

Field Notes

Volume 6 - Number 1

Spring 2021

We Are Persevering!



I want to personally thank all of you who showed your support of the Field House Museum this past year. As you know from our past newsletters, it was a cataclysmic year in our history but one that we met with patience, endurance, and hope. We recognize that the events we all have faced will go down in history. Everyday at the Museum we talk about the pandemics the Field family faced while living in St. Louis. Now, our history will forever include the hardships suffered through this global pandemic. Many lives and livelihoods were lost. Many organizations looked to you for support. So again, I want you to know that we are eternally grateful to those of you who supported our institution. I believe that we will come out of this stronger than before, inspired by the members and friends of the Field House Museum.

In fact, the closures have allowed us opportunities that we would have never realized before. We are reaching wider audiences through our online programs. Instead of shutting down, our staff went virtual with our Speaker Series, which has been a huge success. We are now connecting with individuals outside of the St. Louis region to bring their unique perspectives, whereas before we were limited only to those who could travel to the Field House Museum. Eventually, we do hope to welcome speakers and guests back for in-person events, but we plan to keep recording these events for our online audiences. We want to continue to engage with those who may not be able to reach us in-person through virtual tours, programs, and social media.

We hope you enjoy the latest news from the Field House Museum, and we look forward to seeing you, when you feel comfortable, as we continue to celebrate 175 years since the historic Field family home was erected, along with gearing up to celebrate the Missouri Bicentennial. Thank you once again, and please know that every new inspiration is possible because you cared!



Little Boy Blue: Losing a Child with the Mourning Society

The Field House Museum is partnering with the Mourning Society of St. Louis for a very special performance that pays tribute to some of Eugene Field's famous poems concerning the loss of a child. Unfortunately, losing a child was a very common occurrence during Eugene's time, and many parents found verse like "Little Boy Blue" relatable. Eugene

Field himself lost three of his own children, likely inspiring many of his heartbreaking poems. Join us on Saturday, April 17, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm for *Little Boy Blue: Losing a Child with the Mourning Society*. Patrons will enter the parlors of the historic Field family home where the Mourning Society will demonstrate 19th century funeral practices. View artifacts, ask questions, and read more of Field's poetry in the Museum's main gallery after the performance. Tickets are \$15 each and must be purchased in advance through Eventbrite or by calling the Museum at 314-421-4689. Performance times: 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, and 3:00 pm.

Celebrate St. Louis' Diverse History with Our Current Exhibits



This year, the Field House Museum is taking time to celebrate a few impactful individuals with current exhibitions featuring the trailblazers of Black children's literature and St. Louis business woman Annie Malone. In April, we will be highlighting individuals from the Museum's own history, all alongside the legacies of the Field family.

The Power of Words: The Ongoing Tale of Black Children's Literature is an inspiring exhibition featuring the Black writers who

paved the way for representation in children's literature and those who continue to do so today. In *Moving Forward: Exploring the Legacy of Annie Malone*, guests will explore the lasting impact Annie Malone had as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Civil Rights activist. *Momentous Milestones*, coming later this month, will bring attention to major achievements over the Museum's expansive history and highlight the people who made it possible. The Field House Museum is also paying tribute to Eugene Field, for whom the house was saved, with *Writing the Tales* in the Eugene Field Library and *Fantastic Fairs: The Fields at the World's Fairs*.

Eugene Field House Events Calendar

~ March ~

31 Museum School Days*

~ April ~

15 Free Family Afternoon

1:00 - 4:00 pm

17 Little Boy Blue

1:00 - 4:00 pm

21 Speaker Series:

Fantastic Fairs*

1:00 - 2:00 pm

~ May ~

1 Speaker Series:

Only in St. Louis!

