

THE SPORTS PAGE

News from the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Sports Legends Museums

www.baberuthmuseum.org



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Summer

2015

INTRODUCING

The Brand New Babe Ruth Birthplace

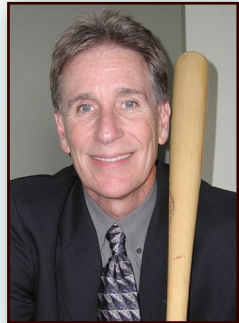


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WHAT'S COMING UP?

AUGUST 23 - 1800S BASEBALL WITH RICHARD D'AMBRISI
SEPTEMBER 10 - EDDIE MURRAY WINE EVENT
SEPTEMBER 24 - BRING IN YOUR SPORTS COLLECTION
(MEMBERS ONLY)
VISIT WWW.BABERUTHMUSEUM.ORG FOR DETAILS.



"It's been a long time coming," goes the Crosby, Stills and Nash lyric, and that certainly is true when it comes to the renovation of the Babe Ruth Birthplace Museum. Since opening to the public in 1974, the attraction maintained much of its original infrastructure until the winter of 2014, when a new roof was installed.

But this spring, from early March to early June, a major overhaul of the facility resulted in a new entranceway on the north side of the building, the installation of an elevator and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliant restrooms, and a complete overhaul of all of the exhibition galleries save for the historic Birthplace, which maintained its February, 1895 appearance.

On June 12, the Museum reopened to rave reviews and critical acclaim, featuring 11 new audio/visual displays, Ruth's kimono and toiletry kit from his 1934 tour of Japan, an all-new Called Shot Theater, and Clayton Moore's complete Lone Ranger costume from the 1950's TV hit. Ruth's favorite radio show was the Lone Ranger, and though the Bambino never saw the TV version, we thought visitors would appreciate the connection.

The new entranceway provides sidewalk wheelchair access, while the new elevator services the lobby and both gallery levels, plus the third floor staff offices. Additional renovation work is slated for later this summer, including replacement of the windows and doors on the front of the building, plus new fencing and landscaping for the backyard reception area.

After years and years of anticipation, the Birthplace has joined the ranks of 21st Century historic house museums! Hoorah!

Mike Gibbons, Executive Director

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Don't Forget!

Museum members can enter the Maryland Zoo for free until August 31. Present your Babe Ruth Birthplace/Sports Legends membership card upon entry to receive free admission for 2 adults and 2 children or for 1 adult and 3 children.



Congratulations Shawn!

We would like to congratulate long-time Chief Curator and Acting Director of Development **Shawn Herne** on his appointment as Executive Director of the Hammond-Harwood House in Annapolis. Shawn was a dedicated member of our staff, a leader, and a friend for 11 years, and we wish him the best in this new chapter of his life. **Vanessa Milio** will be with us into the fall to manage development. She joins us after many years of nonprofit development leadership both in Baltimore City and Harford County.

Amanda's Pick

Stories from our collections vault

OBJECT: Babe Ruth's Kimono
DATE: 1934 American All-Star Tour of Japan

WHY DO WE HAVE IT? In 1934, Babe and a team of top American baseball players of the day, including future Baseball Hall of Famers Lou Gehrig, Jimmie Foxx, Lefty Gomez, Charlie Gehringer, and Earl Averill traveled to Japan to take on a host of Japanese teams in an 18 game match-up.

WHY IN THIS ISSUE? Babe's Kimono, also known as a happi coat because of its shorter length, was one of his favorite keepsakes from his trip to Japan. As part of the recent Babe Ruth Birthplace renovations, we have moved this object from Sports Legends to the Birthplace in order to help tell the story of Babe's Japan adventure. Come see it, along with many other cool items, on display at the newly renovated Birthplace!



