

Work Art is a collection of prints, posters, and note cards featuring reproductions of original artwork from the Design Department of Bates Manufacturing Company. From brightly colored florals to intricate paisleys, the Bates Design Department created beautiful and painstakingly detailed hand drawn and hand painted designs for textile goods that were oftentimes never produced. Museum L-A was



fortunate to rescue several hundred of these designs which also include basic pencil drawings and images on point paper. Twelve of the designs are featured in the Museum L-A Work Art 2009 calendar which can be bought at the Museum Shop.

## THE VISION



Museum L-A, through detailed conceptual planning, has identified a site and is actively working toward a permanent space.

**Support Museum L-A today and invest in our Community. Your financial support creates:**

- Engaging and Interactive Environments For All Ages
- A Fun and Vibrant Family Outing Destination
- An Enriching and Cultural Community Gathering Place



The Story of Work and Community in Lewiston-Auburn

(207) 333-3881

35 Canal Street, Box A7  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
www.museumla.org

### Be Significant!

Museum L-A actively challenges visitors and supporters to engage in the stories it tells and the history it richly preserves. With your help and support, Museum L-A will continue to play an important part in the current economic and cultural revival of Lewiston-Auburn.

# VOICES



The Story of Work and Community in Lewiston-Auburn

FALL 2008

## New Museum Shop Opens



More than 50 people stopped by Museum L-A on Saturday, Nov. 1 for the Grand Opening of the new Museum Shop. Chip Morrison, president of the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce is pictured cutting the ceremonial fringe with Museum L-A Board members Elliott Epstein and Stephanie Upton looking on. Above, Museum L-A Executive Director Rachel Desgrosseilliers presents door prize winner Roland Metayer with a Museum L-A throw woven by Maine Heritage Weavers.



### Publication Award Winner

Museum L-A's first place award winning publication was showcased at the New England Museum's Annual Conference in Warwick, R.I. From left, are: Board Director Stephanie Upton, NEMA President Kate Viens, Director Rachel Desgrosseilliers, and Board Director Gene Clough.



Weaving a World encourages family interaction and sharing of stories.

### Still time to see *Weaving a World*; *Portraits* return by popular demand

*Weaving a World: Lewiston's Millworkers, 1920-2008*, the traveling exhibit that tells the story of Lewiston's millworkers and created in collaboration with Bates College, will remain in the Gallery until May 2009.

Back by popular demand, 25 selections of *Portraits and Voices* have been reinstalled in the Gallery. Visitors and community members alike voiced their opinion loud and clear that they missed the exhibit due to its poignant and significant message which compliments *Weaving a World* and makes the lives of the millworkers more personal. The museum will rotate the selections every few months.

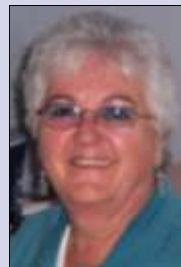
For More Information log on to: [www.museumla.org](http://www.museumla.org) or call 207-333-3381

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to VOICES! Our first newsletter will allow us to share the happenings of Museum L-A. We are working to bring you a first class museum of local history surrounding the stories of work and community in Lewiston-Auburn. From the number of people of all ages attending events and visiting our museum, it seems that you agree with us that this is much needed. We are seeing people from all over the United States as well as from other countries. It is evident that we will be a force for tourism. However, our main purpose is really to **bring our own people, as diverse as they've** now become, much more in tune with the richness of their own community, and in particular, its workers and their lives.

As the result of a main Strategic Planning effort, we are undertaking the creation of a new Museum. It has taken long and arduous hours (and many more needed) of saving, cataloguing, programming, planning for the future and especially, listening to what you want from us. We have started to bring honor to our **"silent heroes"** - the workers who built our communities. The millworkers have over 200 oral histories completed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> major exhibit now showing. The

brickmakers' oral histories are almost complete. Their reunion and exhibit are scheduled for early summer 2009. We have recently launched the oral histories of the shoeworkers. For many, we are working against time.



The whole intention of the Museum is to open up part of our *community* world and showcase who we are, give us a **"sense of place," and make the Museum a vital part of our culture, past and future.** We

invite you to visit often as the board, staff and volunteers work hard to give Lewiston-Auburn civic pride through knowing its truly rich history, a history that should be the inspiration for young and old to once again become: creators, artists, great business people and inventors that make Lewiston-Auburn "a real place."

**It's beyond opening a Museum. It's more than a concept. We have to do this. We have no choice... If we do not, we are depriving our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of the own Legacy.**

**"Whether you think you can or think you can't, either way you are right."** Henry Ford (1863-1947).

It is now up to us!

Rachel Desgrosseilliers,  
Executive Director

## FRIENDS Program Debuts

Museum L-A is excited to launch its **"Friends"** Program. Financial support builds programs, funds engaging exhibits, and creates opportunities designed to connect generations. With every contribution to Museum L-A, friends will receive a window cling decal. We hope you will be excited to receive your decal and will proudly display support for the preservation of our rich heritage! Major donors **contributing to the Director's Table or the Educator's Circle** will be recognized with names engraved and displayed in the Museum Gallery on an annual basis.

