

GSMT News

The Newsletter of The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen

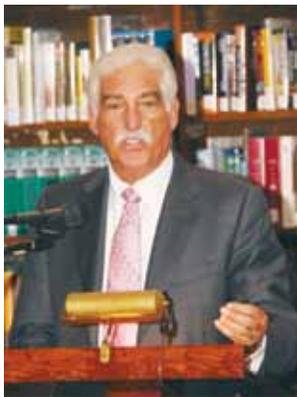
Founded in 1785, The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen is dedicated to improving the educational and cultural opportunities for people in the City of New York • Fall 2014

Festive Graduation Ceremonies Mark Graduates' Achievements



The General Society's Mechanics Institute offers tuition-free two and three-year programs to workers in the construction industry in six different disciplines – all designed to provide these men and women with state-of-the-art skills needed

to advance in their fields. The annual graduation celebration is the most gratifying night of the year at The General Society. In late May, friends and family joined the graduates, all beaming with the visible confidence that what they learned here would enable them to substantially advance their careers. After a formal march into our beautiful library space to the strains of *Pomp and Circumstances*, the audience was greeted by GSMT president Gottfried Weissgerber, a 1981 graduate of the HVAC program. Our executive director, Victoria Dengel, then introduced the evening's key note speaker, **Louis J. Coletti**, president and CEO of the Building Trades Employers' Association. Mr. Coletti offered his congratulations and emphasized to the graduates the pride they should take in their accomplishments. He said they will become an important force in one of New York City's major industries. He charged them with walking down our city's streets and proudly viewing the beautiful buildings, schools, and institutions that had been built here by workers in the construction industry. The NYC skyline is among the most beautiful in the world and great skill was needed to achieve it. MI students are part of the educated workforce that will build the structures in the future.



...continued on page 2

GSMT Fall Lecture Series Begin October 14

Twenty-Four Lectures will be presented between October 2014 and June 2015. Again this season, twelve famous Artisans will provide insights into their individual skills. Three Artisan lectures will be mounted in 2014. The series continues to be curated by Camille Wiart, a General Society Member with extensive knowledge of the Artisan field. Our first four lecturers are introduced on page 5. Twelve lectures covering Labor, Landmarks and Literature are also planned. Historic Preservation architect, Lisa Easton will again curate four Landmarks lectures, Karin Taylor will curate Literature and Beverly Miller, President, United Scenic Artists Local 829 will curate Labor. For further information visit our website www.generalsociety.org

...continued on page 4

Mechanics Institute's Fall Classes Begin on Monday, September 8

New and continuing students have been registering throughout the summer for our traditional two and three-year programs in Electrical Technology, Plumbing Design, HVAC Systems and Design, Construction Project Management, Facilities Management, and Historic Preservation. AutoCAD I and II and Revit classes will be offered both Monday and Wednesday and Tuesday and Thursday nights. Blueprint Reading and Cost Estimating are open to non-program students. Our school catalog is available on the web at www.generalsociety.org or you may telephone our registrar, Meg Stanton, at the Mechanics Institute office at 212- 840-1840.

Frank Gibbons Named 2014 Craftsmanship Honoree Daniel R. Garodnick Honored for Civic Leadership

The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen will hold its annual award ceremony benefiting the Mechanics Institute in our own beautiful, soaring, 3-story Library space.

Your invitation should reach you by mid October.

For profiles of our honorees, see page 5

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, November 13, 2014

Festive Graduation Ceremonies continued from page 1

Few other industries provide their workers with such visible evidence of their achievements. He noted that our graduates had showed great discipline and perseverance in their time at the Mechanics Institute, working at their jobs during the day, attending classes two nights a week for four hours, and still handling family responsibilities. He urged them to now continue this same diligence as they grow in their careers. Class valedictorian, **Ramon Encarnacion**, Project Management graduate, echoed Mr. Coletti's themes. He congratulated all the graduates on overcoming the pressures they all shared: job and family responsibilities while



struggling for time to read several chapters of text before class time and getting to their classes twice a week. And he also had special praise for the MI instructors who work in the industry and make sacrifices to teach evenings to pass their special expertise along to MI's eager students. He thanked them for their dedication in making the classes relevant and stimulating. He focused particularly on instructors' willingness to enhance the planned syllabus and research and cover specific questions that students raised about their job information needs. Mr. Encarnacion also noted that the instructors were motivators who "gave guidance on work decisions and inspired many students to strive towards higher education." He said the education received here has pushed many students to want more and challenged them, saying "If you see yourself as an architect, engineer or project manager, Just Do It!" He challenged all members of the graduating class to "reach