The "Un-Opening Day" Experience

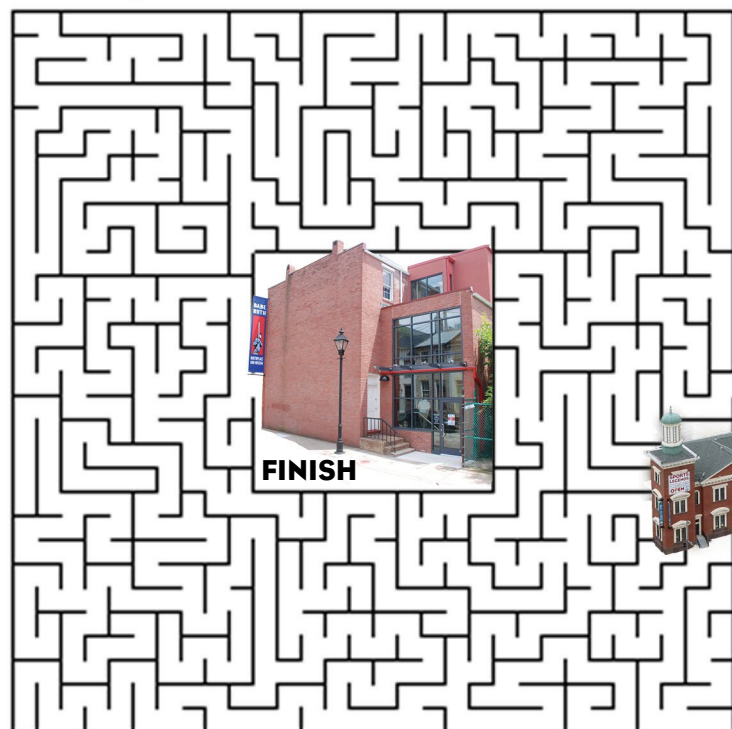
It was a record-breaking day in baseball: April 29, 2015, the game that no fans could watch—at least from the stands. We lined up with others at the fence of Oriole Park at Camden Yards to try and catch a glimpse of the action.

One fan jumped on the Light Rail and made it to Oriole Park just in time for the first pitch. **Matt Stengel** is a city resident and is the store manager at North Charles Wine and Spirits next to Eddie's of Roland Park. We asked Matt what it was like.

"It was certainly surreal. The stands were empty and I was with one hundred to one hundred and fifty fans gathered along the left center field fence just behind the bull pen. I live in Baltimore and I love going to O's games, even though there were more important things happening in the city. Baseball to me is a release and a distraction, and to get down there and to not have to be completely focused on the negativity happening in the city was, I think, important."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Robert Anzilotti, Jr.	Lisa Reid
Emily Brown	Elmer Sacks
Kelly Cantly	Jeffrey Sacks
Colby Dye	Dustin Schadt
Lee Lowenfish	Fred Shoken
Lori Millar	Matt Whitfield
Thomas Otto and Family	



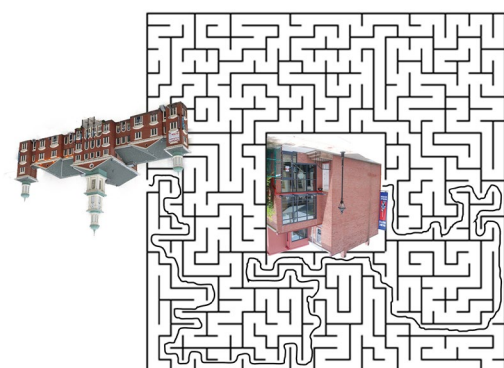
For your a-maze-ment

Find your way to the new museum!

Can you get to the Babe Ruth Birthplace from the Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards? Follow the maze to get to the new entrance on Dover Street.

Don't forget that when you actually come to visit, just follow the Babe Ruth Museum baseballs painted on the sidewalk. Start at the numbers plaza next to Sports Legends, and they will lead you right to the Babe's door.

Answer



"Why it's called B-More!"

By Michael Ricigliano

Michael Ricigliano draws cartoons for PRESS BOX and contributes to the SUN, USA TODAY, Sports Weekly and the LA Times. For those of us with long memories Michael also created the hilarious Irsay Dummy.

Check out his Toon Trivia feature on GoComics at gocomics.com/ricigs-toon-trivia.



A Visit from 'Joey Bats' and an Unforgettable Moment

By Mike Gibbons

Like most young people, professional athletes, by and large, have little or no use for history. In my 32 years at the museum, I can count on one hand the number of active pros who really care about the history of the games they play.

And so when the agent of Toronto Blue Jays' star José Bautista contacted us about José visiting Sports Legends during an early-April Blue Jays series in Baltimore, we were more than delighted to accommodate.

'Joey Bats' arrived promptly for our designated 12:00pm meeting, accompanied by his agent and his father, who had flown from his native Dominican Republic to be with his son on the first road trip of the season.

