

*aviation, particularly that related to New York State, with
! programs that educate, entertain and excite the public*

Volume 34, Issue 1

Spring 2025

GENERAL ELECTRIC AEROSPACE MEETS AT ESAM



On March 5, 2025, ESAM hosted a meeting of General Electric Aerospace staff.

The location for the meeting was particularly appropriate given that ESAM's Main Hangar was built by General Electric and was used by GE as an aviation test site for many years.

After their business meeting, the GE employees were given a tour of the museum and an opportunity to visit the museum's C-130.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

This quarter we have had plenty of events to be optimistic about. We plan to expand on them this year.

We are proud to have recently hosted two Fortune 500 Corporate meetings,; **Johnson Controls** in October 2024 and **GE Aerospace** in March 2025. The meetings were held in our community room. After the meetings ESAM experts provided tours of the museum. I hope this trend continues to grow.

Some notable events that were very popular in 2024 include three Cars and Coffee events, a Halloween party, a Christmas celebration, and a Veterans wine tasting event. More events are in planning stages and will be announced on Facebook, Instagram and our web page. Our presence in social media is growing and online ticket sales are now possible.

We have two new F-18 fuselage trainers, that will soon be on display. One is a handicapped unit and one a standard display. Both came from the **National**

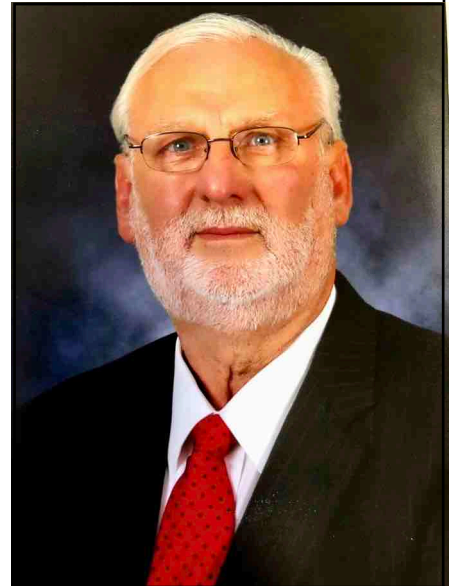
Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. We be adding the two trainers to Building between our Restoration Exhibits department will see other new coming in the next weeks.

Fundraising is our task. We continue new and different ways to raise capital. With weather warming we resume improvement C130s and work on landing gear for the

Thank you all for support ESAM. I thank our volunteers who keep this and NYS education community consistently growing.

We would appreciate if you would share your experiences on social media.

Dan Wilson
President



Dan Wilson



Newly-acquired F-18 Trainer

SPRING BREAK AT ESAM

ESAM held a spring Break Week on April 11-13 and 15-19.

During the week, the **Commemorative Air Force** visited with a 1943 PT-26 Cornell! Flights were offered by ESAM's own **Isaiah Gershon**. This PT-26 has a Ranger engine, a steel fuselage and its original wooden wings, which were able to be preserved because the plane had a low flight time and operated in a colder climate.

On Thursday April 17 from 1:00 to 2:30 the museum presented an educational program on the F-15 Eagle, one of the most capable planes ever created. Participants were able to get up close and personal with ESAM's own F-15 Eagle, which was retired from the National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing last summer.



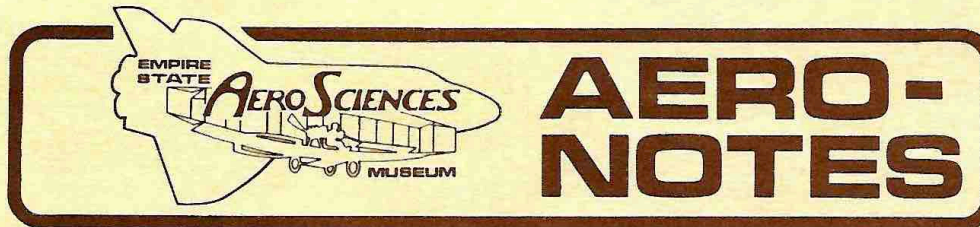
Isaiah Gershon (left), who as a kid spent Saturdays at ESAM with his grandfather Gary Gershon and Luc Zipkin (right) with the Commemorative Air Force's PT-26 Cornell



