

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

The Roebling Wire

No. 39

News From  **ROEBLING MUSEUM**

Fall 2023

Upcoming Events



Volunteer Open House

Friday, Friday, September 29, 2023 • 3pm - 7pm

Doors will be open from 3pm until 7pm so come out and learn about volunteer opportunities at Roebling Museum. Bring a friend!



Holiday Craft Day

Saturday, December 9, 2023 • 3pm - 5 pm

Visit the museum to make holiday crafts and then head over to the tree lighting in the center of Roebling! There will be craft stations set up in the museum for children of all ages.



HOURS & ADMISSION

Check out our website or follow us on Facebook for the most up to date information about hours and upcoming events.

March through December:

Thursday through Saturday 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

January and February:

Open by appointment for groups and researchers

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Day & Easter

\$7.00—Adults

\$6.00—Seniors 62+, Student 11+ and Active Military

Free for Members and Children 10 and under

Join us for a walking tour of historic Roebling on Saturdays at 1 pm!

\$3.00 with museum admission; **\$5.00** for walking tour only

Roebling Museum received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.



[facebook.com/roeblingmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/roeblingmuseum)
www.roeblingmuseum.org

Curator's Corner: Discovering Roebling's Hidden History Through Diaries

We know you're as excited as we are about the fascinating history of Roebling, NJ! At the museum, we preserve items that document the people who came before us and the fascinating things they experienced. And yet there's still more waiting to be found in attics and basements. Do you have something special passed down in your family that could shed light on Roebling's important history? It could be a photograph, a letter, a tool, or a well-loved family recipe.

Recently, we added to our collection 44 diaries penned by Isabel, a woman who lived on 8th Avenue. Through Isabel's vivid entries, we get a glimpse of the resilience of the Roebling community during times of monumental change. From the challenges faced during two world wars, to enduring the Great Depression, and witnessing the closure of the mill, Isabel's diaries tell the story of a town built on dreams, hard work, and hope.

In her diaries, Isabel paints a vibrant picture of the close-knit community thriving in the shadow of a steel mill. We join family dinners filled with love, experience the excitement of silent films at the Roebling Auditorium, and share cherished moments with her friends at the sewing circle.

As we continue to explore this priceless collection, we're reminded of the power of preserving history. These diaries bring the past to life. Each page uncovers a remarkable story of Roebling and the daily lives of its residents.

If you have any artifacts or stories to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can keep uncovering the hidden gems of Roebling's past, ensuring that the legacy of this resilient town lives on for generations to come.



New Things in the New Exhibit

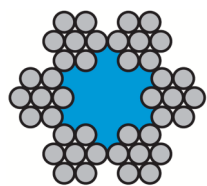
Come back for a second look at the *Roebling Works* exhibit! A brand-new section lets you explore what life was like in the company town through the decades.

You may have noticed the impressive bank of floor-to-ceiling windows in our exhibit space. Through the glass, you can see six houses on Second Avenue that were once rented by workers from the mill. What was it like to live there? Join us to peer through the windows into the past where you'll discover stories of the people who once made Roebling their home.



Two creatively designed new exhibit panels use the genealogy of the houses to explore how life for Eastern European immigrants changed during some of the most productive times for the Roebling company. Census data paired with photos, quotes, employment records, and historic research allows you to put yourself into the shoes of people establishing lives in the United States, growing their families, and adapting to the restrictive immigration policies of the 1920s.

Each year we are going to add something new to the exhibit to keep things fresh. Is there a topic about work in Roebling that you'd like us to address? Let us know!



ROEBLING MUSEUM

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A Letter from the President

One of the first things you notice when you get involved with the Roebing Museum and its dedicated crew of volunteers is that folks in Roebing can do anything. Need a new display case for museum exhibits? No problem: someone goes into their garage workshop and it arrives at the Museum ready to go. Design a flyer for an event? Check your email for the file. Seven acres of grass need a trim? Be done tomorrow. Build a suspension bridge? On it.

So, when after many, many stops and starts, the Museum's project to install signage in the Millyard finally happened, it wasn't a surprise that three of the Museum's board members dug the holes, poured the cement and wielded the spirit level. Now there are ten new explanatory displays to provide information about the enormous steelmaking equipment on the Museum lawn. Thank you to Tony Pastore, Pierre Lacombe, and George Ott! The signs will be formally unveiled this fall—watch for an announcement of the festivities!