I gave the trio a behind-the-scenes tour of our facility, including a trip to the

archives, where José held one of Babe Ruth's bats from the 1927 season.

Later on, José was approached by a father and son, fans of the Jays, who had cheered on the team in New York and then followed them to Baltimore. The father asked if José would sign a ball for his son, saying that he had thrown that very ball to his boy in the stands at Yankee Stadium. He signed it, posing for pictures with the father and his starry-eyed offspring, who will remember that moment for the rest of his life.



Toronto Blue Jays slugger **José Bautista** holds a Babe Ruth bat in a special tour of the museum archives.

José 'Joey Bats' Bautista: baseball historian, and a little bit like the Babe when it comes to home runs...with a real affection for the game's youngest fans.

The Forgotten Anniversary

By Jim Henneman

Any anniversary involving "The Babe" always gets proper recognition around here, but the one that took place the last week of May almost slipped by without notice. It was 80 years ago, May 30, 1935, that Babe Ruth played his last game, but he did not go out with a three-home run bang as myth would have it.

Babe played the last two months of his career with the downtrodden Boston Braves, and his farewell wasn't as glorious as it would have been had he hung it up a week earlier. Five days before his farewell appearance Ruth did in fact hit three homers in one game – during a 4-for-4 effort that still wasn't enough to prevent an 11-7 loss to the Pirates.

That game, on May 25 in Pittsburgh's Forbes Field might have provided the backdrop for a storybook finish, but The Babe would play in five more games, one as a pinch-hitter, and go hitless in his last

11 at-bats before calling it quits.

Ruth played leftfield and had only one at-bat in his final game, perhaps fittingly on Memorial Day. Although most fans of the era remember who Lou Gehrig replaced (Wally Pipp) and who replaced him (Babe Dahlgren) at first base for the Yankees, few could tell you who replaced Ruth, at least partly because he was no longer wearing pinstripes and playing leftfield for the Braves. Hal Lee is the answer to that trivia question, and even though he would go 3-for-4 the rest of the way, the Braves lost to the Phillies, 11-6.

The only similarity about that game and the rest of The Babe's career is that he was wearing a Boston uniform when it ended, just as he had when it started with the Red Sox.

– **Jim Henneman** is a long-time Baltimore sports writer, the author of "60 Years Of Oriole Magic" and the "Upon Further Review" column on www.pressboxonline.com.

Now Online!

Baltimore Baseball Minutes hit the web in their 25th year

Get your baseball history fast—60 seconds fast, to be exact—with the popular radio short series "Baltimore Baseball Minutes," hosted by Executive Director Mike Gibbons and Newsletter Editor Doug Roberts. From Babe to Buck, Baltimore's 25-year radio tradition finally goes online.

Visit baberruthmuseum.org/baseballminutes/ for the newest installments in the series.



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Can I get your autograph?

We all can't wait for that moment when our favorite player is just footsteps away, pen in hand. Some autographs come after months of waiting for that meet-and-greet, others come completely by chance--in unlikely ways. Here's an unlikely story from local audio producer and engineer Betsy Harmatz about the time she suddenly ended up with a one-of-a-kind autograph from one of her favorite sports legends, Brooks Robinson.

Brooks Robinson was at my studio recording and I remembered that I had a book that was for children called "Brooks Robinson, Sports Hero" by Marshall and Sue Burchard. It was for sale in a library a couple of years earlier and I loved it. So after the recording session I said, "Brooks, I have a wonderful book about you for children" and he said, "You do?" I said, "Yeah, let me go get it," and I showed it to him. He seemed really enchanted. I don't know if he had ever seen it before or forgotten, but he paged through it, looked at the pictures and said, "This is really great!" He really seemed to

love it. And even though I loved the book I loved him more, and I asked, "Brooks, would you like to have it?" And he said, "No I want you to have it...but let me sign it for you."

...I asked, 'Brooks, would you like to have it?' And he said, 'No, I want you to have it...but let me sign it for you.'