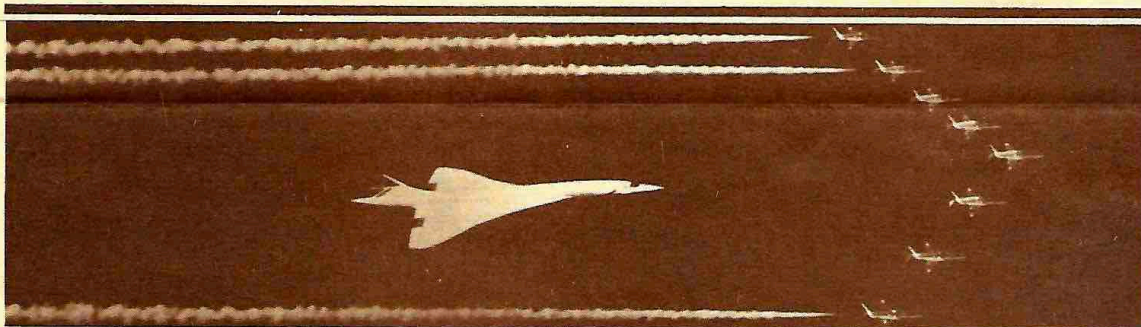
ESAM's F-15

SUMMER 1987 NEWSLETTER

Here's the front page of the oldest ESAM newsletter in our files. It highlights the Concorde's visit!



SUMMER 1987 NEWSLETTER



FLIGHT '87!

Set aside August 29-30, as a visitor or volunteer, for a better than ever airshow at Schenectady County Airport. On Saturday the 29th, we will have the first appearance of the British Airways Concorde SST; arriving about noon for display, it will leave at 2pm for a 140 minute Mach 2 "Flight to Nowhere" and will return prior to show closing. On Sunday the 30th, the show sponsors - ESAM and the Schenectady Chapter of the American Red Cross - will bring you a performance by the USAF "Thunderbirds" jet aerobatic team, their first visit here in a dozen years.

Steve Israel, Airshow Flight Operations Manager, promises much more to thrill you on both days including: Bob Hoover's twin engine aerobatic show; U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team; Red Baron Stearman squadron; Canadian Oscar Boesch's glider demonstration; Pitts Special aerobatics by Bill Lynn; New York National Guard helicopter deployment exercise. On display along the runway will be the mammoth C5A from the NYANG, World War 2 U.S. and Canadian warbirds (B-17, B-25, F4U Corsair, P-51 Mustang and more), 30-40 antique and homebuilt aircraft and, subject to availability, 10-15 advance military aircraft flown in by hometown pilots. We've made additional requests for solo demonstrations F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, A-10 and C-130 aircraft from the U.S. and Canada. Hanger booths will feature aviation related subjects along with two NASA Aerovans and the traveling Piper Cub history display.....

and still more to be announced later! Advance ticket sales start in July at Northeast Savings branches, Airshow offices in Mohawk Mall, Richmoor aviation and Fortune Air, followed in August by sales at Price Chopper. Advance prices are: \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ages 5-12; gates prices will be \$7 and \$4 respectively.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In order to stage the largest airshow in the Northeast, we need the services of 600-700 volunteers for committees involving Grounds, Concessions, Parking, Gate and Program Sales and other areas. ESAM will welcome your volunteering for one or two days toward another successful airshow generating revenue for museum facilities and programs. Volunteers receive preferred parking, admission and a meal each day. Call the Airshow Office (382-0041) for further volunteer information.

