

Greetings,

As we emerge from late winter's unpredictable weather, we begin to prepare for spring and summer celebrations like graduations, weddings, vacation travel, and family parties with greater confidence. The approaching season of gathering has me thinking about treasured moments created when families come together right here in the Museum. I can't wait to share with you all that we have planned in the coming months to help facilitate multigenerational magic.



This spring, the NBMAA is delighted to present *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* The largest survey of Walter Wick's work to date, this exhibition is designed to be shared by all ages. From grandparents who read Walter Wick's *I Spy* series with their (now grown) children, and parents who first encountered Walter Wick as kids, to their young children and grandchildren who are reading Wick's books for the very first time, all ages are primed to enjoy this show. In addition, the family-friendly content of *Hidden Wonders* allowed us to design extensive programming, including school vacation activities for families, academic talks for adults, Members-only perks, and many opportunities to meet Walter Wick and have a book signed.

We look forward to witnessing another coming together at our annual Juneteenth Community Day on Saturday, June 17. This year's festivities will sit alongside historic Walnut Hill Park, seamlessly uniting community space with Museum grounds. I invite you to enjoy our newsletter highlight on Adrian Elliott, a vital member of our Community Advisory Committee who is returning as the host for this year's Juneteenth performances. Thank you to Adrian and everyone else who helps make this meaningful event possible.

We are also approaching the time of year when we gather together to thank our most loyal supporters. The Heritage Society Champaign Brunch on April 29 gives us a chance to recognize those individuals who have included the NBMAA in their estate plans, and the John Butler Talcott Society Annual Black-Tie Director's Dinner celebrates the generosity of JBTS Members on June 3. I invite you to mark your calendars and join us for these joyful occasions.

I encourage you to read a thoughtful letter from the Bruemmer family of the JP Bruemmer Charitable Lead Trust to the NBMAA on page 13 of this Newsletter. We are so grateful to Jay Bruemmer for his legacy of giving and his love for this Museum, and to his family for their tireless work to fulfill his vision of support.

I am proud to lead a Museum that builds bridges to connect community and family members through the sharing of art. Thank you all for your continued support of this mission.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO