Letter from the President and CEO

Friends,

Utah is fortunate to experience four seasons each year. We recently witnessed summers’ leaves change to a range of reds, oranges and yellows. Once the fall show ended, we saw the first signs of sparkling snowflakes, visible breath in the air, and snowy vistas.

Changes in the seasons aren’t limited to Mother Nature. This winter, the leaves fall down and the lights go up. Thanksgiving Point invites you to experience the transformation of Ashton Gardens into the holiday event spectacular Luminaria. Beginning November 20, explore a winter wonderland populated with the scents, sounds, and sights of Christmas. Walk through the life of Jesus Christ lit by a thousand flickering candles and theatrical lighting in the Light of the World sculpture garden. Enjoy new and improved activities like a cozy Gingerbread Cottage, new foods and warming stations in Reindeer Woods. Laugh and play in S’mores Village while roasting marshmallows, challenging friends to some reindeer games, and creating treasured holiday memories.

But there’s even more transformation coming to Thanksgiving Point. On September 11, Thanksgiving Point broke ground on its fifth venue: Butterfly Biosphere. The guiding principle of this world-class facility is that insects are small, but significant, like many of our guests. Located in Water Tower Plaza, Butterfly Biosphere will engage guests of all ages in a hands-on journey of butterflies and other insects from all over the world.

As a Thanksgiving Point member, your generously donated funds contributed to the Museum of Natural Curiosity. We invite you again to help us support the Butterfly Biosphere. In addition to being tax-deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by law, each donation entitles you to exclusive campaign gifts. Finally, each donation automatically enters you in a drawing to win a once-in-a-lifetime grand prize trip to Costa Rica. To learn more and read complete contest rules and restrictions, visit ThanksgivingPoint.org/butterflies. The Butterfly Biosphere is slated to open in fall of 2018.

Warmly,

Mike L Washburn

What’s Inside:

BIRD FRIENDLY
Preparing our feathered friends for the upcoming winter months
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EXPERIENCE THE LIGHT
In its second year, Luminaria returns as the new annual tradition
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DELICIOUS
Thanksgiving Point Chef Thomas Meehan shares our delicious dish for winter
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IMAGINATION
Our two new exhibitions: Toys and Treehouses bring something for young and old
Pg 12
Museums Matter

by Stephen Ashton, Ph.D.

Yes, museums matter! They really do, and we’ve got the proof. In 2016, Thanksgiving Point partnered with the BYU Masters of Public Administration program to conduct a study to measure what kind of social impact Thanksgiving Point was having on visiting families. We were thrilled with the results!

During the summer of 2016, we recruited families that had never been to Thanksgiving Point before to come four different times, once to each of the venues. At the end of their final visit, the families were invited to participate in an extensive survey that measured the changes they experienced since visiting Thanksgiving Point. Geraldine Madariaga’s family believes that “Thanksgiving Point provides activities to learn hands-on through play and exploration. Away from the screens, my children and our four foster children have played for hours and those will be memories of something real and lasting.”

In our study, we measured short-term outcomes that have been shown to lead to strengthened families, higher educational attainment, less drug use, and a greater sense of personal health and well-being. Of the 95 short-term outcomes we measured, 71% of them showed a statistically significant positive change. We saw positive changes in outcomes, such as families:

- Spending quality time together.
- Engaging in meaningful conversations with one another.
- Being more aware of the challenges each family member is facing.
- Understanding how play and exploration lead to learning.
- Experimenting to create new ways of doing things.
- Contemplating the positive aspects of their lives.
- Being able to see things from other people’s points of view.
- And many more!

In a world where funding for nonprofits is becoming more competitive, it’s increasingly important for museums to demonstrate their worth in their communities. Thanksgiving Point has sought to do so by measuring and sharing out their social impact. We believe that other museums can do this too so that together we can demonstrate the difference we are making in our communities. Yes, museums matter. They really do.
As the winter season approaches, many of us hunker down in the warmth of our homes and wait for signs of spring. Through these gloomy months however, we may begin to miss our feathered friends. While some birds have migrated, many birds remain and by creating a bird-friendly space in your own backyard you can enjoy birds throughout the year, all from the comfort of your warm home.