AIRSHOW COMMUNITY SUPPORT

ESAM and the RED CROSS gratefully acknowledge the many Capital District businesses that are helping defray the costs of Airshow acts, participants, and general operation expenses. Financial and "in kind" contributions range from \$2000 to \$10,000; some of the contributors are the Boston Store, Albany Pepsi Cola, Nemith Motors, Price Chopper, Stewarts Stores, Barry-Bette-LedDuke, Freihofer Baking Company, Tougher Industries, Brad Cable Enterprises, OTB, Holiday Inn, Mohawk Mall, Big Bill Enterprises and others. These folks are making the Airshow possible!

STEP INTO THE STORY WITH NEW IMMERSIVE EXHIBITS AT ESAM!

ESAM is building on our first touchscreen displays that are in the *Manufactured in New York State* exhibit that was highlighted in the last issue of Aeronotes.

Jim Salvino, who was instrumental in programming the *Manufactured in New York State* exhibit, is now programming two freestanding kiosks for the hangar. One will allow visitors to control a 360-degree video captured from a glider in flight as well as stories about the gliders on display. Another will compare the unique aerodynamic features of the F-4, F-5, F-14, and F-15 aircraft. These new experiences are slated to be up and running this summer!



Exhibit Kiosks in Development

BECOMING A YOUNG AVIATOR PROGRAM RETURNS IN AUGUST

ESAM's Becoming a Young Aviator Program returns Tuesday August 12 thru Friday August 15. The program will be held from 8:30 am to noon at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum. Students, ages 10-17, will spend the week learning about aviation and what real pilots do on the ground and in the air. In this hands-on program, students will learn about the history of aviation and aircraft design, the forces of flight (thrust, lift, drag and flight control), learn about the different parts of a plane, learn about specific aircraft in the museum collection, and a variety of other aviation topics. Students will also have an opportunity to interact with guest speakers and have a guided tour of the museum's incredible exhibits and airpark, which features more than 20 historic military aircraft. Students will be able to get into the cockpits of some of these legendary fighter and attack aircraft. Students will also have the opportunity to enjoy a half-hour flight in an airplane. Cost is \$250. Signup is through Schenectady county Community College. Check ESAM's website for more details on signup.

NEW QR CODE LINKS TO ESAM'S WEBSITE

ESAM is working on improving its marketing and member/community communications.

One of the first results of that work is a new QR code that links the user to ESAM's website. Try it out!

Thanks to new volunteer **Ann Marie Kitchen** for developing the QR code. Ann Marie, **Bob Vore** and **Erin Beaulac** are spearheading our marketing efforts.

Stay tuned for a new marketing brochure and other communications initiatives.



ESAM ADMISSIONS WERE UP BY 37% IN 2024!



ESAM HOSTS VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

ESAM is honored to have hosted the **Schenectada National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)** 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration, led by **Kim Mabee**, Regent.

The commemoration took place on March 29th, the date that the last US forces left Vietnam. The Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Event was begun by the Department of Defense in 2012. Organizations such as the NSDAR partnered with DOD to present lapel pins and certificates to Vietnam Veterans who served both overseas and at home and to thank them for their service. The program also provided recognition for the families of veterans with pins and certificates for surviving spouses.

The commemoration was attended by the **Schenectady High School Junior ROTC Color Guard**, the **Patriot Guard Riders**, many **Vietnam War veterans**, and a roomful of friends, relatives and supporters. The Schenectada Chapter was honored to present 39 pins and certificates to the Veterans, and 5 pins and certificates to surviving spouses. All enjoyed a time of refreshments with the veterans.

This year marks the completion of the program - it ends on Veterans Day. If there is anyone who was unable to attend and would like a lapel pin and certificate they may contact the NSDAR at susanjj5dar@gmail.com.

During the event, Schenectada Chapter NSDAR awarded the Bronze JROTC Medal to Schenectady JROTC student **Anderson Seram**. The medal is awarded to a junior or senior high school student who is an outstanding cadet. The recipient is selected by the program's senior instructor. Medals are worn according to JROTC protocol.

