The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Winter 2023

Feb. 4 Miners Ball: An Early Valentine's Day Evening of Dinner, Dancing, Heritage

The Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums invite all to embrace the Valentine's Day spirit by registering for the Miners Ball, which will take place from 5-10 p.m. Saturday, February 4, 2023. This classic Platteville gala, which long ago followed the lighting of the "M" during University of Wisconsin-Platteville Homecoming, invites people of all ages to dress up, enjoy a great banquet, and swing to the music of a Big Band orchestra — just like generations of Platteville youth did starting back in 1926. This community celebration of our region's rich history and culture has sparked renewed interest in swing and ballroom dancing among area couples (watching as well as participating), and the Ball has become a popular and important fundraiser for the Museum, presented by the nonprofit Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums and UW-Platteville.

Register Online by Jan. 16

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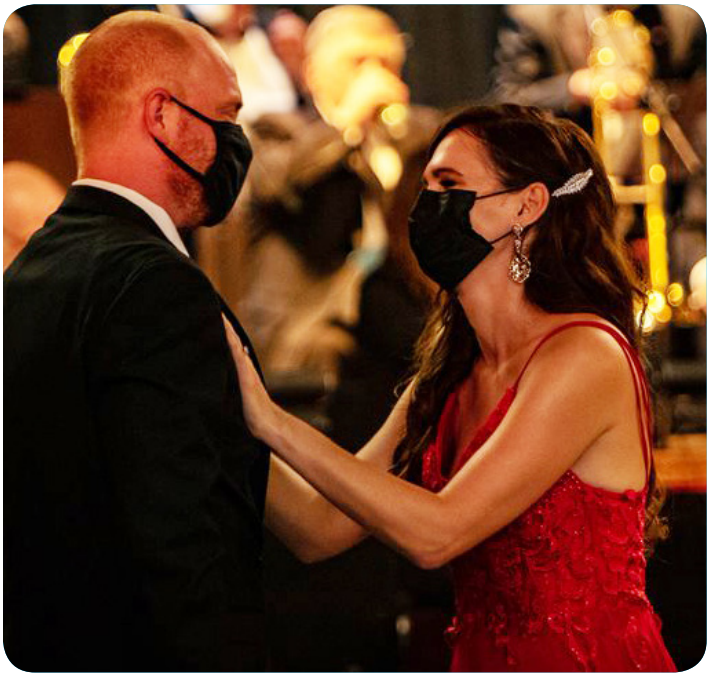

A delicious buffet, cash bar, live music, dancing, and auction are all part of the Miners Ball experience. Ticket price is $50 each or $500 for a table of eight. Masks not required! Register by Jan. 16.

Announcing: Electrifying Winter Lyceum Lineup

Each year, the Museum invites a series of speakers to share their unique stories and insights on topics that shed fresh light on various facets of our mission, collection, and areas of interpretation. The 2023 Winter Lyceum will run each Sunday from February 19 to April 2 at 5 p.m., and will feature seven engaging hour-long lectures. Registration is $4 each or $20 for all seven. By popular demand, the talks will be held online via Zoom just as in 2021 and 2022, and a link will be provided upon registration. Each roughly 45-minute talk will be followed by a Q&A period. This year's electrifying lineup covers topics that explore the realm of "energy" in the context of our place.

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Special Thanks to 2022 Challenge Grant Donors

We are delighted to report that a Challenge Grant announced last fall successfully inspired contributions exceeding the $25,000 goal between September 1 and December 1, 2022 — and as a result, the generous Platteville individual who initiated the grant has matched the gifts dollar-for-dollar, plus an additional amount.

Challenge contributions totaled $34,813, and the matching gifts totaled $30,000. The purpose of the Challenge Grant was to achieve two important ends simultaneously: 1) to fund a Museum Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, for which a $10K grant from the Dubuque Racing Association has also been