**FOOD**
By offering a variety of different food and feeders you can attract a diversity of birds. Black-oil sunflower seeds attract the greatest number of species, but during the winter months you can also offer high-protein foods such as nuts, peanut butter, or suet.

**Important Reminders:**
- It is important to clean and inspect your feeders regularly (every week or two) to prevent injuries and the spread of diseases.
- Place feeders several feet apart and keep feeding areas clean.
- Place your feeders away from windows to avoid collisions. It is best to place your feeders near natural shelters, like trees or shrubs.

**WATER**
Many water sources are frozen during the winter. You can attract birds to your yard by providing a heated bird bath. A shallow, easy to clean bird bath is best. Be sure to clean your bird bath often and keep it filled with fresh water.

**SHELTER**
You can create natural winter shelter for birds by planting trees and shrubs that keep their cover throughout the year. You can also provide brush piles for birds by using large and small branches leaving air spaces for roosting and insulation. Be sure to place brush piles in an area that is protected from wind. Roost boxes are ideal winter shelters for small birds because they hold heat and can house multiple birds at once.

**COMMON BIRDS TO SEE IN WINTER**
- Black-capped chickadees
- Dark-eyed junco
- American robins
- Cedar waxwings
- Downy woodpecker
Materials:
- Pine cone
- Peanut Butter/Sun Butter
- Peanuts or other bird seed
- Yarn/string

Instructions:
- Tie the yarn around the top of the pine cone, creating a loop
- Spread the peanut butter or sun butter on the pine cone, pushing it into the layers of the pine cone
- Roll the pine cone in the bird seed
- Hang up outside and see what birds visit

Have your family keep a journal of what birds visit your backyard. You can record information by writing what you notice or drawing pictures.

Recommendations of things to record:
- Date/Time
- Temperature
- Action (i.e. On the feeder, flying, on the ground, sitting in a tree, etc.)
- Color/shape/size
- Beak shape
- Number of birds
- Questions you have about the birds

BIRDOSITY
Have you ever wondered about winged warblers? Have you been curious about carnivorous condors? Come explore at our Birdosity program. Discover the life of birds, brush up on your identification skills and learn about a variety of bird related topics. Whether you are an eggs-pert or have a new found love of birds, Birdosity is a program the whole family will enjoy.

First Saturday of each month: Museum of Natural Curiosity @10:30AM
Third Saturday of each month: Museum of Ancient Life @11:00AM
LUMINARIA
EXPERIENCE THE LIGHT

Where Do You Picture Yourself During the Holidays?

by Josh Berndt, Communications Director
Picture yourself strolling through a million holiday lights with friends and loved ones. Picture yourself visiting a pathway filled with candy canes and the smell of real peppermint in the air. Picture yourself saying hello to a couple of Santa’s reindeer at Reindeer Woods. Picture yourself taking some quiet reflection during the holiday season at the Light of the World Gardens. Picture yourself at Luminaria in the Ashton Gardens November 20-December 30.

In its inaugural year, more than 60,000 guests visited the month-long holiday experience enjoying the sights, sounds, smells, and foods of the season. This year, guests can expect more of the same amazing displays, plus some new additions as well. Returning favorites include the 8,000 LED luminary lights set to music on the Merry Mosaic leading to the awe-inspiring Tree Top Hill and a 120-foot magnificent Christmas tree. You can also expect to be amazed by the Electronic Forest, Twinkling Trees, the Glowanlucy Garden and so much more!

New this year you can come see what the Secret Garden’s entrance looks like lit up for the first time. The Greenhouse will also be transformed into a Gingerbread House and Reindeer Woods will have all kinds of new foods, games, activities, and lights. Gingerbread Place will be scented with authentic doTERRA Holiday Joy scented oil to give guest the most authentic feel. All totaled there will be nearly 30 “beats” in Luminaria in 2017.

Very few times of year come with more delectable and memorable food than the holidays. All families have their own traditions including sugar cookies, various cakes, hot ciders, and so on. Just like the event itself Luminaria’s food is unique and amazing. S’mores Village will again provide fire pits and a place to warm up and make some s’mores with your family. There will also be multiple food stops in the experience to grab kettle corn, sugar cookies, gingerbread cookies, reindeer chow, and hot mini donuts, just to name a few. If you’re looking for something savorier you won’t want to miss the chowder in the bread bowl. Luminaria also features its signature “Peppermint Fizz” drink that’s a must try!