for the stars." **Flora Ramos**, class of 2007, and now Community Relations Director at Tishman Construction, an AECOM company, offered her observations to the graduates. She traced her long varied career until she arrived at Tishman. During her work there, she managed to acquire a Master's in Special Education, but realized that being in a male dominated industry, with a degree that did not have to do with construction, she needed to learn more about the

industry she worked in. This led her to the Project Management Program at Mechanics Institute which opened up many different opportunities at Tishman -- in project management, diversity of labor compliance and LEED -- where she worked on high-profile projects such as World Trade Center building 7 and building 1, She now oversees diversity compliance on many Tishman projects and works with city and state agencies and public officials. Her message to the graduates: "If you set realistic goals, with the skills you've learned here at the Mechanics Institute, and with the same drive and attitude you've demonstrated here, many doors will be open to you as you climb that long ladder toward success in the construction field and develop your own success story."

Lively Karaoke Kept the Post-Graduation Celebration Rolling.



Many students, instructors and guests participated in the Karaoke entertainment provided by Andrew Bennett, Construction Project Management graduate and hobby Karaoke leader. Following dinner, there was enthusiastic participation in a wide selection of songs. Mr. Bennett was

an experienced and talented MC who brought out amazing talent in the singers, who all got to choose their favorite tunes. In addition, as a volunteer, Mr. Bennett gets special pleasure from sharing his Karaoke skills with nursing home residents in the area.

Summer Courses in Virtual Design

For the first time, Mechanics Institute classes were held over the summer. Starting on June 3 and running for 10 weeks, Ashkan Rowshanrod, of Entech Engineering, taught Introduction to Revit from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 pm and Intermediate Revit from 7:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. Proficiency in AutoCAD was required to register for these courses. AutoCAD classes began on June 10 and ran for 8 weeks. AutoCAD I and AutoCAD II were also taught on Tuesday and Thursday evenings by Christopher Algeri of Tutor Perini. The computer lab was open an hour early so students could have practice time with the programs, and the building was opened one Sunday for students who needed catch-up time. Most of these students are returning for the Fall semester in the Virtual Design and Construction program; others participated in Mechanics Institute's continuing education program.

Take Your Career To The Next Level

BUILD YOURSELF • BUILD NEW YORK

Several New York Schools offer expensive classes to teach skills needed by the construction industry. At The General Society's MECHANICS INSTITUTE, courses are TUITION FREE. MI offers a practical approach to advanced training. Courses are taught by professionals with sophisticated knowledge of industry practices. Leading New York construction companies value our students and graduates.

Visit www.generalsociety.org

MECHANICS INSTITUTE

a program of

The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of
the City of New York
20 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036
212-840-1840 Ext 1

Scenes from Graduation Night



Graduates in GSMT meeting room, awaiting their march to the library



Graduates descending the staircase into the Library



Debra Bailey, Construction Project Management graduate, receiving her diploma from GSMT President, Gottfried Weissgerber



Alec Strasser receiving the George E. Hoe Award for Construction Documents Design from Andis Woodlief, School Chair



Aldrid Reid accepts the Thomas S. DeNapoli Award in Electrical Technology from Andis Woodlief



GSMT member & 2013 Graduation Keynote speaker, Jay Badame, President and COO of Tishman Construction Co., and GSMT Executive Director, Victoria Dengel

Third Generation Mechanics Institute Student



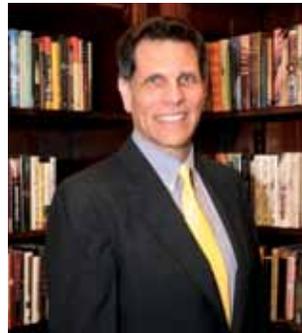
Matt Gitli is in the middle of his 2nd year in our Plumbing Program and enthusiastic about the courses he has completed here. His favorite courses have been *Introduction to New York City Plumbing Code* and *Blueprint Reading for Plumbers*. This semester he is enrolled in his second Blueprint course and is also taking an AutoCAD course designed for plumbers. Mr. Gitli attended the University of Buffalo, received an Associate Degree from Queens College, and has taken business courses at Nassau Community College. He now works full time in his family's company, Aladdin Plumbing in Brooklyn. His grandfather, Gerald, who founded the company and his father, Randy, are both master plumbers. Both were also students at the Mechanics Institute in 1956 and in 1982 respectively. Matt is looking forward to a long successful career in the plumbing field.