6 Give STL Day *

20 Free Family Afternoon

1:00 - 4:00 pm

**denotes online event*

Commemorate the Missouri Bicentennial



Although we have not completely moved on from 2020, there is much to celebrate this year as August 10, 2021, marks the 200th anniversary of Missouri's entry into the United States. The Field House Museum is partnering with many organizations throughout the year to bring the state's history, culture, and accomplishments to St. Louis. From traveling exhibits to ice cream socials and presentations, this year will honor all that is Missouri!

Coming in late June, the Museum will open *Stitching Stories from the Past*, an exhibit highlighting the rich history in creative expression and storytelling that quilts possess. From August 25 – September 24, the Museum will host the Missouri Bicentennial Quilt on loan from the State Historical Society of Missouri. We continue to salute Missouri's history with the *Struggle for Statehood*, a traveling exhibit created by the Missouri Humanities Council in partnership with the

Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. Finally, the Eugene Field Library will delve into the lives of the many notable literary figures from the state in *Missouri Writers: 200 Years of Talent*.

Along with these great exhibits, the Museum is participating in many other Bicentennial programs! Join the Missouri Explorers and complete the Historic Gems of St. Louis challenge hosted by Explore St. Louis - we are a stop on the list of sites! We are also planning on reviving our ice cream socials that were popular at the Museum during the 1970s, along with bringing in guest authors and speakers who will discuss various topics on all things Missouri. Look for more details on these upcoming exhibits, events, and programs on our website!

Speaker Series: Learn Something New

“Everyone you ever meet will know something you don’t.”

—Bill Nye

Expand your horizons and learn from people of all walks of life with the Field House Museum’s Speaker Series. Last year, the Speaker Series transitioned to virtual events broadcast over Facebook Live. This offered an unforeseen, but unique opportunity to invite guests located outside of the St. Louis region. This year, the Museum continues to offer the Speaker Series via Facebook Live, but hopes to begin welcoming guests back in small groups this Summer.



February brought about the end of the exhibition, *Life in Miniature*, which featured doll houses and furniture from the Museum’s Toy Collection. To mark the end of the delightful exploration into all things tiny, artist Sharon Geisfeldt-van Ruiswyck joined us to share the process of creating a miniature book during *Artistry in Miniature*.

In March, we welcomed Dr. Rafia Zafar, professor of English, African and African American Studies, and American Culture at Washington University. Dr. Zafar discussed her book, *We Wear the Mask: African*



Americans Write American Literature, 1760 – 1870 in conjunction with the exhibit *The Power of Words: The Ongoing Tale of Black Children’s Literature*. If you missed this impactful presentation, or any others, they are currently available on our YouTube channel.



Join Museum staff and the President of the St. Louis World’s Fair Society, Mike Truax, for a trip down memory lane, looking back at the Chicago and St. Louis World’s Fairs on April 21, at 1:00 pm. Visit the Museum’s *Fantastic Fairs* exhibit to view artifacts from Eugene and Julia Field’s adventures at the fairs, plus specially loaned items from the Glessner House Museum in Chicago.

Please note that you do not need a Facebook account to view presentations. Simply visit the Field House Museum’s Facebook page or event pages during the allotted time to view

the video feed. For those who are unable to attend the Livestream, recordings will be available on Facebook and YouTube. Museum members may call or email the Museum to register for a special access link to join Special Collections Curator, Nikole Meyer, and our guest via Zoom. The Zoom app may be required in order to view the presentation on tablets and mobile devices.



Makers & Mocktails

Shake things up and get crafting during the Field House Museum’s Makers & Mocktails events! These fun and easy activities are great for families, dates, or just getting in touch with your creative side. Previous activities have included making ornaments and most recently, a book wreath! One of the great aspects of this program is that you can choose to gather the supplies yourself or purchase a special kit that will be delivered straight to your door. Although we have been hosting this program virtually on Zoom, we hope to invite participants back to the Museum later in the year. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next Makers & Mocktails set to take place in May!



Thank You for Making 2020 a Little Merrier!