The chapter has very much appreciated the support of ESAM for this event for the past few years and ESAM's provision of admission to the museum. The free admission was enjoyed by many of the attendees.



Above left: The Pledge of Allegiance with the Patriot Guard Riders.
Above right: A Vietnam Veteran receiving his certificate and pin.



ESAM Treasurer Joyce Newkirk (center) receives a Donation from the Glenville Rotary. To the right of Joyce are ESAM President Dan Wilson and ESAM First Vice President Rich Bievenue

THANK YOU

Many thanks to Glen Preece for picking up the F-18 trainer from Pensacola, Florida.
Also, thanks to David Garbe from Rochester who helped with a canopy issue on the F-14 trainer.

AeroNotes

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 Aerosciences Museum**
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 Glenville, NY 12302
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Editor

Lawrence McArthur

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

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 Peter V. Russo, Sr.

2023-2024 MILEPOSTS

Here are some of ESAM's major activities and accomplishments during our last fiscal year.

- Held a 40th Anniversary celebration and gala.
- Obtained an F-15 Eagle, which flew in.
- Conducted a summer STEM "Becoming a Young Aviator" program, funded in part by a **Stewart's Holiday Match** grant.
- Continued ESAM Fly-in Breakfast presentations.
- Hosted a 50th Anniversary National Vietnam Veteran's Day Recognition Ceremony with the DAR.
- Continued to participate in community events including Glenville Oktoberfest, Schenectady Festival of Trees, Going Places- Changing the World STEM Program, Shenendehowa Science Fair and others.
- Agreed to host a privately-funded effort to restore a Curtis Hawk and a P-40 Warhawk.
- Installed a large external sign advertising the Akagi exhibit.
- Obtained an F-14 fuselage and a C-130 winch.
- Reclaimed the full Main Hanger and repositioned some aircraft in it. Also hung gliders from the ceiling of the Main Hangar.
- Had the north side of the Main Hanger rebuilt and landscaped using grants and major donations from the **Town of Glenville, Whitney Denio and Marvin & Vera Weiss.**
- Installed a temporary GI Joe exhibit.
- Ran a Christmas is in the Air program.
- Supported the Schenectady County "Run the Runway" 5K Race.
- Completed a Museum Assessment Program.
- Increased social media presence.
- Conducted Legends of the Sky presentations.
- Had the F-14 Tomcat repainted.
- Significantly increased attendance at the Museum.
- Completed documenting the Atill Pasquini Collection.
- Improved environmental monitoring of the Plug Nozzle to satisfy the Smithsonian Institute that the museum is properly safeguarding the artifact.

CONSTANT CONTACT/CANVA COMING TO ESAM

ESAM has purchased a subscription to the digital marketing program Constant Contact and, because we are a 501(c)3 organization, we were able to sign ourselves up for a free Canva Teams graphic design account.

Introductory training on these applications is expected to take place this Spring. ESAM volunteer **Ann Marie Kitchen** will provide the introductory tutorial.

One likely use of Canva is to publish Aeronotes. Aeronotes is currently developed in Microsoft Publisher, which is being phased out in 2026.

SEA CADETS VISIT ESAM

Twenty USS Albany Sea Cadets visited ESAM on April 5th. **Education Director Kevin Millington** gave them an orientation to flying and to the museum.

Thanks to new volunteer **Anum Sheikh** for providing photos of their visit.



Sea Cadets getting Some Cockpit Time

OPERATION SONG IS COMING TO ESAM

Operation Song is coming to ESAM on September 13th from 5:00 to 11:00 PM.

Join us for a powerful, star-spangled evening celebrating the bravery and sacrifice of our nation's heroes! Experience the unbreakable bond between music and service as Nashville's top songwriters bring to life the heartfelt stories of local upstate NY veterans-inspiring songs written in their own words.

