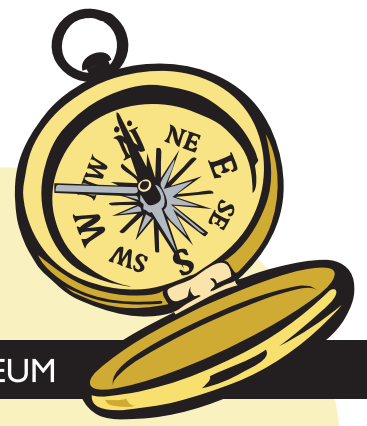


July 2020

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Number 3

# The Explorer



NEWS FROM THE WORLD AWARENESS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

**Thank YOU!** We have traveled a long way together to achieve our mission of **bringing our diverse world to children.** There is still an exciting journey ahead!

## SUMMER CAMPS ARE HERE!!

This summer, the museum is hosting seven week-long day camp sessions, from July 13th through August 28th. Here's what we'll be up to!

July 13-17 or August 10-14: **Wild, Wonderful Animals Camp**

*Children entering Pre-K through Kindergarten*

Get ready to learn about wild & wonderful animals from around the world! During this week-long day camp, campers will explore different countries, learn about the amazing animals who live there, and make an art project each day.



July 20-24: **World Travelers Camp**

*Children entering 1st through 3rd Grade*

Campers will travel the world and learn about different countries and cultures, create their own artistic masterpieces, and play games together! During this week-long day camp, children will begin to learn about how people live in different parts of the world.



July 27-31 or August 24-28: **Messy Art Camp**

*Children entering 4th through 6th Grade*

Campers will travel the world to learn about different artists, create beautiful messy art masterpieces, and learn how to work together with daily team challenges.



August 3-7: **Mythical Creatures Camp**

*Children entering 1st through 6th Grade*

Join us on an adventure through your imagination! We'll fly with unicorns, encounter dragons, and learn about other fantastic mythical creatures from all over the world!



August 17-21: **Mission Earth Camp**

*Children entering 1st through 6th Grade*

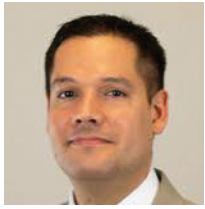
Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to work with your outer space friends to make Earth a better place to live. Campers will explore countries around the world, make an art project each day, and learn about different ways to help residents of Earth!



To learn more about our summer camps, visit our website at:  
[www.WorldChildrensMuseum.org/summer-camps/](http://www.WorldChildrensMuseum.org/summer-camps/)

World Awareness  
**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

**Thank you to our Summer Camp Partners:**  
Dr. Kathy Braico • Dr. Judith Mysliborski • Lisa & Ross Sheridan  
St. Mary St. Alphonsus Regional Catholic School • Surfside on the Lake Hotel & Suites



## **Daniel Tarquino, President of the Board of Trustees**

"Silver lining" came to mind when writing words for The World Awareness Children's Museum's July Newsletter edition. According to Merriam-Webster, a silver lining is defined as a consoling or hopeful prospect. At this point in our lives, I am sure most, if not all of us, have been greatly affected in one form or another by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past couple of months, WACM, its employees, Executive Director, and volunteer Board members faced very real and challenging scenarios followed by tough decisions. Nonetheless, even after resetting course and adapting as we navigated day by day the current situation, the outlook remains somewhat uncertain.

It is at this point, when reflecting back on the events that have unfolded, that the silver lining becomes evident for me. In the face of what is to come, the museum is rising up to meet the challenge. However, this position is only possible because of very specific elements. WACM enjoys the support of members and non-members alike, who have come to the aid and have lightened the fiscal burden current times pose. Then there is the staff, all of whom are committed to serving to the best of their abilities and have understood the difficulty of present times. Of special mention, our Executive Director has taken the reins of leadership by standing her ground on what she believes is the

best course of action for the Museum and all those involved. Her determination to carry her mission has not withered. Finally, I would be remiss not to mention the volunteer members of the Board who, through their professionalism, experience, and commitment to this institution, have provided guidance and advice worth its weight in gold.

