

***Our Mission:** To interpret aviation, particularly that related to New York State, with exhibits and programs that educate, entertain and excite the public*

Volume 33, Issue 4

Winter 2024-25

JOHN KOLWAITE RECEIVES “ALEX” AWARD

ESAM held its Annual Meeting on October 16th, 2024. The meeting was held in the museum’s Community Room and included a dinner catered by **Marcella’s**.

At the meeting, **ESAM Trustee and Exhibits Chair John Kolwaite** received the “Alex” Award for his dedicated service to the museum. Named in memory of a truly great ESAM volunteer, **Roland “Alex” Alexander**, the award recognizes John’s service, cooperation, teamwork and a dedicated pursuit of excellence.

John is the driving force and technical expert for the many Exhibit improvements that the museum has made over the past few years. The improvements have upgraded the visitor experience in both Galleries and in the newly-reclaimed portion of the Main Hangar. John’s ability and vision for developing new, interesting, and educational exhibits is impressive. Congratulations, John!



John Kolwaite (right) receives the “Alex” Award from Kevin Millington (left) at ESAM’s Annual Meeting. Note one of John’s creations in the left background.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends and supporters of ESAM,

As the year comes to a close, I am reaching out to request your help for ESAM's Annual Appeal.

In 2024, the museum saw numerous new, exciting and successful events that brought new attendees, new press coverage, and expanded community education and interest. Yet, to keep our mission of aviation history preservation and community education moving forward, we need your financial help.

It's been almost a year since we added the expanded full-use main hangar, which has proven successful for the museum, providing us with event facilities for programming that includes our 40th Gala celebration, the well-loved Halloween party, the Glenville Rotary Veterans Wine Tasting and our Christmas is in the Air event. The three Cars and Coffee meet ups we hosted, exposed the museum to new audiences.

One of our most buzz-worthy campaigns of the year accelerated the prestige of the museum to Mach 2.5 - the arrival of the F-15 Eagle drew wonderful attention across the board - from the media to schoolchildren. I am also pleased that its display has our first QR code.

Finally, this year our education program has surpassed all previous attendance records. And I am quite pleased with our volunteer led boost in our social media program: 980 Instagram insights and 43,224 Facebook insights in a recent 30-day period (Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Instagram).

ESAM has invested over \$418,000 dollars into our nearly 80-year-old, 30,000 square foot Main Hangar, Building 1, including new interior plumbing upgrades; new window frames, window insulation and brick work; new water service valve and meter and piping; bathroom renovations; and roof repairs. In addition the museum has a new audio system and security cameras. This has been all paid for from memberships, grants, donations, and monthly breakfast revenues. Next in need of work is replacement of the windows on the West side of the building. Also, Schenectady County is generously helping us fund a new roof system on Building 1.

As you can see, it's money well spent. I assure you all funding and donations for the museum and educational programs are going directly into board voted-on and approved projects and initiatives. And ESAM has no debt. We need funding and more volunteers to continue this new growth. We have many projects to consider for construction when funding is available, including heat in the main hangar, infrastructure improvements in the Research Center and help in funding the new roof.

ESAM is the second largest aviation museum in New York State and the largest cultural center in Glenville NY. We are optimistic about our growth ability, as we have the room to expand both physically and educationally.

Your donations will bring us to new altitudes! To donate, visit us online or send checks with the Annual Appeal Form on Page 3 of this newsletter

Thank you for your support.

Dan Wilson
President



Dan Wilson



ESAM ANNUAL APPEAL 2024

Enclosed is my 2024 gift to the Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Drive, Glenville, NY 12302

• Office: (518) 377-2191 • Email: esam.office@gmail.com • Web: www.esam.org

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount: \$2,000.____ \$1,000.____ \$500.____ \$250.____ \$100.____ \$75.____ \$50.____ \$25.____

Other: _____

Please make checks payable to ESAM and return with this card.

For Credit cards, please call (518) 377-2191.

This is a request for support, **NOT membership.**

ESAM is tax exempt under 501 (c) (3) of the IRS Code, therefore your gift is tax deductible.

If your Company has a matching Gift Program, what is the name of the Company

ESAM's 2024-25 ANNUAL MEETNG HIGHLIGHTS

Beside recognizing **John Kolwaite** as this year's Alex Award winner (see Page 1), a number of other actions took place at ESAM's October 16th Annual Meeting.

The minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved.

Joyce Newkirk presented a favorable Treasurer's Report that was approved for audit.

President Dan Wilson talked optimistically about the state and future of the museum.

Chris Koetzle was elected to a 3-year term on the ESAM Board of Trustees. Chris is a great addition to our board. Congratulations to Chris.

Guest Speaker and ESAM volunteer **Bill O'Brien** presented a riveting account of his participation in and reflections on the **Mayaguez Incident**. Bill and his US Navy P-3 Orion crew were the first US military forces on site during the Incident.

ESAM BOARD REELECTS OFFICERS

After the Annual Meeting, the new board met and re-elected all officers from the previous year.

Congratulations to:

President: Daniel Wilson

First Vice President: Richard Bievenue

Second Vice President: Alfonzo DiBlasio

Secretary: Timothy Burke

Treasurer: Joyce Newkirk

ESAM HOSTS REGIONAL MEETING OF JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC.

On Friday October 25th, the Empire State Aerosciences Museum was honored to host a regional meeting of **Johnson Controls, Inc.** Johnson Controls is a Fortune 500 multinational corporation offering the world's largest portfolio of fire, security and HVAC technology, software and services for commercial buildings. More than 80 Johnson control employees attended the meeting.

ESAM provided not only the space for the meeting, but also **ESAM President Dan Wilson** familiarized the group with ESAM. After the meeting ended the Johnson Controls employees were given the run of the museum and six ESAM volunteers served as “subject matter experts” on selected aircraft in the hangar, on the flight line and in the Air Park.

We thank ESAM volunteer and Johnson Controls employee **Mickey Lavicska** for coordinating this successful event.



(Above) Johnson Controls employees enjoy a buffet lunch in ESAM's Community Room before their meeting.

(Left) Mickey Lavicska familiarizes Johnson Controls employees with ESAM's Harrier in the Main Hangar.

ESAM'S FLY IN/DRIVE IN BREAKFAST PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE

Thanks yet again to Trustee **Mike Collins** for arranging interesting educational presentations in association with ESAM's monthly breakfasts.

On October 19th, **John Delano, PhD** gave a very informative presentation about "**NASA's Artemis Program: America's Ambitious Return to the Moon**". John has served on more than 20 scientific advisory panels for NASA and authored 75 peer-reviewed articles in professional scientific journals.

In November, **Micky Lavicska** gave a presentation about the Harrier VSTOL aircraft.. ESAM was pleased to have **US Representative Paul Tonko** at the breakfast and the presentation, and to escort him on a visit to the Harrier after the breakfast.

ESAM breakfasts will take a month off in December. **Warren Dart** will present on the Tuskegee Airmen in January. We're still working on February, but possibilities include a presentation about GE hydrogen-powered jet engines and helicopters for oceanic wind turbines. In March **Paul Perrault** will speak about the Malta Test Station. In May **Yvonne Caputo** will speak on Flying with Dad, Dying with Dad, and in June **John Delano** will be back to present Apollo 11 Vignettes.

Food for the body and food for the mind.



From left to right Mike Collins and Frank Hackert escort Dr. John Delano on a tour of ESAM's Main hangar after John's October 19th presentation.

ESAM PARTNERS WITH THE BIG PICTURE LEARNING HIGH SCHOOL OF SCHENECTADY

ESAM Trustee **Kevin Millington** reports that ESAM will have a high school intern at the museum between November 2024 and May 2025. The intern will come from the **Big Picture Learning High School of Schenectady**, and will be at the museum most Fridays from 10:00-2:00 serving as an assistant docent.

Welcome aboard!

JACK-O'-LANTERNS AND JETS HALLOWEEN EVENT WAS SCARY GOOD

ESAM's first ever Jack-O'-Lanterns and Jets event on Saturday, October 26th far exceeded expectations. The line of kids dressed up in Halloween costumes, and their parents, snaked out the doors, through the Haunted Hangar and into the Community Room where goodies and goblins met the participants. It is estimated that 1,000 people attended this free event.



ESAM HIRES NEW OFFICE MANAGER

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Office Manager, **Chad Conti**. Chad is a resident of Glenville. He retired from the United States Air Force with 26 years of service, including service with New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing where he performed multiple roles, including positions in human resources, finance, and security.