There will be a Silent Auction and raffles to support our veterans. Come for the Cause, Stay for the Celebration. More information and tickets are available at <https://OPSONGNY2025.givesmart.com>.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

- **Eric Schnellbacher** donated a model collection of approximately two hundred 1/4" scale plastic models. The collection was accumulated by the donor's father, **Albert "Van" Schnellbacher**.
- **Del Cole** donated three boxes of books.
- **Brian Henderson** donated three unbuilt plastic model kits to be sold in the Gift Shop.
- **Kaylyn Thomas** donated a 1/100 scale desktop/presentation model of a Douglas C-124 Globemaster, the book "Douglas Jumbo's, the Globemaster" by Anthony J. Tambini, and the book "The Airman's' Guide", 3rd Edition, May 1951.
- **Clifford Hall** donated a throttle cluster for a P-47 and four large pictures.
- **Steven Jacobs** donated Huey seat covers, courtesy of New York State Police Aviation.
- **Heidi Galster** donated maps, manual, a photo and regulations.
- **Harlan Barney, Jr.** donated books and 1970s airplane travel gifts.
- **John Victor** donated a number of reference books.



OUR SUPPORTERS

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

	VIP Sustaining	
Mr. Daniel P. Wilson	Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Vore	
	VIP Supporting	
Joseph Clark	Mr. & Mrs. James Howard	
	VIP Contributing	
Ms. Danielle Barr	Mr. Gary L. Jones	Ms. Liza Reif
Mr. Patrick Reimann	Mr. & Mrs. Stan Stoklosa	
	Family	
John Adamovich	Mr. Chuck Bassett	Erika Blackburn
Michael E Boisclair	Cameron Breslin	Ms. Michelle Budge
Mike & Rebecca Chamberlin	Michael Conigliaro	Daniel and Dana Cullen
Ms. Bridget Cully	Dr. Michael DePetrillo & Lillian Bertalan	Mr. Tyler Freese
Ms. Leah Golden	Ms. Julian Goldman	Ms. Diana Ham
Mr. David Hennel	Ms. Emily Horstman	Mr. Stephen Irish
Mr. Jamie Janetsky	Ms. Joan Kernan	Ms. Jeanette May
Ms. Dana McDonough	Ms. Marcia Monroe	Matthew Moore
Ms. Kara Pagels	Mr. Stephan Priebe and Family	Mr. Jim Saburro
Mr. James & Carol Salvino	Mr. Amaury Santos	Shawn Schneider
Roman Semczuk	Mr. Roovindva Singh	Mr. Michael J. Skwara
Ms. Rebecca Taylor	Mr. Josh Tomaszewski	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Tytko
Mr. James Uram	Mr. Richard Welty	Mr. Dale Wildman
Mr. Brandon Wilkinson	Mr. James Yetto	
	Individual	
Mr. Joseph Bulmer	Ms. Donna Esposito	
	Senior Citizen/Student	
Yanni Arazi	Mr. & Mrs. Michael C. Collins	Mr. Gary W Dansfield
Mr. Gary B. Davis	John H. Gibson	Ms. Jeanne Jadwin
Ms. Anum Javaid	Mr. Ron & Sharon Locke	Mr. James J. Pabis
Mr. John Peck	Mr. Walter Pfuntner Jr.	Mr. Domenick Rizzuto
Mr. Anthony Russo	Mr. Paul Scholz	Mr. Carson Vara

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

	Library	
Albany Public Library	East Greenbush Community Library	Round Lake Library
Troy Public Library	Valley Falls Free Library	

ANNUAL APPEAL RAISES \$5,575

ESAM's Annual Appeal raised \$5,575. the museum thanks the following people for their generous donations to the Annual Appeal.