On a somber note, recently a dear member, friend, and longtime supporter of the museum passed away. While the news brought sadness to those at the museum who knew him and we extend our condolences to the surviving family, the experience also became immensely humbling. Monetary gifts in memory of the deceased were presented to the museum. This act of support and kindness left us in awe and made us recognize how far-reaching and important the museum's mission is to our community and beyond.

Although the world seems to have stopped -- hopefully momentarily -- amid the pandemic, we remain busy exploring opportunities, new channels of communication, brainstorming, and bringing ideas to action. We do not know for certain what lays ahead, but we know with certainty together we'll be ready.

How is that for a silver lining?



## **Bethanie Lawrence, Executive Director**

Flexibility – that's my word of the year. Back in January, when I began planning out where the museum would be in the summer of 2020, I never would have imagined that we would also have to contend with an international pandemic! In order to weather this storm, the World Awareness Children's Museum has been closed to the public since March. We have seen great strength and generosity in our community during this time. We have experienced this generosity in many ways, including through a donation made to the museum via Facebook. One of our members donated and followed up with an email saying that the donation was actually from her daughter. This young lady went into her piggy bank and decided to give her hard-saved money to the World Awareness Children's Museum. I was incredibly touched to see that our museum means so much to this little girl that she would give us her money for nothing tangible in return.

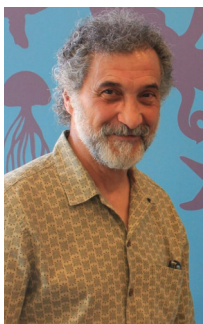
Our staff members have been superstars. They have pivoted in their roles at the museum to help us produce digital and virtual content, and they have helped keep this institution afloat while we

figured out how to fulfill our mission in a completely remote capacity. As a team, we have produced Living Room Explorers videos, created downloadable worksheets, highlighted artifacts from our collection, and more. I would also like to thank our Advisory Council, volunteers, and Board of Trustees, who have been tremendously supportive and helpful through this season. We couldn't have succeeded without their support.

Though the summer looks different than I had anticipated, we are still working to provide cultural education for our community. Along with our online content, we are hosting seven weeks of day camp for kids in pre-K through 6th grade. We're hopeful that we'll be able to open our doors to the public for general admission closer to the fall, and we are working tirelessly to ensure that our museum is a safe place for all staff and visitors who enter our doors.

We can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us! Stay tuned as we exercise our flexibility in the months to come.

## Russell Serrienne, Curator of Collections & Exhibitions



This summer, we welcomed local resident and Endicott College student Catherine Montgomery as our summer intern. One of Catherine's projects is exploring our extensive digital archive of International Youth Art Collection pieces in order to develop new subdirectories within our art image database. With nearly 8,000 pieces of scanned art in our archives, the completion of this project will create the ability for staff to easily locate and view the art by keyword and subcategory. We are excited to be able to use our art collection more effectively once this project is complete.

In the museum's Artifact Collection Department, we are continuing to add images of our artifacts to their listing in our collections database. This will allow us to use the database in many interactive ways, including hands-on museum experiences, on our website for digital interaction, and for virtual exhibitions. Did you know: Many of our artifact photographs were taken by SUNY Adirondack photography students over a five-semester internship program.

## Shane Fraiser, Marketing Coordinator



Summer is finally here! We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as you enjoy a little much-needed sun. We love creating fun and educational content to help you stay engaged with the museum and to help you continue learning about our amazing world. Some of our favorite online programs recently have been our

Living Room Explorers video series and our #TuesdayArtifacts series. During the summer, we will keep making interactive content for you and your family to enjoy at home, and we thank you for your continued support!



# World Awareness CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Diane Dumouchel, Bookkeeper

Emily Forbes-Wood, Museum Administrator

Shane Frasier, Marketing Coordinator

Russell Serrienne, Curator of Collections  
& Exhibitions

Haley Bidwell, Raquel Leonard, Sierra Wood,  
Front of House Staff

Rebeka Antonelli, Mikayla Ploof, Ilona Reilly,  
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