He will be working Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Feel free to introduce yourself to him. He has a lot of new names and faces to learn.



FLIGHTS FOR VETERANS TASTING EVENT HELD AT ESAM

On Friday November 8th ESAM, along with the **Glenville Rotary**, hosted a **Flights for Veterans** tasting event. The event was a fundraiser for the museum and the **Capital Region Veterans Memorial**. More than 20 breweries, wineries and distilleries provided samples of their wares in ESAM's Main Hangar. In addition local restaurants provided food. The event was very well attended with an estimated 600 people participating.

In addition to providing the hangar space, ESAM provided a membership desk staffed by **Joyce Newkirk** and **Patty Southworth**, access to ESAM's Huey helicopter supervised by **Paul Quantock** and access to ESAM's C-130 provided by **ESAM President Dan Wilson**.



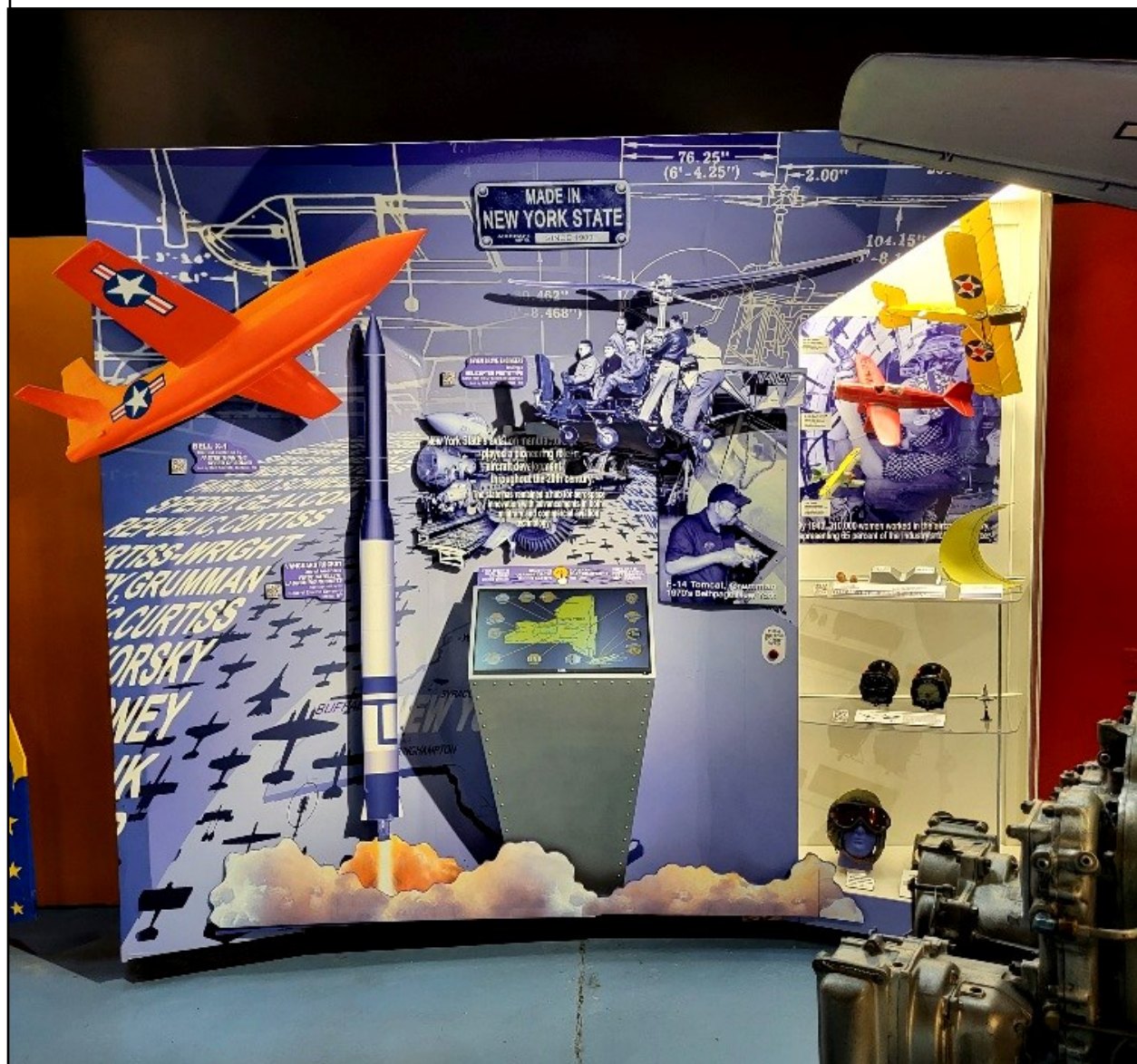
Flights for Veterans Tasting Event in ESAM's Main Hangar

