Bounce through the history of the ball and discover the importance of ball play as a universal social, cultural, and human experience!

The original Have a Ball exhibit features iconic artifacts—including the ball that gave baseball legend Willie Mays his 3,000th hit, courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York—and a variety of physical and virtual ball-inspired activities.

Explore the history of ball games from around the world in five zones:

**Kick**
Step into a life-size billiards table and challenge friends and family to a game! Use your feet to maneuver balls around the table and kick them into the pockets. Next explore the worldwide popularity of soccer. A case of historic soccer balls and women’s soccer uniforms examines gender inequality in sports and the tension between organized sport and free play.

**Roll**
Drive remote-controlled balls through a series of tracks, tunnels, and ramps at the 18-foot Sphero Robot Park! See the evolution of rolling games—from bocce to bowling—and learn how these games have changed and stayed the same over time by examining a range of artifacts from simple marbles to the electronic Nintendo Wii Sports.

**Bounce**
Place a variety of colorful balls in the air-powered ball fountain and see how they travel, float, and bounce. Play a jumbo version of the Atari arcade classic Breakout (1972) and try to keep the ball in the air to break as many bricks as possible. Don’t let it hit the ground.

**Throw**
Explore throwing games, such as juggling and baseball, and learn how they help develop dexterity. Think you have what it takes to be a pitcher? Test your skills at the throwing range and try to toss a baseball through the strike zone.

**Have a Ball Arcade**
Test your reflexes at a range of redemption-style games such as Skee Ball, Hoop Fever, Fish Bowl, Ghostbusters, Angry Birds, and Hungry Hungry Hippos to earn tickets for prizes. Then pull the plunger and try to rack up the highest score on pinball machines such as Super Mario Bros. and the Flintstones.

Books throughout the exhibit illuminate the history of the ball, and videos of ball play from around the world feature games people play on different continents. See children playing marbles in Afghanistan and soccer All-Star David Beckham kicking a soccer ball in Antarctica! Have a Ball remains on view through September 4, 2017. Some machines in Have a Ball require purchased tokens. Money collected from the sale of tokens helps maintain these original artifacts.

Sphero Robot Park presented in partnership with Sphero.

**Exciting Changes Coming to the Museum’s First Floor**

The next time you visit The Strong, you will notice some changes to the museum’s first floor exhibit spaces. As part of The Strong’s ongoing commitment to provide fresh and engaging experiences for members and guests, renovations have begun in the space formerly occupied by the Kid to Kid exhibit. Behind a 12-foot construction wall, the museum’s Exhibits Team is crafting a rocket ship, kid-size home-construction zone, and other hands-on play areas. The new exhibit—slated to open in early 2018—is designed to inspire the imagination and encourage hands-on role playing.

Additionally, the One History Place exhibit has a new entranceway and now includes a 19th-century, one-room school house—complete with desks, slates, lunch boxes, and books.

* Changes in the former Kid to Kid exhibit space supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
New York State
Summer of Fun

Celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of New York State—from lively New York City to the majestic Niagara Falls. Create souvenirs, take fun photos, and learn about the Empire State’s historical museums, picturesque landscapes, and thriving arts and cultural centers.

Saturday & Sunday
July 8 & 9
Capital-Saratoga
Create a derby hat inspired by the famous Saratoga Race Course and take pictures in the winner’s circle. Learn about minerals found in Herkimer Diamond Mines. Take a picture with a Revolutionary War soldier and uncover the history of Fort Stanwix.

Saturday & Sunday
July 15 & 16
Erie Canal and Finger Lakes
Commemorate the bicentennial of the historic Erie Canal! Get up close to a mule named Sal, play the spoons, and sing along to tunes inspired by the man-made water channel. Marvel at the mechanics involved in operating the Erie Canal with an interactive demonstration of a model lock with staff from the New York Power Authority. Discover how museums and organizations all over the state celebrate the canal with festivals and exhibits. Take part in changing history by casting your ballot in the historic vote of 1917 that granted women the right to vote. Play with toys that children in the region enjoyed decades ago provided by the Genesee Country Village and Museum.

