

THE LEGACY

NEWS from THE M.S. HERSHEY FOUNDATION | SPRING/SUMMER 2023 | ISSUE 35

“Delightful Living”: 90 Years of Luxury at The Hotel Hershey

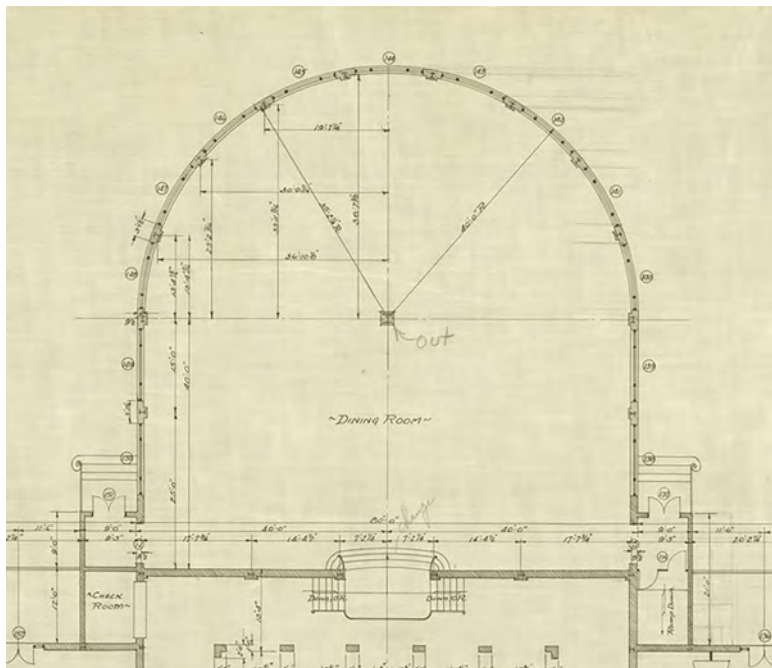
by Jennifer Henderson, Hershey Community Archives Senior Archivist

This year marks the 90th anniversary of a true Hershey landmark: The Hotel Hershey. The grand opening celebration for Milton Hershey’s “Crown Jewel” took place Friday, May 26, 1933 in conjunction with the town’s 30th anniversary celebration. To mark the occasion, Mr. Hershey invited 200 distinguished guests to a formal dinner at the Hotel. The event even made headlines in the local news: the *Lancaster Sunday News* read, “Hershey Lauded at Opening of \$2,000,000 Hotel.” When asked to give remarks, Mr. Hershey said:

“I am but a simple farmer; I like to utilize nature’s beauty for the pleasure of men. This hotel where you are assembled has been a dream of mine for many years.”

Indeed, the first mention of a summer resort hotel to be located on Pat’s Hill was in the October 8, 1909 edition of the *Hershey Press*. However, Mr. Hershey did not break ground for his dream hotel until October 1931. Various factors contributed to the delay, but ironically, it was the Great Depression which ushered in the construction of the Hotel, as well as many other prominent structures in town. In Hershey, the Depression was a time of growth and change. Taking advantage of the reduced cost of construction supplies, and wanting to keep community members employed, Milton Hershey began a series of construction projects. These buildings were all part of his elaborate plans for community development, and the period became known as the “Great Building Campaign.”

Looking at The Hotel Hershey as the



Original drawing for the Circular Dining Room showing the pillar that must come “out,” ca. 1931-1932



Rudy's drawing for one of the 13 stained glass windows in the Circular Dining Room, ca. 1931

crown jewel of this campaign, we can see that this “simple farmer” had anything but simple taste. The Hotel is replete with many unique and innovative features.

Perhaps the most unique feature is the Circular Dining Room, now simply called The Circular. The room’s iconic design is directly attributed to Milton Hershey, as he did not want any guest at his hotel to have a bad seat. The round shape eliminates any corners or pillars and allows a much more egalitarian experience for diners, ensuring

a great view for all. Initial drawings in the Archives show a pillar designed to support the ceiling. However, on these plans, we can see that the column is marked as needing to come “out.” Head of Hershey Lumber Company, D. Paul Witmer, had the unenviable task of designing a truss system to support the ceiling and roof of the Circular Dining Room without the pillar. He did such a great job that two years later the Castilian Ballroom

was built directly on top of it!

Milton Hershey’s desire to “utilize nature’s beauty” is evident in The Circular, especially through the installation of 13 large windows framed in stained glass. The glasswork, crafted by the Rudy Glass Company of York, PA, depicts local flora and fauna. Three vine patterns repeat: trumpet, wisteria and grape, while local birds and butterflies accent the beautiful designs. The windows provide guests with an exceptional view of the Hotel’s formal gardens, bringing the beauty of nature into the room.

Another obvious area where Mr. Hershey encouraged the idea of bringing the outdoors in is the Fountain Lobby. This grand space, which originally would have welcomed visitors as the main lobby of the Hotel, was influenced by Mr. and Mrs. Hershey’s travels in the Mediterranean and Mr. Hershey’s



Picture postcard of the Fountain Lobby, 1938

time in Cuba. The Fountain Lobby makes you feel like you are in a Mediterranean courtyard in both architecture and interior design elements. The tile rooftops, mezzanine balconies, lampposts, running fountain and marble paths all work together to create the outdoor feel. The furniture (many pieces are original) and palm trees (an original feature of the Fountain Lobby) add even more to the ambience.

Some of these interior features have unique histories themselves. The beautiful pathways are mosaics carefully crafted from scrap marble purchased in Baltimore. Local craftsmen expertly cut and installed the pieces on-site in Hershey. Mr. Hershey purchased the fountain, likely from a catalog, and the tile basin was built around it once it was installed. The colorful tiles decorating the basin were designed by Ernest Batchelder of the Batchelder-Wilson Company in Pasadena, CA. Not only do Batchelder tiles appear on the basin,

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Delightful Living... *continued from page 1*

but nearly every tile you see in the Hotel can be attributed to Batchelder. It is unclear how those designing a hotel in Central Pennsylvania came to know of a tilemaker out west. It's possible Milton Hershey, Mr. Witmer or Robert von Ezdorf, the interior designer, stumbled upon a Batchelder showroom.

