INTRODUCING

The Brand New Babe Ruth Birthplace

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WHAT’S COMING UP?

August 23 - 1800s Baseball with Richard D’Ambris
September 10 - Eddie Murray Wine Event
September 24 - Bring in your sports collection
(Members Only)
Visit www.baberuthmuseum.org for details.
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 toilettry 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.

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**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.

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**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’sKimono, 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!

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**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 and 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.”
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 Iras Dummy. Check out his Toon Trivia feature on GoComics at gocomics.com/ricigs-toon-trivia.

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 baberuthmuseum.org/baseballminutes for the newest installments in the series.

The Sports Page/Summer 2015 5
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.

B rooks 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.’”

Listen In! The Original Preakness Infield Party

Baltimore Sports’ Untold Stories from interviews by John Patti

I t’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 1 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 wish was to be cremated and to have his ashes sprinkled in the winner’s circle at Pimlico.

Listen to the interview at baberuthmuseum.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 patrick@baberuthmuseum.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.baberuthmuseum.org to access our online deal book.

Baltimore Eats for Good

$500 Restaurant Savings for a Limited Time

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’.

“Tell me you want to.”

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 dangerouslydelicious.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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