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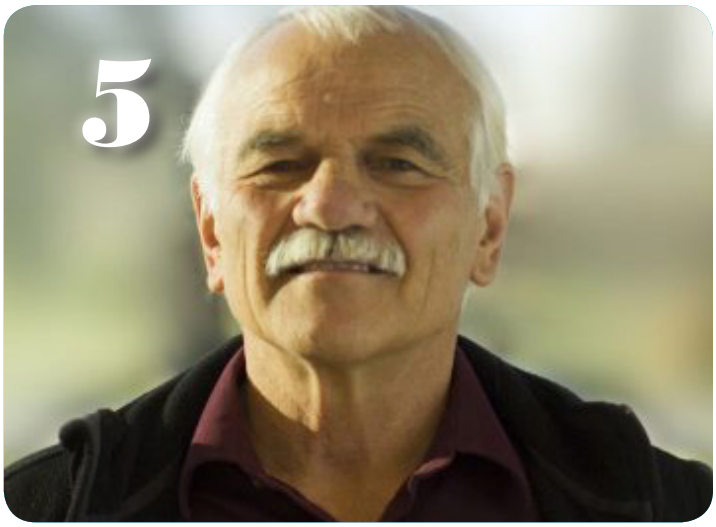
2023 Winter Lyceum

February 19 Lyceum: Tim Scarlett Presents “Abandoned Mines as Tools of Economic Revitalization: Converting Liabilities into Assets"

February 26 Lyceum: A Regional Panel Presents "Mining for Energy: The Story of Southwest Wisconsin's Electricity Journey"

March 5 Lyceum: Camie Platner Presents "EaglePicher's NASA Launch Silver Zinc Batteries: The Power Behind the Missions"

March 12 Lyceum: Mark Nussbaum Presents "Greening From the Ground Up: Integration of Ground Source Heat Pumps into Historic Buildings"



March 19 Lyceum: Gary Zimmer Presents "Energy and Biological Farming: How Farmers Can Reduce Energy Use and Build Soil Carbon"

March 26 Lyceum: Aris Georges Presents “Generating Creative Energy Through Nature Patterns in the Tradition of Frank Lloyd Wright"

April 2: Kevin Watson Presents "Not So Easily Lead: From Weardale to Wisconsin with the Miners of the North Pennines"

Lyceum

Continued from page 1

February 19: Archeologist Tim Scarlett Presents "Abandoned Mines as Tools of Economic Revitalization: Converting Liabilities into Assets for Post-Mining Communities." In this talk, archeologist Dr. Timothy Scarlett of Michigan Tech's Keweenaw Energy Transitions Lab (KETL) will explain the potential applications of evolving energy technologies and the ways in which heritage practices and policies can be key to future partnerships to facilitate the electrification of everything. KETL has been thinking about how abandoned mines can be adapted and reused to facilitate the energy transition. More than just complex techno-economic analysis, the team is interested in the ways that the heritage of post-mining communities supports these choices. Dr. Scarlett will propose how old mines create opportunities to revitalize and energize culture through these projects, if they are designed to solve problems for both the large service regions of electrical networks and locally defined needs and priorities.

February 26: A Panel of Regional Energy Experts Presents "Mining for Energy: The Story of Southwest Wisconsin's Electricity Journey." Listen as panelists from Badger Hollow Solar, RENEW Wisconsin, and the electricity transmission industry share updates on major renewable energy projects in the region, talk about why these projects are happening here, and discuss what impacts they have on our economy, environment, and communities.

March 5: Engineer Camie Platner Presents "EaglePicher's NASA Launch Silver Zinc Batteries: The Power Behind the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab Missions." Locally mined zinc in outer space? Since the beginning of the Space Age, EaglePicher silver zinc batteries have been trusted to power historical NASA launches, including Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Skylab. Today, with more than 50 years of silver zinc battery production heritage, and more than 200 battery designs, EaglePicher continues to produce reliable, complex systems for the missile, aerospace, and maritime industries. EaglePicher initiated development of automatic and remote-activated silver zinc batteries in the early 1950s. The early systems EaglePicher developed were simple, single-section batteries with one voltage output. By maintaining flexible engineering, which ensures custom design, development, qualification, production, and delivery, EaglePicher continues to meet the requirements of each unique application.

March 12: Engineer Mark Nussbaum Presents "Greening From the Ground Up: Integration of Ground Source Heat Pumps into Historic Buildings." This leading engineer specializing in historic properties and the integration of energy-efficient technologies will review the basic concepts of ground source heat pump systems, how they work to provide climate control for buildings, and what specific features often make them an excellent choice in historic buildings. We will look at some of the challenges of integrating modern systems into historic buildings, work-around strategies for these challenges, and the need to sometimes compromise system performance to allow the preservation of historic building fabric. We will review case studies of historically significant projects including Unity Temple, the Glessner

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Call for Sponsors

This is the time of year when the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums seek sponsors to make its robust line-up of 2023 events possible! We are pleased to offer generous sponsor recognition and access benefits for participating organizations and individuals.