Saturday & Sunday
August 5 & 6
Greater Niagara and Chautauqua-Allegheny
Climb into a barrel and take a picture as you pretend to go over the mighty Niagara Falls. Create a miniature downhill skier from a clothespin. Discover how important methods of transportation—from waterways and trains to highways and airplanes—play a key role in the region’s industry. Get creative at the build-a-city station.

Saturday & Sunday
August 12 & 13
Catskills and Hudson Valley
Meet Rip Van Winkle and hear about his legendary 20-year nap in the Catskills. Create your own watercolor masterpiece of the Catskill scenery in the spirit of the famous 19th-century Hudson River painters. Saturday only, meet author and photographer Marisa Schienfeld and hear about the history of the elaborate summer resorts of the Catskill Mountains. Get groovy on Sunday! Wear your own tie-dye shirt and enjoy music inspired by the famous Woodstock concert.

Saturday & Sunday
August 19 & 20
Adirondacks
Saturday only, meet and take pictures with the iconic Smokey Bear! For nearly 70 years, this courageous character has helped spread the word about camping safety and forest fire prevention. All weekend long, join in a campfire sing-along, pretend to paddle down a river in a kayak, try on hiking gear, and learn about the best trails and places to boat in the scenic Adirondacks. Discover how nature plays an important role in the Adirondacks region with staff from the Wild Center.

Saturday & Sunday
August 26 & 27
Long Island and New York City
Close out the New York State Summer of Fun with a weekend celebrating the Big Apple! Watch the Statue of Liberty come to life in a unique photo opportunity and dance in a Broadway-style kick line. Then, be inspired by the beaches of Long Island and craft a lighthouse.

Presented in partnership with

Images courtesy of Empire State Development.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS
UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The Pop Ups Concert
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Jump in to see children’s music duo The Pop Ups when their national tour stops at The Strong! The beloved duo—who have toured with Yo Gabba Gabba Live! and headlined the Collapsible Kids Stage—combine high energy, puppetry, and rock and roll into a show the whole family will love.Delight in an interactive performance featuring music from the group’s Grammy-nominated album, including Appetite for Construction. Dance and sing along to popular tunes featured on their newest studio album, including “Everything is Music,” “Bird and Rhino,” and “Oh Ave.”

Brooklyn musicians Jason Rabinowitz and Jacob Stein formed The Pop Ups in 2010. In addition to touring with Yo Gabba Gabba, they have sold out their own live musical performances across America. This year, they began development on an original network television show.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at museumofplay.org

America on Wheels
Friday, August 4–Sunday, August 20

View a special display of classic and modern bicycles, indcuded into The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame in 2000. The bicycle serves as part kids’ toy, part adult athletic equipment, and part basic transportation. Marvel at an eight-foot-long recumbent bike and discover the giant-wheeled “ordinary” bicycle popularized in the 19th century. Get up close to the bicycle that helped racer Greg LeMond ride into victory as the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986.

The display is in conjunction with the Rochester Twilight Criterium, a free event taking place in downtown Rochester on Saturday, August 19. Chear on professional cyclists from around the globe as they take on lap after lap with explosive speed. Racing begins at 6:25 p.m. Learn more at rochestercrit.com.

Fairy House Display
Wednesday, July 12–Monday, July 24

The museum plays host to 10 award-winning fairy houses from the 5th annual Corn Hill Arts Festival Fairy Houses Tour. The whimsical display recognizes categories including Best Use of Natural Materials, Most Unique, Most Whimsical, and the People’s Choice Award. These one-of-a-kind fairy habitats are made from stones, bark, twigs, and other natural materials. Visit fairyhouses.com to learn how to create your own fairy house to enter next year.

The Pop Ups Concert
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Jump in to see children’s music duo The Pop Ups when their national tour stops at The Strong! The beloved duo—who have toured with Yo Gabba Gabba Live! and headlined the Collapsible Kids Stage—combine high energy, puppetry, and rock and roll into a show the whole family will love.Delight in an interactive performance featuring music from the group’s Grammy-nominated album, including Appetite for Construction. Dance and sing along to popular tunes featured on their newest studio album, including “Everything is Music,” “Bird and Rhino,” and “Oh Ave.”