Batchelder was prominent in the arts and crafts movement, and was actually influenced by Pennsylvania's own Henry Chapman Mercer, whose tiles adorn the PA State Capitol building. Despite an influx of business from Hershey – Batchelder tiles are featured prominently in the Community Building as well – the Batchelder Tile Company did not survive the Depression.

Robert von Ezdorf was not just an interior designer, but an artist in his own right. If you have ever spent time in the Iberian Lounge, you've seen his work in the mural behind the bar. The unique mural depicts a port scene on a Mediterranean pier. Many of the architectural elements found in the Fountain Lobby are reflected in this mural. Perhaps its most fascinating feature, however, is the optical illusion in which no matter where the viewer stands, the pier always seems to be pointing towards them. Luckily, this mural only occupied the top half of the wall, because in 1968 a bar was installed in the Iberian Lounge. Savvy readers may have noticed that The Hotel Hershey opened during Prohibition. The Hotel was designed without a cocktail lounge, bar or wine cellar – all of which were



Robert von Ezdorf standing next to his mural in the Iberian Lounge, 1934

added after Prohibition was repealed in 1934.

The Hotel has always been a popular destination, and is continually evolving to meet guest standards. However, all of these unique historic features have been preserved, maintained, and even highlighted. The Hotel has

received the AAA 4-Diamond Award every year for the past 33 years and is recognized by Historic Hotels of America. It truly is the "Crown Jewel" of Hershey, and has been providing guests with "delightful living" for 90 years. Here's to another 90!

Summer is Sweet in the Chocolate Lab

From chocolate beach bars to S'mores, Chocolate Lab participants can create something amazing—and delicious—in the Lab this summer! Learn how cocoa beans are grown, harvested and processed into delicious milk chocolate in these hands-on, interactive classes.

Forty-five minute classes are ideal for adults and children ages 5 and older. 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.

[Click here](#) for more information and daily class schedules.

This summer's classes include:

S'mores Galore

Have some summer fun as you make your own sweet variation on S'mores (without the fire, of course). Learn the origins of this campfire confection, as well as some Hershey's trivia!



Planet Chocolate

Learn some delicious geography by discovering the many places around the globe where cocoa beans are grown. You will be guided to recognize differences in cocoa beans' appearance and taste, and make your own unique bar to take home!

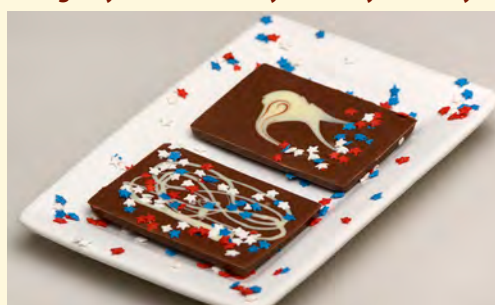
Chocolate Beach Bars

Celebrate summer by designing your very own seashore-themed milk chocolate bar using an edible decal and plenty of graham cracker "sand." Take a walk along our "chocolate beach boardwalk" as you learn about Hershey's classics.



Yankee Doodle Chocolate Bars

(Flag Day, Memorial Day and July 4th only)



Mold a milk chocolate bar and top it off with red, white and blue candy sprinkles.

The Cat is Back: A Century of The Wildcat at Hersheypark

by Jennifer Patel, Hershey Community Archives Assistant Archivist

The Cat is back – yet again. This summer, Hersheypark will debut Wildcat’s Revenge – a wood and steel hybrid coaster boasting an 82-degree drop, four inversions and the world’s largest underflip. The rebuild by Rocky Mountain Construction will utilize the existing wooden structure of Hersheypark’s 1996 Wildcat roller coaster and will feature three custom trains to represent the three iterations of the ride throughout Hersheypark’s history.

The opening of Wildcat’s Revenge will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the original Wild Cat coaster, which opened on June 16, 1923 as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the town. The celebration included concerts, baseball games, a comedy show and a very special gift from Milton Hershey himself – Hershey Park’s first roller coaster. Originally named the Joy Ride, this “out and back” style of coaster was an early design by Herbert P. Schmeck of the Philadelphia Toboggan Company. According to the *Hershey Press*, it was constructed at a cost of \$50,000 (almost \$880,500 in today’s dollars).

Crowds thronged to Hershey during the anniversary celebration, with an estimated 50,000 people in attendance. Rides on the coaster were offered for free but women were not permitted to ride until the afternoon. Marion Murrie, daughter of Hershey Chocolate Company president, William F.R. Murrie, was among the first women to ride that day.

The following day, a Sunday, the question arose whether or not the roller coaster should be operated. Facing large crowds and many parkgoers eager to ride, management decided to keep the coaster running through the weekend, marking the first time in Hershey Park history that a ride was operated on a Sunday. The *Hershey Press* wrote:

“We are glad to state that the modern viewpoint won, and the cars were put in operation. If there was any harm in al-



The Wild Cat roller coaster descending a hill, ca. 1935-1945

lowing people the opportunity of enjoying themselves by riding on a Roller Coaster on a Sunday, we fail to see it.”

In 1935, the roller coaster was redesigned by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company to make the ride’s dips higher and curves more steeply banked. The renovated coaster was renamed, “The Wild Cat.”

The Wild Cat continued operating until the end of the 1945 season. It was replaced by Comet, Hershey Park’s second roller coaster and another gift from Milton Hershey – this time in celebration of the end of World War II. Unfortunately, Mr. Hershey didn’t get to see the Comet completed; he died in October 1945, only two months after construction began.

In June of 1995, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company announced that it would begin construction on a wooden roller coaster that would be named in honor of the

Wild Cat. This would be the first wooden roller coaster built at Hersheypark since the Comet, as well as the first ride designed by Great Coasters International, a Pennsylvania-based roller coaster manufacturer. Rather than an “out-and-back” style of coaster similar to that of the original Wild Cat, the 1996 Wildcat was designed as a twister coaster, with a 3,100-foot-long track that twisted under and over itself 20 times during the 90-second ride, with 12 steeply banked curves.

