



Nickel City Star

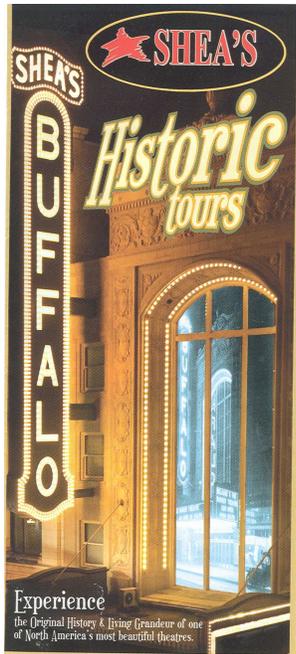
JANUARY 29, 2007

NICKEL CITY STAR SPRING 2007

Coming Events:

- *Valentine's Brunch*, Sunday February 11, Roycroft Inn
- Backstage Tour of *Shea's Buffalo Theater*, Saturday March 31

Niagara Section
Mercedes-Benz Club of America



Shea's Buffalo Backstage Tour

The opening of Shea's Performing Arts Center was the dream of Michael Shea, a theatrical showman from Canada. Shea's originally opened in 1926 as a movie house (under Paramount Pictures) that would later stage live vaudeville shows. In the early 1930's, performers included Frank Sinatra, George Burns, Bob Hope and the Marx Brothers. In the 1950's the Loew Corporation acquired Shea's, but Buffalo fell victim to the great migration to the suburbs. Eventually in 1974 the city foreclosed on the property for back taxes and planned its demolition.

SHEA'S PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IS A MAJOR CULTURAL INSTITUTION THAT HAS BEEN ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SINCE 1975.

In order to save Shea's, a group of concerned individuals were able to partially restore the building and have it listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. The city then transferred operations of the theater to a preservation guild in 1981, which continues to preserve, maintain, and improve both its physical property and financial integrity.

Today, Shea's operates as a full service performing arts center, and attendance has grown to over 300,000 patrons annually. In September 2004, the exterior restoration was completed with the re-lighting of the 65 foot replica of the original tall blade "Shea's Buffalo" sign. Restoration of the interior continues.

During our specially guided tour, you will see the fully restored eight-foot tall crystal chandeliers each with 97 delicate bulbs, the intricately painted ceilings, the ornate plasterwork in the main theatre, and the restoration of the original ticket booth in the main entrance. Also we will see the 7,500 square foot stage (one of the largest in North America) and the state-of-the-art stagehouse and learn many very interesting details about the theater's history.

The Niagara Section is invited to tour on Saturday March 31 at 10 a.m. with a luncheon following.

IMPORTANT: Please sign up for the tour and luncheon on page 5.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY GENE LONG



Once again, our annual Valentine's Brunch is slated for February 11, 2007. The Roycroft Inn in East Aurora is the perfect romantic venue for an exquisite brunch experience. We will get the royal treatment as usual, with mimosas and champagne served in our reserved room. Breakfast and lunch fare is second to none!

For quite a while, we have been working on securing a guided group tour of Shea's Buffalo theater, and now it is set. March 31 we will experience the entire theater, from box office to backstage, and more. A lunch will be enjoyed as well. Don't miss this event!

If you would like to know more about anything club-related, give me or one of your officers a call. Lastly, even if you haven't attended before, I urge everyone in the club to put our monthly meetings on your calendar - the Eagle House - 5578 Main, Williamsville - attend, bring a friend!

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YOUR INPUT PLEASE...

Club meeting coordinator Art Bourget is looking for your input regarding our meeting location. While the Eagle House has done a fine job of accommodating our monthly section meetings in the past, we are open to suggestions for a new venue. Please contact Art by emailing him at A.Bourget@verizon.net and let him know your thoughts. Thank you!