Brooklyn musicians Jason Rabinowitz and Jacob Stein formed The Pop Ups in 2010. In addition to touring with Yo Gabba Gabba, they have sold out their own live musical performances across America. This year, they began development on an original network television show.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at museumofplay.org

America on Wheels
Friday, August 4–Sunday, August 20

View a special display of classic and modern bicycles, indcuded into The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame in 2000. The bicycle serves as part kids’ toy, part adult athletic equipment, and part basic transportation. Marvel at an eight-foot-long recumbent bike and discover the giant-wheeled “ordinary” bicycle popularized in the 19th century. Get up close to the bicycle that helped racer Greg LeMond ride into victory as the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986.

The display is in conjunction with the Rochester Twilight Criterium, a free event taking place in downtown Rochester on Saturday, August 19. Chear on professional cyclists from around the globe as they take on lap after lap with explosive speed. Racing begins at 6:25 p.m. Learn more at rochestercrit.com.

Fairy House Display
Wednesday, July 12–Monday, July 24

The museum plays host to 10 award-winning fairy houses from the 5th annual Corn Hill Arts Festival Fairy Houses Tour. The whimsical display recognizes categories including Best Use of Natural Materials, Most Unique, Most Whimsical, and the People’s Choice Award. These one-of-a-kind fairy habitats are made from stones, bark, twigs, and other natural materials. Visit fairyhouses.com to learn how to create your own fairy house to enter next year.

The Pop Ups Concert
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Jump in to see children’s music duo The Pop Ups when their national tour stops at The Strong! The beloved duo—who have toured with Yo Gabba Gabba Live! and headlined the Collapsible Kids Stage—combine high energy, puppetry, and rock and roll into a show the whole family will love.Delight in an interactive performance featuring music from the group’s Grammy-nominated album, including Appetite for Construction. Dance and sing along to popular tunes featured on their newest studio album, including “Everything is Music,” “Bird and Rhino,” and “Oh Ave.”

Brooklyn musicians Jason Rabinowitz and Jacob Stein formed The Pop Ups in 2010. In addition to touring with Yo Gabba Gabba, they have sold out their own live musical performances across America. This year, they began development on an original network television show.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at museumofplay.org

America on Wheels
Friday, August 4–Sunday, August 20

View a special display of classic and modern bicycles, indcuded into The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame in 2000. The bicycle serves as part kids’ toy, part adult athletic equipment, and part basic transportation. Marvel at an eight-foot-long recumbent bike and discover the giant-wheeled “ordinary” bicycle popularized in the 19th century. Get up close to the bicycle that helped racer Greg LeMond ride into victory as the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986.

The display is in conjunction with the Rochester Twilight Criterium, a free event taking place in downtown Rochester on Saturday, August 19. Chear on professional cyclists from around the globe as they take on lap after lap with explosive speed. Racing begins at 6:25 p.m. Learn more at rochestercrit.com.

Fairy House Display
Wednesday, July 12–Monday, July 24

The museum plays host to 10 award-winning fairy houses from the 5th annual Corn Hill Arts Festival Fairy Houses Tour. The whimsical display recognizes categories including Best Use of Natural Materials, Most Unique, Most Whimsical, and the People’s Choice Award. These one-of-a-kind fairy habitats are made from stones, bark, twigs, and other natural materials. Visit fairyhouses.com to learn how to create your own fairy house to enter next year.

The Pop Ups Concert
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Jump in to see children’s music duo The Pop Ups when their national tour stops at The Strong! The beloved duo—who have toured with Yo Gabba Gabba Live! and headlined the Collapsible Kids Stage—combine high energy, puppetry, and rock and roll into a show the whole family will love.Delight in an interactive performance featuring music from the group’s Grammy-nominated album, including Appetite for Construction. Dance and sing along to popular tunes featured on their newest studio album, including “Everything is Music,” “Bird and Rhino,” and “Oh Ave.”

