

# 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 2017

### Fifty-Four MI 2017 Graduates Celebrate Together



Class of 2017: Graduates Heading for the Dais to Receive Their Diplomas

Distinguished in their black robes and yellow-tasseled caps, the students marched down the marble staircase and into the three-storied historic Library. Both guests and graduates were welcomed by our GSMT President, **Gerard Drohan, Jr.** The students were commended for their perseverance and hard work. The M.C. duties were then taken over by Executive Director, **Victoria Dengel**. She introduced our keynote speaker, **Dan Holohan**, Mechanics Institute Chair, saying the speaker had written 17 books on steam heating, and completed two novels this year. His popular book *Singer Island*, is now available on Amazon.



Dan Holohan

Dan is also the founder of Heating Help, his website, which can be found at [www.heatinghelp.com](http://www.heatinghelp.com). Mr. Holohan's opening words to the students were: "If it's a credible source, be willing to take advice." The first piece of advice that he benefited from was "NEVER Say no; say yes, when asked to do something, even if you do



Victoria Dengel and Gerard Drohan, Jr

### Mechanics Institute Fall Programs to Begin September 11

Since 1858, Mechanics Institute has provided tuition-free evening instruction in trades-related education and provided a critical service to improve job opportunities for New Yorkers in the building-and-construction industry. Without a tuition-free education, many of our students would be unable to get the technical education needed to advance in today's environment. Each fall, over 350 students enroll in the Mechanics Institute's programs, including AutoCAD and BIM, Electrical Technology, HVAC/R Systems, Plumbing Systems and Construction Project Management. For a complete catalog, please visit our website: [www.globalsociety.org](http://www.globalsociety.org).

### Fall Lectures to Begin Tuesday, Oct. 3

Lectures on subjects of interest to our members and the general public have long been a popular program of The General Society. The **Labor, Literature and Landmarks Series** continues a tradition of public lectures that started at the Society in 1837. The Series brings people of diverse interests from the entire New York area into our Library space. Now in its eighth season, the **Artisan Lecture Series** pays tribute to the art of craftsmanship by featuring master artisans who lecture about the intricacies of their specialized crafts. The Artisan Lecture Series promotes the work and art of skilled craftsmen to assist in ensuring their unique knowledge is understood and carried forth for future generations. The Fall Lecture Series begins on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30p.m. with 'Heads, Hands and Hearts – Craftsmanship At Work', the docu-

...continued on page 2

...continued on page 4

**SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

### Craftsmanship Awards Gala

The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen will hold its annual award ceremony benefiting the Mechanics Institute in the historic General Society Library.

## Graduation ... (continued from Page 1)

not know how to do it, and then learn how to, or some other guy will." Point two was, "Never give away valuable information. Save it for when it will be useful to you." Point three: "Decide. If you are stuck on something, make a decision." Point 4: Take a chance, nothing



Valedictorian, Luther Copeland

will happen unless you take a chance. Mr. Holohan's speech was an inspiring keynote address that was enthusiastically received. Ms. Dengel then introduced the class valedictorian,

**Luther Copeland**. Mr. Copeland, greeted the faculty, members, family, friends, and graduates who stayed the course and met their goals. He thanked The Mechanics Institute for the tools he acquired here, which made him become a more confident and knowledgeable tradesmen and master of his craft. Mr. Copeland then quoted Confucius, saying, "It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop." He closed with congratulations to the Class of 2017 and a rousing "hip, hip hooray," The usual rituals of graduation, award presentations, delivery of diplomas, the MI pinning ceremony, and a speech from



Two graduates help each other attach their graduation pin



Honorary graduate, Giancarlo Rachiele

our honorary graduate, **Giancarlo Rachiele**, President and instructor of Carpenters Union, who had attended The Mechanics Institute some 20 years ago as a student in Architectural Drafting. But did not finish the program due to his many responsibilities at the time, which included a family and long work hours. His was a triumphant return. *The Star Spangled Banner* was sung by the wife of one of last year's graduates, **Fannelle Collete Cato**.



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

## Academic Awards for Excellence

Dan Holohan presented the George E. Hoe Award to:



David Johnson



Natalia Cobo



Brawn Abdelmaseih

Keith Olsen presented the Albert A. Cuneo Scholarship Award to:



Atolagbe Abiodun



Kevin Brauer



Joao Spencer-Robalo



The Thomas S. DeNapoli Award in Electrical Technology went to Luther Copeland.



