Samara Shop Takes Flight

Nature-inspired Gifts at the Schrader Center Captivate a Sense of Wonder and Adventure
Greetings! I hope your summer has been fulfilling. It certainly has been at Oglebay Institute as our summer camps have ended and we transition into a full schedule of fall classes and events.

In the business of everyday life, we seldom pause and reflect upon our achievements. It’s no different at Oglebay Institute. However, at the conclusion of the fiscal year in June, we prepare many reports to funders regarding how we have delivered upon our mission. It is always challenging to succinctly summarize, within the confines of the reports, the many wonderful things that happen at OI.

Participation has grown with more than 90,000 individuals served. Financial performance has been strong even in challenging economic times. Beyond the data, I believe experiences best tell the story of our success.

Over the summer, hundreds of children engaged in creative learning through summer camps. Historic Preservation Students from Belmont College helped maintain the beauty and integrity of the Stifel Fine Arts Center. Visitors from near and far celebrated master photographer Jay Stock during his “Just People” exhibit. Others received a rare glimpse of the works of Shakespeare during the First Folio exhibit and programs. I toured Crittenton Services where I heard stories how our dance outreach program has led to empowerment and personal development among the young women they serve. Finally, I was truly humbled to hear a patron say, “I can’t imagine our community without Oglebay Institute.” Experiences like these are testaments to the work of our staff and support from members, donors and patrons.

As we begin a new year of programming, we embrace new opportunities and community partnerships. Please visit our events calendar and fall class schedule to discover a host of offerings that entertain, enrich and inspire.

We hope to see you soon at Oglebay Institute. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Danielle Cross McCracken
Oglebay Institute President

New Jewelry Studio to Open in Stifel Center

Jewelry artists from beginners to advanced will soon have a new, fully equipped studio in which to work as OI’s Stifel Fine Arts Center expands its jewelry-making capabilities for classes and workshops.

A grant from the Elizabeth Stifel Kline Foundation will enable OI to transform a large area in the Stifel Center basement to a studio devoted entirely to this art. New materials and equipment will broaden the array of opportunities available for students of all levels.

“Up to now, we have offered classes in precious metal clay thanks to a previous gift that enabled the purchase of a kiln, torches and materials needed for that type of jewelry making,” says Stifel Center director Rick Morgan. “The new studio will allow us to expand into soldering, metalsmithing, enameling and polishing. More diverse opportunities will be available in the near future for the public to explore the art of jewelry making.”

Consulting with the Stifel Center on designing and equipping the studio was internationally known, Pittsburgh-based jewelry artist Donna Penoyer. Among the programs planned for 2017 are workshops to be taught by Penoyer.

For more information on classes, visit OIonline.com. Experienced jewelry artists interested in teaching are encouraged to call Morgan at 304-242-7700.
Joseph Menendez Named Chief Financial Officer

Moundsville resident Joseph Menendez has been appointed to serve as the chief financial officer for Oglebay Institute. Menendez began his employment in June and replaces Seth McIntyre, who left the post after a successful 18-year tenure to serve as the finance director for the City of Wheeling.

Menendez has 19 years of extensive leadership in finance, accounting, business operations, banking and lending, including nine years auditing non-profit organizations. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from West Virginia University and a master’s degree in professional accountancy from WVU. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the West Virginia Society of CPAs.

As OI’s chief financial officer, Menendez oversees the finance department and is responsible for all financial matters of the organization including planning and implementation, monitoring and reporting, oversight and compliance.

Menendez said, “I am excited to serve in this capacity. Oglebay Institute enriches thousands of lives each year through its arts, nature and cultural programs. I am happy to be part of such a worthwhile organization that positively impacts the quality of life in our community.”

Deborah Greene Appointed Assistant Director of Fine Arts

Wheeling resident Deborah Greene has been appointed to serve as Oglebay Institute’s assistant director of fine arts.

Greene is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in professional writing and a master’s degree in corporate and organizational communication. She most recently served as a part-time customer service representative at OI.

In her new role, Greene is responsible for managing the Stifel Fine Arts Center customer service team, coordinating facility reservations, including school and public program bookings, and performing a range of administrative duties for three OI departments – visual arts, performing arts and dance.

Prior to joining OI, Greene worked in both financial planning and foster care agency services as an administrative assistant.

“I am humbled yet proud to be a part of this dynamic and inspirational organization,” she said. “The energetic, creative and caring staff has been extremely supportive of my new role. I’m excited to be a part of the positive future endeavors of Oglebay Institute.”