Brooklyn musicians Jason Rabinowitz and Jacob Stein formed The Pop Ups in 2010. In addition to touring with Yo Gabba Gabba, they have sold out their own live musical performances across America. This year, they began development on an original network television show.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at museumofplay.org

America on Wheels
Friday, August 4–Sunday, August 20

View a special display of classic and modern bicycles, indcuded into The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame in 2000. The bicycle serves as part kids’ toy, part adult athletic equipment, and part basic transportation. Marvel at an eight-foot-long recumbent bike and discover the giant-wheeled “ordinary” bicycle popularized in the 19th century. Get up close to the bicycle that helped racer Greg LeMond ride into victory as the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986.

The display is in conjunction with the Rochester Twilight Criterium, a free event taking place in downtown Rochester on Saturday, August 19. Chear on professional cyclists from around the globe as they take on lap after lap with explosive speed. Racing begins at 6:25 p.m. Learn more at rochestercrit.com.

Fairy House Display
Wednesday, July 12–Monday, July 24

The museum plays host to 10 award-winning fairy houses from the 5th annual Corn Hill Arts Festival Fairy Houses Tour. The whimsical display recognizes categories including Best Use of Natural Materials, Most Unique, Most Whimsical, and the People’s Choice Award. These one-of-a-kind fairy habitats are made from stones, bark, twigs, and other natural materials. Visit fairyhouses.com to learn how to create your own fairy house to enter next year.

The Pop Ups Concert
Friday, July 21, 7 p.m.

Jump in to see children’s music duo The Pop Ups when their national tour stops at The Strong! The beloved duo—who have toured with Yo Gabba Gabba Live! and headlined the Collapsible Kids Stage—combine high energy, puppetry, and rock and roll into a show the whole family will love.Delight in an interactive performance featuring music from the group’s Grammy-nominated album, including Appetite for Construction. Dance and sing along to popular tunes featured on their newest studio album, including “Everything is Music,” “Bird and Rhino,” and “Oh Ave.”

Brooklyn musicians Jason Rabinowitz and Jacob Stein formed The Pop Ups in 2010. In addition to touring with Yo Gabba Gabba, they have sold out their own live musical performances across America. This year, they began development on an original network television show.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased at museumofplay.org

America on Wheels
Friday, August 4–Sunday, August 20

View a special display of classic and modern bicycles, indcuded into The Strong’s National Toy Hall of Fame in 2000. The bicycle serves as part kids’ toy, part adult athletic equipment, and part basic transportation. Marvel at an eight-foot-long recumbent bike and discover the giant-wheeled “ordinary” bicycle popularized in the 19th century. Get up close to the bicycle that helped racer Greg LeMond ride into victory as the first American to win the Tour de France in 1986.

The display is in conjunction with the Rochester Twilight Criterium, a free event taking place in downtown Rochester on Saturday, August 19. Chear on professional cyclists from around the globe as they take on lap after lap with explosive speed. Racing begins at 6:25 p.m. Learn more at rochestercrit.com.

Fairy House Display
Wednesday, July 12–Monday, July 24

The museum plays host to 10 award-winning fairy houses from the 5th annual Corn Hill Arts Festival Fairy Houses Tour. The whimsical display recognizes categories including Best Use of Natural Materials, Most Unique, Most Whimsical, and the People’s Choice Award. These one-of-a-kind fairy habitats are made from stones, bark, twigs, and other natural materials. Visit fairyhouses.com to learn how to create your own fairy house to enter next year.
Pioneering Game Designer Donates Collection

Pioneering computer game designer and publisher Scott Adams, creator of the first text-based adventure game, made specifically for a home computer (Adventuresland and 1978), recently donated an extensive collection of materials to The Strong museum. The assemblage includes some of the earliest commercial computer games, printed source code, promotional materials, photographs, magazines, comic books, and other documentation related to the computer games that Adams created and the company that he co-founded, Adventure International.