The Wildcat opened on May 25, 1996 in the new park expansion, Midway America. Midway America was designed to resemble an old-fashioned amusement park, so it was only fitting that the Wildcat would be the centerpiece of this nostalgic theme. But opening day in 1996 looked a little different than that of its predecessor. Instead of choral concerts and baseball games, entertainment in Hershey that day included a “Weird Al” Yankovic show and performances

by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, the Greatest Show on Earth. In fact, the first passengers to ride the Wildcat were a group of clowns, donned in comically large shoes and bright red noses.

The Wildcat enjoyed a 26-year run, with the Cat’s final dash taking place on July 31, 2022. Guests were upset that this iconic roller coaster would no longer run - but in November 2022, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company announced the newest iteration of this historic ride, Wildcat’s Revenge. Taking a cue from Milton Hershey, who wasn’t afraid to change and reuse things from the past, they are repurposing the wooden framework of the 1996 Wildcat with innovative technology to introduce the first hybrid roller coaster in Pennsylvania. Wildcat’s Revenge will make its debut this summer, marking a full century since the unveiling of the Wild Cat at Hershey Park.



Artifacts Stolen from Hershey Museum Returned After Half a Century

by Valerie Seiber, Sr. Manager, Historical Collections & Exhibitions

The Hershey Story Museum is currently accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The accreditation program is a rigorous peer-reviewed process that ensures that the Museum abides by good governance practices and ethical behavior. This means the Museum is committed to serving the public and has high standards of collections care. Fifty years ago, however, the Hershey Museum, as it was then called, was in a time of great transition. It was located in the old Convention Hall and Ice Palace next to Hersheypark. The Light family, responsible for operating the Museum since 1933, retired and the first professionally-trained museum staff was hired in 1973.

historic coins and paper currency, two gold-plated pocket watches, several pieces of silver and turquoise Diné (Navajo) jewelry, and an Olympia music box. Each time, local law enforcement was notified but without clear evidence or clues, the thefts were not prioritized. Photographs of the stolen items were non-existent and catalog records were vague, making recovery difficult.

The Hershey Museum was not the only museum victimized by thefts. Several museums and historical societies in Central Pennsylvania experienced thefts around the same time. Law enforcement did not pursue museum thefts unless the stolen item was well-known or highly valued. Until recently, there was no centralized law enforcement agency to coordinate a registry of stolen items or lead investigations into these thefts. The Art Loss Register, a private database developed by the insurance industry in conjunction with art dealers, was created in 1990. The FBI's Art Crime Team was established in 2004.

In 2017, a detective reached out to staff, inquiring about artifacts stolen from the Hershey Museum more than 50 years ago. Staff scanned documents from the Museum's archived files and sent them to him. About two years passed before he contacted staff again – this time with news that three pistols and a silver belt stolen from the Museum's collection had been recovered during their investigation and would be returned.

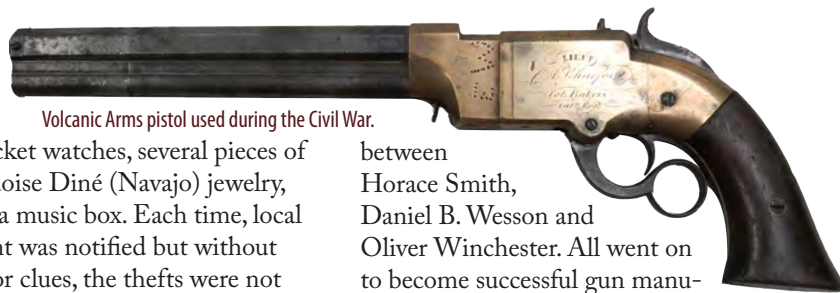
Since the time of the thefts, the Hershey Museum transformed into The Hershey Story. The Museum changed its mission to focus on the history and stories of chocolate maker, Milton S. Hershey, the businesses he created, the community he founded and his philanthropic legacy. Now security cameras and secure cases are employed throughout the galleries. The Museum's original collections are preserved for use in special exhibits, available for research and for loan to other museums.



Silver Diné (Navajo) concho belt returned to The Hershey Story Museum.

Items recovered to date include a silver medallion belt made by the Dine' (Navajo) people, two 19th century pistols made by Josiah Ells, a double-action Army revolver made by Rogers & Spencer and most recently, a Civil War era pistol carried by Lieutenant Christian A. Schaeffer.

Schaeffer's pistol is interesting from several perspectives. First, it was made by the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. This company was a short-lived venture (1855-1856)



Volcanic Arms pistol used during the Civil War.

between Horace Smith, Daniel B. Wesson and Oliver Winchester. All went on to become successful gun manufacturers in their own right. A spring-loaded chamber below the barrel held several rounds of ammunition. The lever-action of the trigger guard loaded a round into the chamber and cocked the hammer. Once the trigger was engaged, the round fired and the casing was ejected. The preloaded rounds meant that subsequent shots could be fired quickly without reloading; hence the term "repeating."



Detail of the inscription on the pistol owned by Lieutenant Christian A. Schaeffer.

There is also unique engraving on the frame of Schaeffer's pistol. It reads, "Lieut. C.A. Schaeffer, Col Bakers Cala Regt." This engraving connects the pistol to a particular person, time and place in history. Colonel Edward Baker, a senator from Oregon and close personal friends with President Abraham Lincoln, was asked to form a regiment representing California for the Union Army in the early days of the Civil War. He did so by recruiting a large number of young men from Philadelphia and New York City.

One of those men was Christian A. Schaeffer. At age 24, Schaeffer mustered into service in May 1861 as a Second Lieutenant.

