

THE LEGACY

NEWS from THE M.S. HERSHEY FOUNDATION | FALL/WINTER 2026 | ISSUE 42

New Special Exhibit Opens November 6 at The Hershey Story Museum!

Last year, historians from The Hershey Story Museum, Hershey Community Archives and Milton Hershey School spent time on the set of the upcoming HERSHEY movie. The idea for a special exhibit about making the movie was born.

"We inquired about saving set decor, props and costumes to display at The Hershey Story Museum," said Valerie Seiber, senior manager of historical collections and exhibits. The film's producers supported the idea, and exhibit preparations began before filming wrapped.

"Producers granted us permission to watch the dailies, which are all the shots and takes recorded in a day," said Seiber. "I watched hours and hours of footage and began noting items that would make an engaging display." While on set, the team quickly learned that making a movie is complicated. "There are so many moving parts. It takes an army of talented and skilled people to achieve the writers' and director's vision," said Seiber. "More than



Original Hershey's Chrysanthemum chocolate box, 1896-1909



200 people worked on the film: set decorators, camera people, electricians, carpenters, hair and makeup artists, costumers, production assistants, a choreographer, medics and more. Add hundreds of actors and background extras and the number of people on location each



Finn Wittrock as Milton Hershey, selling caramels from the cart on display in the exhibit.



Starting November 6, come experience the new special exhibit as you go behind the scenes of the making of the HERSHEY movie.

Through original costumes, authentic movie props, and interactive experiences, the exhibit explores the many creative elements of motion picture production. Visitors can step into Joseph Royer's candy shop to "run lines" from the film, try their hand as a Foley artist by creating sound effects, and watch exclusive interviews with the cast and crew.

From story to screen, the exhibit offers a unique look at the artistry, craftsmanship and collaboration that brings a movie to life.

day swells."

"The cast and crew are fed breakfast, lunch and dinner," said Seiber. "Coffee, beverages and snacks are essential on long days to keep everyone happy. One of the best parts of the entire experience was craft services or 'crafty.'

The catering was spectacular. Producers treated everyone to beef filet and lobster tail on the final day of filming."

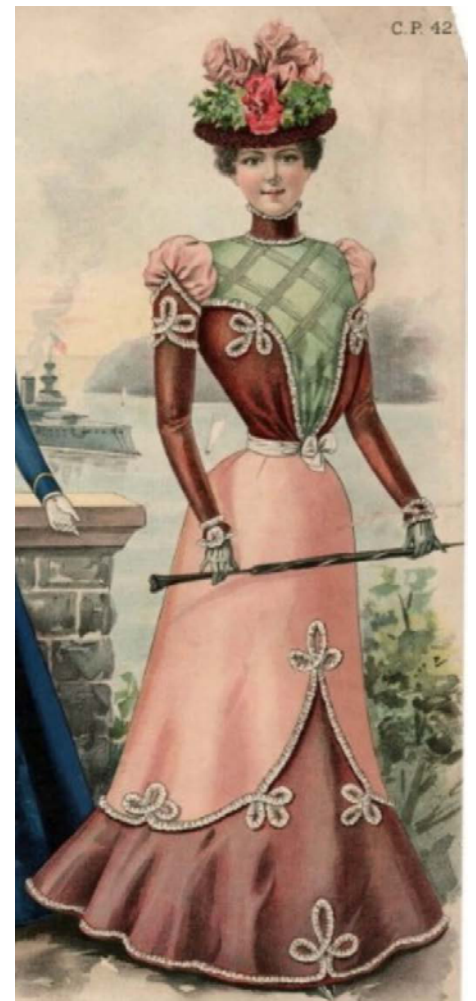
The new exhibit will explore moviemaking and how the HERSHEY movie came to be. Visitors will see original costumes and props used in the film. "Most of the wardrobe for Alexandra Daddario, who portrays Catherine Hershey, was custom made," said Seiber. "The costume designer, Katie Irish, used original photographs of the Hersheys and historical

reference materials to create authentic, period-appropriate looks." The film spans five decades, so the wardrobe department was challenged to source clothing that represented plain Mennonite dress and the more elaborate Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Interviews with the producers, cast and crew will be featured in the new exhibit. "Guests will be able to practice creating sound effects for the film,"

said Curator Ashley Famularo. "They will use a variety of tools to recreate footsteps, breaking apart candies, and young Milton's tin can of pennies, as they watch scenes from the movie."

The new exhibit opens November 6 and is included with admission to The Hershey Story Museum.



Historic inspiration for one of Alexandra Daddario's costumes in the HERSHEY movie.

New Book Reveals the Lancaster Architect Behind Milton Hershey's Vision

Community Is Invited to Free Presentation at Hershey Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 22

Most people know Milton S. Hershey as the man who built a chocolate empire and the Pennsylvania town that bears his name.

Far fewer know the Lancaster architect who helped him build it.

In his new book, *Urban & The Chocolate King*, Lancaster architect, author and architectural historian Gregory J. Scott brings to life the remarkable relationship between two very different men: Milton S. Hershey, the visionary entrepreneur who imagined a model industrial town among the cornfields of Derry Township, and C. Emlen Urban, the Lancaster architect who helped transform that vision into an enduring architectural legacy.

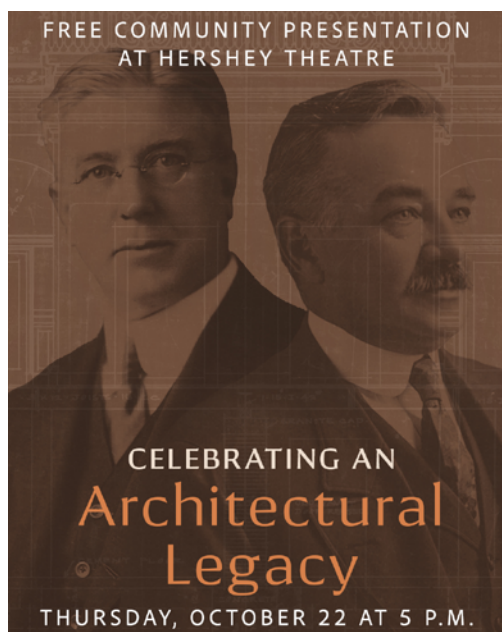
Their story begins not in Hershey, but in Lancaster.

Before returning to Derry Township to build his chocolate factory and the community that would grow around it, Hershey spent nearly two decades in Lancaster building the caramel business that would make his fortune. During those same years, Urban was establishing himself as one of Lancaster's most accomplished architects. Their paths eventually converged, beginning a professional relationship that would span decades and leave a lasting imprint on Hershey.

"People know Milton Hershey for chocolate," Scott says. "But the more I researched his story, the more I realized that architecture was an essential part of his vision. Hershey dreamed on an enormous scale, and C. Emlen Urban helped turn many of those dreams into brick, stone and mortar."

Hershey was the dreamer, entrepreneur and risk-taker. Urban was the trained architect with the ability to translate ambitious ideas into buildings. Together, their complementary talents helped shape a community unlike any other.

"Milton Hershey could have hired architects from Philadelphia, New York or anywhere



OCTOBER 22 FREE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION AND BOOK LAUNCH

The community is invited to celebrate the launch of *Urban & The Chocolate King* at Hershey Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5–6 p.m. Scott will give an illustrated presentation exploring his research and the remarkable architectural partnership between Urban and Hershey. The event is free and open to the public. "Hershey Theatre—and the rest of the historic Community Building—is one of Urban's premier designs, so there's no better place to launch this book," Scott says.

else," Scott says. "Again and again, he turned to C. Emlen Urban in Lancaster.