“Scott Adams’s Adventu...
Nominate a Favorite Toy for Induction into the National Toy Hall of Fame

Do you have a favorite toy that you'd like to see enshrined in The Strong's National Toy Hall of Fame? Nominations are open until June 30, so we encourage you to recommend your favorite toys for induction this November. Nominations may be made online at toyhalloffame.org or by mail. Submissions for 2017 must be received by July 31, 2017. To date, 62 toys have earned a place in the National Toy Hall of Fame. Visit toyhalloffame.org to learn more about past inductees.

The Strong Delivers Expanded Training to Fairport Central School District Staff

Board members, administrators, and teachers from the Fairport Central School District have been taking part in an expanded series of trainings led by The Strong aimed at incorporating play into Fairport’s kindergarten, first grade, and second grade classrooms. The Strong and Fairport announced a professional development partnership in 2016, and the multi-year program has since grown to include full-day workshops at the museum led by Debbie McCoy, assistant vice president for education. The sessions examine current research on play-based learning, explore The Strong’s Woodbury School model, and generate plans for integrating play into the district’s classrooms.

Conference Advocates Playful Learning

In May, The Strong hosted an education conference titled “Playful Learning in the Primary Classroom.” Nearly 100 educators from 12 school districts across New York State, including Fairport, Gates Chili, Webster, and Amherst, attended the one-day conference to discover the role that play, movement, stories, and imagination have in preparing students for success in school and in life.

The conference featured nationally recognized author and former Elementary Learning (EL) education consultant, Steve Levy, as its keynote speaker and offered interactive workshops that explored the characteristics of the primary learner and how play helps children learn through play. Educators also engaged in thought-provoking discussion about play-based learning strategies led by Debbie McCoy, The Strong’s assistant vice president for education.

While attending the conference, participants had the opportunity to tour The Strong’s Roggie Room-inspired Woodbury School classrooms, as well as explore the museum’s two exhibit halls and more than 200 interactive exhibits. Attendees also learned about The Strong’s collection of toys, dolls, games, video games, and other electronic games and how this comprehensive collection of children’s toys and games provides opportunities for playful learning about American history and culture.

The Strong Libraries Earn Award

The Rochester Regional Library Council awarded The Strong’s libraries an honorable mention in its 2017 Library of the Year contest. Sixty-six libraries entered the contest and nearly 2,000 nominations for awards were submitted by the public. The Strong libraries received nominations from patrons of the Gatekeeper (i.e., library and academic researchers who utilize the Brian Sutton-Smith Library and archives of Play. Beth Lafrance, director of regional libraries and archives, accepted the award at the Rochester Regional Library Council’s Annual Meeting in June.

New Mobile Tour Explores Play in America

The museum’s mobile app, The Strong Museum Guide, now offers a second self-guided tour through The Strong’s America at Play exhibit. Available in English, French, German, Mandarin, and Spanish, the tour allows guests to explore classic toys and games from the 1940s through 1990s that relied on new materials, such as plastic, to reach larger audiences; and iconic toys and games from the 1960s through 1990s that reflected a youth culture influenced by music, movies, and fashion.

“Exploring America at Play is like hopping aboard a time machine that allows you to discover what’s changed dramatically and what’s remained surprisingly consistent about toys, play, and games in the past 200 years,” said program coordinator for collections at The Strong.

The Strong Museum Guide is available for download at the Apple Store and Google Play. The mobile app is supported by a grant from Empire State Development’s I LOVE NEW YORK program under Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Market NY initiative.

Special Issue of the American Journal of Play Explores Play in the Ancient World

How did the Ancient Greeks and Romans play? The upcoming issue of the American Journal of Play provides an in-depth look at play in the ancient world and the historically contingent nature of play. Guest edited by Thomas Barker, chair of the Classics Department at Canisius College, and co-founder of the online encyclopedia, De Imperatoribus Romanis, the special issue examines play in theater and comic literature, in philosophy and social wit, and the way jokes, sports, games and spectacles, leisure pursuits, and laughter reveal ancient sensibilities.

The issue includes two special interviews—one with Simon Goldhill, professor in Greek Literature and Culture at King’s College Cambridge and another with Garrett Fagan (1965-2017), former professor of Ancient History at Pennsylvania State University. Additional articles focus on Greek attitudes toward playful and playful public gatherings, assumptions about ancient and modern toys, the episodic form of ancient novels, and Greek influence on riddles.