So, picture yourself bundled with a mug of hot chocolate, strolling the Ashton Gardens, and watching your family be in awe of the lights and the season. Picture yourself engrossed by the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of Luminaria making lasting and unforgettable memories.
Weekender, VIP, and Premier Packages

VIP PACKAGE
- One (1) Luminaria admission (without timed entry)
- VIP Parking
- Hand Warmer
- Glow Necklace
- Souvenir Tote Bag
- Commemorative Bottomless Hot Chocolate Mug

10% discount for Thanksgiving Point members

PREMIER PACKAGE
- One (1) Luminaria admission (without timed entry)
- Hot Chocolate Coupon
- Hand Warmer
- Glow Necklace

10% discount for Thanksgiving Point members

WEEKENDER PACKAGE
Thanksgiving Point along with SpringHill Suites and the Courtyard by Marriott invites you to a special getaway package to experience the light at Luminaria. This deal includes a one-night standard room stay at one of our Lehi partner properties, two VIP tickets, VIP parking, bottomless hot cocoa, and a complimentary swag bag.

Room options include either one Standard 2 Full room, or one Standard 1 King room, based on availability. A representative will contact you via email after purchase to confirm room selection. Hotel reservation is valid for the date of ticket purchase only. Quantities are limited. Valid credit card (for incidentals) and government issued photo identification required at check-in.
Enrich Someone’s Holidays with a Thanksgiving Point Gift Membership

by Jodie Fisher, Membership Director

With the holidays fast approaching, a Thanksgiving Point gift membership is the perfect way to show your friends and family members how much you care about them and transformative family learning. When you give a gift membership, your loved ones not only receive unlimited access to fun, hands-on attractions, they are also welcomed into Thanksgiving Point’s family of dedicated individuals committed to providing memorable learning experiences.

In addition to free unlimited admission to all four Thanksgiving Point venues (Farm Country, Museum of Ancient Life, Museum of Natural Curiosity, and the Ashton Gardens), Thanksgiving Point members enjoy highly-anticipated events like the Scarecrow Festival, Tulip Festival, Baby Animal Birthday Party and Fairy Tale Festival, just to name a few. And the best part—they’re all included in a Thanksgiving Point membership! What’s more, Thanksgiving Point members receive early notification for event registration and exclusive discounts on popular signature events across property including the enchanting holiday light experience Luminaria, Breakfast with Santa, a cappella quartet Voice Male, Super Hero Saturday, the ever-popular Easter Eggstreme, Labor Day Luau, and many more!

Share the joy with others by giving a gift that brings friends and family together in an engaging and meaningful way. Give a Thanksgiving Point membership—an undeniable value that lasts far beyond the holiday season.

Individual $75
Benefits for one named individual

Duo $145
Benefits for two named individuals

Bonus Individual $165
Benefits for one named individual and one guest on every visit

Family $220
Benefits for two named adults living at the same address and their dependent children

Grandparent $220
Benefits for two named grandparents living at the same address and their accompanying grandchildren

Bonus Family $300
Benefits for two named adults living at the same address and their dependent children PLUS two free guests on every visit

Bonus Grandparent $300
Benefits for two named grandparents living at the same address and their accompanying grandchildren PLUS two free guests on every visit

Premier Family $600
Benefits for two named adults living at the same address and their dependent children PLUS four free guests on every visit

Premier Grandparent $600
Benefits for two named grandparents living at the same address and their accompanying grandchildren PLUS four free guests on every visit