"I wanted to understand why, and what these two remarkable men accomplished together." After nearly four years of research, including countless visits to Hershey Community Archives, Scott discovered a story that went well beyond buildings. He describes the relationship, in an unexpected sense, as "a love story"—not a romantic one, but one rooted in a shared love of building, community, beauty and possibility.

Urban & The Chocolate King traces the buildings and ambitions that helped transform Hershey from farmland into one of America's most distinctive company towns. The 201-page book is lavishly illustrated with historic photographs, architectural drawings and contemporary photography of Urban's work in Hershey—from schools, homes and commercial buildings to some of the community's most ambitious landmarks.

The book also explores projects that never

left the drawing board, offering a fascinating glimpse into just how expansive Hershey's plans for his community once were. Together, the completed and unrealized designs reveal the scale of Hershey's vision and the important role Urban played in bringing that vision to life.

The book represents a collaboration of its own. Scott worked closely with photographer Matthew Tennison, whose contemporary architectural photography documents Urban's surviving Hershey buildings, and graphic designer Jason James, who helped shape nearly four years of research, historic material and photography into the finished volume. He also worked extensively with archivists at Hershey Community Archives to identify and access historic records, blueprints and photographs.

While its richly visual story will appeal to architects and historians, *Urban & The Chocolate King* is also for anyone who has driven through Hershey and wondered how this extraordinary place came to be.

For Scott, the publication continues a larger mission: introducing everyday readers to the architecture—and the architects—hiding in plain sight around them. "Buildings tell stories," Scott says. "Sometimes we simply need someone to point them out."

With *Urban & The Chocolate King*, Scott hopes readers will look at both Hershey and Lancaster a little differently.

"The world remembers Hershey for the town he built. Perhaps it should also remember Lancaster for the architect who helped him build it," Scott says.

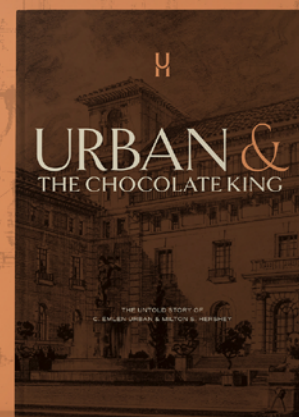


Architectural detail at Hershey Theatre



Milton and Catherine's home, High Point, was designed by Urban in 1906; this photo features the original factory smokestacks in the distance of High Point.

Order Your Copy Here



Building Hershey History, One LEGO Brick at a Time

Live LEGO Exhibit Build Begins at The Hershey Story in January

A familiar piece of Hershey's skyline will soon be recreated one LEGO brick at a time.

Beginning in early 2027, guests at The Hershey Story Museum will have the unique opportunity to watch LEGO artist and lifelong Hershey history enthusiast Jay O'Boyle construct an intricate scale model of the historic Hershey powerhouse. The completed model will contain an impressive 17,049 LEGO bricks, weigh approximately 60 pounds and feature Hershey's iconic twin smokestacks rising nearly 4 feet tall.

And guests won't have to wait until it's finished to enjoy it. Jay will build the model inside the museum, allowing visitors to watch the project take shape and see firsthand the remarkable amount of detail involved.

An Iconic Part of Hershey's Skyline

Although generations have associated Hershey's smokestacks with the aroma of chocolate once wafting from the old Hershey Chocolate factory, the stacks themselves were for much more than chocolate making. They belonged to the Hershey powerhouse, which generated electricity for the factory, the town and, following World War II, surrounding communities.

At its peak, the powerhouse could generate 30,000 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power approximately 25,000 average American homes at once.

For Jay, the smokestacks represent something even greater.

"I see them as symbols of the way Milton Hershey shared his success with the community," said O'Boyle. "Mr. Hershey invested not



Jay O'Boyle stands in front of the historic Hershey powerhouse he will soon create in LEGO bricks.

videos and obtaining blueprints from Hershey Community Archives. He painstakingly recreated the powerhouse, incorporating everything from exterior lights, pipes and vents to doors and railings. No detail was too small.

When the digital design was finally complete, it contained exactly 17,049 LEGO bricks. Jay originally had no plans to turn the digital creation into a physical model. But after investing two years in the design, he knew he couldn't stop there.

He created a social media page to share the project and seek support for bringing it to life. Eventually, the project caught the attention of The Hershey Story Museum.

Now, with the museum's support, Jay's digital creation will become a very real, and very large, LEGO landmark.

Watch History Being Built

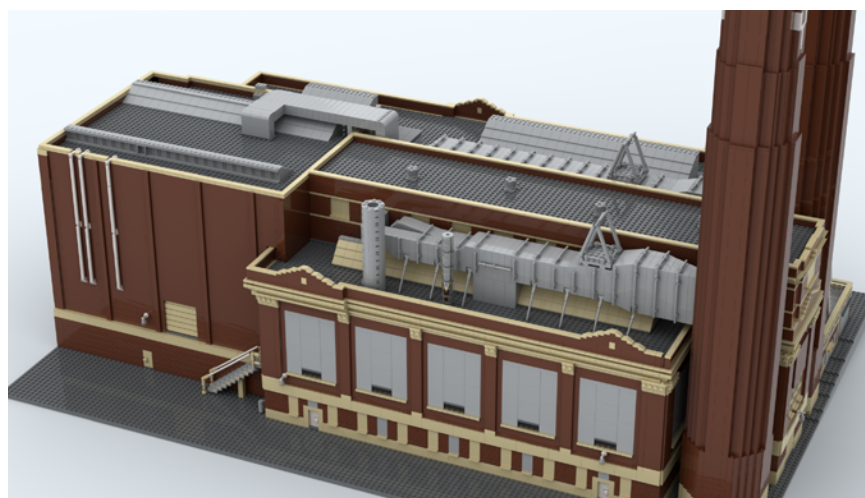
The project offers museum guests something especially exciting: the chance to experience the creative process as it happens.

As Jay constructs the powerhouse inside the Museum Experience at The Hershey Story, visitors will be able to follow its progress. They can watch thousands of individual bricks become an extraordinarily detailed model and learn more about the real building and the important role it played in Hershey's history.

For Jay, the project is about more than LEGO bricks. "This project has the potential to inspire younger generations to dive into history in fun and creative ways," said O'Boyle.

"It's not only an artistic preservation of a local landmark, but will also show kids that, much like Milton Hershey's entrepreneurial spirit, blending learning and creativity can create something truly powerful," said O'Boyle.

And by the time the final brick is placed, one of Hershey's most recognizable landmarks will have a new story to tell.



The smokestacks on the completed LEGO project will be almost 4 feet tall.

only in his chocolate company, but also in schools, roads, trolleys and other amenities that enhanced life in his model town. The Hershey Electric Company was a key component of that philosophy. Rather than simply generating enough electricity to operate his factory, he invested in a modern, high-capacity powerhouse that could also provide electricity to the homes of his employees."

"For me, the smokestacks symbolize power. A power that could have been held but was shared," O'Boyle explained.

A Childhood Fascination Becomes a 17,049-Brick Project

Jay's fascination with Hershey began when he was just 3 years old. "Even as a child, I've been amazed by Hershey and its history," said O'Boyle.

"Three years ago, while playing around using LEGO design software, I thought to myself, 'wouldn't it be cool to build a model of the old powerhouse?'" said O'Boyle.

That simple idea quickly grew into a two-year passion project.