Baker's Regiment was ordered to the south bank of the Potomac River outside Washington D.C. There, the men engaged in constructing earthworks and holding the line of fortifications around the capitol. In early October 1861, Baker and his men were sent to Poolesville, MD. They were ordered to cross the river toward Leesburg, VA. However, there were insufficient boats to expedite the crossing. Once in position, Baker's men, along with the 15th and 20th Massachusetts and the 42nd New York Regiments, engaged with the Rebel army at Ball's Bluff where Col. Baker was shot and killed. Union troops were pushed back to the river's edge. A brief excerpt from the *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers* described the scene:

At about 4 o'clock Colonel Baker fell at the head of his command, pierced by a number of bullets, while cheering his men, and by his own example encouraging them to obstinate resistance. The line now wavered, and shortly after, it broke and retreated in disorder down

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Interior of Hershey Museum, ca. 1950-1975. Image courtesy of Hershey Community Archives

Organizing the Museum's records and cataloging the vast collection of artifacts were some of the challenges that the new director faced. Exhibits included a few period room dioramas but consisted mostly of artifacts displayed openly or in cases with little identification or interpretation. The Museum staff was small, there were no security guards or cameras, and the Museum's layout meant visitors could be concealed behind tall cases or in galleries flanking the main hall. Cases were secured with simple hardware and flimsy locks. After a 1972 theft, police officer Clem Miller's memo stated, "Lock slides thru the whole case and with any pointed key, you can open any case. Grove and I tried this on two other cases and works very simple." Back then, Museum staff relied on good faith that visitors behaved appropriately and respectfully. But clearly, some did not.

From 1965 to 1980, Hershey Museum experienced thefts on eight occasions. Artifacts stolen included several antique firearms,



Artifacts returned to The Hershey Story Museum, December 2021. Image courtesy of Museum of the American Revolution

Artifacts Stolen from Hershey Museum... *continued from page 4*

the bank towards the river, pursued by the victorious enemy, who rushed forward howling and screeching, and shooting and bayoneting all who came in their way. No adequate means of transportation to the opposite shore, in case of disaster, had been provided. The only boat at hand was filled with the wounded and pushed out into the stream, but soon swamped and the men were nearly all drowned. Another rude affair, filled to its utmost capacity, floated down and was lost. Becoming desperate from the continued and merciless fire of the enemy, many leaped into the river and perished in the attempt to buffet the stream; some surrendered and were borne into captivity. Of five hundred and twenty who entered the engagement, three hundred and twelve were lost.

Edward Baker is the only acting Senator to be killed in action in U.S. history. Lieutenant Schaeffer survived this horrific scene. He and the other men from Baker's regiment returned to Poolesville. A few months later in March 1862, Schaeffer was taken down – not by the enemy's bullet – but by typhoid fever. Camp conditions in both the Union and Confederate armies were deplorable and unsanitary. Diseases such as typhoid killed just as many soldiers off the battlefield as those who died on it.



Representatives from 15 museums signing the FBI's property receipt forms, March 13, 2023. Image courtesy of Museum of the American Revolution

The Hershey Story is grateful for the continued hard work of the detectives at Upper Merion Township Police Department, the FBI's Art Crime team, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Their commitment to finding and returning items of cultural heritage stolen more than 50 years ago allows museums to share stories,

such as those about Edward Baker and Christian Schaeffer, with their visitors.

The next step for The Hershey Story staff will be to photograph and catalog the returned items. Several museums have inquired about borrowing the Schaeffer pistol to exhibit at their institutions.

museum EXPERIENCE

AT THE HERSHEY STORY

Sunday, May 14:
Moms are free on Mother's Day!

Sunday, June 18:
Dads are free on Father's Day!

YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE HERSHEY STORY

Do you know a student age 12 to 16 who enjoys history and working with others? Invite them to apply to The Hershey Story's Past Master program.

These youth volunteers provide interactive activities for museum guests of all ages and share facts about the town of Hershey and the chocolate making process. Past Masters also assist guests with scavenger hunts and work with camp groups and children's programs.

Participants are asked to commit to volunteering a minimum of seven times during the summer; shifts are available most days during operating hours. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, May 25, 2023, or until all spots are filled.

The program runs from Tuesday, June 13 to Monday, September 4. Individuals are required to attend orientation sessions on June 13 and June 14. Additional details and an online application can be [found here](#). Please contact Susan Hetrick at smhetrick@hersheystory.org or call 717.520.5587 with questions.



Calling All Camp Groups!

Candy bars, KISSES and truffles – the sweet chocolate candy we enjoy today is very different from the chocolate consumed by colonists in the 1700s. This summer, camp groups can step back in time and learn how chocolate was made in Colonial America and the unique ingredients that were used.

Campers can try their hand at grinding cocoa beans, looking at original recipes and participating in other hands-on activities while discovering the important role chocolate played in the founding of America. Every camper will make their own colonial-inspired chocolate medallions, which can be eaten or made into a special drink! This program also includes an educational scavenger hunt through the museum.

Chocolate in Colonial America

Cost per camper: \$13

One free chaperone with every five campers

Additional adults: \$15

The program will last about an hour and the scavenger hunt takes about 45-60 minutes, so please plan on at least 90 minutes to two hours for the full experience.

Space is limited; make your reservations early!

[Reservation form available here.](#)

Introducing...the Catherine Hershey Rose

Rosarians rejoice! Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning and Hershey Gardens are thrilled to introduce the new Catherine Hershey Rose.

“In conjunction with Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning and two Canadian rose growers, we have selected a beautiful, double bloom shrub rose to bear the name of Milton Hershey’s beloved wife, Catherine,” said Amy Zeigler, senior director of Hershey Gardens. “This soft peach rose blooms in mass over a long season, appears darker in cooler weather and has a spicy citrus scent.”

“We are fortunate to have these growers combine their expertise to help us pay homage to Catherine Hershey, recognizing her important role in changing the lives of thousands of children,” said Jane Gurt, wife of Milton Hershey School President, Pete Gurt.

“Catherine Hershey loved gardening and spent many hours planning the formal gardens at the Hersheys’ home, High Point Mansion,” said Zeigler. “She also provided input into one of her husband’s greatest legacies, the Hershey Industrial School, now Milton Hershey School. Milton Hershey always said, ‘It was Kitty’s idea.’”

