

Tuesday 6-25-19 4:00 to 5:00pm Disability History Museum Tour

Now on Exhibit: **The Lives They Left Behind: Suitcases from a State Hospital Attic –**

**$6 per person entry fee – Transportation on your own, but let’s carpool!** [**https://museumofdisability.org/**](https://museumofdisability.org/)

When Willard Psychiatric Center in New York's Finger Lakes closed in 1995, workers discovered

hundreds of suitcases in the attic of an abandoned building. Many of them appeared untouched since

their owners packed them decades earlier before entering the institution. The suitcases and their

contents bear witness to the rich, complex lives their owners lived prior to being committed to Willard.

They speak about aspirations, accomplishments, community connections, but also about loss and

isolation. From the clothing and personal objects left behind, we can gain some understanding of who

these people were before they disappeared behind hospital walls. We can picture their jobs and careers,

see them driving cars, playing sports, studying, writing, and traveling the world. We can imagine their

families and friends. But we can also see their lives coming apart due to unemployment, the death of a

loved one, loneliness, poverty, or some other catastrophic event.

## **MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY Address:**

**3826 Main Street**

**Buffalo, NY 14226**

**716-629-3626**

**Link to Google Map directions from the Hotel Henry to the Museum of disAbility:** [**https://goo.gl/maps/TuxSUMZDCBRfnYak6**](https://goo.gl/maps/TuxSUMZDCBRfnYak6)

**The QR symbol for directions from Hotel Henry to the Museum of disAbility is here:**

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