Jay spent countless hours researching the building, studying historic photographs and



Hershey powerhouse, ca. 1924-1940

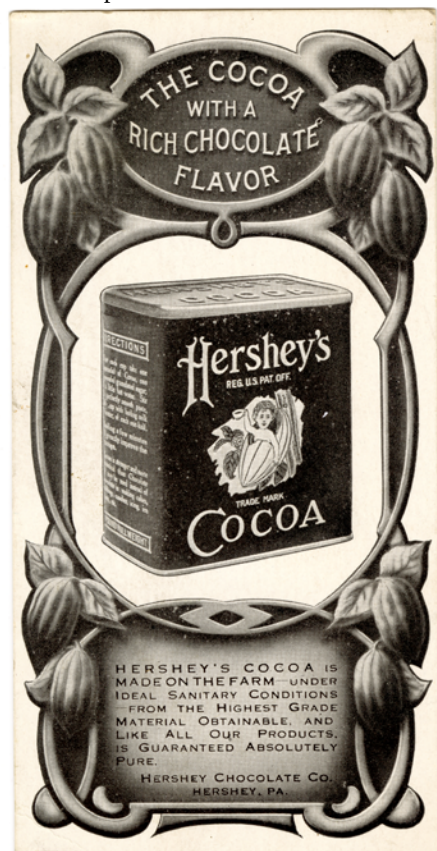


Jay "built" the historic Hershey powerhouse model using LEGO design software.

New Acquisitions Bring Hershey History to Life

By Juliana Hart, Archives Assistant

One of the most exciting parts of working at Hershey Community Archives is acquiring new materials. New items allow us to tell a more complete story of Hershey history, and some of our recent acquisitions are perfect examples of this!



Bar card, ca. 1909 - 1918

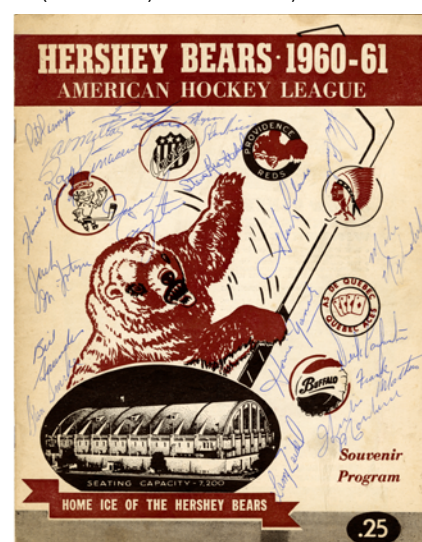
We recently acquired this bar card at auction as part of a larger set of Hershey-related items. Introduced in 1909, bar cards were special postcards created by Hershey Chocolate Company to fit in 5-cent Hershey's Milk Chocolate and Almond bars. They produced these cards until 1918. Bar cards were some of the earliest forms of advertising for the chocolate company. They often depicted scenes of the factory, farms, Hershey Industrial School, Hershey Park, Chocolate Avenue, and other locations around Hershey. They advertised not just the company, but the town as well. This bar card was a particularly exciting addition to the collection because it was the very last



From left to right: Mike Nykoluk (holding Calder Cup), Jack Butterfield (AHL President) and Frank Mathers, 1969

card we needed to complete our set! Hershey Community Archives now has at least one copy of each of the 80 bar cards that Hershey Chocolate Company produced. [See the entire digitized collection here.](#)

Another exciting recent acquisition includes two Philadelphia Eagles programs, thanks to a donation from a local individual. From 1951 to 1967—excluding 1964, when the team went to Cherry Hill, New Jersey—the Eagles held their summer training camp in Hershey. Locals could watch the team practice and often got autographs from the players, who stayed in the Community Building for the summer. At the end of training camp, the team would play a preseason game at Hershey Stadium. These programs highlight two of these preseason games played in 1959 and 1963 against the New York Giants and Minnesota Vikings.



Signed Hershey Bears program, 1960



Eagles program, 1963

In this same acquisition, we also received numerous signed Hershey Bears programs. One 1960 program was signed by Mike Nykoluk, who holds three team records for games played, assists and points. The program also features Hall of Famer Frank Mathers' signature. Mathers spent over three decades with the Bears as a player, coach, general manager and president.



Frank Mathers signature, 1960



Mike Nykoluk signature, 1960

These items are just a snapshot of the materials that Hershey Community Archives collects. We primarily depend on donations to document Hershey's fascinating history. If you have any Hershey items that you would be interested in donating to the Archives, please email us at contact@hersheyarchives.org.



Eagles program, 1959

THE HERSHEY STORY HAPPENINGS

The Hershey Story Announces Annual History Contest

Our history in your words

Kids, write an essay, story or poem

Be creative

But be sure to check out the rules online

Don't forget about the science and health category!

History Contest for Young Writers

THE HERSHEY STORY
THE MUSEUM ON CHOCOLATE AVENUE

Open to all students in grades 5 through 8 enrolled in public, private or home school in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry or York County.

The Hershey Story's 27th annual History Contest for Young Writers will open to entrants on November 1, 2026; the deadline for submissions is February 15, 2027.

This contest encourages students to research and write about a historical topic that interests them. The categories are non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and science & health. Students submit imaginative presentations of historical fiction, emotional and creative pieces of poetry and highly informative, and often personal pieces of non-fiction. The contest is open to fifth through eighth grade students who attend school in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties. Students must choose one category and may submit only one entry.

For more information and to view last year's winning essays, click [here](#).



Family Program: The Magic of Moving Pictures
Saturdays, November 7 & 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Free with Museum Experience Admission

Families, come visit our new special exhibit, "From Story to Screen: The Making of the HERSHEY Movie" and then discover the innovations that created the first moving pictures and amazed people of all ages!

Make your own thaumatrope to learn how early animation stemmed from optical illusions, spin the zoetrope to see how animation and film began to progress, and create sound effects to find out what it's like to be a Foley artist. You can even watch clips of early motion pictures to experience what Hershey looked like over 100 years ago!

Activities are included with admission; free for members. Located in the lower-level classroom.

Film History Lecture with Elizabeth Dunham
Wednesday, November 11,
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

What films might Milton Hershey have watched?

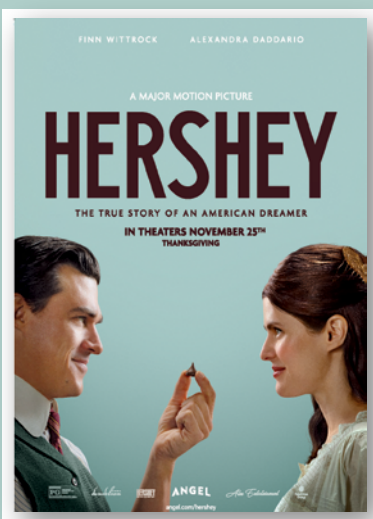
Lecturer of Communications at Penn State Harrisburg, Elizabeth Dunham, will be hosting a free lecture on the evolution of film during Milton Hershey's life and its impact on film today. Elizabeth has lived in Hershey for more



than 20 years and has been a lecturer at Penn State Harrisburg for over 15 years. She teaches courses in film history and analysis, journalism and public speaking.

Discover how people viewed films in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and learn about film production and the artistic design behind films. After the lecture, enjoy an exclusive tour of the new special exhibit "From Story to Screen: The Making of the Hershey Movie" all about the new feature film HERSHEY.

This event is free; registration is not required.



THE HERSHEY STORY MEMBER RECEPTION

Thursday, November 5
from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by 10/30 to
ZojPecchio@HersheyStory.org
or 717-520-5581.



THE HERSHEY STORY HAPPENINGS

Holiday Events AT THE HERSHEY STORY



AT THE HERSHEY STORY

Snowball Saturdays

December 12 & 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friendly, indoor snowball fights are the centerpiece of this holiday event! Kids can also visit with our own friendly snowman! Chocolate Lab participants can make special winter-themed creations. Chocolate Lab classes require a ticket purchase; other activities are free. [Click here for a detailed schedule.](#)



Whimsical Winter Crafts

**December 5, 12 & 19
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Kids, have some fun as you create a wintry craft in the lower-level classroom. A different craft will be offered each Saturday. You can also try out some vintage toys and snap a unique holiday photo against a snowy Hershey scene. Free with admission; free for members.