“The recent establishment of the Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning remind us of Kitty’s love of children everywhere and



her belief that every child deserves a chance to thrive,” said Zeigler. “Each CHS location will be planted with a bed of Catherine Hershey roses, and they will be planted throughout the Milton Hershey School campus.”

Hershey Gardens will feature the rose in the M.S. Hershey Tribute Garden, where it will be planted alongside the M.S. Hershey rose bushes, named for him in 1940. They will

also be featured in the Historic Rose Garden, alongside an arbor bench constructed by Milton Hershey students.

Potted Catherine Hershey Roses are currently for sale in the Garden Shop, while supplies last. Available for purchase in-person only.

[Learn more about Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning here.](#)

New Type of Honey Bee to be Added To Observation Hive This Summer

by Jody Davey, Conservatory Habitats Manager

A*pis mellifera*, the European honey bee, is the familiar honey-gold striped flyer we see flitting from flower to flower during the warmer months of the year. From mid-March into October, these bees are busy collecting nectar to store as honey and pollen to nourish their young. It is during this time of year that they work hard to store up provisions that help them to survive the winter as a cluster inside their hive.

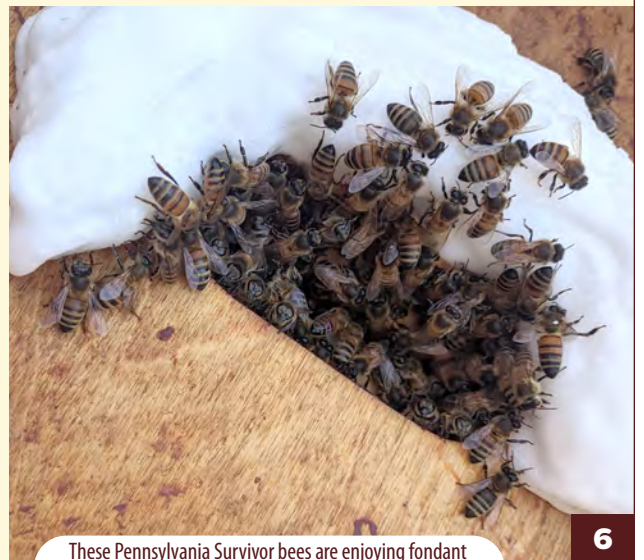
The Hoop House observation hive, located inside The Children’s Garden, is home to honey bees during these active months. Guests can view the bees at work through the two observation windows located at the top of the hive. Because of the abundant nectar and pollen sources available to the bees in their garden home, the hive grows and flourishes every year. The bees have no problem storing an ample amount of food to last the queen and her workers through the winter. And yet, bees in the Hoop House observation hive have only managed to successfully overwinter one time in the last five years.

While there are many factors theoretically involved in overwintering success, genetics likely play a major role. This year we are fortunate to be displaying “Pennsylvania Survivor” honey bees, generously donated to



Hershey Gardens by David Fretz of the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society. These “locally adapted” bees have a record of overwintering success in the cold Pennsylvania climate for several winters in a row, and the queens appear to have the ability to pass adaptive traits to their offspring.

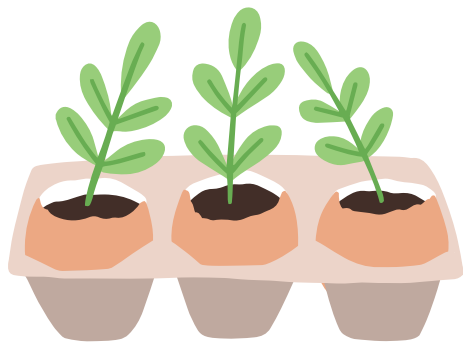
With the bees’ locally adapted genetics and David’s welcome and knowledgeable advice, we are hopeful that this year’s hive will have what it takes to get through a Pennsylvania winter, and live to fly again another spring.



These Pennsylvania Survivor bees are enjoying fondant

Container and Raised Bed Gardening for the Novice

by Tanya Van Hove, Penn State Master Gardener in Dauphin County



Some of us remember the “victory gardens” of our mothers and grandmothers. We watched our uncles and grandfathers care for their food gardens when we visited each summer. In recent decades, we viewed gardening as a leisure activity that only homemakers and retirees made time to do. However, with recent changes in the environment, the increase in natural disasters and the stress in the national supply chain, home gardening has taken on new relevance.

To some, gardening is a mystery or unattainable skill. Perhaps living in an urban setting deters would-be gardeners due to limited space. With the resurgence of container gardening and multimedia sources of information and training, any novice gardener can create a simple home garden. With the right soil, water and nutrients, container gardens can yield the same delicious fruits and vegetables as an in-ground garden.

Does your family enjoy strawberries? Grow them in hanging baskets or containers on your balcony or porch. Grow blueberries in pots around a patio or deck. You can grow many new cultivars of pear and apple trees in pots as well. Local gardeners cultivate lemon and fig trees indoors through our cold Pennsylvania winters. Choose to grow fruits and vegetables that you enjoy, so no produce goes to waste. Don't grow eggplant if no one in your family eats it.



Consider these requirements when starting container and raised bed gardens.



Light

How much sun does your growing area receive? Is it full sun or partial sun? Is it sunny only in the morning or afternoon? Choose an area that receives a minimum of five to six hours of sun every day.



Raised Bed Gardens

Raised bed gardening is another above-ground alternative for food gardens. Raised bed gardens offer easier access for gardeners with limited stamina and mobility. Both container and raised beds allow the gardener to control the soil composition: a very important consideration.

The types of fruits and vegetables you grow will govern the soil composition and pH needed in your garden. Many soil mixes, including sought-after organic soil mixes, can be found at local hardware stores, garden centers or landscape supply companies. Consider using organic soils made from plant-based materials. These are nutrient rich and free of pesticides. Some common brands of certified organic soils are Espoma, Jiffy, Burpee Organic Premium and Nature's Care.



Watering

Plants in containers tend to dry out more quickly than plants in the ground. Especially during the hot, dry summer months, you'll be watering your containers once or twice a day. What's the best way to know if your

plants need water? Stick your finger into the soil as far down as you can and feel for moisture. If it's dry, water! Remember all your containers must have a hole in the bottom to allow water to pass all the way through so the roots don't rot.



