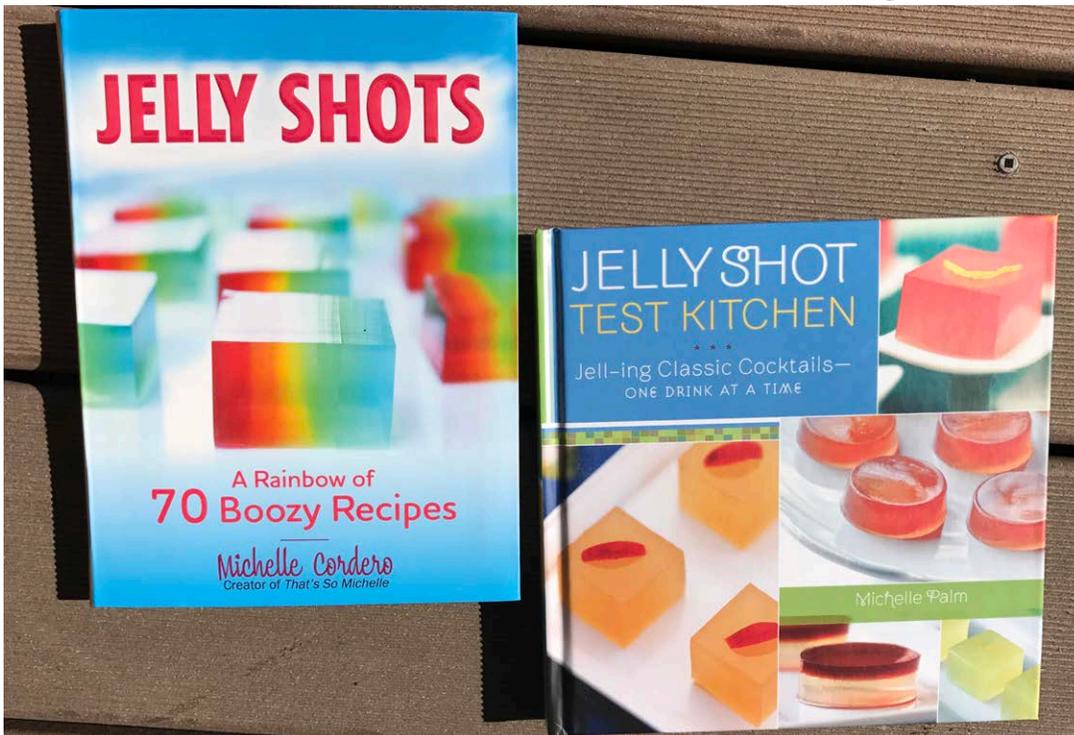


Getting Ready for Visitors

33 States and Counting



The 2017 season has already started. Since January we've had visitors from 33 states*. Last week we had a couple of families from Utah and visitors from Lithuania and Uzbekistan. We're now open seven days a week and will be closed only on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. The weather has been weird this year, but when the snow finally melted, we took the chain down across the stairs into the Jell-O Gallery. The "winter entrance" sign has been taken down. Cora the cow was moved upstairs tonight and moved into the gift shop. Every morning she is wheeled out to the porch. She spends the winter in the basement with the carriages and sleighs. I can't even imagine how many times she's been photographed. I probably should get a postcard made of her. The barn quilt on the porch blew down during the wind, and hopefully we'll get it back up this week. When the weather warms up a bit, we'll get a coat of paint on the railings and the wooden benches. Those benches came from the Donald Woodward Airport - actually the metal brackets are all that's left - the wooden slats are replacements. Bob Stefani is

designing a new Jell-O Gallery sign for the A-frame out by the street.

Terry has ordered more T-shirts from LP Graphics and the golf balls have arrived. I just picked up our order of Jell-O boxer shorts. We're ordering kids' aprons this year. We just received a small order of Jelly Shot books. (They used to be called Jell-O Shot books, but Kraft Foods doesn't allow the authors to use the trademark Jell-O.) The recipes look great and I can't wait to try a few. I stopped by Walmart and bought a couple hundred boxes of Jell-O. I've ordered 55,000 brochures for distribution and signed the contract with Brochures Unlimited who will distribute them all over Western New York. The Strong Museum called and asked us to ship brochures to them and we have to send a box of brochures off to the visitor center on Route 81 coming up from Pennsylvania.

This week, our volunteers have come to the rescue once again. In fact it's national Volunteer Week next week and we want to give a shout out to all our volunteers who put in hours and hours to make LeRoy House and the Historical Society and the Jell-O Gallery and

the Memorial Gardens ready to welcome all the folks who come to visit. This week the gardens will get their attention. The fellows from Little League were able to cut up and remove the huge limbs that came down in the parking lot after the windstorm. A big thank you to them!! Tonight I trimmed the rose bushes and removed the windbreakers from the Ingham roses. I just hope the roses have survived another year. They die down below ground, and it takes quite a time before new canes work their way above ground. We still have two of the four bushes that we bought a few years ago from the Rose Emporium in Texas. The herbs seem to have weathered the winter, and the rhubarb and horseradish are peeking up above ground. Tom Frew has already mowed the lawn and spread fertilizer. We'll send in the 2017 brick order for the Jell-O Brick Road this Friday so they will be delivered in time to be put into the sidewalk by the Oatka Festival. Last year we set out cement dominoes on the benches in the back yard. This year, I want to paint two checkerboards on the picnic table and put out some weatherproof checkers. Tomorrow we hope to straighten out

the back porch furniture. We hope there might be a couple of high school kids that need community service that might come by and give the furniture a fresh coat of paint. Lee Defazio has agreed to oversee the gardens again this year, but is looking for a couple of volunteers to give her a hand.

This winter we have been lucky to have what I call the "Dream Team." Joanne Graham, Shelia Furr, Cheryl Fernaays, and Anne Frew. They have come to LeRoy House at least one day a week and we have tackled each room from basement to second floor. Along with the help of Ron Paganin, they have painted the shelves in the pottery room and the kitchen. They have even started painting the cement floors. There's still a lot to do, but as they say, you can't eat the elephant all in one bite.

In June, members of the CPR committee of the Association of Living History, Farms and Agricultural Museums will visit our museum and they will help dust and clean the carriages and sleighs in the transportation exhibit. They will also catalogue and number the tools in the boot of the 1908 Cadillac.

All in all, it takes a village to keep everything moving smoothly at 23 East Main Street. A big thank you to all the volunteers - - those who work for the Historical Society as well as the volunteers for the Little League. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated. States represented by our visitors this year:

Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.