2027 New Year's Eve Countdown!

New Year's Eve Countdown

Thursday, December 31, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Celebrate New Year's Eve during the day at The Hershey Story! Kids can make some noise with "bubble-wrap stomps" at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Activities take place on the patio (weather permitting). Free.

cocoa creations for teens

THE HERSHEY STORY

THE MUSEUM ON CHOCOLATE AVENUE

Cocoa Creations for Teens

Saturday, January 23, 2027, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Level up your Saturday with chocolate! Teens are taking over the Chocolate Lab for a sweet afternoon. Youth aged 12 to 17 will have fun in a class where they dip their own treat in chocolate and add tasty toppings to make it extra special. Plus, they receive a fruity beverage to enjoy during the class. Along the way, attendees will explore how cooking, nutrition, and food advertising go hand in hand. This class is perfect for connecting with friends and exploring chocolate in a new way.

Candy & Curiosities

Hershey's Candy & Curiosities

February 13, 14 and 15, 2027

Interactive Activities - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Scavenger Hunt - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for a fun weekend learning about the history of Hershey's Kisses through interactive activities, such as hand wrapping and packing Kisses like workers did in the original factory. Visitors can also participate in a fun scavenger hunt to discover more about Hershey's chocolate, Hershey the town and Mr. Hershey himself. Participants will receive a sweet treat (while supplies last) after the hunt, courtesy of The Hershey Company. Free with admission; free for members.

Calling All Scouts

Junior Girl Scout "Playing the Past" Badge Workshop

Saturday, March 6, 2027, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Enjoy a morning of hands-on activities at The Hershey Story! Scouts will experience the many stories of Hershey through the eyes of girls and women who lived long ago. In addition to exploring the exhibits, Scouts will play old-fashioned games and create three crafts to take home.



**\$15 per Junior Scout,
\$15 per leader/adult
chaperone.**

[Click here to register,](#)
beginning December 15.

Thank you, Museum Past Masters!



This summer, 19 students ages 12 to 16 contributed almost 700 volunteer hours helping museum guests learn about the chocolate-making process, answering various Hershey-related questions, and assisting with camp groups. The students also had the option to participate in special enrichment activities focused on the roles of curators, archivists and Chocolate Lab staff. Several of our older Past Masters formed a new Youth Advisory Board, actively participating in museum programming, fostering leadership and building stronger community ties.

Our Past Masters made the museum a lively place, and we thank them for their enthusiasm and dedication to this program!

To apply for next summer's program, [please click here](#). Online applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2027.



Join us for a special hands-on program, just for
homeschool and virtual learning families!

MOVIE MAGIC: THE HISTORY OF MOVING PICTURES

November 11, 12, 18, 19, 2026 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

All programs are the same.

Discover how the magical illusion of movement started with novelty amusements and developed into the films we enjoy today. Try early moving picture inventions, learn how to make movie sound effects, create your own moving illusions and write your own story board. Plus, watch clips of early motion pictures to experience what life looked like over 100 years ago, including here in Hershey.

Every participant will also make their own Hollywood inspired chocolate creation!

Admission to the museum is included, along with an educational scavenger hunt through the exhibits, and access to our new special exhibit; *From Story to Screen: The Making of the Hershey Movie*.

Cost:
\$17 for ages 3 and over.
Ages 2 and under are free.
Advance registration is required [here](#).

This program is for homeschooling families. Private programs are available for groups of 15 or more. Please contact Elizabeth Lindsay at elalindsay@hersheystory.org or 717.520.5588 with questions or to book a private program.

Youth Voices, Big Ideas at The Hershey Story

In spring 2026, The Hershey Story Museum created its first ever Youth Advisory Board. This board was created to foster youth leadership, build strong ties to our community and give local youth an active role in the museum's programming. The board consists of older Past Masters and youth volunteers, who range from grades 9 to 12. The board meets every few months to discuss possible programs and how to get their peers excited about history.

The board hit the ground running with a full summer of Civic Season activities. Civic Season is a nationwide celebration of history, community and civic engagement from June 19 through July 4. This period of time is spent engaging young people in history and fostering youth leadership. To celebrate the start of the season, the Youth Advisory Board planned a "Civic Season Kickoff Party" where attendees decorated magnets with positive messages that were hung throughout the museum lobby.

Later into Civic Season, the board planned and participated in Youth Takeover Day, an annual event where young people



Museum guests participated in Youth Takeover Day, "takeover" museums by planning and executing various activities. The board created a "Shadow a Past Master" activity, where children could explore what it is like to be

a youth volunteer at The Hershey Story. Young guests began by getting an apron and a "Past Master Apprentice" nametag. From there, they moved through various stations, which included hand wrapping and weighing Hershey Kisses, and packing Hershey's chocolate bars.

Board members also selected their favorite object in the museum and created a short narrative of how they connected to the item. Guests of all ages enjoyed learning about the objects from a new perspective!

As we prepare for our next meeting this fall, the board is already brainstorming new programs geared towards young people. They are eager to engage the community with creative programs and fresh perspectives at The Hershey Story Museum.



Magnets created to celebrate Civic Season were hung throughout the Museum.

preschool
EXPLORERS

TUESDAYS - FEBRUARY 9, 16 AND 23
9:30 - 10:15 A.M. OR 1:30 - 2:15 P.M.

Join us on an adventure to explore fun themes through play, stories and museum discoveries that encourage experimentation, creativity and learning.

\$5 per child ages 2-5; adult caregivers and children under 2 are free.
Space is limited, pre-registration is coming soon at Hersheystory.org.

February 9 - Transportation

February 16 - Community Helpers

February 23 - Sports

THE HERSHEY STORY

THE MUSEUM ON CHOCOLATE AVENUE

63 West Chocolate Avenue in downtown Hershey | Hersheystory.org |

\$5

8



From Cobwebs to Candy Canes...

The Chocolate Lab is Serving Up Sweet Fun!

Bring the whole family to The Hershey Story this fall and holiday season to create something amazing—and delicious—in the Chocolate Lab! Learn how cocoa beans are grown, harvested and processed into delicious milk chocolate in these hands-on, interactive classes. These 45-minute classes are ideal for adults and children ages 5 and older. **Click here** for a daily class schedule. Tickets are available at The Hershey Story admissions desk on the day of the class on a first-come, first-served basis; space is limited.

Halloween Classes

Batty Bar

Mold your own chocolate bar and then customize it with your choice of Halloween-themed and traditional candy ingredients.

Chocolate Cobweb Creations

Create a creepy Halloween spider web using white and milk chocolate, then top it off with a dark chocolate spider!



Spooky Bark

Calling all Halloween candy lovers! If plain candy bars aren't cutting it for your spooky soiree, now you can double your Halloween fun with our Spooky Bark. Milk chocolate is melted and topped with pieces of your favorite Halloween candies.



Mummy Medallions

Create your own spooky trio of bone-chilling mummies out of scrumptious milk chocolate, a drizzling of white chocolate, and some candy eyeballs.



Holiday Classes

Candy Cane Bark

Layer milk chocolate with white chocolate chips and chunks of peppermint candy to create your own fresh candy cane bark.

Make a Very Merry Bar

Mold and customize your own milk chocolate bar using holiday add-ins and edible decorations.

Reindeer Medallions

Use milk chocolate and toppings to create your own edible reindeer trio.