Fertilizer

We typically grow plants in containers in a sterile potting mix, which means you'll need to add fertilizer to meet your plants' nutritional needs. Whether you choose slow or quick release, always follow the label on the back of the package. More isn't always better!



Supplies

Finally, you will need containers for your garden or materials for your raised beds. Possible garden containers are everywhere! Consider repurposing discarded household items such as buckets and wooden crates. Ron Findlay, a revolutionary gardener who started food gardens throughout Los Angeles under highway overpasses and in street medians, does an online presentation using a dresser drawer to make a planter.

Raised beds can be built using stone, wood, concrete blocks and steel bed kits. Use recycled materials to lessen the cost. Many online gardening communities on Facebook offer pots and other gardening materials for free or at low cost. Just remember to check for drainage!

There are many resources for information about food container gardening and raised bed gardening. Penn State Extension and Penn State Master Gardeners in Dauphin County can help. You can reach us with your garden questions at dauphinmg@psu.edu or call 717-921-8803 or via our [website here](#).

Celebrating an Event?

Rent the "Garden Cottage" at Hershey Gardens!

Wether it's a child's birthday or a special event, celebrate it surrounded by beauty at Hershey Gardens! Bring your group to enjoy the picturesque Garden Cottage and its quaint patio, which sits on a hill overlooking the gardens.

- Recommended maximum capacity is 30 people.
- A \$300 rental fee (\$275 for members) includes Gardens admission for 10 guests. Additional guests are \$11.50 for juniors (ages 12 and under) and \$14.50 for adults/seniors.
- \$75 deposit required to reserve. Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled at least 48 hours in advance.
- The rental fee includes use of the Cottage from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Tables and chairs are provided: five 5-ft round tables and one 6-ft rectangular table. Renter may bring table coverings.
- Event guests are welcome to visit the Butterfly Atrium and explore the Gardens during and after the event, during normal operating hours.
- Renters may bring their own desserts, snacks and beverages.
- A variety of catering options are available through our exclusive caterer, Lisa's Cafe on Chocolate. Please contact them directly at 717.508.1729. Please note that all food items must stay inside the Garden Cottage.
- Optional Add-On: Invite a Zoology Zone animal or insect to your Garden Cottage event! Our animal handler may bring frogs, snakes, lizards or tarantulas for a 30-minute information session. Also includes optional guest handling of Madagascar hissing cockroaches. \$75 fee.



The Garden Cottage sits on a hill overlooking the gardens, just north of the Conservatory.



Featuring french doors and a stone terrace, the Garden Cottage was originally built in 1938 as the Hershey Estates Gardeners Sales Shop and Office.



The following items are not permitted:

- Balloons and glitter
- Sports equipment and toys
- Alcoholic beverages

Email or call Vera Kolstrom for more information or to check availability:
velkolstrom@hersheygardens.org
 or 717.508.5970.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Moms are Free on Mother's Day Weekend!

Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Celebrate Mom at Hershey Gardens! **On Saturday only**, docents will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer horticulture information. **On Sunday only**, stop by the Education Center in The Children's Garden for a rhododendron and azalea display, "The Joy of Eastern Rhododendrons," provided by the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Included in admission; free for members.

Music in the Gardens

Friday, June 16 and Friday, August 4 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Join us for two evenings of beautiful music in the Gardens! Guests are invited to bring their own beverages and snacks, as well as chairs or a blanket.



The Butterfly Atrium will be closed. Regular admission rates apply; free for members.



PennState Health



PNC



Bob & Linda Pugliese
Bob & Carole Ackerman
Dr. Tom Davis

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

GO PUBLIC GARDENS

Join Us for Go Public Gardens Days!

May 12 through May 21 is "Go Public Gardens Days," an initiative by the American Public Gardens Association to encourage the public to visit, value and volunteer at public gardens in their area and when they travel.

Half-off Admission with Voucher on Friday, May 12

Celebrate public gardens by visiting Hershey Gardens – and **save half off your admission with this voucher**. Docents will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer horticulture information, and Sarah's Creamery will have ice cream for sale from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Annual Iris Show by the Susquehanna Iris Society

Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



The Susquehanna Iris Society is proud to showcase their annual show in the Garden Cottage at Hershey Gardens. A rainbow of irises will be on exhibit for judging and awards; see a selection of tall, intermediate and miniature-tall bearded varieties. Representatives will be available to provide additional information and answer questions. Included in admission; free for members.



The Children's Garden Grand Re-Opening Celebration

Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us to celebrate the re-opening of the revitalized Children's Garden!

Activities include composting, harvesting and wildflower seed planting demonstrations. Families can enjoy food trucks, crafts inspired by the garden and receive a take-home pollinator seed kit. Visit the Zoology Zone Cart in the Conservatory to see and touch fascinating insects, reptiles and amphibians. Face painting is also offered for an additional fee.

Entertainment Schedule (Amphitheater):

11 a.m. Enjoy music by Steven Courtney, as he shares love, kindness and friendship through music.

1 p.m. ZooAmerica presents "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tails"



Dads are Free on Father's Day!
Sunday, June 18 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Gretna Theatre Kids Series presents Curious George:

The Golden Meatball

Sunday, August 6 at 1 and 3 p.m.



Join Curious George, the inquisitive, lovable monkey-star of books, movies and the award-winning PBS television show in a brand new musical. *Curious George: The Golden Meatball* is a loveable adventure, specifically designed for young audiences, that is sure to leave them singing and swinging down the aisles. Included with admission; free for members.

Susquehanna Orchid Society Sale

Saturday, August 12 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Learn more about growing orchids with members from the Susquehanna Orchid Society and then purchase the right orchid for your home environment from local orchid growers and suppliers. Sale located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Included in admission; free for members.



Hershey Area Art Association Show & Sale

Friday, September 1 through Sunday, September 3 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.



See fabulous works of art by members of the Hershey Area Art Association in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Included in admission; free for members.