It’s easy to give the gift of membership. Visit us at ThanksgivingPoint.org/membership, stop by any of our venues or guest information desk, or give us a call at (801) 768-2300.
In a large stock pot, add the butter and oil and melt over medium heat. Add the onions, carrots, and celery and cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the chopped garlic and cook an additional 2 minutes, stirring frequently to avoid burning the garlic. Add the water/stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer until the carrots are starting to soften. Add the potatoes, Tabasco, Worcestershire, dried thyme, and corn. Continue to cook until potatoes are starting to soften. Add roux and mix well, being careful to not smoosh the carrots and potatoes (all the roux may not be necessary, so start with a small amount and slowly add it). Add the cream and parsley and cook for 2-3 minutes; season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from heat and enjoy!
Explore Toys and Treehouses
at both Thanksgiving Point museums

by Chad Gehring, Director of Exhibitions

Exploration is at the heart of what it means to be a child. Whether you are five or 50, discovering something new is exciting and energizing. When was the last time you discovered something that made your eyes widen or caused you to say “wow!”? Think of a time when your world around you changed, even in a small way, because you learned something new about your surroundings. Many people spend their lives working to discover new things about our world and how it works. Two new exhibitions at Thanksgiving Point are all about exploration.

Have you ever played with toys? What was your favorite toy growing up? Maybe you still have it, tucked away in a box somewhere, or passed along to the next generation. Toys help to develop the essential motor skills and cognitive functions necessary for a child’s development. Toys can expand imagination and help to shape kids’ understanding of the world. Toys, old and new, have used simple machines and mechanisms to excite and engage their users.

Have you ever wondered how these toys work? Most of the time the inner workings of the most popular toys are hidden to the user. But often, just beneath the surface lies a hidden treasure of knowledge. Tiny gears, cams, levers, pulleys, electrical connections and more are the “magic” that make our favorite toys come to life. But, you don’t have to dissect your own toys to learn about the fascinating things that are going on inside them. Come to the Discovery room in the Museum of Ancient Life to experience Toys: the Inside Story and discover for yourself how toys work.

Trees are all around us and are an essential part of life in many ways. They provide shade for comfort, food for many creatures, and wood for many uses. They also provide a place for living. Do you know who lives in trees? Do you? You may be surprised at how much trees are a part of how we, and other creatures live.

As kids, many of us had treehouses in the backyard. They were magical places where our imaginations could run free. They were a home away from home, special clubhouse, a castle in the sky, or a secret headquarters. But, if you are a squirrel, a tree house is much more than that. It is your real home and your source of food and safety.

In a way, many of us live in treehouses still. Our homes may not be elevated off the ground with a ladder leading up to the front door, but just inside your walls are what used to be full grown trees. Come check out the many ways that trees are a part of our lives and the lives of other creatures in the Treehouses – Look Who’s Living in the Trees exhibition now open at the Museum of Natural Curiosity.

These exciting and fun traveling exhibits are in the two museums for just a short time so come explore today!
Just For Kids

Draw your own treehouse!

What will you put in there? Who will live in it?

Let your imagination run wild!

Can you spot the 7 differences between our toy robots?
Event Spotlight

**Luminaria**
November 20–December 30 | Ashton Gardens
This enchanting mile walk will transport you into a magical holiday world as you make your way through captivating Ashton Gardens.
Thanksgiving Point members receive a discount. Please see ThanksgivingPoint.org for details.

**Breakfast with Santa**
December 2, 9, 16 | Show Barn
Come celebrate the joys of the season with a festive celebration at Breakfast with Santa.

**Voice Male**
December 19 | Show Barn
Make it a holiday tradition to see the entertaining Voice Male performance at Thanksgiving Point.

**Heroes of the Ice Age**
January 13 | Museum of Ancient Life
Learn all about the Ice Age during this fun and interactive event.

**Superhero Saturday**
January 27 | Show Barn
Calling all superheroes to Thanksgiving Point. Come dressed in your favorite superhero costume and enjoy music, giveaways, bounce houses, and so much more.

**Valentine’s Dinner Dance**
February 10, 14 | Show Barn
Join us for an evening of live music, exceptional dinner, dancing, and more.

**Mummy’s Curse**
February 17 | Museum of Ancient Life
You have been cursed! Come to the museum to find out how to break it. There will be interactive activities to learn about mummies.

**Tulip Festival**
April 13–May 5 | Ashton Gardens
2018 marks the 14th annual Tulip Festival and we want you to experience it.

*Included with venue admission.
**Thanksgiving Point Members receive 10% discount.

To learn more about upcoming events and programs visit ThanksgivingPoint.org

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Special thanks to our corporate partners:

Donuts
Hot Cocoa
Reindeer Chow

Don't miss these treats only at LUMINARIA