Let It Snow Chocolate

Create your own deliciously edible winter scene using chocolate and snow-flake candy sprinkles.



Marshmallow Mischief

Dunk giant marshmallows in melted chocolate, then roll in holiday toppings. Finish by packaging your custom marshmallow treat in a holiday package to take home.

SAVE THE DATE!

Truffles for Couples
AT THE HERSEY STORY

Truffles for Couples

Friday, February 12 & Saturday, February 13
at 5:45 & 7:45 p.m.

Bring your favorite Valentine for an evening of decadence and hands-on delicious fun! BYOB.

[Learn more here.](#)



Harvest Spice Cocoa

Available Now – October 30

Celebrate the fall season with the newest hot chocolate beverage, featuring Hershey's Milk Chocolate and a special blend of cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. It's fragrant, rich and delicious... enjoy this warm drink on a cool fall day!



Open Daily 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



From fruity African chocolate flavors to Indonesian chocolate with caramel overtones, come hone your skills as a cocoa connoisseur... or simply enjoy a taste of indulgence. Tastings at The Hershey Story is a delicious treat for your taste buds and the perfect way to immerse yourself in the sweet world that inspired Milton Hershey.



Comfy Cozy Cocoa

Available November 30 – January 1

Enjoy a cozy mug of Hershey's Milk Chocolate, topped with whipped cream and crushed peppermint - perfect for warming up on a chilly day! Served with a chocolate-covered pretzel rod for stirring.



From Pool to Pond: New Life in the Japanese Garden

by Deb Wiles, Director of Horticultural Operations

A historic feature at Hershey Gardens has been given new life, bringing together its past with exciting new additions.

The pond in today's Japanese Garden has been part of the landscape for nearly 80 years. It appears on a 1947 map of Hershey Gardens simply as a "pool," complete with rocks and islands and surrounded by planting beds and trees.

When themed gardens were introduced in the 1970s, the area surrounding the pool became the Japanese Garden. At the time, a central island sat at water level on either side of the bridge. The island was later removed, and the bridge was elevated above the water.

Today, the pond stretches 154 feet in length, averages 33 feet wide and holds approximately 112,200 gallons of water.

A Fresh Start

After developing a persistent leak, the pond was patched, resurfaced and refilled in 2025. Once the Gardens team was confident the repairs were successful, it was time to bring life back to the water.

Thirty adult and adolescent koi were introduced to the pond—and the population began growing sooner than expected. Within just a few weeks, staff discovered tiny fish, revealing that one of the koi had arrived carrying eggs. The fish have quickly settled into their new home. In fact, Horticulture Manager Alyssa has even "trained" them to swim toward the bridge when they hear approaching footsteps.

Hardy water lilies and native lotus were also added in fall 2025, bringing additional color and interest to the revitalized pond.

Behind the scenes, another important addition is helping keep the pond healthy. A new bog, constructed in summer 2025, serves as a semi-natural filtration system. Water from the pond moves through a grid of pipes at the bottom of a shallow pool covered by layers of progressively smaller rocks. As the water slowly percolates through the rocks, debris is captured and filtered out.

Plants growing in the bog provide another layer of filtration by absorbing nutrients produced by the fish, helping to prevent excessive algae growth.



View of the Japanese Pond from the bridge.

A Giant Addition

In 2026, Hershey Gardens reached a new aquatic milestone by growing its first giant Amazonian water platter.

Victoria amazonica, one of the largest members of the water lily family, can produce spectacular leaves reaching up to 10 feet across. Named in 1837 in honor of England's young Queen Victoria, who had recently ascended the throne, the species was one of the giant water lilies discovered in the Amazon region that captivated scientists and the public alike. The plant also has an interesting connection to another Pennsylvania garden. In the 1950s, two species of *Victoria* arrived at Longwood Gardens, where aquatic specialist Patrick Nutt crossed *V. amazonica* with *V. cruziana*. The result was the *Victoria* 'Longwood Hybrid,' introduced in 1960. Longwood Gardens has since generously shared seeds of the hybrid with botanical gardens around the world.

In 2026, Hershey Gardens became one of the newest recipients. This summer, our first-ever 'Longwood Hybrid' giant water platter was



The undersides of the giant waterlilies have large spikes.



Koi fish come up to feed in the Japanese Pond.

added to the Japanese Garden pond, along with a purchased *V. cruziana*, a somewhat smaller—but still impressively large—species.

Putting Our Lily Pads to the Test

The new plants also gave Hershey Gardens an opportunity to join a little friendly competition.

For the first time, Hershey Gardens entered Denver Botanic Gardens' virtual Water Lily Weigh-Off, an international social media challenge that brings together botanic gardens, zoos and private growers to see who can grow the largest giant water lily leaf—or the lily pad capable of supporting the most weight.

While our first-year results showed there is still plenty to learn, the experience offered something even more valuable: an opportunity to expand our aquatic horticulture expertise, connect with fellow growers and become part of an international community dedicated to these remarkable plants.

From its beginnings as a simple "pool" on a 1947 map to today's koi, lotus, water lilies and giant Amazonian water platters, the Japanese Garden pond continues to evolve while remaining an important part of Hershey Gardens' history.



Plants growing in the bog provide another layer of filtration by absorbing nutrients produced by the fish, helping to prevent excessive algae growth.

Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches: Nature's Clean-Up Crew

By Brady Wile, Horticulture Manager, Conservatory and Butterfly Atrium

They may not receive the same enthusiastic welcome as the butterflies, but some of the most interesting residents of Hershey Gardens' Zoology Zone are the Madagascar hissing cockroaches.

When guests first discover their enclosure, the reaction is often predictable: "Cockroaches? No, thank you!" But these unusual insects are very different from the household pests most people associate with the word "cockroach"—and learning more about them often turns apprehension into fascination.

Unlike many cockroach species, Madagascar hissing cockroaches are wingless. They are perhaps best known for their signature hiss, a sound created by forcing air through specialized respiratory openings, called spiracles, on their abdomen. The hiss can serve several purposes, including

communication and defense.

But one of the most interesting things about these insects is the important job they perform in their natural environment. Madagascar hissing cockroaches are detritivores, organisms that feed on dead and decaying organic material.

Think of them as part of nature's clean-up crew. By consuming decaying plant matter and other organic material, detritivores help break it into smaller pieces and return valuable nutrients to the environment. This process supports healthy soil, plant growth and the overall forest ecosystem.

Detritivores differ from decomposers such as bacteria and fungi, which chemically break down organic matter. Instead, detritivores physically consume and digest it, helping speed the decomposition process and the recycling of important nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus.

Once guests learn what these unusual insects actually do, their perception often changes.

An animal that initially inspires a little hesitation suddenly becomes something worth stopping to investigate.

So, during your next visit to the Zoology Zone, give our Madagascar hissing cockroaches a second look. They may not be cuddly, but they have an important role to play—and they might just win you over.



More Food For More People: Hershey Gardens Expands Community Reach

Each year, Hershey Gardens honors Milton and Catherine Hershey's philanthropic commitment by helping combat food insecurity in the Hershey area.

"Through our Green Thumbs school program and our summer teen volunteer program, over 500 pounds of fresh produce was distributed to individuals facing food insecurity this year," said Rebecca Lawrence, manager of education and public programs.

"This season's harvest supported four organizations: Cocoa Packs, The Hershey Area Food Bank and Community Outreach, the Penn State College of Medicine's Lion's Pantry, and Penn State Health's mobile Community Health Nursing program in Grantville," said Lawrence. "Our monthly food distribution days have increased from weekly Wednesdays to also serving families in need on Thursdays and Fridays through the programs at Hershey Area Food Bank and Penn State Health."