Two First-Year Instructors Bring Their Expertise to The Mechanics Institute



Ynes Leon is a registered architect in New York and New Jersey with 41 years' experience in the fields of architecture, construction and urban planning. In MI's Spring semester, she taught International Building Code Part I, a requirement in our Construction Project Management program. Part II will be covered in classes starting September 9. Ms. Leon will also be teaching

Space Planning, a requirement in the Facilities Management Program. This instructor holds a Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture, Masters in Urban planning, and Masters of Science in Protection Management as well as a certificate in Construction Management from NY University. She is presently Director of the office of Space Planning and Capital Projects at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and was Project Director of Phase II of their Expansion Program. The enthusiasm Ms. Leon brings to her teaching is boundless. She hugely enjoys working with the students and graciously introduced another instructor to the Mechanics Institute, Ralph Carmosino, who is profiled below.



Ralph Carmosino joined the Mechanics Institute Faculty in January of 2014 to teach Construction Materials & Methods. In September, he will be teaching Construction Administration – the introductory course in our Construction Project Management program. Mr. Carmosino brings a solid background in the construction industry to this assignment. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University and a BA in Art History from Fordham. Eleven years of his career were spent at the prestigious firm of Beyer Blinder Belle Architects in project management, covering planning, design, specifications, bidding, construction administration, budgets and scheduling. He now works in project management at the City University of New York and two nights a week he shares his enthusiasm for his work with students at the Mechanics Institute. Mr. Carmosino said he is always amazed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of the MI students in his class. An innovation he introduced into the curriculum last semester was class visits to actual construction sites to help students feel at home in those environments.

Meet the First Four Artisans in our Series



On October 14, Marina Ruiz-Molina, master paper conservator, will discuss The Conservation of Tiffany Studios Drawings: Cases of Complex Paper Reconstruction. When over 400 drawings from the Louis Comfort Tiffany workshops were acquired by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the 1960s, their restoration

represented a formidable challenge. Ms. Molina's presentation will focus on the various strategies employed to restore the drawings so they could be properly exhibited. Ms. Molina obtained her degree in Paper Conservation in 2000 at the Escuela Superior de Restauración y Conservación de Bienes Culturales de Madrid. She completed her education through internships at Stedelijkmuseum and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam and was followed by the recipient of fellowships at the Reina Sofia Museum and the National Institute of Conservation of Cultural Heritage in Madrid. She joined the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2008 and specializes there in the conservation of drawings by Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios.



On October 28, Suzanne Smeaton, master fine art framer, will talk about historic frame conservation and fine frame making. Ms. Smeaton spent twenty-seven years working at the noted frame gallery of Eli Wilner & Company in New York City where she worked extensively with American period frames. She has written

many articles on framing for publications such as *The Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, *Antiques Magazine*, *Picture Framing Magazine* and *American Art*. She has lectured on American picture frames at numerous museums, Christie's, Sotheby's, and the Appraisers Association of America. Her lecture will focus on her recent essay for the Metropolitan Museum of Art describing the re-creation by Eli Wilner & Company of the original frame for Emanuel Leutze's iconic 12-by-twenty-foot painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware* and a blog post about the frames of George Bellows on www.theframeblog.wordpress.com.

The General Society programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Generous support is also provided by the following sponsors: Bauer and Dean Publishers, Peter Pennoyer Architects and The MacQuesten Companies.



On November 18, master executive chef, **Raphael Francois**, will share his experiences in the esoteric world of fine cuisine. Mr. Francois joined the world-renowned Le Cirque restaurant in New York in 2014, having worked in well-known establishments of Europe for over twenty years. A native of Belgium and France, he completed his education there with a focus on Hotel Management and Culinary Arts, training with many distinguished continental chefs. He worked in Michelin-rated restaurants in Belgium and France, including the Four Seasons George V and Hotel de Crillon in Paris. After working closely with Hélène Darroze as head chef in her two-star Michelin restaurant, Restaurant Hélène Darroze in France, he moved to London, taking over as executive chef at her fine-dining restaurant, Hélène Darroze at the Connaught Hotel, which was awarded Michelin stars in 2011. Now in New York, he considers it an honor to be working closely with the Maccioni family at Le Cirque.



