Experience the past, and be inspired by a nation united.
Welcome

The Wright Museum continues to excite, engage, entertain and educate increasing numbers of visitors, from school groups to veterans of WWII. After three very successful years of leadership by our Executive Director, Michael Culver, PhD, the board agreed that it was time to tell the story in the first of many annual reports. Mike and the dedicated staff and dynamic volunteers carry our mission to more and more visitors every year and continue to get great reviews. Our goal of this annual report is to reach and engage many more, and broaden the understanding of our work and its educational value for all ages.

Our growth over the last 3 years confirms that the Wright Museum has an expanding role in educating and making history memorable to its audience.

The board and I proudly invite you to enjoy our many programs and changing exhibitions.

Come visit and join in!

Anne Blodget
Anne Blodget
Board President

Mission Statement: To provide a vivid perspective on the profound and enduring impact of the World War II experience on American society.
Greetings

The Wright Museum’s 2016 season was a gratifying one for the entire Museum staff and board of directors. The generosity of members, donors and volunteers continues to amaze us all. With the continued support of these individuals, the Wright is an even more special organization. The membership retention level is phenomenal, and constitutes the operational life-blood of this Museum. Generous donors help make possible the “extras” such as special projects and programs. Additionally, there is an energetic, knowledgeable and dedicated volunteer base that greatly enriches the overall visitor experience. This commitment to operational excellence and the quality of its programs and exhibits are the reasons the Wright was justly recognized in 2016 by Yankee Magazine as The Best 20th-Century History Museum in New England. All of us can be proud of that appellation.

With a confident yet realistic “eye to the future”, the Museum is evolving as an educational institution. As in all organizations, evolution is incremental – often slow, but occasionally swift. Moving forward, we will continue to provide exceptional exhibits and challenging educational programs. The Museum campus itself will continue to undergo changes that will benefit our mission and add to the visitor’s overall experience. We will bolster our efforts to gain regional and national recognition and support for the Wright. The Museum will work with local, regional and state educational entities to insure that they take advantage of all the ways we can enhance curriculums. Maintaining our quality staff is also essential, and we continue to strategically add to our staff.

Over 18,500 visitors came to the Wright Museum in 2016 – a milestone that energizes our staff, volunteers and board of directors. Can we surpass 20,000 in 2017? With continued help and dedicated support we will continue our mission to educate future generations about this formative period in American history.

Michael Culver
Dr. Michael Culver
Executive Director
“Board membership has provided me with direct insights into the widely diverse activities and exhibits at the Wright which explore WWII history. My entire family – from the 4 year old to aging parents of the WWII era – loves the Museum. I am delighted to contribute my time and energies to this creative, educational institution.”

- Mary Collins, board member -

1 includes veterans and active military  * does not include free admissions
"Outstanding! All students graduating from high school should go through here!"

- Peter and Heather Smith / 03833 -
Library Members

Belmont Public Library  Kelley Library  New Durham Public Library
Effingham Public Library  Lincoln Public Library  Ossipee Public Library
Franklin Public Library  Maxfield Public Library  Rochester Public Library
Gafney Library  Meredith Public Library  Sanbornton Public Library
Gilford Public Library  Minot-Sleeper Library  Tuftonboro Free Library
Griffin Free Public Library  Moultonborough Public Library  Wolfeboro Public Library

The library membership program allows libraries to provide their local residents the opportunity to visit the Museum at a discount.

Member retention in 2016 was 80%.

Traveling Trunk

The Wright’s “Traveling Trunk” is filled with homefront and military objects that were part of the American scene during the War Years of 1939-1945. This is an opportunity for students to see and touch history in a manner that takes them beyond books and photographs. Docents accompany the Trunk and share stories and the history surrounding the objects on display. There is no charge for educators, senior centers, or others to request the Trunk.

Grand Army of the Republic Museum
Gilford Public Library
Laconia Middle School
Rochester Historic Society
Tilton Veterans Home
Wentworth Library
Contributions are a vital source of support for both programs and Museum operations.

The Wright Museum has both ongoing and annual fundraising programs.

**In Kind Donors**
In Kind donations provide critical support, giving the Wright greater flexibility. They are an indication of the strength of our relationships within the local community.

- **33 In Kind Donors**
- **$16,223.00 value**

**Brick Donors**
785 bricks sold to date have raised $7,850 for the Museum. Each brick is a memorial permanently installed as part of the Wright.