"Penn State Health's mobile Community Health Nurse program distributed fresh produce to underserved communities in Grantville, helping advance outreach nutrition services, clinical care initiatives, and the growing role of food as medicine in improving health outcomes," said Amber Coleman, director of community health at Penn State Health. "In addition, produce donations were incorporated into the Penn State College of Medicine's Lion's Pantry on the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center campus. The pantry provides nutritious



Lead Gardener Grace Harris with Volunteers Sully and Brayden set up wire clothes to protect native plants and attract pollinators.

food resources to students experiencing food insecurity, helping ensure they can focus on their education and well-being."

Hershey Gardens is a registered produce facility with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. "While most may not consider Hershey Gardens a traditional farm, we meet or exceed minimum standards for safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of produce, which allows us to take our produce offsite to serve those in greatest need of quality, nutritious food," said Lawrence.

"Our produce includes heirloom and hybrid varieties of fruits and vegetables, as well as new trial varieties from the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Flower and Edible Vegetable Trial Gardens," said Lawrence. "This season, we also featured Pennsylvania German heirloom varieties from the Heirloom Seed Project at the Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum."



Volunteers interact with guests, demonstrating how fruits and vegetables can be grown at home.

Fall in Love with Pumpkins, Warts and All

By Lois Miklas, Retired Educator, The M.S. Hershey Foundation & Penn State Master Gardener

There is a growing trend to embrace the unusual when it comes to fall pumpkins. Colors such as white, gray and green depart from the ubiquitous orange pumpkin color, and miniature sizes and flattened shapes are highly sought after. Pumpkins sporting warts and bumps are another hot trend. But are warts on a pumpkin really desirable? Are they a recent development? Let's look at some of the reasons for warts on pumpkins.

Note: Pumpkins and other winter squash, such as acorn squash, Hubbard squash, and butternut squash, are in the genus *Cucurbita*. The species names of the vegetables we call pumpkins are *Cucurbita pepo*, *Cucurbita argyrosperma*, *Cucurbita maxima*, and *Cucurbita moschata*. There are many, many cultivars, both heirloom and recently developed.

Unintended Causes of Warts on Pumpkins

Viruses

Some warts on pumpkins are due to mosaic viruses, which can also cause mottled coloration and stunted growth. Aphids are usually the culprit for transmitting mosaic viruses in pumpkins. Although mosaic viruses mean the fruit will be smaller and unusual looking, they don't affect the shelf life or edibility of mature pumpkins. Some pumpkins affected by viruses may make it to the market as novelty specimens.



Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org

Pumpkins affected by mosaic viruses

Edema

Edema is an accumulation of water within the pumpkin, caused by wet and cool weather conditions. Excess water creates enlarged cells that burst, causing the tissue to heal and create an enlarged, corky area on the skin. Edema usually affects the part of the pumpkin lying on the ground. Warm and dry conditions will mitigate edema, but the warts on the skin will persist.



Gerald Holmes, Strawberry Center, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bugwood.org 1575954

Pumpkin affected by edema

Bacteria

Lydia Tymon, a plant pathologist at Washington State University, points to *Pseudomonas syringae* as a bacterial pathogen that creates wounds in the skin of pumpkins. Under the best circumstances, this bacterium causes warty scabs, giving the pumpkin character. But these scabs can burst, allowing additional pathogens to enter, causing the crop to rot. If you want to know more about this bacterium, see [WSU Insider](#).

Insects

Insects, such as cucumber beetles, may feed on the skin of developing pumpkins, leaving wounds that heal as bumps and scars.

Warty Heirloom Pumpkins

The most important answer to what causes warts on pumpkins lies in the nature of pumpkins themselves. Before they were bred to be smooth, symmetrical canvases for Jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins had natural bumps and indentations. These tendencies led to heirloom varieties that are the predecessors of today's hybrid curiosities. Gardeners can easily find the seeds of these heirlooms for sale and grow them at home.

'Galeux d'Eysines'

The variety name of this *Cucurbit maxima* translates to "scabby from Eysinses." A more appealing moniker is "peanut pumpkin," because the abundant, crusty bumps on the skin resemble peanut shells. It was developed in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, but was not introduced to America until 1996, when botanical author, artist and Seed Saver Exchange member Amy Goldman saw it at a fair and collected seeds. In addition to making a striking centerpiece, 'Galeux d'Eysines' is not stringy and is recommended for soups and stews.



'Galeux d'Eysines'

'Marina di Chioggia'

Another variety of *Cucurbit maxima*, 'Marina di Chioggia' is a flattened turban shape with pronounced bumpy ridges. Though dark green when mature, the flesh is a pleasant golden-orange. Named for a seaside village near Venice, this squash is reported to be excellent when used in creating Italian dishes, such as stuffing ravioli or making gnocchi dough.

'Musquee de Maroc'

Also called Moroccan musk squash, this variety of *Cucurbit moschata* was introduced to the United States from Africa in 2014. This variety has a classic pumpkin shape and ribs, punctuated with pronounced clusters of green-orange knobs. It is resistant to drought and squash bugs and has a melon-like flavor.

Hybrid SUPER FREAK™ Pumpkins

Siegers Seed Company developed the SUPER FREAK™ series of charming, warty pumpkins in the early 2000s. (Stokes® Seed now owns Siegers Seed Company.) Many rounds of selective cross-breeding created these hybrids. The SUPER FREAK™ series hybrids described below belong to the *Cucurbit pepo* species, the same species as the traditional orange Jack-o-lantern.

'*Baby Bumps*' are small and orange with scattered warts. Stokes Seeds describes this as a small, pie-class pumpkin.

'*Goose Bumps*' and '*Goose Bumps II*' are smallish (about 10-pound) pumpkins in a classic orange color with heavy, green-tinged warts. *Goose Bumps II* is an improvement on *Goose Bumps*.

'*Grizzly Bear*' is a warm tan in color, spherical in shape, with plenty of warts.

'*Knuckle Head*' is predominantly pumpkin-orange with a moderate number of bumps and warts. Fruits are 12 to 16 pounds.

'*Scarface*' is a more upright version of *Goose Bumps*. The name and shape invite Jack-o-lantern face carving!

Also, keep an eye out for gourds in the SUPER FREAK™ series, '*Gremlins*' and '*Goonies*'.

If you are looking for the ideal warty pumpkin to grow, consider your goal. Although the SUPER FREAK™ pumpkins are billed as appropriate for cooking, their standout feature is their dramatic appearance. On the other hand, the heirloom varieties featured here may be just as eye-catching, but their true strength lies in their long-valued flavor and culinary versatility.



Image by Erin Sparler

The Rock Garden: Rooted in the Past, Growing for the Future

Originally added in the 1970s, Hershey Gardens' Rock Garden was one of several new theme gardens designed to create added interest and expand the kinds of plants featured at Hershey Gardens. Tucked away at the back of the property, it was planted with primarily evergreen trees and shrubs such as hemlock, boxwood, American holly, Japanese maples, a weeping atlas cedar and spruce trees.

"As the years progressed and the plants matured, the garden began to feel heavy and somewhat overgrown," said Deb Wiles, director of horticultural operations. "The evergreen canopy became crowded, shading out plants beneath them and covering large boulders, hiding them from view."



A crevice garden mimics natural, stratified rock formations by placing stones vertically into the ground.

"This space is special to the garden staff because of two gardeners who previously tended it. Marcus Sanford worked for Hershey Gardens until 2017 when he suddenly passed away at age 39," said Wiles. "Rich Schory worked for Hershey Gardens for over 20 years before he, too, unexpectedly passed away last fall."