– **Betsy Harmatz** is the owner of BHAudio Recordings and is one of the premier audio producer/engineers on the east coast. Among the many Hollywood stars and sports celebrities she has recorded are Chris Rock, Nicole Kidman, Ray Lewis, Johnny Unitas and Pam Shriver. Betsy was game/music engineer at Memorial Stadium and helped design the closing ceremonies. She continued in that capacity for the opening of Oriole Park, including the All-Star game in 1992 and Cal Ripken's 2131 record-breaking year. Betsy has provided the sound for many exhibits in the Sports Legends and Babe Ruth museums. She also makes a world class motzoh ball soup.

Listen In! *The Original Preakness Infield Party*

Baltimore Sports' Untold Stories from interviews by John Patti

It's the middle jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown, The Preakness Stakes. The Preakness is always run on the third Saturday in May. For decades that day has been defined as part horse race and mostly a party. The Preakness infield is where that massive party is staged.

The 140th running of the Preakness Stakes on May 16, 2015 saw an all-time record crowd of 131,680 people cram into the oval at Pimlico Race Course to watch eventual Triple Crown winner American Pharoah run the 1- 3/16ths mile faster than 7 other challengers.

As I gazed at the massive amount of humanity enjoying the day with nearly non-stop entertainment on multiple stages, I couldn't help but think of the man who is responsible for the Preakness Infield party.

His name is Chick Lang and while he passed away in March, 2010 his legacy will live on forever in the Preakness Infield.

The Preakness Infield party actually started as a family affair in 1965. Chick, part of the Cohen management team of Pimlico Race Course, convinced the Cohens that the only way to grow the Preakness was to open the infield to patrons on Preakness Day. Not having anyone to put out there, the Langs turned to their daughter Debbie, a middle schooler, for help. Debbie was told to invite some of her friends.

Debbie invited 8 friends that first year. The next year she invited so many friends that they had to rent a school bus. Those middle schoolers were part of about 500 people in the Preakness Infield that year. The following year, as Chick tirelessly promoted the Preakness, he decided that

they should have a lacrosse game out there. He reached out to all of the local colleges and the rest is history.

So 50 years later, the legacy of Chick Lang lives on in the Preakness infield. By the way, Chick will forever be at that party. Chick's wishes were to be cremated and to have his ashes sprinkled in the winner's circle at Pimlico.

Listen to the interview at baberruthmuseum.org/sports-page.

– **John Patti** has anchored and reported for WBAL Radio since 1984.

Have your own autograph story?

Send it in! We would love to read about times you got an autograph, met your favorite player, or if you have an heirloom with a great back story. Submit your memories to patrickd@baberruthmuseum.org, and we may publish your story in the next newsletter!

Call 410-727-1539 x3033 for questions.

We're part of **Baltimore Eats for Good** this year! Get over \$500 in local restaurant savings and support your favorite local sports museums. Visit www.baberruthmuseum.org to access our online deal book.



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Photo courtesy Todd Olszewski, Baltimore Orioles

Before the 2014 season, the Oriole hero of the game got a pie in the face. But sometimes it wasn't that much fun for the players.

Late in the 2013 baseball season Mary Wortman, who owns Dangerously Delicious Pie stores in Canton and Hampden, heard that several Oriole Players were not real happy about the award because the *shaving cream* pies made their eyes sting.

So, Ms Wortman decided to offer her homemade cream pies as a substitution.

The folks at Camden Yards liked the idea, and before the beginning of the 2014 season she received the OK from Adam Jones (who invented the ritual) and Dangerously Delicious cream pies became the players' smash-in-the-face "confection of choice."

Well, I can certainly understand that. Who wouldn't go for lemon meringue over Noxema brushless?

Ms Wortman proudly explained, "We make all 70 types of our pies from scratch. And for the Orioles, we provide two cream pies for each home game. One for eating and one for smashing."

"It's special for us being a small Baltimore-based bakery. We feel like we are part of the team, building morale and helping the guys we love so much."

I love Ms Wortman's pies, and you will too. Go ahead, visit dangerouspies.com. You know you want to.

– **Doug Roberts** is a volunteer writer and editor who for 23 years reviewed restaurants for WBAL Radio.

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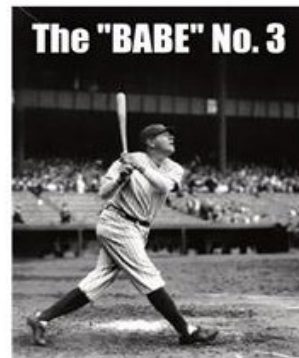
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