The Alan Senzer Award in Construction Project Management presented by the donor to Raul Heath.



Gottfried Weissgerber of Penguin, an EMCOR Company, presented their Achievement Award to Patryk Bieniasz.

## Mechanics Institute to offer Additional Revit Skills with Fall BIM Courses

The General Society added BIM to its computer Lab in the Spring of 2014 and since then has offered courses in BIM's Navisworks and Revit. This fall, we will be covering hands-on Revit training using an actual scan of the General Society building, which will be captured by **Leo Molina**. Mr. Molina is the Mechanics Institute's Instructor for Intro to Revit and Revit 2 Advanced Revit. He is also the Principal of Mobile Coordination. He will be performing a 3D scan of the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen building and will be working with his company's team to capture the rooms and offices throughout the building with the Matterport Pro2 3D camera. The Matterport Pro2 3D Camera captures 2D photography and 3D data from job sites and facilities, and automatically stitches them into a complete, immersive 3D model of a real-world job site that you can share, annotate, and export point clouds to Autodesk ReCap® or Revit®. It is quicker than 3D laser scanning and more complete than handheld 3D scanners. Mr. Molina will use the Point Clouds generated from the scans to teach in his Introduction to Revit Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A 3D showcase of

...continued on page 4

## Our Valedictorian has a Critical Job

Electrician, **Luther Copeland**, is a member of TWU 100, MTA's NYC Union. He's been an electrician for 18 years and currently works for the New York City MTA. His title: light maintainer. His dream is to become a supervisor. Each night, he walks the tracks, replacing worn-out light bulbs. He's protected by two flagmen, one 50ft. away, and one 620ft. away, or he can back into one of the 12-inch-deep niches along the wall while the trains are moving. Mr. Copeland was born in Trinidad and Tobago, went to high school there, and received his GED in New York City in 2012. A friend who was attending the Mechanics Institute invited Copeland to attend a class with him. He enrolled for the next semester and started the three-year electrical technology program that he so successfully completed. Mr. Copeland lives in Jamaica, Queens with his wife, Adola, and their two children, Midori and Immanuel. The man in the red shirt in the photo is **Alex Luke**, a favorite instructor to his electrical technology students. Mr. Copeland is looking over Mr. Luke's left shoulder.



## GSMT Will be Even Cozier!

The Steam Team has been fine-tuning the heating system that serves our iconic building. Thanks to a generous donation of thermostatic radiator valves by **Tunstall of Chicopee, MA**, we'll soon all be able to dial in the perfect temperature in every nook and cranny. We'll be installing these on the radiators during the summer so they'll be ready when the first chill arrives.

### Take Your Career To The Next Level

#### BUILD YOURSELF • BUILD NEW YORK

The Mechanics Institute has focused on workforce development in New York City ever since its founding in 1858. Tuition-free evening instruction in trades-related education has provided many students with the skills needed to improve their job opportunities. Our programs continue to serve those employed in the building-and-construction trades who are striving to improve their skills and expand their knowledge to increase career opportunities. Each fall, nearly 300 students enroll in Mechanics Institute's educational programs, including Electrical Technology, HVAC/R Systems, Plumbing Systems, Construction Project Management, AutoCAD and Building Information Modeling (BIM).

#### MECHANICS INSTITUTE

Workforce Development Since 1858

*a program of*

**The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of the City of New York**

## President of Carpenters Union Local 2790 becomes First Honorary Graduate



**Giancarlo Rachiele** joined the Carpenters Union in 1988 and immediately enrolled in the courses they offered in the use of tools. His Union apprenticeship instructor, **Luca Valentino**, (later President of The General Society), urged him to spend even more time on improving his skills.

He took that fine advice and signed on to a two-year program in architectural drafting and sketching at Mechanics Institute. During Mr. Rachiele's second year at MI, he took his drawings to work to make copies. His employer walked by, saw the quality of his work, and offered him an immediate promotion drafting architectural woodwork. Mr. Rachiele then found that his new responsibilities, along with teaching, caused him to give up his MI classes. He was just one course from graduating. Each May, as his own Union students graduated from the Mechanics Institute, he regretted not having finished that one last course. He told us that MI had changed his life, and that he longed to graduate with his students. The GSMT Board of Governors agreed that this would make for a very special evening, and it certainly was. We now have our first Honorary Graduate of Mechanics Institute, an honor earned by a life dedicated to his trade, and to his Union.

## MI Student Exhibit Focuses On Revit



The Annual Mechanics Institute (MI) Student Exhibition took place on the GSMT Lock Museum Balcony and focused on some of the notable work by students in the Introduction and Intermediate Revit classes,

chosen by Revit instructor, **Leo Molina**. The exhibit illustrated how training received throughout the year, enabled students to effectively document buildings and explore spatial concepts.

## Mommy - Daddy!!

Small voices called out from the audience in glee as parents accepted their diplomas from **President Gerard Drohan, Jr.** The children seemed to know how important and significant this graduation was to their families. It had been explained many times. Their parents told them that they were building their knowledge and skills and taking advantage of GSMT classes so they could provide a better life for their families.



## Fall Lecture Series.....(continued from Page 1)

mentary film by Director/Producer **Kelly Candaele** follows the Union workers who are building the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Los Angeles. The film provides an unprecedented and in-depth view into the inner workings of a major construction project, showcasing the workers' pride in their craftsmanship. Mr Candaele will be present at the screening.

## Lecture Series Delivers Record Attendance

The **Artisan Lecture Series** and the **Labor, Literature and Landmark Lecture Series** delivered record attendance this past year. The 24 lectures, which took place between September 2016 and June 2017 covered topics that ranged from 'Behind the Scenes with a *New York Times* Reporter,' to 'The Art of Steam Heating: A Case Study,' and from the 'Life of a Stone Carver' to 'The Restoration of the U.S. Capitol Cast-Iron Dome.' The speakers, generously shared their expertise in engaging and memorable lectures, and the lectures were enthusiastically attended.

## Landmark Lectures

The four 'Landmark' Lectures examined different components of landmarked buildings in New York. Historic-preservation architect, **Lisa Easton**, curated the lectures in partnership with The New York Landmarks Conservancy. On February 21st, stained-glass expert, **Julie Sloan**, spoke on 'New York: Birthplace of American Stained Glass.' On March 28th, architect **Robert Bates** described the 'Cast-Iron Restoration at a Soho Landmark.' **Mary Kay Judy**, conservation specialist, detailed her work on an 'NYC Historic Gilded Mansion Interior Restoration' on April 18th, and on May 16th, structural engineer, **Derek Trelstad**, focused on 'History Under Foot: The Hidden Tales in Your Floor.'



"Angel" from Stained Glass Lecture, Julie Sloan

## Labor Lectures



Building the New NY Bridge with David Capobianco

The 'Labor' Lectures focused on a behind-the-scenes look at different New York professions, institutions, and landmarks. On April 13, maritime expert, **Bill Miller**, described the labor history of 'The Great Port of New York.' On May 2, **Corey Kilgannon**, a *New York Times* journalist, spoke on 'Behind-the-Scenes with a *New York Times* Reporter.' Steam-heat expert, **Dan Holohan**, explored its history in 'The Art of Steam Heating' on June 7, and on June 27th, Project Manager, **David Capobianco**, detailed 'Building a New NY State-of-The Art Bridge to Replace the Tappan Zee Bridge.'

## Literature Lectures

The 2017 'Literature' lectures explored books related to NYC cultural, historical, and architectural themes. On March 7th, writer, **John Strausbaugh**, described NYC's role during the Civil War, based on his book, *City of Sedition* and on June 8th, author **John Freeman Gill** discussed his novel, 'The Gargoyle Hunters', centering on the Landmark Woolworth building.



The Gargoyle Hunters with John Freeman Gill

## Artisan Lectures

The 2017 Artisan lectures were co-curated by Master Artisans: **Jean Wiart** (Fine Ornamental Metalwork and the original curator of the series) and **Rhett Butler** (Architectural Hardware). The first took place on February 14th. It was 'Intertwining Roots: Watchmaking, Artisanry & Technology' with horological experts **Michael Friedman** and **Nicholas Manousos**. Then, on February 28th, violin maker **Lukas Wronski** discussed his craft. On April 11th, industrial designer, **Tucker Viemeister** spoke on innovation in 'Industrial Design'. **Jamie Swan** spoke on April 25. He is an artisan bike maker and his topic was, 'Building Modern Bicycle Frames Using Traditional Methods and Materials.' On May 9th, glass artisan, **Michiko Sakano**, described her work process and glass blowing.



'Torch of Peace' with Jean Wiart



Restoration of U.S. Capitol Dome with Robert Baird

Stone-carver, **Chris Pellettieri's**, May 23 topic was, 'My Life in Stone Carving.' On June 6th, **Paul Gunther** headed a panel discussion on 'New York Living' that celebrated interior design and the decorative arts in New York City. June 13th brought us metal-restoration artisan, **Robert Baird**, who discussed the 'Restoration of the U.S Capitol's Cast-Iron Dome'. **Jean Wiart**, fine ornamental metalwork artisan, outlined his creative process for us on June 20th in 'The Life of an Artisan: Tradition, Transmission and Trade.' On June 29th, 'Slate, Tile and Stone-Roofing Master Artisans.' **Vincent Liot** and **Yves Theunis** spoke about their trade and skills. You'll find most of these wonderful lectures on the General Society's YouTube channel. This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the **New York City Department of Cultural Affairs**, in partnership with the City Council.

**NYC Cultural Affairs**

## MI to offer Additional Revit Skills... (cont. from Pg 2)

the General Society building will be available once the scanning is complete. The great advantage of having a complete building scan on your computer is that you have 24-hour access to the building at all times. All of its workings are at your fingertips. This technology has been developing since 2003 and makes it much easier to work within the space.

## Artisan Lecturer Revitalizes Library Picture Lights: Aurora Lampworks Light Restoration



While attending the General Society's lecture series, **Dawn Ladd**, President of Aurora Lampworks, noticed that the finish on the copper picture lights in the GSMT Library was tarnished and that the fixtures gave insufficient and unflattering light. She saw an opportunity to enhance them with some tender loving care and a technology

update. Aurora removed and restored the eight matching lights. They are now back in place and glowing with their beautiful new look. Says Ladd of the restoration: "Restoration embraces the mantra, 'Reduce, reuse, recycle.' Indeed, the greenest lighting fixture is one that already exists - especially when retrofitted with new technology. One of the most rewarding experiences for a conservationist and lighting restorer is taking an existing, well-made fixture and making it more functional and maintenance-friendly, while dramatically cutting energy consumption. That is what we were able to do with the General Society's library picture lights. Probably made in the early Twentieth Century, the library lights were designed for incandescent bulbs. Their beautiful ribbed-and-silvered mirror panels would have collected the inefficient (by today's standards) light from the tube shaped T lamps. As technology evolved, the fixtures were retrofitted to accept linear fluorescents. Although the light from the fluorescent bulbs wouldn't have been as aesthetically pleasing as the original incandescent bulbs, the savings in electricity consumption and labor to change out the bulbs would have been substantial. With the advent of thin, powerful, and color-corrected LEDs, the library lights were perfect candidates for the next technological innovations. We cleaned the mirrored panels, hand-buffed the exterior of the fixtures and adapted a single LED strip to fit inside each fixture. The LED was designed to rotate and thus enable even illumination of the bookshelves.

Because we value the mission of the GSMT and the support it offers to companies like Aurora and individuals in the trades, we were happy to perform this restoration at no cost to them."

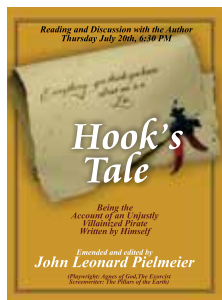
## Dan Holohan Publishes First Novel



Firsts are always special and *Singer Island* has found an enthusiastic readership that has written glowing reviews on Amazon. *Library Journal* also reviewed book by saying, "Elegantly written, this self-published first novel is the *Death of a Salesman* for the digital age. Charlie's struggle to find his place in a world that has left him behind are reminiscent of those of Arthur Miller's iconic

Willy Loman. Ultimately, however, this novel is about the importance of family (especially fathers and daughters), of making connections with the people around us, and of taking the time to unplug from our digital devices so those bonds can form." But Dan is used to best-sellers. His first book, *The Lost Art of Steam Heating*, sold tens of thousands of copies. He also recently added more than 200 pages to that work and released it as, *The Lost Art of Steam Heating: Revisited*. Mr. Holohan is now working on the final revisions of his second novel, *Dominic Murphy's Walk*. He loves writing fiction.