This addition to our exhibits is just one of many exciting developments at the Roebing Museum. We have added new displays to our wonderful "Roebing Works" exhibit, giving visitors more insight into how Second Avenue changed over time. We are creating audio tours to bring new dimensions to a walk through the historic village. We continue regular Zoom programs for the community of people nationwide who are fascinated by Roebing bridge history. (Check them out on the Roebing Museum YouTube page.) And we are continuing the planning process for the future of 101 Second Avenue as a place to learn about immigration in Roebing and about its residents past and present.

Every day we learn more about the history of this unique place and the lives of people who lived and worked in Roebing. It's so exciting that goals the Museum staff and volunteers have had for so long are becoming real!

Of course, to do all this, we need not just dedicated volunteers who mow, hammer and guide visitors, but friends who fund the Museum's mission. Each fall we ask Roebing Museum members and friends to support our professional staff—Lynne, Robin, and Amanda—and to donate toward our work to preserve, protect and spread the word about Roebing's history and role in the building of this country. We need your backing to continue to grow and thrive and we're asking you to help.

See you at the museum –

Martha Moore
President, Board of Directors

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Roebing Museum is to document, preserve, and exhibit the history of the John A. Roebing's Sons Company, the Roebing family and the village of Roebing. The focus of the museum is both the industrial and technological achievements of the company and the unique social history of its workforce and the town it created. The museum connects a storied past to the present while also serving as a valuable resource for school curriculum enhancement and academic research. It is the only museum in the world dedicated solely to the accomplishments of the Roebing family, its businesses and workers and the engineering innovations of the company in Trenton and Roebing, New Jersey.



Membership at Roebing Museum has its privileges! Become a member and enjoy free general admission for a year while supporting all that we do, from education programs for local schoolchildren to conservation of nationally important art and artifacts.

Join or renew your membership at roebingmuseum.org today, and help keep history alive and enlightening in this unique village!

Help Us Welcome New Staff!



We are delighted to announce a new addition to our Roebing Museum family! Please welcome Amanda Dutkiewicz, who will be in the role of Programs Assistant. Amanda's passion for museum objects, local history, and community engagement makes her an excellent fit for this position at our organization.

recently graduated Drexel University with a Master of Science in Arts Administration and Museum Leadership. She is well-equipped to support our museum and help create engaging experiences for our visitors.

As Program Assistant, Amanda will help the museum run smoothly during open hours. She will help organize events, run educational programs, and develop methods to engage with those interested in the history of labor, industry, immigration, and the many intersecting topics that make Roebing a unique and historic town. Her creativity and dedication promise to bring a fresh perspective to our offerings, enhancing our impact in the community.

We're excited to have Amanda as part of our team! Let's make sure Amanda feels right at home and supported as she settles into her role. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves if you stop by the museum.

Amanda brings a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for history and the community. She attained a Writing BFA at Pratt Institute, during which she developed a love for museums and archives. Over the past year, she worked with the Rosenbach Museum and Library to digitize company photographs and manage inventory of the Marianne Moore Collection, and she

Volunteer Open House! Friday, September 29, 3-7pm

Share your story. Share your time. Share your skills.

Have you ever considered volunteering at Roebing Museum but aren't sure where to start? Join us at the Roebing Museum Volunteer Open House on Friday September 29. This is your chance to have some snacks, meet great people, and start on a rewarding journey of discovery, connection, and community.

Come and tell us about your skills and interests because at Roebing Museum, there's a lot of ways to help. Become a friendly tour guide or welcome visitors as a greeter during our open hours. Join our board as a trustee or committee member. Lend a hand fixing things or mowing our sprawling 7-acre lawn. Use your artistic eye as a photographer or graphic designer for a new brochure. Work with the priceless artifacts in our collections. There's a role waiting to be tailored just for you.

We'd love for you to stop by the museum on Friday, September 29th. Doors will be open from 3 and 7pm for you to stop in and enjoy some refreshments while meeting our dedicated staff, chatting with current volunteers about their experiences, and discovering how your skills and interests can contribute to the Roebing Museum's mission. See you there!



Recent Events at Roebing Museum



Over 150 cars participated in the Thirteenth Annual Roebing Museum Car Show held on May 6



Nine gardens were featured on the Roebing Museum Garden Tour held on June 10



Roebing Museum staff and volunteers prepare for the Florence Township Patriotic Day Parade held on July 8