- **785 Bricks**
- **$7,850.00 value**

**Sherman Tank**
The Museum has raised $50,683 from 142 donors, with leadership from board member John Warner, to make the tank functional again. The new engine was purchased and installed in 2016.
NEW INITIATIVES

2016 was a big year for the Wright Museum.

A number of initiatives were launched to improve the visitor experience and provide additional opportunities for members and donors to learn about the Museum. Many of these will be continued in 2017.

Sustaining Donor Program
Our new monthly donation program gives the Museum stability and predictability, allowing us to plan and make investments.

Behind the Scenes Tours
Donors who contributed $250 or more could attend one of three tours led by Executive Director, Dr. Mike Culver, and get an insider’s look at the Wright’s collections.

Museum Trail
Mike Culver founded this collective in 2014 to market and promote regional cultural organizations. A brochure featuring the 15 members is now on the NH Travel and Tourism’s visitnh.gov web site and has its own web site at nhmuseumtrail.org.

Exhibit Openings
These catered events brought together members, donors, Museum board members and guests for a preview of both the Charlie Miller and Norman Rockwell exhibits.

Landscaping
Thanks to the generosity of board member John Warner, the Wright was able to repave and landscape its three parking lots. Additional donations allowed us to create a garden in the front of the Museum.

Limited Edition Museum Posters
The Museum is thrilled to introduce a new annual tradition, the Museum’s annual art poster. Each year, the Wright will create a custom professionally designed poster that will be for sale in the Museum store, and also a donor benefit to those at the $500 Memorial Brigade level and above. It was easy for us to select Charles Miller’s extraordinary artwork as our first feature artist and exhibition.

Exhibit Refurbishment and Upgrades
Among the key exhibit improvements in 2016 were the refreshing of three of the Museum’s “Time Tunnel” exhibits; the creation of a life-size 1940’s Army barracks; and the installation of a WWII-era PT Boat engine in the Military Gallery.

“Absolutely wonderful, all encompassing! Humbling and makes you very appreciative of the service and sacrifice. We were born in the early 50s. A trip down memory lane. God bless and thank you!”

- Karen Stacey and Russ Wilson / 03810 -
The Goodgame-Canney Education Series:

In 2016 the Wright offered 20 education programs on Tuesday evenings throughout the season.

Education programming included lectures, movies, book signings, one-person plays, first person presentations on life on the American Homefront during WWII, and musical performances.

The diversity of perspectives explored through the series ranged from that of a Holocaust survivor to that of a young Japanese-American boy interned at Camp Harmony, to an examination of black female experiences and those of a fighter pilot.

New Hampshire has a wealth of original scholarship, documentary film artists and authors interested in WWII. We are proud that the majority of our education series presenters live and work in state. The 2016 Education Programs were made possible by the generous sponsorship of Ron Goodgame and Donna Canney.

"I have been associated with the Museum for 20 years as a volunteer, donor and as the longest serving board member. The uniqueness of the Wright Museum is defined by the original vision of our founder, David Wright – a Museum that highlights the contributions of the greatest generation both on the home front and battlefield. In his three years with the Wright, Executive Director Michael Culver has been highly successful in promoting this vision."

- John Frank, board member -

Examples of the Education Series in 2016:

- Presentations about the NH Boat Museum; the New Hampshire Farm Museum; and the Aviation Museum of NH
- Students from Prospect Mountain High School spoke about their research into the lives of NH servicemen killed during WWII and buried at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten
- America’s Pistol: the Model of 1911, 105 Years Young - lecture by George R. Gurick, Jr.
- The Miracles of Design and Production in the US in WWII - lecture by Stephen Keith
- Margaret Bourke-White, Courageous Photographer - written and performed by Sally Matson
- Tale of Two Subs - lecture by John Frank
- Rockin Daddios perform Golden Oldies
- 29 Let’s Go! A Soldier’s Story About D-Day - presentation by Morley L. Piper. As a nineteen year old lieutenant he led his platoon ashore under fire at Omaha Beach D-Day
- The Greatest War Stories Never Told - by filmmaker and author Rick Beyer
- Norman Rockwell in the 1940s - lecture by Tom Daly, Curator of Education for The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge
- Wilber’s War, an American Family’s Journey Through WWII - lecture and book signing by author Hale Bradt
• Wartime Basketball: The Emergence of a National Sport During World War II – lecture and book signing by author Douglas Stark