## A Splendid Yarn!



In July, **John Leonard Pielmeier** told the rollicking tale of much-maligned Captain Hook: his quest for buried treasure, his friendship with Peter Pan, and the story behind the swash-buckling world of Neverland. Long defamed as a vicious pirate, **Captain James Cook** (a.k.a Hook) was in fact a dazzling wordsmith who left behind a vibrant, wildly entertaining, and entirely

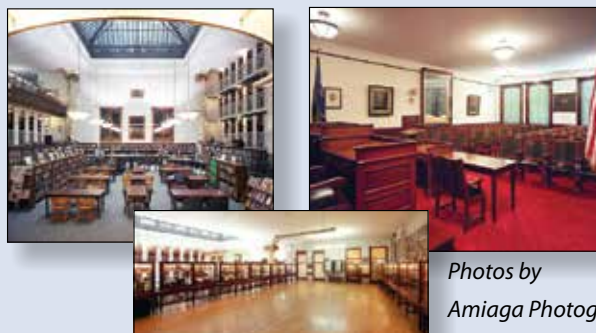
truthful memoir. His chronicle, *Hook's Tale: Being the Account of an Unjustly Villainized Pirate Written by Himself*, offers a counter-narrative to the works of J.M. Barrie, a "dour Scotsman" whose spurious accounts got it all wrong. Pielmeier is proud to present this crucial, historic artifact in its entirety. His coming-of-age story reimagines Neverland and invites readers into a much richer, darker, and enchanting version of this magical island. During the program, Mr. Pielmeier discussed his experiences "amending and editing" the book and gave a wonderful dramatic reading from the novel.

## 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
- Conference Rooms for smaller meetings
- Classrooms available for regular daytime 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](http://www.generalsociety.org) and click Rent Space.



Photos by  
Amiaga Photography

## And Now It's Time For Soccer



A segment of wiring as it originally looked

After our May General Membership meeting, **Alex, Elias, and Isaac Marx** made history at The General Society by cutting a symbolic wire and crossing a threshold for the first time in more than 50 years.

People had tacked telephone wires, alarm wires, and cables one by one over the years to the back of one of the beautiful twin, second-floor mahogany doors. Most, but not all, of those wires and cables were dead, while some were still in use.

Twelve-year-old Elias, and nine-year-old Isaac, coached by their father, Brother Alex Marx, learned how to recognize which of the wires was dead, and which was alive and in need of relocation. Team Marx spent many Friday evenings dismantling that dog's breakfast of wires and that beautiful door is now free and open to view, and the view is splendid from both sides. Team Marx banished the ugly, so that the beauty and symmetry of the space now shines through. The photos tell the story of how a father and his sons worked together, determined to restore the grand view into the Society's historic library, and outward from our balcony toward our stained-glass window above our front door. Following our May meeting, the Brothers and Sisters gathered on the balcony for the Grand Opening and greeted the moment that the young men crossed the threshold with thunderous applause. Thanks to Team Marx, and to **Victoria Dengel**, who also learned how to remove wires.



Elias learning to use the testing tools



Cutting of the last wire by Elias and Isaac Marx



Isaac and his father working together at a difficult angle

## Photos from the Independence Day Celebration



## Independence Day 2017 Enthusiastic Audience Participation



Colonel John Vermeesch

Guests were greeted by the nostalgic sounds of the Banjo Rascals' patriotic and blue-grass music. The GSMT President, **Gerard Drohan**, welcomed our guests and the many friends of The Society. He introduced our Executive Director, **Victoria Dengel**, who brought **Michelle DellaFave** forward to render a flawless-operatic-jazz version of the Star Spangled Banner.