Miners Ball	$500 (6 Needed)
Winter Lyceum	$250 (6 Needed)
Heritage Day	$200 (12 Needed)
Pick & Gad Picnic	$100 (4 Needed)
Historic Re-enactment	$200 (12 Needed)
Annual Meeting	$200 (5 Needed)

To be a sponsor, just include the event name(s) in the memo line of your check or contact Erik to discuss at (608) 348-3301. Thank you!

Events and Programs

Miners Ball Continued from page 1

Fondly described by some couples as a "grown-up prom," the Miners Ball is a contemporary expression of what used to be the most exclusive annual party in Platteville. Before the merger of Platteville's mining school and teachers college, dances were an important part of extracurricular life each year, and the Miners Ball — or M-Ball as some called it — became the annual night to enjoy some of Chicago's best dance bands. Stars like Lawrence Welk and Perry Como headlined. The Miners Ball was so big that, after World War II, it was held the same night that the giant "M" would be illuminated with torches, after having been whitewashed on the Thursday before. Tickets could be very difficult to come by, and fun-loving engineering students would outdo one another over the generations with designs for ever-more elaborate crystal or mirrored balls to ornament the hall.

Now it is an event for area residents and UW-Platteville alumni to reconnect and relive their university years while sharing the tradition with new students and anyone passionate about area history, arts, and culture.

"The legendary Platteville gala returns in time for Valentine's Day, creating an opportunity to bring together a love of history with fun and a bit of romance," said Museum Director Erik Flesch. "The Miners Ball is a wonderful celebration of pairing culture and place in support of a worthy cause."

The Friends of the Museums reintroduced the Miners Ball in 2019 to raise much-needed funds by drawing attention to the deep connections between the mission of the Museum, founded in 1965, and the historic roots of Platteville and the university — and quickly became the Museum's most important fundraiser of the year.

The music will be provided by the Ken Kilian Classic Big Band orchestra — a true Big Band with five saxophones, six to eight brass, a full rhythm section, and a featured vocalist. This remarkable group delivers the fullness and swinging sound that the music of the Big Band era so rightfully deserves. A cash bar and multi-course banquet will be offered by UW-Platteville Catering Services. Besides food, drink, and music, part of the fun of the evening is bidding on dozens of wonderful items in the silent auction, which in the past has included everything from locally raised beef and a weekend in Florida to works of art and a load of mulch.

Register online by visiting www.mining.jamison.museum/programs or call (608) 348-3301. See you there!

Get Ready for St. Piran's Day with Cornish Pasty … and Pick-Up at New Curbside Location on March 4

Thanks to popular support for the Cornish pasty fundraiser introduced in 2022, the pasty sale will be a regular twice-per-year tradition (February/March and October/November)! Those of us who ordered pasty last fall and are ready to restock the freezer are invited to order now for pick-up March 4.

To make pasty pick-up even more convenient, distribution will take place as a drive-by curbside operation in the spacious outdoor area between A&W Restaurant and the Millennium Cinema at 111 Millennium Drive, Platteville, rather than at the Museum.

Order Online Now Thru Feb. 17

Cornish pasties make a piping-hot meal while connecting us with the mining heritage of our region and the roots of Wisconsin's Badger State identity. St. Piran's Day, held every March, celebrates the patron saint of Cornish miners. The Cornish were the most famous immigrant miners in our Upper Mississippi Valley lead-zinc mining district, and their cultural traditions — like pasties, stone architecture, and tommyknocker folklore — have become a part of our local heritage.

We appreciate each of you who has enjoyed these delicious treats, prepared with love by the Walker House of Mineral Point and their wonderful proprietors, Kathy and Dan Villaincourt.

Place your order online or by phone by Feb. 17 for March 4 pick-up at 111 Millennium Drive!