Read the American Journal of Play free of charge at journalofplay.org. Printed editions are also available for subscription and single copy purchase.

Out and About

Lisa Feinstein, vice president for institutional advancement, and Suzanne Seldes, executive vice president and chief marketing officer, attended the Rochester Advertising Federation’s Addy Awards program in March, where the Strong won a gold award in the Volunteer of the Year category. Lisa received an award for the 2016 invitation package.

In April, Jeremy Saucier, assistant vice president for education, interpretation and electronic games, spoke about the museum’s video game industry and the importance of preserving its history at the University of Rochester’s “Breaking Boundaries with Video Games” conference.

In May, Jon-Paul Dyson, director of The Strong’s International Center for the History of Electronic Games, discussed video game preservation via Skype with the attendees of the Continue: 2017 Conference at the National Videogame Arcade in Nottingham, England.

Also in May, Steve Dubnik, president and CEO, presented details about The Strong’s inaugural Toy Fair at Play at a Rochester Downtown Development Corp. meeting.

Hillary Ellis, director of conservation, attended the 45th Annual Meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Chicago in May. The annual meeting hosts conservators from museums in the United States and abroad. Ellis was awarded an honorary membership to the annual meeting.

Beth Lathrop, director of the library and archives, presented “Games and Digital Texts in Your Library!” at the Western New York Regional Library Council in May.

Also in May, Curator Shannon Symonds offered a presentation at SUNY Brockport’s Potter Fest—celebrating the 10th anniversary of the first Harry Potter book—on how the museum preserves Harry Potter memorabilia.

In June, Senior Director of Public Relations Shane Rhinewald, Tourism Sales Associate Karen Dodson, and Lisa Feinstein attended the National Christmas Trees at Washington, DC, to participate in IPH, the largest international travel trade show in the United States.
Curator Patricia Hogan Retires

When Patricia Hogan began her career as a curator at The Strong in 1998, the museum housed a much smaller collection, which included housewares, furniture, and other collections of American families and domestic life. Since then, The Strong has transformed into the only collections-based museum in the world devoted to play and its collections have grown into the world's largest assembly of toys, dolls, board games, video games, and play-related artifacts in the world.

Patricia, who retired in May, cared for the museum’s vast toy and doll collections, and among many highlights, she acquired Lolin’s Wartime Freight Train set made of cardboard (created when metal was in short supply during World War II), a prototype of the 1964 G.I. Joe Action Sailor, hundreds of items from the Raggedy Ann and Andy Museum in Illinois, and more than 1,000 construction sets from collector George Wetzel. “During her tenure, Patricia has significantly enlarged and enhanced The Strong’s toy and doll collections, expanding the range of the museum’s holdings and increasing its depth. She also had a major impact in reshaping the museum’s second floor through her work as curator on the Play Pals and Build Drive, Go exhibits. In addition, she served as associate editor of The Strong’s American Journal of Play,” says Christopher Bensh, vice president for collections. “The museum team will miss having access to Patricia’s vast knowledge of the museum’s collection, as well as her incisive insights on project teams.”

Vice President for Play Studies Retires

In June, after nearly 30 years of service, Scott G. Eberle, vice president for play studies and senior editor of The American Journal of Play, retired from The Strong. When Eberle began his career at the museum in 1989, after serving as director of Research and Interpretation at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, he was presented with the unique challenge of defining play—a task that frustrated scholars for decades. Finding the term easier to describe than pinpoint, he identified a framework of the six basic elements of active play—anticipation, surprise, pleasure, understanding, strength, and poise—which inspired the museum’s signature Field of Play exhibit, built in 2006, that showcases play as a process that shapes the experiences of each new generation. As the museum grew in size and scope over three decades, Eberle led ambitious exhibit programs that investigated such diverse subjects as the history of medicine and the environment, bereavement and the Cold War, history of medicine and the environment, bereavement and the Cold War, and gender inequalities, science fiction, and the rise of the middle class. He played a significant role in imagining and designing interactive exhibits that challenged the way audiences understand and think about play and also spearheaded efforts to increase The Strong's authenticity among scholars, historians, and visitors through research and the creation of the American Journal of Play. Eberle’s published works on the study of play include among others, The Handbook of Play (Volumes 1 and 3), Classic Toys of the National Toy Hall of Fame, and “Making Room for Big Bird.”