• Fighting ‘Jane Crow’: African-American Women in WWII – lecture by Dr. Sarah Batterson

• The Wright Museum’s 3rd Annual Film Festival honored the 75th anniversary of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor with two extraordinary documentaries introduced by Wright Museum director Mike Culver. The two films were: Pearl Harbor: The Real Story and The History Channel Presents: Pearl Harbor: The Definitive Documentary

• Holocaust to Healing, The Story of a 5-Year-Old Holocaust Survivor - lecture and book signing by Kati Preston, a child survivor of the Holocaust who was hidden in an attic by a heroic peasant woman

• On the Wing - movie and discussion with film producer Brad Branch

• De-coding Espionage in World War II - lecture by Dr. Douglas Wheeler

• An Examination of the Attack on Pearl Harbor - lecture by Dr. Douglas Wheeler

• Internment of Japanese-Americans: A Father’s Voice and a Young Boy’s Remembrances - presentation by David Sakura-Thornton, NH resident and third generation Japanese-American (Sansei) who was interned at Camp Harmony, during WWII (shown in above photo)

• A musical concert by Quint-Essential Winds
EXHIBITS

In 2016 the Wright Museum presented three temporary exhibits with the support of sponsors.

The Wright introduced temporary exhibits in 2014 as a way to bring ongoing change to the Museum and augment permanent exhibits. Exhibitions have included WWII era quilts, brought to life by a quilters group which met in the gallery during visitor hours, and Memories of WWII showcasing over 120 photographs from the Associated Press Archives. Below were the exhibitions presented during the 2016 season:

Private Charles J. Miller:
New Paintings from the South Pacific

May 1 – June 10, 2016

This special exhibition of 40 artworks depicting the lives of GIs in the South Pacific Theater during WWII had never before been seen by the general public. The exhibit was a follow up to our 2015 original exhibition, Revisit the South Pacific Theater with Charles J. Miller, which was covered in the Boston Globe and on WMUR television’s New Hampshire Chronicle. Both exhibitions were conceived, curated and produced by Mike Culver in collaboration with Miller’s family. This exhibit was made possible with additional support from The Art Place; and contributions from Shaun and Ellen Berry, Two International Group, LLC, and NFP Insurance.

Experience Norman Rockwell’s Wartime America

June 19 – August 21, 2016

During World War II, Norman Rockwell put a human face on the daily life of homefront America with iconic paintings that appeared on the covers of The Saturday Evening Post. The Wright’s Rockwell exhibit featured 44 of these covers. A highlight of the exhibit was Rockwell’s series “Four Freedoms,” which, in 1943, helped raise $132 million for war bonds. This exhibit was made possible with additional support from Wolfe’s Tavern at The Wolfeboro Inn; and contributions from Pratt and Whitney, Sugar Hill Retirement Community, and Yankee Pedlar Realtors.

Infamy: December 7, 1941

August 20 – October 24, 2016

This exhibit honored the 75th anniversary of the Japanese surprise attack on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. It included 66 photographs of the attack, witnessing the shock, devastation, and horror that gripped the victims as well as their courage. This exhibit was made possible with additional support from John Warner; and contributions from O Bistro at Inn on Main, Northeast Delta Dental, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Weirs Publishing Company.

“We are very pleased that the Wright is located in Wolfeboro. We can see how it has changed over time and we will continue to support it.”

- Norman Harper, supporter since 2002, member since 2007 -
Vehicle rides through Wolfeboro on Family Day
The Wright Museum is committed to building community.

We help to strengthen other organizations doing critical work for those in need. We see our role as partly one of service. Selected 2016 Wright initiatives are listed here.

Vehicle Rides
The Wright Museum offers visitors the unique opportunity to experience authentic WWII vehicles only once a year – on Family Day. In 2016, vehicles from the Museum’s collection of original WWII trucks gave over 200 individuals rides.

Food Donations
Volunteers at the Wright planted over 500 seeds in our Victory Garden and we donated our harvest to the L.I.F.E. Ministries Food Pantry in Wolfeboro.

Canned Food Drive – Visitors’ generous contributions to our canned food drive allowed us to donate an additional 2,500 cans of food to the Wolfeboro Food Pantry.