Ingredients: Five Pasty Flavor Options

Beef: Potatoes, Beef, Onions, Rutabaga, Beef Suet, Salt, Pepper, Lard Crust
Chicken: Chicken, Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Rutabaga, Celery, Chicken Base, Curry, Pepper, Lard Crust
Pork: Potatoes, Pork, Pork Sausage, Onions, Celery, Salt, Cinnamon, Cloves, Lard Crust
Vegetable: Potatoes, Eggs, Carrots, Green Beans, Onions, Pepperjack Cheese, Rutabaga, Celery, Honey Mustard, Garlic, Pepper, Salt, Butter Crust
Gluten-Free Beef: Potatoes, Beef, Onions, Rutabaga, Beef Suet, Salt, Pepper, Gluten-Free Crust (brown rice flour, rice flour, sweet rice flour, sorghum flour, cornstarch, potato starch, xanthan gum, lard, water, salt)

Order online at www.mining.jamison.museum/pasty or by phone at (608) 348-3301.

Fingers Crossed for 'Frozen Mine' Weather!

Weather permitting this winter, the Museum will provide another awe-inspiring underground Frozen Mine Experience where visitors can experience a sea of thousands of unique natural underground ice stalactites first-hand. During bitterly cold winters when temps are at or below zero for several days in a row, ice formations grow in the Bevans Mine. The shapes of these upside-down icicles range from regimens of tall "ice cobras" to fields of "ice mushrooms" just a few inches tall.

Water droplets fall to the mine floor and freeze, either migrating through natural crevices or condensing from ventilated cold outside air mixing with warm moist mine air. Over time, water droplets nucleate on the ceiling and drip, causing ice stalagmites to grow taller and taller.

When the conditions are right, Museum staff will announce a Frozen Mine Experience date on social media and by email. Follow us on Facebook or join our email list by emailing museums@platteville.org!

If temps are cold enough, join us to catch a glimpse of ice stalactites, such as these "ice mushrooms." Stay tuned for further announcements.

Memories of an Especially Joyous Fall & Early Winter

From Halloween to the holidays, special seasonal memories were made by visitors of all ages. Sweet Treats on Main brought hundreds of small children for train rides and special crafts. Haunted Mine Tours attracted couples and families with older children. Fall Community Free Day welcomed local community members. UW-Platteville Family Day brought throngs of university students together with proud parents and siblings. And family and friends groups from far and wide joined us for annual Holiday Horse-Drawn Carriage rides.

Platteville Girl Scouts enjoyed Holiday Horse-Drawn Carriage rides.

Bryce Woyak added Celtic spirit stories to Haunted Mine Tours.

Guides shared interpretation connecting the Museum with Main Street.

The Friends of the Museums Annual Meeting included Pioneer Sweets.

The Blue Notes brought jazz vocals and carols to Holiday Mine Sing.

Most of us have heard of the immigrant miners in the Wisconsin lead-zinc district who came from Cornwall, but did you know that many other of our local miners came from the Pennines lead-mining area of England's Yorkshire region? On April 2, Kevin Watson will join us from England to present what life was like in a place called Killhope (pictured), and what ultimately led some to seek out new beginnings in Wisconsin mines.

Lyceum

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House, and Pleasant Home, among others.

March 19: Biological Farmer Gary Zimmer Presents "Energy and Biological Farming: How Farmers Can Reduce Energy Use and Build Soil Carbon by Farming Differently." Renowned farmer, author, and biological farming consultant Gary Zimmer presents the farmer's role in energy conservation and carbon building. With incentives and guidance, farmers have a role in reducing energy use and impacting climate change by planting cover crops, organic farming, reducing fertilizer use, making methane with on-farm digesters, making compost, and producing bio char.

Register for Winter Lyceum Online

March 26: Designer Aris Georges Presents "Nature Patterns: Generating Creative Energy Through Geometric Abstraction in the Tradition of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin." Knowledge of using geometry and pattern as a language of composition has been developing for decades at Taliesin, the rural Driftless Area-based design studio of architect Frank Lloyd Wright, coming together for practice and creation in a long-standing design workshop known as “nature patterns.” When Aris Georges trained in nature patterns as a student in the '80s, his love for geometry, born in the vigorous Greek secondary curriculum, found new wind. With a growing conviction that geometry is an essential exercise in design education, Aris Georges started teaching the class when he became a member of the senior fellowship in the '90s. He dubbed the workshop “design etudes” to emphasize that the nature of the exercise is to practice design moves, not unlike the musical etudes, as studies of ideas independent of a larger composition (in this case, architectural design). The digital design tools emerging in recent decades and spreading like a wildfire bring a layer of challenge to the exercise. The speed and precision with which the computer can map complex patterns in relatively simple steps brings new excitement and energy to the process.

