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

The Village Star

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. Before volunteering at Allaire, I expected to learn about the history of the village. Little did I know how volunteering at Allaire Village would change my life.

Before volunteering at Allaire, I lived in the past, helping me to realize my 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 history, but I am now living it.

While working the Christmas events at Allaire I was taught seasonal greetings and festive songs. Since being a historical interpreter, my passion for history has blossomed. Working at Allaire is not just stating facts to local tourists; it is much more. The village set in the 1830’s 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, 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.

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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.

In addition, exhibitions with a holiday flair reigned throughout the homes. While decorations would have been throughout the century, certainly it is easy to see that echo the park environment through the sharing of our rich local history.

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 Palermo's, features a variety of festive nutcrackers all dressed up for the holiday season!

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 Palermo’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 Enamel 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
Petshcauer 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 started 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 7 years since I started working at Allaire and I am so thankful to be able to make my dreams a reality.
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