Joan Loring Alfond Gift Provides Funding for School Field Trips

Thanks to a generous donation from Joan Loring Alfond to support field trips to visit and engage with the Ellen Jacobson Loring Collection of Early American Decoration, the Museum is able to offer grant funding to support field trip experiences for elementary and secondary school groups in Southern Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Waldo, Washington and Hancock Counties at the Page Farm and Home Museum.

Schools are eligible to receive funding on a 1:1 match basis to finance field trips costs including, but not limited to, transportation; additional staff support; and Museum program fees. Grant awards are for up to $250 and are for the current academic year. To be eligible for this grant, Field Trip Experiences must include the Folk Art program; an exploration of fiber arts and two Early American Decoration techniques, stenciling and country paint.

Alfond Fund Supports Development of Early American Decoration Outreach Kit

A second project that we are carrying out utilizing the gift from Joan Loring Alfond, which is very exciting and has been on our wish list for some time, is the development of an Early American Decoration Outreach Kit. This kit could be sent to schools for a two-week period for use by art teachers, or other school teachers. The kit would include a classroom exhibit of EAD pieces and patterns, curriculum material for 5-6 days of lessons, as well as, hands-on activities.

This classroom kit would benefit any Maine school, regardless of distance to UMaine or field-trip budgets, which are very small these days. The kit would be free to schools; delivery of the kit would also be free. They would only need to pay return shipping (or, return it themselves).

Professor Laurie Hicks is advising a Museum Studies intern in the development of this valuable teaching aid. The kit will be ready to go out to schools in early spring.
Page Farm and Home Museum Preservation Project

“Safeguarding Maine’s Home for Agrarian History”

The Page Farm and Home Museum is the first museum solely dedicated to showcasing life on rural Maine farms between 1865 and 1940s, when electricity significantly changed agrarian life. It ensures that people today can gain valuable and practical insights into Maine’s rural past.

Through public access, strategic outreach, and educational programming, the Page Farm and Home Museum brings history to life with multi-sensory engagement. It is a special home for Maine’s agrarian past.

A $50,000 campaign was kicked off this winter with a generous matching gift from Carl and Linda Smith. Along with their generosity, several Museum leaders contributed to the campaign. The University also provided matching funds to the projects, which included repair to the silo, replacement of the school house ramp and deck entrance, repair, re-plastering, scraping, and painting of the school. In addition, funds were used to repair and replace windows accepted under the structure’s National Register of Historic Places designation.

But, as with all old buildings, there are always more needs than there are funds. This May the campaign will continue by reaching out to all our membership to help us build a reserve to cover future maintenance and infrastructure demands. A solid infrastructure is crucial for us to continue our programming efforts.

“Our heritage is the most important gift we can pass on to our children.”

Larry Wade,
Museum Founder and Honorary Board Member
Curator’s Corner

Ellen White of Orono, Maine recently brought in her mother’s tin kitchen, which dates to the early 1940s. The tin kitchen is part of the donated collection of 92 children’s toys that belonged to her mother, Julia Robinson, who was born in 1935 in Hanover, N.H. The toys were manufactured by the Wolverine Toy Company.

The Wolverine Supply and Manufacturing Company, later known as the Wolverine Toy Company, produced children’s toys for nearly seven decades from its factory on the North Side of Pittsburgh. Benjamin Franklin Bain, who studied mechanics and engineering at the Michigan Agricultural College (which later became Michigan State University), founded the Wolverine Supply and Manufacturing Company in 1903. The company originally produced metal kitchen tools and household supplies, so he chose Pittsburgh, the hub of the metal industry during the early 20th century, as the company’s headquarters.

In 1909, the Wolverine Supply and Manufacturing Company obtained the Sand Toy Company and its signature line, “Sandy Andy” tin toys, as the result of a bankruptcy settlement. Over the next several decades, Wolverine evolved into an exclusive manufacturer of toys, expanding the “Sandy Andy” line and producing toys ranging from tin battleships to household appliances.

Like other toys of the era, Wolverine reinforced “traditional” gender roles through the production and marketing of gender-specific toys. For example, its line of home appliances called “Sunny Suzy” and “Little Queen” were created to appeal to young girls. These products stayed true to the culture of the era, as Wolverine continually released revamped versions of its signature toys such as its refrigerators, which became available in a wide array of colors reflecting current style trends.

Janine Kickler, The Heinz History Center

Upcoming Programs

Going Green with Dryer Balls, Saturday, May 18, 2019, 1 p.m. Stop using toxic dryer sheets and start using your own hand-made, natural, non-toxic dryer balls. Dryer balls reduce drying time by 25% and help clothes dry more efficiently which saves energy and money. Wool dryer balls are an all-natural, chemical-free alternative. They last 2-4 years and for over 1,000 loads which minimizes waste. We can show you how easy it is to make your own. Make up to three to take home for a material fee of just $6. The workshop is free. To register, please call: 581-4100.

Pop-Up-Program: Do & Discover, Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 1 p.m. Join us for a super fun-ducational quest throughout the Museum. Cipher the riddles to navigate through the exhibits, participate in Challenge activities, and carry out some stop-and-dos in order to learn about life in rural Maine 150 years ago.

Pop-Up-Programs are our way of allowing families to participate in activities developed for school groups. They are fun, educational and a nice introduction to Museums, collections and programming for children. Pop-Up-Programs are free. Participation is limited to 40 children. Please call 581-4100 to reserve your space. (Please no more than six children per family.)
Charitable Gift Annuities—A win for both you and the Page Farm and Home Museum

A charitable gift annuity is a gift vehicle that falls in the category of planned giving. It involves a contract between a donor and a charity, whereby the donor transfers cash or property to the charity in exchange for a partial tax deduction and a lifetime stream of annual income from the charity. When the donor dies, the charity keeps the gift.

The planned giving officers at the University of Maine Foundation can provide information about charitable gift annuities without obligation. They can be reach by calling 800.982.8503 umaineFoundation.org.

They ask that you check with your advisors before funding a charitable gift annuity to determine current laws that may be applicable in your circumstances.