BUG-O-Rama

INSECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Bug-O-Rama

Sunday, September 10 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us to see bugs, amphibians and reptiles from around the world and learn about their origin and behavior. Special guests include Penn State Entomology with an interactive insect zoo, Ryan the Bug Man with a variety of native and exotic insects, Pennsylvania Bat Rescue with live bats, and a live observation hive with the Planet Bee Foundation. Guests can also enjoy the Zoology Zone Interactive Cart as well as participate in worm composting and pollinator garden activities. Plus, Sarah's Creamery will be selling ice cream treats! Included in admission; free for members.



The Annual Penn-Jersey District Rose Show

Saturday, September 16 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 17 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Rose lovers rejoice! Members of the Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society will have their roses judged and displayed in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Awards are presented in the following classes according to the American Rose Society: horticulture, specimen, novice, floral design and photography. The show operates under standards established by the American Rose Society with ARS Accredited Judges. The show also includes pruning demonstrations and presentations about rose care. Included in admission; free for members.

Member Reception

Tuesday, September 26 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Members, look for your invitation in the mail.

Marvelous Mondays

July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7 from 10 a.m. - Noon

The Children's Garden

AT HERSHEY GARDENS

Mondays are marvelous at Hershey Gardens! Join us for kids' crafts, entertainment and story-telling! This year's special guests include PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab, the Planet Bee Foundation and more! Come back each week to discover new activities. Included in admission; free for members.



Bonsai Exhibit by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Wednesday, September 27 through Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily



Experience the living art of bonsai with this popular annual exhibit provided by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club. Located in the Hoop House in The Children's Garden. Included in admission; free for members.

BOOK A FASCINATING HISTORIC TOUR!



Join us for a rare opportunity to tour High Point Mansion, the home of Milton and Catherine Hershey.

Experience its historic grandeur, from the graceful rounded entry hall to the octagonal breakfast room. Admire many original furnishings and hear stories of how Mr. and Mrs. Hershey lived and entertained in their gracious home.

[Buy High Point Tour Tickets](#)

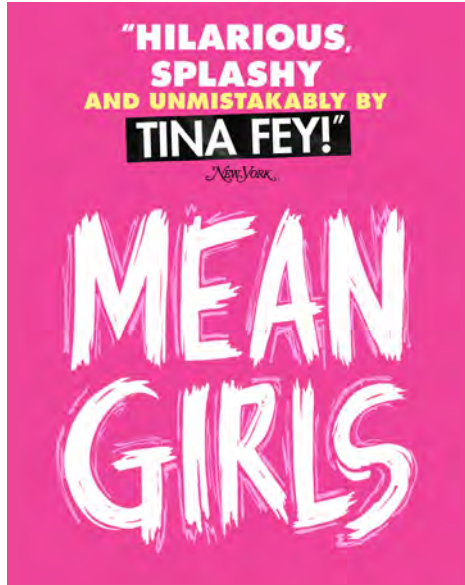
HERSHEY THEATRE

23/24 BROADWAY SERIES

Subscriptions Now Available | Starting at \$112

Mean Girls

October 10-15, 2023



Direct from Broadway, *Mean Girls* is the hilarious hit musical from an award-winning creative team, including book writer Tina Fey (“30 Rock”), composer Jeff Richmond (“Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”), lyricist Nell Benjamin (“Legally Blonde”) and director Casey Nicholaw (“The Book of Mormon”).

Cady Heron may have grown up on an African savanna, but nothing prepared her for the vicious ways of her strange new home: suburban Illinois. Soon, this naïve newbie falls prey to a trio of lionized frenemies led by the charming but ruthless Regina George. But when Cady devises a plan to end Regina’s reign, she learns the hard way that you can’t cross a Queen Bee without getting stung.

New York Magazine cheers, “*Mean Girls* delivers with immense energy, a wicked sense of humor and joyful inside-jokery.” *USA Today* says, “We’ll let you in on a little secret, because we’re such good friends: GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!”

Chicago

November 21-26, 2023



After 25 years, *Chicago* is still the one musical with everything that makes Broadway shimmy-shake: a universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, with one show-stopping song after another and the most astonishing dancing you’ve ever seen. No wonder *Chicago* has been honored with six Tony Awards®, two Olivier Awards, a Grammy®, and thousands of standing ovations. As we celebrate our 25th anniversary — you’ve got to come see why the name on everyone’s lips is still...*Chicago*.

MAMMA MIA!

April 2-7, 2024

A mother. A daughter. 3 possible dads.

And a trip down the aisle you’ll never forget!

Set on a Greek island paradise where the sun always shines, a tale of love, friendship, and identity is beautifully told through the timeless hits of ABBA. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter’s quest to discover the father she’s never known brings three men from her mother’s past back to the island they last visited decades ago.

For nearly 25 years, people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story, and the music that make *MAMMA MIA!* the ultimate feel-good show.

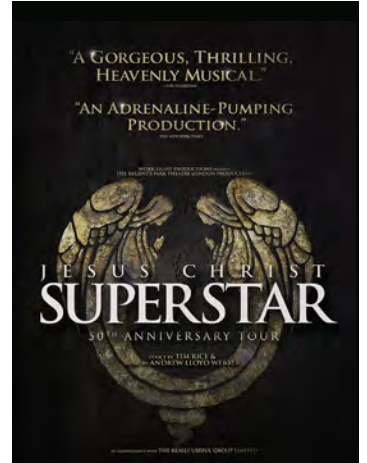


OPTIONAL ATTRACTION

Jesus Christ Superstar

March 23-24, 2024

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon returns to the stage. Originally staged by London’s Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre and helmed by the acclaimed director Timothy Sheader (“Crazy for You,” “Into the Woods”) and cutting-edge choreographer Drew McOnie (“King Kong,” “Strictly Ballroom”), this production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades. Appealing to both theater audiences and concert music fans, this production pays tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring.



With lyrics and music by Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony winners Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of Judas. Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legendary score includes “I Don’t Know How to Love Him,” “Gethsemane” and “Superstar.”

For more information please visit HersheyTheatre.com



HERSHEY THEATRE Apollo AWARDS



Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Celebrate the achievement of high school students in musical and play productions at the 15th annual Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards!