EVENTS CALENDAR

- February 11, Sunday, 11:30 a.m., *Valentine's Brunch*, Roycroft Inn, East Aurora. *Checks must be received by Joanie Long before Feb 5. Details - 655-4515.*
- February 15, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Monthly meeting at the Eagle House, Williamsville
- February 23, Friday, Day trip to Toronto for Canadian International Auto Show, informal event. Contact Ed Yungbluth or Gene Long if you would like to join us, or meet us there.
- March 15, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Monthly meeting at the Eagle House, Williamsville
- March 31, Saturday, at 10 a.m. **Backstage Tour of *Shea's Buffalo Theater***, please use the [sign-up form on page 5](#) or email genelong@verizon.net to indicate attendance.
- April 19, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Monthly meeting at the Eagle House, Williamsville
- April Event to be announced*
- May 17, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Monthly meeting at the Eagle House, Williamsville

Members of all sections and guests are always invited to Niagara Section events.

**Details will appear in future issues of this newsletter or sent via email and/or posted at www.mbca.org/niagara. Or you may call Ed at 716-873-9226 for more information.*

Check The Star and www.mbca.org for National events listings.

December
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CHRISTMAS PARTY AT SALVATORE'S ITALIAN GARDENS

Once again the party was a roaring success. Santa was present to give his usual generous gifts to everyone. This year the gift was a nutcracker and candy from Germany which was procured during our recent group shopping trip to Denninger's in Hamilton, Ontario.

Photos of couples and groups were taken in various settings in the famously over-decorated lobby and hallways of Salvatore's. The establishment's motto is to "overdo everything" and they were successful!

We were also pleased to host the club's Director at Large Roy Kuck and his wife, Jeanette to our celebration. Our group numbered 32 and everyone enjoyed scrumptious meals and a lot of great conversation.



It was a warm day in December!

TOYS FOR CHARITY

As our annual charitable event, everyone generously brought unwrapped toys which were donated to the children of St. Luke's Mission, once again enhancing Christmas for kids who deserve to experience it. Thank you all for your donations!

AWARDS

The Christmas Party is the occasion where we honor a section member for outstanding contributions to the local club activities. This year, the Member of the Year Award was presented to Art Bourget for his extraordinary efforts in bringing our website up to 21st century standards as well as officiating as our meeting coordinator.



Our club's Regional Director Doug Dees and his wife Maria attended and Doug presented the Officer Of the



Year Award to Ed Yungbluth, our section Vice President and events coordinator. Only one such award is given in the entire Northeast Region under Doug's organization, so this is a significant honor for Ed.

Congratulations go to both Art and Ed! Thank you both for your fantastic hard work on behalf of the members of the Niagara Section.



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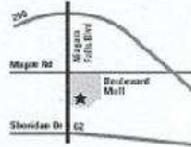
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Welcome New Niagara Section Members

- Esther Yasinow, Williamsville
- Edmund and Nina Junczewicz,
Tonawanda
- Rod Fairbank, Youngstown

And to the current members who
have recently renewed, thank you!



Notice to club members:

Mercedes-Benz of Buffalo continues to
offer a 10% parts discount to current
MBCA members.

In order to take advantage of this dis-
count, you must show your active MBCA
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Please note: ads will appear in one issue only, unless specifically requested.

Wheels and Deals ads are FREE to all Mercedes-Benz Club Members



Mercedes-Benz

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Client Representative

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Williamsville, NY 14221
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Sign Up for Shea's Buffalo Tour and Lunch

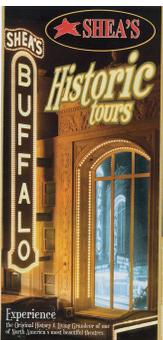
Date & Time: March 31, 2007 at 10 a.m.

Where: 646 Main Street, Buffalo (between Chippewa and Tupper)

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

Admission is \$ 8.00 per person, payable at the door. If more than 20 people sign up the price is reduced to \$4.00 per person. Group lunch following the tour is extra, to be determined.

Please cut out and mail this form to Gene Long, 8561 Falls Road, West Falls, NY 14170, or email genelong@verizon.net to give us an idea of the number attending.



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NIAGARA SECTION
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