"When the area was reassigned to gardener Travis Tucker, we took the opportunity to rethink and redefine our vision for the space," said Wiles. "Through generous support from Robert and Cathy Sanford, Marcus's parents, we've been able to begin a multi-phase plan of improvements to the garden. The first phase entailed the removal of diseased trees and evergreens that had outgrown their space. Travis then began aggressively pruning, shaping and editing, opening up new views, discovering rocks that had been hidden for decades and creating opportunities for new planting."

The first wave of plants has just been installed. "Travis's goal to bring more life and color to the landscape is already evident," said Wiles. Perennials with colorful foliage such as stonecrop (*Sedum* sp.) and variegated iris (*Iris pallida* 'Variegata') provide seasonal interest long past their bloom times while long blooming hummingbird mint (*Agastache* sp.) and meadow sage (*Salvia caradonna*) add color and attract pollinators and birds. "Horticulturally unique plants like the paper bush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*) bloom in January; its highly fragrant flowers appearing before the foliage emerges," said Wiles.

"Some overgrown hollies were replaced with a variegated variety called 'Raspberry

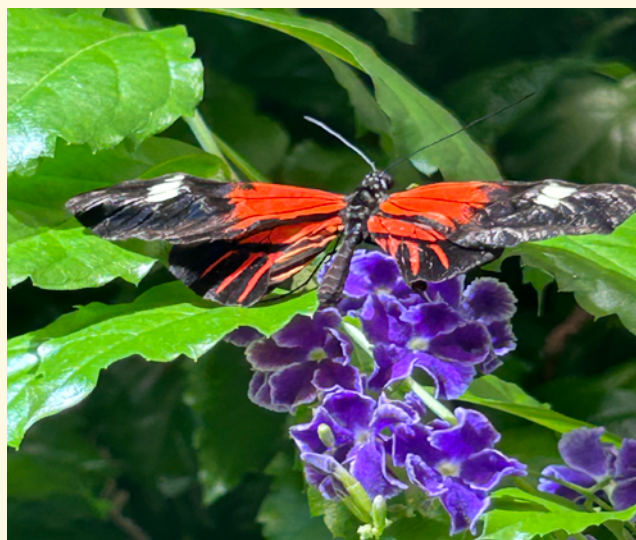


Crevice garden at labyrinth.

Flash' (*Ilex x koehneana* 'Hefflash')," said Wiles. "The bright raspberry-red new leaves in spring mature to vibrant green with creamy-white variegation that will add bright flashes to contrast with the dark evergreens. Ornamental grasses like big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) add tranquil movement while a pre-existing mass of Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra*) was divided and transplanted to create a botanical stream flowing downhill."

Travis also took advantage of some surplus paving stone to create new crevice gardens. "By placing the stones vertically, the narrow crevices mimic natural cliffs and mountainsides," said Wiles. "Plants adapted to these growing conditions enjoy cool, deep roots and good drainage, allowing them to thrive in what appears to be an inhospitable environment. Future plans include the creation of a ruin garden within the Rock Garden and planting a very special memorial tree to honor Rich."

Meet the Skyflower Shrub: A Feast for the Senses in the Butterfly Atrium



Skyflower with postman butterfly

If you've visited the Butterfly Atrium, you've likely seen and admired the skyflower (*Duranta erecta*), a flowering shrub native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. Also known as golden dewdrop and pigeon berry, this plant can grow up to 20 feet tall outdoors. Hershey Gardens' indoor specimen is approximately 8 feet tall.

Located near the exit of the Atrium, the skyflower frequently stops guests in their tracks. Clusters of delicate lavender flowers combine with cascading stems and foliage to create its distinctive appearance. Its flowers and fruit make it a beautiful addition to gardens, while its blooms are also attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

The skyflower has another surprising characteristic: its scent. Visitors and volunteers have described its unusual fragrance in very different ways. Some detect hints of chocolate or licorice, while members of our team think its distinctive aroma is reminiscent of Play-Doh!

The next time you visit the Butterfly Atrium, take a closer look—and perhaps a closer sniff. Some of its most interesting discoveries are hiding in plain sight.

Mark Your Calendar!

All activities below are included in admission; free for members, except where a cost is noted.
Please check HersheyGardens.org for event updates.



October 17, 18, 24 & 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Pumpkin Palooza returns for all things pumpkin! Kids, come in costume and trick or treat at four Hershey’s candy stations, enjoy over 200 painted pumpkins, a unique 14-foot “pumpkin tree” and the perfect photo backdrop of pumpkin mosaics! Plus, stop by to see if you can “handle” the Creepy Creatures Gallery! Guests can also enjoy food trucks and hundreds of mums on display, including a colorful 9-foot mum tree. [See the full schedule of events here.](#)



Manada Conservancy Presentation:
Rebuilding Ecosystems with Regenerative Agriculture –
How Farms Are Moving Beyond Sustainability
Thursday, November 12, 7 to 8 p.m.
Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Lisa Blazure of Stroud Water Research Center will share how some farms are going beyond sustainable farming techniques and instead regenerating their soils by managing land according to natural principles. These farms recognize that they are part of a larger natural system and rely on biological processes to provide crop nutrients, pest control, and water cycling. Crops grown on healthier soils can have higher nutrient density, and regenerative agriculture has the potential to enhance human health as well as the environment. Participants will leave with practical insights and real-world examples they can adapt to their own operations—from large-scale farms to small homesteads and even backyard gardens—demonstrating how regenerative principles can be applied at any scale to rebuild soil health and resilience. [Please register here.](#)



ECO-FICTION BOOK GROUP



Join us to explore works of eco-fiction, nature and environment-oriented literature, which often include a human element. It is not necessary to attend all sessions—please join as you can!

New participants are always welcome. We encourage participants to read each month’s selections prior to the meeting to fully participate in the discussion. All sessions are located in the Garden Cottage and will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m.



Friday, October 23, 2026 - *Annihilation*, Jeff VanderMeer (non-fiction) – *The Secret Life of Plants: A Fascinating Account of the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Relations between Plants and Man*, Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird)
Friday, January 22, 2027 - *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* by Lars Mytting and *Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings* by Valerie Trouet
Save These Dates! Check HersheyGardens.org for book selections.
Friday, April 23 | Friday, July 23 | Friday, October 22
To register, please email Kaitlin Dannenberg at kadannenberg@hersheygardens.org.

Celebrate the Holidays at Hershey Gardens

**Holiday Hours: Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the following holiday exceptions:
Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day / Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve**

The Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 20 through Sunday, January 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Our signature holiday event features colorful tree displays with twinkling lights; each unique tree is created by a talented local designer. Guests will enjoy a pair of 14-foot and 8-foot poinsettia and tropical trees! The historic Hersheypark Comet coaster car is back for family photo ops and the Butterfly Atrium will be decorated for the holidays!



Sponsors:

Thomas Davis



Student Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 20 through Sunday, January 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Enjoy dozens of creative ornaments made by local school students displayed on live Fraser fir trees in the Garden Cottage.

Calling All Kids! Crafty Christmas Creations

November 21 & 28; December 5, 12, 19 & 26, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Perfect for kids of all ages. Join in the fun of creating your own holiday craft, inspired by nature. Located in the Education Center in The Children's Garden.



Visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus

Santa Claus

Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Storytime with Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 19, 11 a.m.

Garden Cottage



Winter Wreath Workshops

Friday, December 4 at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 at 10 a.m.

\$55 for members; \$65 for non-members

Registration required [here](#), beginning November 1

Celebrate winter by creating a beautiful and festive wreath, perfect for the holidays! Using fresh limbs, twigs and pods pruned from the Gardens, participants will learn how to create a stunning, long-lasting 18-inch wreath for their door or table.

All supplies and materials are provided. Led by Hershey Gardens education programs staff.