On January 13, master sculpture restorer, **Thomas Donahue** will describe his processes for restoring historic sculptures. Mr. Donahue is a classically trained artist who began his formal studies at New York's prestigious Pratt Institute. Trained under the formality of the atelier system, he exercises his talents

throughout a spectrum of three-dimensional disciplines – from canvas to bronze sculpture to architectural designs. He has had a diverse group of creative commissions. Mr. Donahue was selected to participate on the American team entrusted to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty's face. He was commissioned by Tiffany to design four Holiday windows for its Fifth Avenue flagship location. Recently, as a private commission, he executed a 16-foot allegorical figure in stone and bronze in Michigan. His particular interest is historic preservation and architectural design. For 34 years he has been a source for interior designers. His studio has been featured in *House Beautiful*, *Elle Décor*, *Martha Stewart* and many other publications. For more information, visit www.ThomasDonahueStudios.com.

GSMT Fall Lectures continued from page 1

Also on our web site, we have posted a link to the YouTube channel which features videos of artisans presenting their specialized trades during the 2013-2014 season. You will find the link on the GSMT web site: www.geralsociety.org.

General Society Member Volunteers His Skills on Multiple Committees



In the spirit of The General Society's membership-run committees, Thomas Stein, Project Manager for The Shubert Organization has generously devoted his time and special knowledge to the Society's needs. For the School Committee, he worked closely with the office staff to structure new Excel spreadsheet sheets as the office worked through its program reorganization. Mr. Stein also filled in as a substitute instructor for Electrical Technology for which he donated his time. And, for the Good and Welfare Committee's lecture series, he fielded a June lecture titled *Maintaining New York Theaters for Today and Tomorrow*, which focused on the continuing care given in preserving and maintaining the Shubert Organization's many beautiful theatre spaces. And, with respect to his service on the Facilities Committee, Mr. Stein provided valuable advice needed for our Local Law maintenance work to be completed. The General Society's unique committee structure, dating back to its founding in 1785, has relied on work by members to carry out the many operating needs of the organization.

Rebuilding the World Trade Center: Award-Winning Film to be Shown at GSMT on October 7 at 7:00 P.M.

The General Society is honored to present a showing of Marcus Robinson's unique film documenting in paintings, drawings, exciting photos and interviews, the rebuilding of the World Trade Center. Irish artist/photographer Robinson spent 10 years documenting on site the men who worked high up on the steel skeleton of some of the highest buildings in the world. The film celebrates the diversity of the workers and their enduring human capacity to triumph over adversity. Admission is free.

Skanska USA Contributes Furniture for GSMT Use

Skanska Project Director, Douglas Maines, who is to be initiated into membership in The General Society this fall, arranged for his company to contribute 80 new folding chairs and 10 eight foot folding tables to The General Society for Mechanics Institute classroom use. This furniture had been purchased for use on a new project work site and when the building was complete, it was to be discarded. We extend our deep appreciation to Skanska USA for this gift. The General Society welcomes contributions, which enable us to update our classroom equipment, and is presently in need of new state-of-the-art PC computers and smartboards for use in our classrooms.

Frank Gibbons, COO, Penguin Air Conditioning, to Receive 2014 Craftsmanship Award



Frank Gibbons is Chief Operating Officer of Penguin Air Conditioning, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the EMCOR Group. He has over 30 years of general management, sales and operations experience which he now draws on daily at Penguin, one of the Tri-state's largest specialty contractors. He oversees all company lines of business, manages planning activities and helps develop innovative and cost-effective ways to meet current and emerging market needs. By applying today's leading-edge technologies, Mr. Gibbons helps clients implement the complete, fully integrated, single-source solutions they need for success in the current facilities environment. He is highly skilled at assessing a project's core requirements and, at Penguin, uses his broad contracting, engineering and service background to improve client's facilities operations, reduce energy consumption and lower costs. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Gibbons, a graduate of the Mechanics Institute, is instrumental in driving Penguin's philanthropic goals of giving back to the community and he has led Penguin's efforts in support of EMCOR's philanthropic initiatives, including hosting Pink Hard Hat events for Memorial Sloan Kettering. Mr. Gibbons, his wife and 3 daughters live on Staten Island where he is active in his community, serving on several Boards of Trustees, including Historic Richmondtown, Staten Island Academy and Great Kills Swim Club where he served as President for 11 years. He enjoys playing tennis and is an enthusiastic spectator at his daughters' lacrosse games and tennis matches.