The Show Must Go On…
Towngate Theatre Helps Greenbrier Valley Theatre After Flood

Oglebay Institute’s Towngate Theatre in Wheeling recently donated a truckload of costumes, fabric and sewing supplies to the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg. GVT sustained significant losses as a result of the recent flooding. The basement took on more than five feet of water, destroying GVT’s entire stock of costumes, props and set pieces along with all sewing machines and supplies.

Continued on page 10.

Pictured, left to right, outside of Towngate Theatre in Wheeling, are Towngate Theatre director Tim Thompson, volunteers Lindsey Wayne and Makayla Carney, Towngate technical director P.D. Gregg and Oglebay Institute director of performing arts Kate Crosbie.
Oglebay Institute has a new retail space.

The nature-inspired Samara Shop at OI’s Schrader Environmental Education Center in Oglebay opened in July and is exceeding expectations.

“The response has been amazing,” said Mia Ickes, assistant director at the Schrader Center. “People are impressed with the merchandise, the atmosphere and the knowledgeable staff.”

According to Ickes, feedback has been very positive, and the shop is exceeding projections in both the number of visitors and overall sales. Shoppers include a mix of local residents and out-of-towners staying at Oglebay, and the shop is already seeing repeat customers.

Ickes was instrumental in getting the shop up and running. She is responsible for product selection, managing inventory, implementing the point of sale system and hiring retail staff. “Everyone has worked really hard. It’s been a lot of work, but so much fun. We are definitely pleased with the outcome. Most importantly, our patrons are pleased.”

Located on the upper level of the Schrader Center, the Samara Shop features a collection of nature-inspired items carefully selected to captivate a sense of wonder and adventure. Products include nature-themed gifts, products for eco-conscious consumers, locally sourced food items, resources and gear for outdoor adventures and an ever-expanding book selection on everything green-related.
A big part of the Schrader Center’s mission is to engage children—early and often—in nature study and exploration. As such, Samara features items designed to pique kids’ interests in science and nature and encourage outdoor play. You can find nature-themed toys along with interactive games and puzzles. An impressive children’s literature section is popular with parents and teachers alike.

“One customer was a teacher from California staying at Wilson Lodge. She raved about our selection of children’s books and bought several to use in her classroom,” Ickes explained.

Items from local and regional vendors have also been very popular. Hand-painted baskets and paintings from Wheeling artist Sue Smith have been very well received along with honey from Windswept Farms and Maple Syrup from Family Roots Farm. The stoneware mugs from Mud Ceramics of Thomas, West Virginia, are flying off the shelves.

What is the most popular item so far? Swedish dishcloths from the Connecticut-based company Three Bluebirds.

Designed to cut down on paper towel waste, these eco-friendly, absorbent dish cloths do the work of 17 rolls of paper towels and can be cleaned in the dishwasher or washing machine more than 200 times.

“Ickes said that in addition to having strong product knowledge, employees at Samara are dedicated to nature education. Retail manager Courtney Comack has been a nature educator at the Schrader Center for several years, and part-time sales associate Debbie McKay is a science teacher.

Outdoor enthusiasts can find resources at Samara, too. Items like field guides, binoculars and handcrafted walking sticks are readily available.

“Recently, a group of lodge guests took a guided nature walk along the Oglebay trails with Schrader Center nature educator Ken Dague. Afterwards, several hikers purchased field guides so they could continue learning on their own,” Ickes recalled. “That was great to see. We want people to have great learning experiences with us, and then get mission-related products that inspire learning at home.”

Funding for the project was made possible through the generous support of the Schenk Charitable Trust and a bequest from Sarah C. Tinkey.

“We are so very grateful for the contributions that made this initiative possible. It is a wonderful example of capacity building through philanthropy. Because of these charitable gifts, the Schrader Center has established something that will advance its educational mission, enhance the customer experience and generate income to support the operating budget,” adds Oglebay Institute president Danielle McCracken.

The Samara Shop also provides additional revenue for the nature center. Proceeds directly support the Schrader Center and its educational programs.

The Samara Shop is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 12-5 p.m. Sundays.

Popular Items:

**Children’s Books**

$6-$25

**Local Honey & Maple Syrup**

*Windswept Farms and Family Roots Farm*

$3-$12

**Stoneware Mugs**

*Mud Ceramics*

$19.99

**Swedish Dish Cloths**

*Three Bluebirds*

$6.95

**Hand-painted Baskets & Jewelry Boxes**

*Sue Smith Original Art*

$18-$40

Players with toy butterflies at the Samara Shop are, left to right, Sophia Adams and Claire and Anna Seidler.
OI in Photos

A summer of lively events, exhibits and performances has recently concluded at OI. The summer of 2016 saw the visit of an original 1623 Shakespeare’s First Folio, a new collection of work from photographer Jay Stock and the opening of OI’s new retail space, the Samara Shop. More than 500 area children attended Summer Day Camps. OI’s rich and diverse programming is made possible through the support of donors, sponsors, members, local foundations and community partners. Please join us as we recognize their support and contributions, which positively impact all we do.