For tickets, visit HersheyTheatre.com



HERSHEY THEATRE

COMING ATTRACTIONS

HERSHEY THEATRE APOLLO AWARDS
May 21, 2023

DARYL HALL
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
TODD RUNDGREN
May 26, 2023

BOZ SCAGGS SUMMER 23 TOUR
May 28, 2023

SIX
June 13-18, 2023

DIANA ROSS
June 27, 2023

TORI AMOS:
OCEAN TO OCEAN TOUR
July 6, 2023

JERRY SEINFELD
July 7, 2023

COME FROM AWAY
August 1-6, 2023

KATHLEEN MADIGAN:
BOXED WINE & TINY BANJOS TOUR
September 14, 2023

BETH HART
October 2, 2023

MEAN GIRLS
October 10-15, 2023

JIM JEFFERIES:
GIVE 'EM WHAT THEY WANT TOUR
November 4, 2023

STATE BALLET OF UKRAINE
PRESENTS SNOW WHITE
November 9, 2023

DEREK HOUGH
"SYMPHONY OF DANCE"
November 11, 2023

CHICAGO
November 21-26, 2023

NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON
December 6, 2023

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
March 23-24, 2024

MAMMA MIA!
April 2-7, 2024

For tickets, visit
HersheyTheatre.com



To the Hershey Community,

Last June, The Hershey Company sold a portion of the Hershey Community Building at 14 East Chocolate Avenue to Milton Hershey School to support an expansion aimed at helping more children in financial need. At that time, The Hershey Company also generously donated Hershey Theatre to The M.S. Hershey Foundation, which has been operating the Theatre since 1970.

Milton Hershey School is embarking on extensive renovations in the historic building, which opened in 1933. These renovations, which include new HVAC and electrical systems, will impact Theatre operations during some intervals in 2024 and 2025.

Hershey Theatre will continue to bring a robust array of shows to Hershey when renovations are not impacting the building. The result of these improvements will be additional indoor space for Theatre patrons to enjoy before the show doors open, as well as enhanced parking areas.

We appreciate your understanding as we work to restore and rejuvenate this historic building for future generations to enjoy.

Learn more about the sale of the Hershey Community Building [here](#).

Sincerely,

Donald C. Papsen
Executive Director, The M.S. Hershey Foundation

HERSHEY THEATRE

Spotlight tour

Take a Guided Tour of This Historic Masterpiece



Experience the 90-minute walking tour that takes you behind the scenes of this architectural gem. Hershey Theatre was designed in 1915, but the arrival of World War I delayed the project until 1929. The Theatre finally opened its doors in 1933, complete with all the opulence of early 20th century theaters.

Tour schedule:
Fridays at 11 a.m.

Buy Tickets at HersheyTheatre.com
Adults: \$15, Juniors: \$10

THE M.S. HERSHEY FOUNDATION

63 West Chocolate Avenue
 Hershey, PA 17033 | 717.298.2200
MSHersheyFoundation.org

The M.S. Hershey Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and cultural organization.



Pennsylvania
 Historical & Museum
 Commission

Funding for The Hershey Story is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The M.S. Hershey Foundation Board of Managers

Maria Kraus, Chairperson

James Brown

M. Diane Koken

Donald C. Papson

President and Executive Director

HERSHEY GARDENS

170 Hotel Road
 Hershey, PA 17033
 717.534.3492
HersheyGardens.org



THE HERSHEY STORY

63 W. Chocolate Avenue
 Hershey, PA 17033
 717.534.8939
HersheyStory.org



HERSHEY THEATRE

15 East Caracas Avenue
 Hershey, PA 17033
 717.534.3405
HersheyTheatre.com



HERSHEY COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

63 W. Chocolate Avenue
 Hershey, PA 17033
 717.533.1777
HersheyArchives.org



2023 OPERATING HOURS

THE HERSHEY STORY

THE MUSEUM ON CHOCOLATE AVENUE

Now through December 31: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*
 (*December 24: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

*Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

HERSHEY GARDENS

Now through May 26: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 27 through September 4: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

September 5 through December 31: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*
 (*December 24: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

*Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Scouts, Join Us!



Cadette Girl Scout "Entrepreneur" Badge Workshop

Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts will work in teams to brainstorm ideas and create an actual chocolate confectionery product for a specific demographic, develop a business plan for their unique product, and then present their product and marketing strategy to the group. Cost is \$18 for Cadette Scouts and \$15 per leader/adult chaperone. [Register here.](#)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. HERSHEY!

Milton Hershey Birthday Celebration at ChocolateTown Square (located at Chocolate and Cocoa Avenues)

Wednesday, September 13

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join the Hershey community on what would have been Milton Hershey's 166th birthday. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a performance of music reminiscent of Mr. Hershey's era by the Tunesters of Central Pennsylvania. The concert concludes with a sweet treat for all attendees. In case of inclement weather, the celebration will be held in the Grand Lobby of The Hershey Story.



Sensory Backpacks are Available at Gardens and Museum

Guests with Autism Spectrum Disorder May Borrow the Backpacks While Visiting

Sensory backpacks are often used by children with autism spectrum disorder; they include items to help children either calm down or stimulate their sensory systems.

"Our sensory backpacks are filled with tools to help meet the needs of the child, and the backpack itself serves as a calming tool by providing pressure when worn," said Amy Zeigler, senior director. "They are designed to help children with autism spectrum disorder to explore, discover and imagine while engaging many of their senses." Backpacks at both locations may be signed out at the admissions desk at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis.

At Hershey Gardens, sensory backpacks include a social story, noise reduction headphones, magnifying glass, binoculars, sunglasses, fidget toy, finger puppet and soft toy.

At The Hershey Story, sensory backpacks include noise reduction headphones, sunglasses, a small plush toy, several fidget tools and a social story.

As well, social stories can be found at HersheyStory.org and at HersheyGardens.org. "Social stories are visual and/or written explanations in short and simple stories that are used to explain to a child what to expect in the future, to decrease anxiety, teach rules or even demonstrate social cues," said Zeigler.