For more information about how you can support the Friends or Corporate Sponsorship Program, please contact Jennifer Dube-Works, Development Director. Contact: [jdube@museumla.org](mailto:jdube@museumla.org)



## Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

Be part of the behind-the-scenes work of Museum L-A -- become a volunteer! There is a place for you, whether you want to: help with exhibits or collections management, welcome visitors or lead tours, assist in the office or conduct research. Involvement varies from a few hours for specific projects to weekly commitments throughout the year. Volunteering is a great opportunity to learn more about the Museum, while helping it achieve its mission. For more information, please contact Karla Leandri Rider at 333-3881 or [kleandririder@museumla.org](mailto:kleandririder@museumla.org).



Volunteer Norm Berube helps with a project that will become part of the education program.

## 2009 Annual Campaign Launches With Success

Thank you to all who contributed to the 2008 Annual Fund. Museum L-A has set an **ambitious goal for 2009's** campaign. Every dollar counts. Annual funds are distributed across all museum programs: collections, exhibits, archives, adult and youth programs, and preservation.

In 2009, support will fund a brickmakers exhibit, personal treasures and corporate archives workshops, after school discovery programs, walking tours and many opportunities for family fun and learning.

Museum L-A is committed to

investing your contribution wisely. Museum programs enrich our community in heartfelt ways, connecting our generations and validating lives of our workers. Thanks for Giving!

We look forward to building on the success of the 2008 annual campaign.

If you wish to contribute a MEMORIAL GIFT to Museum L-A, or an annual gift in any amount, please contact Jennifer Dube-Works at 207-333-3881 or [jdube@museumla.org](mailto:jdube@museumla.org).

All contributions to Museum L-A are tax deductible.



## L-A HISTORY DETECTIVES

HISTORY NEWSLETTER for YOUNG PEOPLE

Do you have a child or grandchild who'd like to receive their own newsletter in the mail? Let us know; we'll send L-A History Detectives directly. E-mail our museum educator, Annette Vance Dorey, at [adorey@museumla.org](mailto:adorey@museumla.org) or call 333-3881.

The Gallery has a Kids Korner where young visitors find hands-on weaving and yarn activities, cushion-chairs to relax in, books for young readers about children who worked in mills, and colorful board books for the youngest. Kids Korner is sponsored by Pediatric Associates of Lewiston.

Education intern, Erin Bond, tells about our Traveling Trunk: I worked closely with Annette on

a variety of projects, such as a school outreach initiative --the Traveling Trunk. I gained valuable curriculum design skills in helping create various Trunk components. Through this project, I had the opportunity to learn about L-A's industrial history and to prototype educational activities with local students. During my internship I not only worked with Annette, but also witnessed the inner workings of a small museum by sitting in on staff meetings and assist the exhibit committee's work. This positive experience led me to continue my collaboration with Museum L-A this fall as part of my Education Studies minor as Bates College senior.

## Museum Sees Visitor Increase

The number of Visitors at Museum L-A has greatly increased over the past year thanks to our wonderful supporters who have willingly and enthusiastically spread the word! During the past year, more than 4,500 people had visited hailing from 107 towns and cities from 21 states and four countries. With groups from Bates College, the Maine State Museum, Lewiston Adult Education, and many **children's school groups, the Museum has catered to a wide variety of audiences and looks forward to increasing local and tourist visitors in the next year.**

## Maine Company Donates Shelving

A huge thank you to Wayne Sharkey from **Systematics, Inc of Portland, New England's** recognized industry leader for storage and information management solutions for their generous in-kind donation. The Museum received 12 state-of-the-art collections storage shelving units for objects and archival materials as well as hardware needed to install mounted textile storage tubes. Storage for collections and archives at Museum L-A has received a much needed boost, critical in maintaining the **Museum's over 500 fiber goods.**



Front Row, from left: Guy Theberge, Dick St. Laurent, Claude Cloutier, Ray Marcotte, Rene Lajoie, Roland Chalifoux, Dick Lafrance. Back Row, from left: Manager Larry Proteau, Gil Dube, Norm Bureau, Bob Dallaire, Bob Dubois, unidentified, Al Moreau, Chuck Poirier, Ronnie St. Onge, ? Lebel

## From Our Archives

In each issue of Voices, we will ask for your help in identifying people, places, things or events featured in photographs from our Archives.

This is one of the most popular photos on display in the Museum and in our Gallery scrapbook. While we have names for most of the men pictured on the Bates Hockey Team of 1955-56, we are still in need of some and verification on those we have.

**We'd like to know if we have** misspelled a name or just plain got it wrong, too! Please follow up with Archivist Susan Beane at (207) 333-3881 or e-mail [sbeane@museumla.org](mailto:sbeane@museumla.org).

NEW MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For More Information log on to: [www.museumla.org](http://www.museumla.org)