NEW MADE IN NEW YORK EXHIBIT OPENS IN GALLERY ONE

The new *Made in New York State* exhibit has opened in Gallery One. This exhibit highlights the state's pioneering role in aircraft development throughout the 20th century and into the 21st. It features interactive elements that allow visitors to engage with the exhibit. By touching company logos on a touch screen, visitors can learn about twelve influential aerospace companies. They can also spin the gyro in a cut away Sperry flight instrument by remotely pressing a button. QR codes placed throughout the exhibit link to videos and additional information. Artifacts and aircraft models add to the visitor experience.

Through companies like **Grumman**, **Curtiss**, **Bell**, **Schweizer**, **Sperry**, **Link** and others, New York State has long been a hub for aerospace innovation, contributing to both military and civilian aviation technologies.

The exhibit was designed and built by **John Kolwaite** with advice and help from **Fonz Diblasio** and **Bill Siudy**. The exhibit is pictured below.



AeroNotes

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Empire State

Aerosciences Museum

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Editor

Lawrence McArthur

ESAM is a registered
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chartered by the N.Y.S.
Department of Education

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David Roe
Ralph Rosenthal
Peter V. Russo, Sr.

CHRISTMAS IS IN THE AIR EVENT WAS SOLD OUT

On Saturday December 14th ESAM held a sold out Christmas is in the Air event. The highlight of the event was Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving by air and being met with a large crowd of children and parents (see photo below).

After some ho, ho, hos, Santa proceeded into ESAM's Main Hangar to greet the children one by one. The event also featured a crafts table, a coloring/letter to Santa station, movies, the Candy Bomber Story and food. Thanks go to the very many ESAM volunteers who helped make the event a success, and in particular to the leadership of **Rich Bievenue, Gary Davis and Erin Beaulac.**



VOLUNTEER PIZZA PARTY

Right after the November 16th monthly breakfast, we had a pizza party for all ESAM staff and volunteers. At the party, our **Gift Shop Manager Patty Southworth** and **Trustee Joyce Newkirk** introduced new Gift Shop employee **Julia Oropallo** to the ESAM team. Patty, Joyce and Julia are pictured from left to right in the middle of the photo below. Welcome aboard, Julia.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- **ESAM Board Member Michael Collins** donated 6 Bell helicopter prints, 12 Beechcraft prints, a Pilot's Handbook for Stearman Airplanes (dated January 20, 1941), and a matted color print of a Stearman N1350 flying over what is now GE Global Research in Niskayuna.
- **Joan Harrington** donated 96 die-cast and built model airplanes.
- **Russell Evatt** donated two valises and one cardboard box of photos, flight manuals, stamps, posters, an airplane model, flight computer and personal effects of **Henry Crit Evatt**.
- **Jeanne Jadwin** donated a TWA China coffee/tea service cups and saucers (six each) circ 1950s, and The Great Book of Combat Aircraft.
- **Larry McArthur** donated two books: Modern Planes of War (1942) and US Navy Flight Training Manual (1943)
- **Paul Zaloom** donated a Curtis P-40B Tomahawk desktop wooden model with display stand. The model is signed by World War II pilot **Brigadier General David "Tex" Hill**. The donation also included an article about and a photo of BGen Hill.
- **Troy Persaud** donated dress and desert uniforms.
- **Jerry Romeo** donated two David Clark headsets, a CR-2 computer and a Garman GPS.
- **Jamie Kenison** donated a large MB-3 wooden propeller and photo. The propeller was restored by **Colonel James R. Cook** in 1975. It was once mounted at the Hamilton AFB Officer's Club.
- **Judy Ostrowski** donated 23 issues of Plane Facts; 6 USAF Fire Protection patches. Multiple fire protection manuals and technical documents; 13 crash maps for Griffiss AFB; 5 crash maps for the area surrounding Griffiss AFB; and instructional material. The donations belonged to **Fire Captain Lewis Balon**.
- **ESAM Board Member John Panoski** donated 2 photos of Wake Island coastal 105mm cannon. The cannon was manufactured at the Watervliet Arsenal circa 1936. John also donated a photo of the USMC Wake Island Memorial circa 1948. This memorial was replaced in 1960 and no longer exists. The F4F Wildcat nose cowling shown in the photo is now on display at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