Santa and His Reindeer Use This Special Sleigh... Only When They Come to Hershey, PA!

Friday, November 21 through

Thursday, January 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

It's Hersheypark's Comet coaster car, of course! Bring the whole family to Hershey Gardens and sit in it for the perfect holiday photo op! Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.

Winter Bird Watch

Saturday, January 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Registration is recommended by calling 717.508.5968 or email rellawrence@hersheygardens.org.



Bring the whole family—and your binoculars—and learn to identify the various birds that call Hershey Gardens home during the winter. Each Saturday we'll walk you through Project Feederwatch, take you on a unique guided bird walk and provide additional information about bird behavior, the best plants to support birds, identification tips and best feeding practices. For the youngest birders, additional bird family crafts and activities will be offered in the classroom. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. In partnership with Quittapahilla Audubon Society.

Sponsored by



Art Show & Display

"For the Love of Art" by the Hershey Area Art Association

Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This dazzling display of art will feature works by members of the Hershey Area Art Association. Pieces for purchase will include woodworking, prints, acrylic and oil, jewelry and more. Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.



Winter Wednesdays: Celebrating the Lunar New Year with the Little Star Chinese School

Sunday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with Hershey Gardens and the Little Star Chinese School! Each week we'll explore a different cultural activity. Bring the family and interact with Asian species like our mossy frog, jungle nymphs, walking sticks, and more at the Zoology Zone Interactive Cart. Learn more about our Asian butterfly and moth species in the Butterfly Atrium. Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.

Dried Floral Arrangement Class

Saturday, February 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

\$65 for members; \$75 for non-members

Registration required here, starting December 19.

Join us to create your own dried floral arrangement to bring beauty to your home in the winter months. We'll use an assortment of dried specimens such as seed pods, florals, grasses and greens to learn about color, form and texture when creating an arrangement. Class held in the Education Center in The Children's Garden. Led by Kaitlin Dannenberg, horticulturist and education associate.

2027 Annual Orchid Show & Sale



For the Love of Orchids, 2027 Annual Orchid Show & Sale, Susquehanna Orchid Society

Member-Only Preview: Thursday, January 28, 2 to 5 p.m.

Open to the Public: Friday, January 29 to Sunday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Susquehanna Orchid Society presents a newly expanded orchid show and sale in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory and new Rose Garden Pavilion! This year's show features additional informational sessions, activities for kids, plus new vendors and exhibition categories, including a new vendor, E.B. Orchids from Holley, New York, and a student entry.

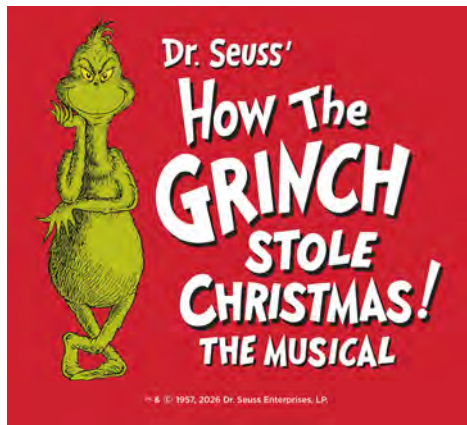
More than 1,000 orchids representing dozens of varieties will be on display, including rare species and unique hybrids. In addition, vendors will have orchids for sale. Various orchid societies will have showy displays that will be judged onsite and presented with national awards. [To see a schedule of events, starting in early January, please click here.](#)

HERSHEY THEATRE

BOBBY RAHAL LEXUS DEALERS | LEXUS PRESENTS

26/27 BROADWAY SERIES

Subscriptions Now Available at HersheyTheatre.com | Starting at \$160

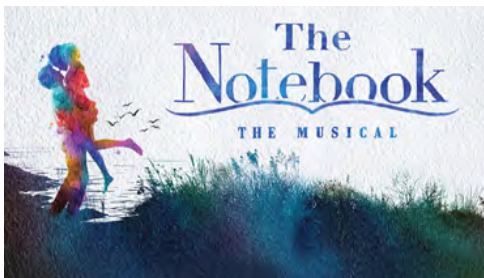


DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS! The Musical

November 10-15, 2026

Celebrating 20 years of holiday magic, *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* is the record-setting Broadway sensation that has delighted more than 3 million theatergoers across 83 cities and 1,700 performances. The production broke box office records during its Broadway engagements and continues to be a beloved holiday tradition for audiences of all ages. Don't miss what *The New York Times* calls "An Extraordinary Performance! 100 times better than any bedtime story."

Featuring the hit songs "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" and "Welcome Christmas" from the original animated special, this heart-warming musical brings Dr. Seuss' classic story to life on stage. Max the Dog narrates as the mean and scheming Grinch, whose heart is "two sizes too small," hatches a plan to steal Christmas from the cheerful, holiday-loving Whos —only to discover there's more to the season than he ever bargained for. With magnificent sets and costumes inspired by Dr. Seuss' original illustrations, the show transports audiences into the whimsical world of Whoville and breathes new life into this timeless story of the true meaning of Christmas.

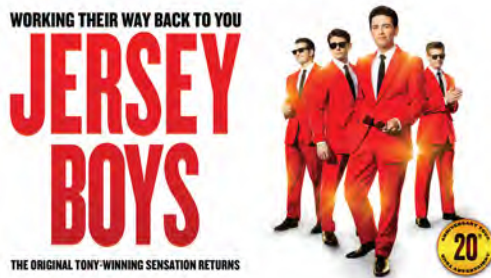


THE NOTEBOOK

February 3-7, 2027

Based on the best-selling novel that inspired the iconic film, *The Notebook* tells the story of Allie and Noah, both from different worlds, who share a lifetime of love despite the forces that threaten to pull them apart. "Full of butterfly-inducing highs and beautiful songs" (*Entertainment Weekly*), *The Notebook* is a deeply moving portrait of the enduring power of love.

Chris Jones of the *Chicago Tribune* says *The Notebook* is "absolutely gorgeous, not to be missed," and *The New York Daily News* calls it "a love story for the ages."



JERSEY BOYS

April 20-25, 2027

The original Broadway sensation returns to the road! Celebrating 20 years - Jersey style!

They were just four guys from Jersey, until they sang their very first note. They had a sound nobody had ever heard... and the radio just couldn't get enough of. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage it was a very different story -- a story that has made them an international sensation all

over again. The show features all their hits including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Oh What a Night," "Walk Like a Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "Beggin'" and "Working My Way Back to You."

Go behind the music and inside the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons in the Tony Award®-winning, original Broadway sensation, *Jersey Boys*. From the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, this is the musical that's too good to be true.

Advisories: Flashing strobe lights, loud gunfire, theatrical haze, herbal cigarette smoke and authentic, profane Jersey vocabulary are special effects used in this production.



HEATHERS, The Musical

July 13-18, 2027

Welcome to Westerberg High, where popularity is a matter of life and death, and Veronica Sawyer is just another of the nobodies dreaming of a better day. But when she's unexpectedly taken under the wings of the three beautiful and impossibly cruel Heathers, her dreams of popularity finally start to come true. That is, until J.D., the mysterious teen rebel, teaches her that it might kill to be a nobody, but it's murder being a somebody...

Praised as "an outrageous, irrepressible musical" (*New York Times*) and "Mischievous fun" (*New York Sun*), *Heathers The Musical* has broken box office records worldwide. Based on the hit film by Daniel Waters, *Heathers The Musical* features book, music and lyrics by Kevin Murphy and Laurence O'Keefe.

SEASON OPTIONS



October 30-November 1, 2026



December 9-11, 2026



February 16-18, 2027



April 8-9, 2027



June 18-20, 2027