Ms. Dengel then introduced our patriotic speaker, **Colonel John Vermeesch**, Director, Center for the Army Profession and Ethic. The Colonel, who received his commission as an Infantry Officer in 1990 served in many fields of operation, including Vietnam. He currently serves as Director for the Army organization to help the Army fulfill its mission. Col. Vermeesch began his speech by greeting the audience and thanking The General Society for inviting him to talk and sharing the evening with three of his fellow officers from West Point. He noted that this year marked the 100th year since the United States of America joined the Allied forces in World War 1. He then found several events that happened on this date, June 28, in history. The Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo in 1914, setting off World War 1. On this day in 1972, President Nixon announced that no more draftees would be sent to Vietnam unless they volunteered- "The beginning of the end of US involvement in that conflict." And on June 28 in 2004, the US government transferred sovereignty of Iraq back to the Iraqi government, ending 15 months of US conflict. Following the Colonel, **Ms. DellaFave** led the audience in *God Bless America* and the Banjo Rascals played the songs of each branch of the service while members who had served in each stood at attention. Following tradition, **Thomas Szekely**, Past President, then read our founding document, *The Declaration of Independence* in its beautiful entirety. Afterwards, dinner was served with music throughout.



Michelle DellaFave singing God Bless America



Thomas Szekely

# Hammering On...

## New Promotion Piece Created for Mossman Lock Museum



With a design concept suggested by **Jean Wiart** and in the space provided on a 5" x 8" postcard, our Archivist, **Angelo Vigorito** managed to include: eight photos from our collection housed in beautiful cases, a map of where to find the Society, information about two books relating to the collection, and a short biography

of **John M. Mossman**, who contributed the locks and cases to The Society in 1903. The card also includes an invitation to visit the Museum.

## GSMT Library Provides Space for Non-profit and Industry Organizations

A number of non-profit organizations and industry related organizations also use our Library space for their public events and programs, these include: The Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, New York Landmark Conservancy, Langan Engineers, American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE) COPRI and Structures Groups, Jane Austen Society, Ace Mentor Program of Greater New York, The Horological Society, New York Chamber of Commerce, New York Housing Conference, Production Designer Collective, Royal Oak Foundation, and New York Association of Realty Managers.

## Book Group's Fall Meetings Began September 7

We've scheduled a long book for summer reading. It's *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell and discussed it on September 7. For October 11, we will read *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, and for November 2, Mary McCarthy's, *The Group*. Our last read for 2017 will be on December 7, when we will dissect James Goldman's play, *Lion in Winter*. We would love to add a few readers to the group. If you are interested please email [karin.taylor@generalsociety.org](mailto:karin.taylor@generalsociety.org).

## Fall Book Sale To Be Announced

Start collecting the books you'd like to donate now. Our Library has lots of storage space and it's an opportunity to help GSMT by donating books you no longer want. We will have an evening opening, followed by two days of selling on the street in front of our landmarked building at 20 West 44th Street. Last year, book donations were surprisingly varied – wonderful art books, classics, fiction and nonfiction. At \$2.00 for hardcover books and 25 cents for paperbacks, book lovers will have a great time searching through the offerings.

## A Revamped HVAC/R Systems Curriculum Starting This Fall

The Mechanics Institute will offer a new curriculum for its Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning students. We're excited about the scope of this new, two-year program that will cover Fundamentals, Hot Water and Steam Systems, Chillers and Cooling Towers, as well as Heat-Load Calculations, and Energy Codes in the first year. The second year will address Ducts and Fans, Humidification, Control Systems and Electric-Power Supply, and conclude with practicum and estimating. See our website for more information at, [www.generalsociety.org](http://www.generalsociety.org).

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

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

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News, photos and editorial suggestions from members are welcome and can be sent to [pennspec@aol.com](mailto:pennspec@aol.com)

### The General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen

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For GSMT Event Calendar, visit the  
General Society website at  
[www.generalsociety.org](http://www.generalsociety.org)



The General Society of  
Mechanics & Tradesmen  
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New York, NY 10036

Check our website for current updates on General Society Events and send us your email to receive event information: [www.generalsociety.org](http://www.generalsociety.org)

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### The Scuffing on the Steps



The steps are magnificent, aren't they? The artists (and we must call them that) who crafted the marble were masters, and they knew they were working on a staircase that would last much longer than their own lives. They knew that generations would walk these steps, up and down, and most would never know the names of the builders. But that didn't matter to the builders; only the work mattered, and they worked with such pride. Climb these steps and you'll feel beneath the soles and heels of your shoes the steps of tens of thousands of others who came before you. Each scuffed into the air a few molecules of stone and left behind tiny depressions in the marble that represent lives lived, work accomplished. Can you feel them? There will be more centuries of scuffing after we're gone. And perhaps, if we do our jobs well, those who are to come will remember us, too, but never know our names. And that will be good enough.