When asked to describe turning points in the museum’s history besides the tilt toward play, Eberle noted the initiative to interpret the history of electronic games. Though not a gamer himself, Eberle says, “I am so pleased to see the ingenuity that the next generation of Strong scholars, curators, designers, and educators are engaging larger and more enthusiastic audiences as they interpret this entirely new form of play.”

The Strong Welcomes Distinguished Guests

Frank O’Connor, franchise development director of Halo, 343 Industries, at The Strong’s World Video Game Hall of Fame induction ceremony in May.

The Strong’s Jeremy Saucier with Lorri Valentine, with Elvis tribute artist Patrick Johnson at The Happiest Hour in April.

Save the Date for Play Ball 2017

On the evening of Friday, October 6, The Strong will transform into a luminous landscape of sophisticated fun and an unforgettable evening of play! The evening will feature an eclectic array of performers, costumed characters, delicious dinner and dessert fare, creative cocktails, and amazing auctions. Festivities include an exclusive performance by world-renowned juggler extraordinaire, Viktor Kee, who has amazed and inspired audiences with Cirque du Soleil and headlined venues such as the MGM Grand and the Mirage in Las Vegas and Moulin Rouge in Paris. In 2016, Viktor was one of the top 10 contestants featured on NBC’s America’s Got Talent. This year Play Ball guests are invited to wear luminous evening wear and dazzling accessories that light up the museum—or go all out and come dressed as a favorite character, game, or toy. At Play Ball, costumes are always admired, but not required.

M&T Bank Renews Support for Education Programs

M&T Bank has awarded The Strong a $25,000 grant in support of the museum’s 2017-2018 education programs. These programs provide enriching school lessons for students in pre-K through grade 4; dynamic lessons for high school students; and professional development opportunities for educators and administrators.

“The Strong is such a tremendous community asset, and I think all of the children and parents who visit the museum would agree they make learning fun,” said Dan Burns, Rochester regional president for M&T Bank. “At M&T Bank, we’ve keenly focused on providing greater learning opportunities for Rochester’s children, and this commitment is another step forward.”

Thank You Corporate Partners

Businesses that make a financial contribution to The Strong as corporate partners and sponsors provide meaningful support for the museum while receiving valuable benefits for their employees. To learn how your company can participate, contact Lisa Feinstein at 585-410-6370 or feinstein@museumofplay.org.

Thank you to these corporate partners and supporters for renewing their commitment: Fidelis Care, Info Advantage, and The Goddard School.

The Happiest Hour Returns in August

The Strong will host its next Happiest Hour on Wednesday, August 23, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The Happiest Hour is a ticketed, after-hours event and museum experience for “big kids” ages 21 and older. Proceeds from The Happiest Hour help to support The Strong’s overall educational mission and community outreach programs. August’s Happiest Hour will be a summer camp theme, complete with camp-inspired competitions, crafts, and play time in the new, original Have a Ball exhibit. Guests will enjoy a sampling of snacks courtesy of Marshall Street Bar and Grill and a cash bar featuring the local beers of Rochester Brewing Co. while exploring two floors of hands-on, interactive exhibits. The evening will also feature a dance party with music by DJ Naps from Break-Through Entertainment, duels with Rochester Fencing Club, and more. Visit museumofplay.org/happiesthour to purchase tickets and for more fun details about The Happiest Hour.

www.museumofplay.org
**Have a Ball Crossword Puzzle Challenge**

**Across**
1. You'll need a felt-covered ball and racket for this sport
7. Also called table tennis
8. What a ball does when it moves quickly up or away from a surface after hitting it
10. You'll need a square court divided into quadrants for this playground game
15. To strike a ball forcibly with your foot
16. Billiards
17. Pinball
18. The Happiest Hour