First Folio Opening Reception
Mansion Museum

OI partnered with West Liberty University, Wheeling Jesuit University, the Ohio County Public Library, the West Virginia Reading Association and other community partners to present more than 40 programs during the four-week exhibition to connect the public with the Bard, his work and the history of the printed word. Programs ranged from lectures and film festivals, to theater productions and celebrations of 17th century food and customs.

Pictured above with the First Folio is Jeremy McCamic (left) and Folger Institute & Folger Shakespeare Library assistant director of scholarly programs, Owen Williams.

Oglebay Institute’s Mansion Museum recently served as the only location in West Virginia to host the Folger Shakespeare Library’s touring First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare exhibit, which featured an original 1623 First Folio (collection of Shakespeare’s plays).

ShakesBEER in the Park
Oglebay

Guests of the May 21 ShakesBEER in the Park partied in the spirit of the Groundlings in the Globe Theatre’s pit at Oglebay’s Anne Kuchinka Amphitheater. The event featured samples of specially brewed “Shakesbeers,” a feast of 17th Century theater foods and interactive entertainment by touring Shakespeare troupe The Rustic Mechanicals.

Above, front row, left to right are Brian Joseph, Julie Joseph, Jamie Remp, Chad Remp and Raina Burke. Back row: Christin Byrum, Heather Slack, Steve Burke, Christy Dunkin, Russ Dunkin, Kristin Seibert, Justin Seibert, Laura Mull, Adam Mull and Ami Dodd. Below, Stella and Michael Boldrick.

Photos courtesy of Weelunk.
Towngate Theatre staged a production of Ronald Harwood’s “The Dresser” in May – a play that captures the backstage lore of life on stage by following Sir Donald Wolfit, played by Tim Thompson, as he prepares for his 227th performance as King Lear.

Directed by Maribeth Thompson, “The Dresser” featured a talented cast of community theater veterans. Pictured above, left to right, are cast members Makayla Carney, Walt Warren, Isa Campbell, Vincent Marshall, Tim Thompson, Dee Gregg, Melody Meadows, Wayne McCord and Jon J. Coffield.

Above, Norman, the loyal dresser played by Vincent Marshall, aids the ailing Sir Donald Wolfit, played by Tim Thompson. Below, Norman (Vincent Marshall), Geoffrey Thornton, (Walt Warren) and Madge (Dee Gregg) desperately try to prepare Sir for one final performance.

The arrival of the world-famous First Folio in Wheeling kicked off with the Madrigal Dinner May 7 at Camp Russell in Oglebay. The event featured food and drink fit for the Bard himself. Entertainment included early-music specialists Marginalia and theatrical performances by West Virginia’s only professional touring Shakespeare troupe, The Rustic Mechanicals.

Pictured above are members of The Rustic Mechanicals with event sponsors Harris Law Office. Left to right are Celi Oliveto, Michael Vozniak, Morgan Harris, Paul J. Harris, Judy Harris, Kaici Lore and Samantha Huffman.

Above, Madrigal Dinner guests Dr. David and Charl Kappel. Below, Marginalia singer and piper Peter Walker.

Many special programs were held throughout Wheeling in conjunction with the First Folio exhibition to connect the public with the life and times of Shakespeare. One of those events was Society for Creative Anachronism demonstrations of late medieval combat and customs June 4 at Oglebay.

Above, a Society for Creative Anachronism member demonstrates the early modern art of rapier fighting in the Mansion Woods.

Presented by the Folger Theatre and sponsored by Kepner Funeral Homes, the interactive one-man play Gravedigger’s Tale was performed June 11 at Wheeling’s historic Greenwood Cemetery. The play starred actor Louis Butelli and engaged an audience of more than 60 in a retelling of Hamlet from the unique perspective of the Gravedigger. Pictured above, left to right, with actor Louis Butelli are Sondra Clutter, Melissa Hall and Dave Clutter.

Oglebay Institute Memberworks | Summer 2016 7
AED Donation
Schrader Center

The generosity of Mary Velez (far left) of the Matt Velez Foundation and Oglebay Institute member Bob Rine (second from right) allowed the Schrader Center to purchase a life-saving AED (automated external defibrillator) in May.