Blue Star Museum – As a Blue Star Museum, the Wright welcomed 147 active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reservists and their families, for free between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

NH Humanities Council Programs – Each year the Wright is able to offer 2 programs for free to anyone who wants to attend through the generous support of the NH Humanities Council.

Reenactors – Every year about 36 reenactors visit the Museum, bringing the diverse experiences of WWII men and women to life.

Free Reciprocal Admission – The Wright offers free admission to all visitors who have an active membership with the McAuliffe Shephard Discovery Center.

Holiday Toy Drive – The Museum collected toys and donated them to United States Marine Corp.

Gift Certificates and Raffle Prizes – Each year the Wright donates free admission passes to other New Hampshire non-profits for their fundraisers. In 2016 the Wright donated 56 free passes to 14 different causes.
“We visit twice a year. Always moving. In honor of our relatives who served in WWII.”
- Jean Charles and Diane Lamoureux / 02760 -

“No better place to be on the 4th of July weekend!”
- Pacocha Family / 03036 -
Fourth of July spirit
Wright mechanics work on the Sherman tank engine

**VOLUNTEERS**

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Brian Allen
Allan A. Bailey
Joseph Benini
Shaun Berry
Jonathan Browher
Cynthia Cafasso
John Cafasso
Martin Chabot
Patricia Cook
Randy Cook
Jack Dunham
Mike Folan
Evelyn Frank
John Frank
Paula D. Garvey
George R. Gurick
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Dolores Stephens
Robert L. Theve
Marc Vallee
Robert Viscio
David Warren
Janet Weidner
Daniel C. Whaley
Cecil Williams
Gordon J. Wright
Paul Zanis
“Why does history matter? You need to understand how the past influenced the present in order to make informed decisions about the future.”

– Dan Lutts, Museum staff –

(I-r): long-time volunteers Bob Jones and Dan Schroeder; board member and lead mechanic Randy Cook with visitors; Family Day volunteers

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Donna Hamill, *Administrative Manager and Volunteer Coordinator*
Dianne Finegan, *Weekend Guest Services*
Justin Gamache, *Operational Assistant*
Dan Lutts, *Grants Manager and Newsletter Editor*
Ray Randall, *Weekend Guest Services Manager*
Justine Roberts, *Development*
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## Financial Statement 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income $161,150.04</td>
<td>Salaries and Benefits $208,000.69</td>
<td>contributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed Income $218,407.81</td>
<td>Programs and Exhibitions $117,214.43</td>
<td>direct sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Income $37,644.33</td>
<td>Facilities and Maintenance $158,184.33</td>
<td>membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising/Event Income $12,568.96</td>
<td>Professional Services $34,784.25</td>
<td>investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Income** $0.00</td>
<td>General Operating Costs $35,813.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income $140,798.19</td>
<td>Other $6,364.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Total Revenue $570,569.33</td>
<td>**Total Expenses $560,361.94</td>
<td></td>
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**All endowment income in 2016 was reinvested in the principle.

NH Veteran’s home residents visit the Wright Museum. Pictured with two Brewster Academy students.
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“Over the years that I have been here, I have seen many school groups come to the Museum. I feel it is very important for school age kids, particularly teenagers to see and hear what people not much older than them had to do during war years. I don’t think most kids can relate to sacrificing all of their modern conveniences to help in the war effort or for that matter go to war.”

- Donna Hamill, staff member -
Mark Your Calendars for the 2017 Season!

May 1 .................. Season Opens
May 1 - June 24 ..... Saturday Evening Post Covers Exhibit
June 6 ..................... D Day Film
July 1 - Oct 31 ...... The American Soldier Exhibit
July 4 ...................... Wright Vehicles in Fourth of July Parade
July 9 ..................... Family Day
July 11 .................. American Soldier Exhibit / Member Opening
July 22 .................... Bob Hope Show
August 19 ............. Car Show
October 3 ............. Season Closes
November 11 ........ Veterans Day - open for the day

2017 DIRECTOR’S TOURS
June 14 • August 9 • October 18
Call (603) 569-1212 to find out how you can sign up for one of these special events to get an insider’s look at the Wright Museum.

Contributions make an enormous difference in our ability to deliver on the mission and vision. PLEASE GIVE.