**Down**
1. Baseball position between second and third base
3. Robotic features in the Have a Ball exhibit
4. There are 32 panels on this ball, traditionally black and white in color
5. A clown might use colorful balls to do this trick
6. Avoid the sand traps in this game
8. Catch, dribble, and pass the ball in this sport
11. A six-point score in football
12. Serve, block, and spike in this sport
13. What you might chant after a terrible basketball shot
14. You want to knock down all nine pins in this sport
19. You want to knock down all nine pins in this sport

**Answers**

**Across:**
2. Tennis
7. Ping Pong
8. Bounce
10. Foursquare
13. Polo
15. Kick
16. Billiards
17. Pinball
18. The Happiest Hour

**Down:**
1. Second base
3. Robotic features in the Have a Ball exhibit
4. There are 32 panels on this ball, traditionally black and white in color
5. A clown might use colorful balls to do this trick
6. Avoid the sand traps in this game
8. Catch, dribble, and pass the ball in this sport
11. A six-point score in football
12. Serve, block, and spike in this sport
13. What you might chant after a terrible basketball shot
14. You want to knock down all nine pins in this sport
19. You want to knock down all nine pins in this sport

**SALT IN HIS SHOES: Michael Jordan, in Pursuit of a Dream**
by Deloris Jordan with Roslyn M. Jordan, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Young Michael Jordan wishes he was taller so he could help his brothers win basketball games at the park. His mother convinces him to try putting a little salt in his shoes and to pray every night. After months of salty shoes and practicing basketball at home, Michael is invited to the park to find that although he’s no taller, his patience, hard work, and faith have paid off.

**FAIR WEATHER: A Novel**
by Richard Peck

Thirteen-year-old Rosie Beckett (for older readers)

Have a Ball: patience, hard work, and faith have paid off, Michael returns to the park to find that although he’s no taller, his patience, hard work, and faith have paid off (located in the Have A Ball exhibit).
The Strong® is a highly interactive, collections-based museum devoted to the history and exploration of play. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational organization, The Strong is funded in part by contributions and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations, and state and federal entities. It is home to the International Center for the History of Electronic Games, the National Toy Hall of Fame, the World Video Game Hall of Fame, the Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play, the Woodbury School, and the American Journal of Play and houses the world’s largest and most comprehensive collection of historical materials related to play.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kenneth Glazer  
Cecilia Griffin Golden, PhD  
Joy Ryen Plotnik, Esq.  
Bruce Raiffe  
William D. Rice  
Donna Mahoney  
Fred Smith, PhD  
Aaron Newman  
Jeff Valentine  
Mee F. Wing  
Steve M. Dubnik, President and CEO

The Strong admission is supported with public funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), a State agency. The Strong is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), and is an institutional member of AAM, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), the Association of Children’s Museums (ACM), and the Museum Association of New York (MANY).

Bernard Birnbaum, CPM  
David Burns  
Michael J. Cicero  
Roberta DuBeshter  
Zeke Duda  
Erika Duthiers, Esq.  
Carla Engelbrecht Fisher, EdD  
Kenneth Glazer  
Cecilia Griffin Golden, PhD  
Martin Jarzelewski  
Laura Saxby Lynch  
Reena Mehta  
Linda McGinley, EdD  
William W. Napier  
Aaron Newman  
Joy Ryen Plotnik, Esq.  
Bruce Raiffe  
William D. Rice  
Donald J. Riley  
Fred Smith, PhD  
Jeff Valentine  
Mee F. Wing  
Steve M. Dubnik, President and CEO

The Strong Named One of the Top Museums for Families by USA Today

USA Today recently named The Strong one of the best museums for families in the United States and the number one museum for families in the Northeast. Travel experts for USA Today’s Reader’s Choice 10 Best nominated 20 of the most popular family-friendly museums in the country, including museums in much larger cities, such as the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Franklin Institute Science Museum in Philadelphia, and the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles. Readers voted for the best 10, and The Strong emerged as the third overall choice nationwide. To see the full top 10, visit www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-museum-for-families-2017.