Pictured above with Velez and Rine are Schrader Center director Alice Eastman and naturalist Ken Dague.

Sponsored by Southwestern Energy, Oglebay Institute held its Summer Kickoff event May 14 at the Stifel Fine Arts Center.

A day of free activities, Summer Kickoff offered a sampling of Oglebay Institute’s family programs, camps and classes.

Above, Stifel Fine Arts Center director Rick Morgan gives a pottery wheel demonstration.

Family and friends from across the nation gathered June 5 at the Stifel Fine Arts Center to celebrate the more than 70-year career of internationally acclaimed photographer Jay Stock.

“Just People” was presented in conjunction with the release of Stock’s new book. The book and exhibit contain images taken by Stock throughout his career and masterfully capture emotional human life stories.

Pictured above with Stock are daughters (left to right) Andrea Cowan, Georgette Stock and Lorlean Fialkowski.

The June 25 Secret Gardens of Wheeling Tour & Garden Market invited the public to visit four local gardens designed by renowned architect Brooks Wigginton and shop an outdoor marketplace of nearly 40 vendors.

Pictured above, front row, left to right, are vendors Joan Berlow-Smith, JJ King and Elizabeth Ellsworth. Back row, left to right, are Museums Committee members Barbara Ruben and Paula McClure, Secret Gardens presenter Hydie Friend and committee member Jane Mahlke.
Above, Wheeling businessman Frank Calabrese donated much of the repurposed furniture used as displays in the shop. Below, Wheeling City Councilwoman Wendy Scatterday, Friends of Schrader chair Mary Grey and Naturalist Emeritus Greg Park.

By the Numbers
Camp Scholarships

Oglebay distributed a record-setting total of more than $24,000 in need-based summer camp scholarships in 2016, made possible through the generous support of the Robinson Parlin Trust, the James B. Chambers Memorial Foundation, the William Randolph Hearst Foundations, the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, the Stanley H. Coulling Summer Camp Scholarship Endowment, the Greg Park Junior Nature Scholarship Fund and gifts from individual donors.

More than 140 weeks of Summer Day Camps were awarded with scholarship assistance totaling just over $17,900.

22 weeks of Junior Nature Camp were awarded with scholarship assistance totaling $6,137.

1 week of Mountain Nature Camp was awarded with scholarship assistance totaling $360.

Summer Day Camps
Oglebay Institute's Stifel Fine Arts Center & School of Dance

At Magic of the Pottery Wheel, campers learn the basics of throwing clay on the pottery wheel and clay hand-building techniques while experimenting with glaze and other finishes.

Pictured above, left to right, with handmade pieces created during the two-week camp are Annie McKinley, Ashley Martin and Emma Fabian.

Oglebay Institute’s School of Dance once again presented its Summer Dance and Vocal Intensive, offering four days of concentrated study with exceptional guest instructors in ballet, jazz and music.

Pictured, left to right, are professional dancers Michael Garber, Sarah Obozor and Svetlana Todinova with OI School of Dance instructor Kimberlee Kafana and vocal instructor Sing Rose.

Thanks to a gift from the Schenk Charitable Trust and a bequest from Sarah C. Tinkey, the Schrader Center opened the Samara Shop July 1. The shop features nature-themed gifts for all ages, selected to inspire a sense of wonder and adventure.

Pictured above, left to right, are Oglebay Institute president Danielle McCracken, Schrader Center director Alice Eastman, assistant director Mia Ickes, Samara Shop retail manager Courtney Comack, Oglebay Institute board member Marty Maness and retail staff member Debbie McKay.

Oglebay Institute’s summer youth theater program Parcel Players staged two productions this summer including Androcles and the Lion, the famous Aesop fable, July 13-16 at Towngate Theatre.

Front row, kneeling, (left to right) are Daniel Loh and Dailey Ward. Back row (left to right) are Adam Marquart, Leah Coleman, Joel Nau, Mallory Fischer and Collin Spangler.
Luke Miller was just having fun in the early 2000s, when as a small child he enjoyed the Mansion Museum’s annual Antiques Show, “Wymer’s General Store” exhibit and summer history camps. Little did he realize how these experiences were fanning the flames of his interest in history and leading him to a career goal in education.

Currently a third-year student at the U.S. Naval Academy, this Wheeling native recalls many happy hours at the Mansion – he even had his ninth birthday party there. As a teen, he returned to the history camp to assist with younger children. But one experience that stands out occurred at a particular Antiques Show.