April 2: Kevin Watson Presents "Not So Easily Lead: From Weardale to Wisconsin with the Miners of the North Pennines." Just off one of the highest stretches of road in the north of England in a place called Killhope there stands an impressive wrought-iron water wheel. Nearly 34 feet in diameter and six feet wide, it stands as a testament to Victorian ingenuity and, in the case of lead mining in the area, the ability of the Victorians to use and reuse not steam but water to power the industrial revolution in this part of the world. In his talk, Kevin Watson will give an overview of lead mining in the North Pennines of England, showing how the dominance of two companies allowed for an efficient and effective use of resources. The talk will also explore what life was like for those who worked in the mines and what ultimately led some to seek out new beginnings in the lead mining region of Wisconsin.

To register for the Winter Lyceum, call (608) 348-3301 or visit www.mining.jamison.museum/programs. A Zoom link will be provided by email upon registration.

Education

Sharing the Joy of Learning

Part-time Museum Specialist-Education Marie Whisenant continues to deliver hands-on programming about life long ago to scouts and classes both at the Museum campus and off site. Among the recent school field trips, Platteville School District first-grade classes traveled to the Museum to see how people may have lived long ago to complement classroom learning about the past. According to teachers, they all had an awesome time but it is safe to say the students felt confident they are happy to be living in the time they are now instead of 100 years ago!

Two groups, Girl Scout Troop 7200 and Belmont first grade, requested special Native American programs. This presented an opportunity to bring content from the new "13,000 Years of Driftless Ingenuity Exhibit" to established program content.

Girl Scout Troop 7200 did a hands-on Native American workshop.

"13,000 Years of Driftless Ingenuity" traveled to Belmont first grade.

Platteville School District first grade explored how people lived long ago to supplement classwork studying the past.

Buildings and Grounds

Wendy Johnson and Natasha Rank of the Grant County Master Gardener Program spent time in November preparing the gardens for winter.

Midwest Roofing completed the punchlist for the 1905 roof replacement.

Emma Larson joined the team as Museum Facilities Technician.

Depot Interior Refreshed

The mine entrance building known as the Depot received a serious facelift recently thanks to Jamie Coogan Custom Painting of Mineral Point. Not only has this significantly cleaned up the much-used space, but the Macropoxy specialty durable paint from Sherwin Williams with built-in mildew resistance will help protect the air quality. This project was part of the City of Platteville's 2022 Capital Improvement Plan for the Museum, which addressed a variety of safety, security, and air-quality projects.

Support Your Museum

Duane DeYoung contributed a new wrench and socket set.

Fidelity Bank & Trust donated $300 in chili and ham sandwich proceeds.

'Wish List' Items Aim to Offer Positive Experience

The Museum Wish List was released in December, and already one of the items has been donated! Wish List items will make a big difference at the Museum, helping us to provide the best visitor experience we can. Following is a list of the remaining items the Museum requests for special projects related to collections care, programming, and environmental improvements. If you are interested in donating funds for all or part of any of these items, just include the item in the memo line of your check or give Erik a call at (608) 348-3301.

Items still needed:

Gravity Flow Fuel Tank (for fueling train)_____$3,412
Exterior Navigational Signage Fund_____$3,000
Collections Care Supplies_____Total $2,000
Player Piano and Roller Organ Repairs_____$1,600
Pressure Washer _____$700
Waterproof Cover System for 2 Train Cars_____$250
Boxing Squirrel Costume (for programs)_____$100

Challenge

Continued from page 1

awarded; and 2) to complete the 2022 Annual Fund, which funds general operation and all key public programs and initiatives for the year to come.

Now that the funds are in place, in the New Year a search will begin for a firm to conduct the Museum Capital Campaign Feasibility Study. We will begin with drafting a request for qualifications and proposals, then interview finalists.