GSMT Names Councilman Daniel R. Garodnick Civic Leadership Honoree for 2014



New York City's Fourth District Councilman, Dan Garodnick, will receive The General Society's Civic Leadership Award for 2014. Mr. Garodnick's newly designed District 4 now includes the General Society's building on West 44th Street. He was first elected to his position in 2005 and is now serving his third term as Councilman. During his time in office he has been in the forefront of many community issues and active in all significant District events. He has taken leadership positions in many housing, educational, safety and senior issues and his office is instantly responsive to constituents. Mr. Garodnick graduated from Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Before entering public service, he was a litigator at the New York Law Firm of Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP and a law clerk for the Honorable Colleen McMahon of the Southern District of New York.

Independence Day Traditions at The General Society



Actress Catherine Chadwick & Singer Michelle DellaFave

The first public readings of the Declaration of Independence were held on July 8, 1776. A year later on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked the Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks. The tradition spread to other cities. From the time of its founding, The General Society marked this special day with festive occasions and a full reading of the Declaration of Independence. This year, again, the day was marked by a celebratory dinner along with rousing patriotic songs led by **Michelle DellaFave**. Ms. DellaFave began her singing career at the age of 19 when she was chosen for Dean Martin's show, *The Goldiggers*. She later accompanied Bob Hope on USO tours in Vietnam and south-east Asia. Since 2007, she has continued entertaining veterans, active duty service men and women and visiting VA hospitals.



Terrance C. Holliday, former Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs, gave the patriotic address. Commissioner Holliday was a career reservist with the New Jersey Air National Guard and the United States Air Force Reserves, serving from 1968 to 2007 when he retired as a Colonel. During his tour of service, he served in

many strategic posts both in the U.S. and abroad. Commissioner Holliday spoke about freedom, a special concept for him, and something to be strived for around the world. He also congratulated The General Society for its service to the community in providing tuition-free classes at the Mechanics Institute. He quoted Thomas Jefferson who said "Above all things, I hope the education of the common people will be attended to; convinced that on their good sense, we may rely with the most security for due preservation of a due degree of liberty." The annual reading of the Declaration of Independence was delivered by **Catherine Chadwick**. Ms. Chadwick is an actress, writer, producer, and nurse by profession who currently lives in New York City. She is a Sponsor of the General Society Library and a Friend of The General Society and has generously volunteered her time here on many occasions.

GSMT Represented in Flag Day Parade



Executive Director, Victoria Dengel, with GSMT members Bill Gonzalez and Erwin Schaub, and MI Registrar, Meg Stanton, on the steps of Fraunces Tavern

General Society representatives, carrying our country's colors and the Society's flag, joined the traditional June 14th Flag Day parade from City Hall to the steps of historic Fraunces Tavern where George Washington said farewell to his officers at the close of the American Revolution. The annual event celebrates the 1777 designation by the Continental Congress of the Stars and Stripes as our official flag.

MI Students' Work Exhibited In Week-Long Show



Mechanics Institute students in Construction Documents Design and Historic Preservation two-year programs exhibited their individual work produced for class projects. The displays were mounted on tables on the balcony overlooking our majestic library space. Thirty students displayed their projects. This annual exhibit offers our students a forum where their efforts and accomplishments receive recognition. Work on display was produced by students in five subjects: Computer-Assisted Drafting, Construction Materials & Methods, Architectural Photography, Perspective Drawing, and Visual Literacy. It represents the range of technical skills covered at our tuition-free Mechanics Institute. Instructors Daniel Luhmann, Lindsey Mandel, Yannis Tziligakis, Elmaz Zejnati and Eni Zejnati were present on opening night to applaud their student's accomplishments. This exhibit is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. The public was invited to attend.

Please Help the General Society Support Our Programs

The historic GSMT building has space to rent for programs and special events.