“There was a dealer selling old ribbons, commemorating important historic events,” Luke recalls. “He spent hours talking to me about his merchandise, explaining where items came from, when they were made, who made them, and so on. He was very knowledgeable and took time to teach me even though he had many other customers. I was really touched by that and, looking back, this was a moment that helped get me really interested in learning about history and teaching others.”

The dealer – Richard Vandall of American Decorative Arts – even gave Luke research projects to work on during the months that followed, related to the ribbons. Luke reported back to him at the following year’s show. The two stayed in contact for several years, and Luke made it a point to visit Vandall during subsequent Antiques Shows.

“I have a lot of love for Oglebay Institute and its programs,” says Luke, who also participated in the Schrader Center’s nature camps, and took karate classes at the School of Dance. “I learned a lot and made some close friends over the years. More importantly, the Institute helped build my love for history through activities at the Mansion and the Antiques Show.”

Luke is a third-generation OI member, as his parents - Greg and Tammy Miller - and his paternal grandfather - Robert Miller – are all longtime OI members. His grandmother, the late Rosemary Miller, was a member of the Museums Committee and chaired the Antiques Show for many years. Luke’s sisters, Brooke and Clare, also grew up with OI. Brooke attended Junior Nature Camp for eight consecutive summers, first as a camper and a counselor in training, and this year as a counselor. Clare gravitated toward the theater, acting in many Towngate plays and attending numerous summer camps.

“All our children benefitted so much from Oglebay Institute,” says mother, Tammy. “It has been wonderful for our family.”

After graduating from the Naval Academy, Luke will spend five years serving his country in the Navy, where he hopes to be a surface warfare officer. After that, he plans to pursue a career in education – as a history teacher, naturally!
Belmont College Students Complete Restoration Work at the Stifel Fine Arts Center

In July, students in the Building Preservation/Restoration (BPR) program at Belmont College completed restoration work on the Stifel Fine Arts Center porte-cochere and front porch wood railings as part of their Summer Community Field Lab Class. Students from the BPR program collectively contributed more than 1,000 hours of work over a 13-day period to several local historic buildings in Wheeling and Washington, PA, under the supervision of Belmont College BPR instructors Cathie Senter and Jon Smith.

“Working on historic properties in our local community is very rewarding for the students,” explained Senter. “Not only do they gain hands-on, practical experience working on actual historic buildings, but they also have the opportunity to give back to the community.”

Oglebay Institute has hired an architect to plan for reconstruction of the Stifel’s porte-cochere, which is necessary after the failing roof was removed in 2014. The students stabilized, cleaned and treated the porte-cochere to prepare for reconstruction, which will begin once funding is secured.

“We are very appreciative of this partnership with Belmont College. I was very impressed with the skills, passion and care the students and faculty brought to this project. Their efforts enabled us to take the first steps to rebuild this space, which will allow us to maintain the historical integrity of this facility that is enjoyed by thousands of residents of the Ohio Valley and beyond each year,” said Danielle McCracken, Oglebay Institute president.

For more information on contributing to the reconstruction project, contact McCracken at 304-242-4200 or send your donation to Oglebay Institute, 1330 National Road, Wheeling, WV 26003, noting the intention of your gift.

Towngate Brings Theater to Area Schools
Traveling Show Promotes Literacy and Creative Thinking

Oglebay Institute uses theater as a tool to promote literacy and creative thinking.

Each year OI’s Towngate Theatre produces a children’s show that travels to dozens of elementary schools as part of its educational outreach program.

“Kids exposed to the arts at an early age often do better academically, socially and civically,” said Towngate Theatre director Tim Thompson. “The traveling show is one of the many ways we provide access to performing arts and introduce kids to the magic of theater.”

The 45-minute play entertains and teaches life lessons. Each play, whether a classic story or an original work, presents ethical issues to children on a level they can absorb, relate to and consider. Shows are highly interactive. Study guides include activities that can be conducted in the classroom before and after the show.

“Plays bring stories to life. Words and characters jump from the page to the stage, connecting children to the importance of reading,” Thompson said. “Theater also teaches skills such as empathy, critical thinking and teamwork.”

The 2016 traveling show is an adaptation of the well-known German folk tale “The Pied Piper of Hamelin.” It is on tour during the month of October. Schools can book a performance by calling 304-242-7700.

In addition to theater, OI offers school programs in visual arts, dance, nature and history. Field trips and in-school programs are available for multiple age groups. Programs supplement classroom teaching, meet content standards and objectives and build 21st-century learning skills.
These programs are presented with financial assistance from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.