While it is true that many organizations have suffered great losses due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Field House Museum included, the year-end giving campaign provided hope for the Museum. Many supporters chose to make a contribution, all of which directly support the Museum's efforts to preserve the home, develop engaging exhibits, and provide programming for the community. Every donation made to the Museum, big and small, was greatly appreciated, and the Board and staff would like to personally thank the following individuals:

Mrs. Elma Armistead
Mr. Stephen Butler
Mrs. Maureen Clever
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Compton
Joseph & Terri Eckert
Marianne & Peter Gleich
Mr. & Mrs. John Guenther

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Ed & Pam Nickels
Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Gorman
Curt & Amy Richards
Ms. Sally Smith
Ms. Ellen Tsagaris
Mr. Peter Wollenberg

Thank you for your support during these unprecedented times. Thanks to you, the Field House Museum is excited to enter the new year with renewed hope and inspiration.



Restore, Maintain, and Beautify

The National Landmark Field family home has withstood the test of time. From its humble beginnings as a simple rowhouse, the unit at 634 South Broadway has survived tenants, tornadoes, modernization, and neighborhood changes. The house has undergone many renovations and restorations over the years, with a major overhaul of both the exterior and interior that started in 2000. Maintaining the work that was done during these restorative years takes time and resources. In recent years, we have noticed that the historic windows of the home need a little TLC. In 2019, we started raising monies during our *Attire to Inspire: Hats off to Fashion* fundraiser and the year-end giving campaign to complete the \$70,000+ project to restore the home's windows and shutters, along with installing new storm windows; however, the COVID-19 pandemic halted our progress. Although we have not raised the entire amount, we hope to start the restorative work on the most dire windows, located on the third floor, later this year. If you would like to help support the restoration of the windows of the historic house, you may donate by mail, calling the Museum, or going online to the Museum's secure website donation page at fieldhousemuseum.org/donate.

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Board of Trustees and staff of the Field House Museum thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations:

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September 2020 – January 2021

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September 2020 – January 2021

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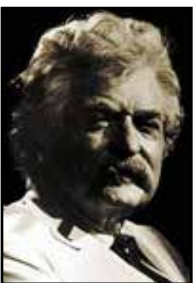
In Memory of Buddy Clever

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~ DONATIONS ~

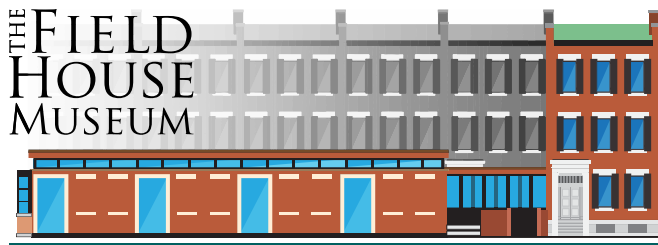
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BIDDING ADIEU TO HAL HOLBROOK

During our Capital Campaign the Museum hosted two special fundraisers featuring Hal Holbrook in *Mark Twain Tonight!* at the Touhill. Many will remember Holbrook's delightful impersonation of the famous author in his Tony- and Emmy-winning one-man-play. It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of Mr. Holbrook's passing in early February. It was an honor to work with him, and we hope that many of you will remember with fondness his performances benefitting the Museum.



WHERE INSPIRATION HAS A HOME
634 South Broadway, Saint Louis, MO 63102

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Give STL Day is May 6!



Mark your calendars for Give STL Day on May 6, 2021! This year, the Field House Museum is once again raising funds to help support the Museum's mission of preserving and promoting the Field family home. Supporters can choose to contribute to a general fund or specific programming at the Museum. This wonderful event is hosted by the St. Louis Community Foundation in an effort to support small organizations throughout the region. We know there are many deserving causes in need, but the Board and staff hope you will consider a donation to the Field House Museum.

Keep an eye on your mailbox! Information will be sent with instructions for giving by mail for those who are not comfortable donating online. For more information, visit www.givestlday.org.

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