- Our grand three-story library
- Balcony/Museum
- The Assembly Hall
- Conference Rooms for smaller meetings
- Classrooms available for regular day time use or evening lectures, classes, receptions and more

For more information, call The General Society office, (212) 840-1840 ext. 2, or visit our website at www.generalsociety.org and click Rent Space.



Photos by Amiga Photography

Hammering On...

Mechanics Institute Offices moved to Executive Suite

A revised student registration system and increased registration hours, under the direction of our new school registrar, Meg Stanton, have proved to substantially improve the screening process for students enrolling in The General Society's tuition-free programs. Prospective students are also enjoying the nineteenth century ambiance of this beautiful space. New student membership identification cards, which include library access, are also being issued. And to speed up registration on busy days, all members of the executive staff are now available to register students.

Refinished Floors in Executive Office Replace Century-Old Carpeting

During the summer months, the drab gray carpeting from another era was removed and our original wooden floors refinished with a warm honey-colored stain. An oriental rug was donated for the conference area, which continues to provide a period look to the space.

Hudson Yards Construction Executive Unveils Project Plans

In a special presentation, Peter Sukalo, Sr. Vice President, at Tutor Perini, a lead contractor in the development of the massive Hudson Yards project, walked GSMT members and invited guests through the complicated planning underway, which will lead to the completion of the project in 2018. The five huge office buildings, 5,000 residences, shopping malls, restaurants and schools will cover 26 acres on Manhattan's west side and forever change the skyline from 30th to 34th street between 10th and 12th Avenues.

Contributions welcome for GSMT Library Book Sale

The General Society Library is still collecting books for our festive book sale party and street sale. Originally scheduled for July, the sale has been postponed until our scaffolding can be removed. It has now rescheduled the event to October. But since this will be an annual event, we are expanding our efforts in collecting a wide assortment of interesting books. Our street sale is always an opportunity for collectors to pick up both recent fiction and out of print books on exotic subjects. It also provides book owners with the opportunity to clear their shelves. Just drop your donations off at the GSMT Library.

GSMT Book Club Announces Fall Reading List

New readers are invited to join the group, which is focused on re-visiting literary classics. Barbara Helling will continue to guide the spirited discussions on the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon. The Fall reading list is: September 2, *Shirley* by Charlotte Bronte; October 2, *Alexander's Bridge* by Willa Cather; November 6, to be announced and December 4, *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen.

Celebrating Over Two Centuries of Service to the People of the City of New York: Our Mission Statement

The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York was founded in 1785 by the skilled craftsmen of the City. Today, this 229-year old organization continues to serve and improve the quality of life of the people of the City of New York through its educational, philanthropic and cultural programs including its tuition-free Mechanics Institute, The General Society Library, and its century-old Lecture Series.

The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York

***"By Hammer and Hand
All Arts Do Stand"***

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The General Society Newsletter Fall, 2014

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News, photos and editorial suggestions from members are welcome and can be sent to pennspec@aol.com

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*For GSMT Event Calendar, visit the
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Check our web site for current updates on General Society Events and send us your e-mail to receive event information: www.generalsociety.org



A Mounted Slice of the Atlantic Cable From the General Society's Museum Collection

There are many items of historic interest contained in The General Society Archives and Museum. This piece of cable among our exhibits commemorates one of the major accomplishments of America's mid-19th century Industrial Revolution. GSMT member Peter Cooper was one of the major suppliers of the steel wires encased inside a thick coating of gutta-percha covering that eventually enabled Samuel Morse's invention of telegraphy to carry messages across the Atlantic to England. New York financier Cyrus Field first engaged Cooper's interest in participating to fund the 1854 project. After six attempts and many adventures, two ships – one from England and one from Newfoundland – each carrying and laying the cable -- finally met in mid-Atlantic to splice the ends together and complete the project in 1866. According to Peter Cooper's account, by the sixth try, funds were hard to come by and suppliers were drawing on his personal funds for payment. The technical ingenuity and physical skills needed by the men who captained the ships and battled the elements is as thrilling as any fantasized adventure story. It was the 19th century equivalent to putting a man on the moon. The web carries many accounts of their accomplishments. PBS has a good example that summarizes the entire thrilling story at http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/cable/peoplevents/p_field.html.

**A Segment of the Atlantic Cable
Presented to the Society by GSMT
Member Henry W. Merrill**