OTHER MONETARY DONATIONS

ESAM is grateful for monetary donations from the following organizations and individuals:

First National Bank of Scotia
Mr. & Mrs. "Bud" Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ruggles
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sampson
Mr. Ralf W. Schauer
Mr. Kirk E. Vanderbogart
Ms. Vera Weiss
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice York

WARREN DART BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

On Sunday, February 16th, Warren Dart will make a presentation about the Tuskegee Airmen. The presentation will take place in the museum's community room at 2:00 pm. Hope you can come.

RESTORATION OF THE F-14 FUSELAGE IS UNDERWAY

Restoration of ESAM's F-14 fuselage has begun. Thanks to **Glen Preece** for obtaining the fuselage.

Part of the restoration effort involved obtaining an F-14 radome (nose cover) from the **Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum** in New York City. Thanks to **ESAM President Dan Wilson** for arranging for the loan and picking up the radome, and to **Bonnie Towne** of the **National Naval Aviation Museum**, **Danielle Swanson** of the Intrepid museum and **Bob Vore** of ESAM for documenting the loan.



Above: Volunteer Joe Gorman works on ESAM's F-14 fuselage.
Below: Fonz DiBlasio (far left) and Peter Bergendahl (back left) admire their work in attaching the radome to the fuselage



OUR SUPPORTERS

ESAM THANKS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED OR RENEWED THEIR MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

	Life	
	Albert F. Freihofer	

	Friends of ESAM	
Carol Borthwick	Daniel Grygas	

	VIP Sustaining	
	Nicholas Filippone	

	VIP Supporting	
Linda Cioffi	Matthew LeClair	Lawrence McArthur
Kevin Millington	Joseph Sampson, Jr.	

	VIP Contributing	
John Pemrick Lewis	Ralf W. Schauer	

	Family	
Stevie Lynn Anella	Ross Armstrong	Jaime Ashe
Mr. Jordan Beck	Mr. Jeff Becker	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Berrian
Brian Burns	Tiffany Cammock	David & Jane Coppola
The Nelson Family	Mr. Joshua Fuson	Adam Gregory
Patricia Grovenger	Ms. Xiaoli He	Margaret Houtz
Ms. Caitlyn Hughes	Patricia Johnson	The Kent Family
Mr. and Mrs. David Kling	Fangbing Li	Mr. Varvara Meshkov
Yves Nollet	Ms. Jennifer Palazzo	Chris Pauer
Ms. Sarah Parsons	Mary Perazzo	Mr. George Phillips
Mr. Jonathan Phipps	Sandita Seecharan Reddammagari	Tina Rodriguez
David J. Roe	Gabriel Roe	The Rouse Family
Amanda Sandberg	Ms. Anna Silburn	Mallory Sleasman
Sarah Stonesifer	Andrea Thompson	Carol Troost
Jodi Kapes Van Slyke	Rebecca Whalen	Copper Keyser

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Continued from Page 12

	Individual	
Mr. Sean Luchsinger		James Tedisco
	Senior Citizen/Student	
Deborah Beranek	Brent Coon	Jean Cramer
Richard F.D'Aleo	John Dupier	Paul Dupree
Giulio P. Facci	Wells Farr	Mr. Brian Flynn
Harold Goldman	Ken Kaskoun	John Kolwaite
George J Morin	Ms. Ruth Robin	Peter V. Russo
Linda Sweet	Paul Vidulich	Nikolas Birkeland
	Jonina Yang	

	Library	
Mechanicville District Public Library	Voorheesville Public Library	Town of Ballston Community Library

	Business Memberships	
Supporter		Small business
Duane Leach		Peter Russo

ESAM Membership Application

Please check one: NEW MEMBERSHIP _____ RENEWAL _____

ANNUAL DUES:

INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY

☐ Senior Citizen \$35
☐ Student \$35
☐ Individual \$45
☐ Family \$75

VIP:

☐ Contributing \$80
☐ Supporting \$135
☐ Sustaining \$285
☐ Galaxy Club \$500
☐ Friend of ESAM \$1,000

BUSINESS

☐ Supporter \$285
☐ Patron \$500
☐ Benefactor \$1,000
☐ Library \$75
☐ Small Business \$100

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home (____) _____
 Work (____) _____
 E-mail address _____

Please make your check payable to ESAM
Mail to ESAM, 250 Rudy Chase Drive,
Glenville, NY 12302

If your company offers a matching gift program, please contact them with the amount of your gift.
 Matching Gift Company _____

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Aerosciences Museum is
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Howard Schlossberg &
Michelle Ostrelch
The Family of Jansz Vander Veer*

*ESAM Charter Member

OCTOBER 5TH: GLENVILLE DAY

Thanks to support from the Town of Glenville, ESAM was able to hold Glenville Day on October 5th, when residents of the Town of Glenville received free admission to the museum.



ESAM IS AGAIN PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHNECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FESTIVAL OF TREES

Tree decorators (from left to right) **Larry and Dorie McArthur, Yvonne and Dan DeBellis, and Ronnie Quinn** show off ESAM's "Christmas is in the Air" tree at the **Schenectady Historical Society**.

Thanks to **Hewitt's Garden Center** for providing the tree.



LETTERS, POSTS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE WE LIKE TO RECEIVE

Jack's Place
17 Rosa Road
Schenectady, NY 12308

Dear ESAM,

We want to thank you for donating a one year family membership, for us to use in our raffle, at our annual golf outing fundraiser. The event was a huge success and thanks to people like you, Jack's Place will continue to serve families in need.

Jack's Place can host up to 8 families at a time, and we average 6 families a night. So we definitely are filling a need.

We have been open for over 6 years now, and we have served many families, at no charge to them, so they can be there, for their children being treated.

Please go to our web page: jackfalvoiiiifoundation.com to check out our new house.

Thanks again, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Jeff Countermin
Donations

To: Empire State Aerosciences Museum
From: Thomas Corners Fire Department (T.C.F.D.)

Thanks you for donating a family membership to our T.C.F.D. Open house door prizes. We appreciate your support and generosity. I'm sure this door prize will be enjoyed.

Patti Nolan Bertino
Associate Member T.C.F.D.

Kevin,

We wanted to thank you for making our son's Birthday Party.
The kids were genuinely interested in the museum's great finds.
You kept it interesting and held their attention.
A big Thank You!

Karen, Tedd and Nolan Johnson

Aero Staff

Your mission to educate our young and old people for Aircraft that have been collected serving our country is a great tribute to our men and women who flew them.

K. P. Lloyd

Facebook post

This was our first visit here here! What an experience. We had a fantastic time. Can't wait to visit again! The staff were very knowledgeable and friendly. Such a welcoming environment.

D. B.

Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Drive
Glenville, NY 12302

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HAPPENINGS AT ESAM

MUSEUM HOURS

Fall/Winter Hours: Friday through Sunday 10 AM to 4 PM

General Museum Admission – \$11 per adult; \$9 per senior and military; \$8 age 6-16;
under 6 free when accompanied by an adult

Simulated Reality Vehicle (SRV) – Ride: \$5

Jansz Vander Veer Research Center/Library Hours – Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 9 AM to 12 noon,
by appointment only

January 20, Monday - Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 PM. ESAM Community Room

January 18, Saturday - Speaker: 10 AM. **Warren Dart, The Tuskegee Airmen**

January 18, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

Pilots: Tower Frequency 121.30; Ground 121.90. Land at Schenectady County Airport and taxi to the north parking area.

Browse the Museum beginning at 10 AM. Museum Admission: \$11 per adult; \$9 per senior and military; \$6 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

February 15, Saturday - Speaker: 10 AM. tbd

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February 16, Sunday - Black History Month Speaker: 2PM. **Warren Dart, the Tuskegee Airmen**

March 15, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$10 for ages 15 and older, \$8 for children 6-14, free for children under 6. Menu varies with pancakes, French toast, sausage, eggs, applesauce, juice and coffee/tea. The public is invited to attend.

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