The feasibility study process can be one of the most impactful parts of the capital campaign life cycle because it has the potential to cultivate deeper connections among board members, staff, donors, and beneficiaries. According to some, when done right, the impact of the study can be so much bigger than the capital campaign itself. We look forward to undertaking this important journey.

Once again, huge thanks from all of us at the Museum, the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums board of directors, and the Museum Capital Campaign Steering Committee for your support.

Museum Leadership

City of Platteville Museum Board
Eileen Nickels, President
Garrett Jones, Secretary
Brad Brogley
Kathy Connett
Deb Jenny
Mark Stead
Bill Van Deest

Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board
Deb Jenny, President
Hap Daus, Vice President
Duane DeYoung, Treasurer
Dee Woolf, Secretary
Steve Bussan
Mark Haas
Eileen Nickels
Matthew Zielinski

Museum Staff
Erik Flesch, Museum Director
Angie Wright,
Museum Specialist–Communications
Marie Whisenant,
Museum Specialist–Education
Amanda Zasada,
Communications Assistant
Tour Guides: Bruce Flesch, Diane Nusbaum, Elizabeth Pronchinske
Museum Facilities Technician Emma Larson
Museum Custodial Technician Sharon Trentz

Behind the Scenes

Letter From the Museum Director

As we embark on a New Year fresh with promise, I thank all of you who participated in a recent year-end groundswell of support that will make 2023's quality operations and key initiatives possible.

Have you ever watched a serious juggler perform? Audiences applaud as they add more objects and ever more complex challenges. The Museum aims to earn your applause again this year as we continue working our way through a significant Strategic Plan task list. Our plan, adopted by our boards based on independent assessments of our collections, buildings, and organization, holds us to professional standards as we ready the Museum campus to serve the next generation.

This year, we will be rekindling our collections stewardship program. We will offer a slate of electrifying programs that can connect generations through the heritage and pioneering spirit of ingenuity, inquiry, enterprise, and development in the Upper Mississippi Valley. We are excited for you to enjoy these opportunities to access your Museum more than ever!

Meanwhile, this year we will begin the careful search for a firm to build lasting relationships with board members, staff, donors, and beneficiaries while assisting us with a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study. The campaign ultimately will help to resolve fundamental space use problems, make long-overdue building improvements, and add sorely needed staff. However, because it will be some time before the capital campaign will be in place to tackle the full Site & Facility Comprehensive Plan, 2023 calls for us to take baby steps toward opening inaccessible Museum spaces to the public. I look forward to sharing more this year.

All this will be accomplished with our wonderful part-time crew, one full-time staff member, and dedicated directors, and volunteers. Consider becoming involved in the New Year by joining our Friends Board! It is your participation that makes the magic happen.

Warm regards,

Erik Flesch, Museum Director
(608) 348-3301

Yes, I Wish to Support the 2023 Annual Fund!

The Annual Fund directly supports Museum operations, key public programs and initiatives.

- The Friends are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 39-1363989.
- Gifts are tax deductible to the limits of the law.
- You can give conveniently online: **www.mining.jamison.museum/donate**
- Please consider the Museums in your estate plans.

Please return this form and make checks payable to:

The Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Contact Erik Flesch at (608) 348-3301 or museumdirector@platteville.org with questions.

Name(s) for Acknowledgment: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP:_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Information ☐ Anonymous, please. ☐ I am interested to discuss a bequest.

☐ I/We enclose a $_____ gift in support of the Challenge.

☐ I/We enclose a restricted gift of $_____ for the following:

_____

☐ I/We Wish to be Sustainers and to a Make a Recurring Gift of $ _____

Account Type: Frequency: ☐ Monthly (~15th of month)

☐ Checking ☐ Savings ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

This sustaining gift will be ongoing until I contact the museum to change it or cancel.

Bank Name _____

Account # _____ Routing # _____

Signature: _____

Charge the One-Time Donation to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSC #: _____

Signature: _____

Your Support Puts History in the Hands of the Next Generation

Seasonal programs offered year round create lifelong learning opportunities that connect us to place and cultural heritage.

Plan on enjoying a year of fabulous programs starting with the Miners Ball and Winter Lyceum! (See details inside.)

www.mining.jamison.museum

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
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Contact Us!

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(608) 348-3301

museums@platteville.org

Visit us on the web at
www.mining.jamison.museum

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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