Edward Barili	Andrew Davis
Frank Falvo	John Gansfuss
John Gibson	Richard Gullott
Anthony Hynes	Sean George McCullough
Joyce Newkirk	James Pabis
William Siudy	James Uram
Robert M Vore	Daniel Wilson

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 _____

The Empire State
Aerosciences Museum is
supported in part by:

Business Benefactors

All Seasons Equipment
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ALMAC Capital Corp
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Business Supporters

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Mr. & Mrs. Maurice York

Galaxy Club Members

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Jessica Berman, MD
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James Liguori
John Panoski
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Ruggles
Maureen Sauter
Howard Schlossberg &
Michelle Ostrellich
The Family of Jansz Vander Veer*

*ESAM Charter Member

**SECURITY IMPROVEMENT IN
RESTORATIONS BUILDING**

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**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.

Here is a list of upcoming Breakfast speakers:

April 19: **Commemorative Air Force** shows off the PT-26 Cornell trainer

May: **Barbara Jones**, SCCC Aviation Program

June: **John Delano** of NASA on the Apollo 11 mission

July: **Yvonne Caputo**, Flying with my Dad

August: **Fred Lee**, Flying drones

September : **John Coulthart**, History of Mohawk Airlines

October: **GE R&D** on Hydrogen-Powered Airplanes

November: **Paul Quantock**, Army Aviation "Hunter Killer" teams

Please Note: All programs are subject to change. Please check with the ESAM office closer to the event date.

**LETTERS, POSTS AND EMAILS LIKE THESE
WE LIKE TO RECEIVE**

Thank you so much for a great visit. We all learned so much.

The Homeschool Group that visited on 2/9

Anton, James, Brody, Emily, SSS, Willow, Kayla, Zoey, Daniel, Ethan, Ella, Angelina, Daxton, Cora, Sam, Lucas and {unreadable}

November 14, 2024

Mr. Richard Bievenue
Empire State Aerosciences Museum
250 Rudy Chase Dr.
Glenville, NY 12302

Dear Mr. Bievenue,

Last week, we were so fortunate to have a packed crowd of community partners, business owners, and friends in attendance at the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation's (DSIC) 2024 Annual Building Block Party at the SUNY Ride Gallery. The event was a celebration of the remarkable work being done in our downtown district while raising funds to help the DSIC provide cleaning services, visual improvements, and promotions for property owners, businesses, visitors and residents.

On behalf of the Board and staff of the DSIC, please accept my sincere thanks for your donation of 4 admissions & 4 family memberships, valued at \$344 to the Silent Auction that took place during the event. The auction was a highlight of the evening, and I am thrilled to report that your contribution helped us to surpass our fundraising goal for the auction. We were delighted to be able to highlight your business at the event and show your dedication to our community. At the DSIC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Thank you again for your generous participation in our annual Building Block Party!

Sincerely
Maureen Neufeld
Executive Director

We had the pleasure of going for a field trip and wow did these kids LOVE it! This is such a fun place, there are many things that you can touch and sit inside and really feel like these pilots would have felt! Not your ordinary "museum" much more fun! For adults and children alike! The planes are in amazing condition and the tour guides are so knowledgeable about everything here! I highly recommend checking it out!

Meghan Led Duke

Thank you for helping to make the Taste of Burnt Hills so successful. Due to the participation and support of so many generous people and businesses throughout our community, this event exceeded our goal of \$10,000 and raised approximately \$12,000.

The Education Foundation will now use this money to fund grants for innovative programs and projects that enrich the lives and education of Burnt Hill-Ballston Lake students. Our dinner and silent auction would not have been possible without the donations of time, talent, and treasure from people like you.

On behalf of the BH-BL Education Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you!

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HAPPENINGS AT ESAM

MUSEUM HOURS

Fall/Winter/Spring 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

May 17, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$12 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; \$8 age 6-16; under 6 free when accompanied by an adult.

May, 17 Saturday - Speaker: 10 AM. **Barbara Jones**, SCCC Aviation Program

June 21, Saturday - Pancake Breakfast: 8:30-10:30 AM. All you can eat: \$12 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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September 13, Saturday - Operation Song: 5:00-11:00 PM. (see Page 10 of this newsletter)