destined that I was to return to Allaire. It has now been two years since I started working at Allaire and I am so thankful to be able to make my dreams a reality.

Cont. on page 4