Discover Ben Franklin – Founding Father, statesman, inventor, and humorist – as part of the Senator John Heinz History Center’s newest exhibition, *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, presented by the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, MSA, and UPMC Health Plan.

The 8,000 square-foot exhibition, which opens on April 16 and runs through July 31, immerses visitors in Franklin’s world and provides new insights on many previously unknown aspects of his amazing life.

“Ben Franklin’s experiments with electricity are well-known, but most visitors will be amazed by the totality of his accomplishments, ranging from his work as a writer and diplomat to his invention of swim fins and bifocals,” said Andy Masich, History Center president and CEO. “Franklin’s astonishing achievements stemmed from his lifelong desire to understand and improve the world around him. He remains one of the most remarkable and influential Americans of any generation.”

This engaging exhibition, which features more than 150 artifacts and nearly 30 hands-on interactive activities, encourages visitors to discover the man behind the $100 bill and uncover the breadth and diversity of his world-changing accomplishments.

Few people know that Franklin helped found the nation’s first hospital and volunteer fire company; he charted the Gulf Stream and was a noted environmentalist; he was an avid writer and publisher; and he even helped establish the nation’s first public library.

Although he completed just two years of formal education, Franklin served as unofficial spokesman for the 13 colonies and became Deputy Postmaster General for more than 20 years. He also helped found the University of Pennsylvania while earning honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, and Oxford University.

Exhibit artifacts from *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* encompass personal objects and items related to Franklin’s inventions. Highlights include:

- A touchable electric generator in which visitors can create static electricity to make their hair stand up and sparks fly, along with correspondence from Franklin detailing his electrical experiments;
- Franklin’s ledger book on loan from the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum, which helped to establish the U.S. Post Office, along with a signed copy of Franklin’s Bible;
- Artifacts related to Franklin’s inventions, including bifocals, the Franklin stove, the armonica (glass musical instrument), and microscope, and Pulitzer Prizes earned by David McCullough, who launches his new book on June 11.

The History Center and Penn Brewery want to share the happiness at a members-only reception to welcome the arrival of *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*.

Join us on Wed., April 27 from 5 - 7 p.m. to get up close and personal with the many sides of Ben Franklin. Enjoy brews and tavern fare, and take a tour of the acclaimed exhibition.

This is a free event, but reservations are required. Members may bring guests commensurate with their membership level.

To make your reservation, contact Megan Kuniatsky by Fri., April 15 at 412-454-6436 or membership@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Deputy Postmaster General for more than 20 years. He also helped found the University of Pennsylvania while earning honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, and Oxford University.

Exhibit artifacts from *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* encompass personal objects and items related to Franklin’s inventions. Highlights include:

- A touchable electric generator in which visitors can create static electricity to make their hair stand up and sparks fly, along with correspondence from Franklin detailing his electrical experiments;
- Franklin’s ledger book on loan from the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum, which helped to establish the U.S. Post Office, along with a signed copy of Franklin’s Bible;
- Artifacts related to Franklin’s inventions, including bifocals, the Franklin stove, the armonica (glass musical instrument), and microscope, and Pulitzer Prizes earned by David McCullough, who launches his new book on June 11.
**Sports Artifact Spotlight**

**Swin Cash, History Maker**
By: Anne Madarasz, Co-Director of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum

Having lived up to the promise of her first name, Swintayla, which means “amazing woman,” Swin Cash has achieved at every level of basketball, an achievement recognized by the History Center in naming her a 2011 History Maker.

Born in McKeesport, Pa., Cash grew up as a self-described, “skinny, bow-legged girl with a dream about playing basketball.” She excelled at McKeesport High School, averaging 30.4 points and 16.9 rebounds per game her senior year.

In 1998, Cash earned high school All-America first team honors from Parade Magazine and was named the Gatorade Pennsylvania Player of the Year. Cash also excelled in track and field, finishing third in the state in hurdles her senior year, before continuing her running career at the University of Connecticut.

Her UConn teams won the 2000 and 2002 NCAA National Championship and Cash was named a first team All-American by Kodak/WBCA and the U.S. Basketball Writers Association in 2002.

Selected number two overall in the 2002 WNBA Draft by the Detroit Shock, Cash averaged 14.8 points and 6.9 rebounds her rookie year. An All-Star in 2003, Cash helped lead the Shock to its first WNBA Championship. The following year, she was chosen to represent the United States on the 2004 Olympic basketball team, earning a gold medal.

Again a WNBA All-Star in 2005, Cash contributed to the team’s second league championship in 2006. She continues to play today with the Seattle Storm and was chosen as the MVP of the 2009 WNBA All-Star Game.

Visitors to the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum can see Swin Cash’s game-worn jersey from the 2009 Olympic team.

**Vatican Splendors Sets New Attendance Mark**

The virtual tour will help expand visitors’ in-museum experience and much more.

**T**ake a journey through Pittsburgh’s sports history from the comfort of your own home with a new 360-degree virtual tour of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum.

The virtual tour will help expand visitors’ in-museum experience with fun and compelling video, audio clips, and images from the greatest athletes and moments in local sports history, such as the “Immaculate Reception,” Maz’s homerun, Stanley Cup victories, and much more.

**Get Pumped Up With New Sports Museum Virtual Tour**

Sports fans can control their virtual experience by moving the camera up-and-down and side-to-side, as well as zooming in and out.

To begin your virtual experience, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org – Exhibits & Collections – Virtual Tours.

**Smart Steps Coming to History Center**

The History Center will encourage its visitors to climb the stairs and blend health and history when Smart Steps, a new fit and fun exhibit sponsored by UPMC, premieres this June.

“Smart Steps blends health and history when visitors take a walk through Pittsburgh’s history,” said Anne Madarasz, Co-Director of the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum. “It’s a healthy way to enjoy history!”

The History Center’s annual Egg Drop will take place in the McGuinn Gallery for Smithsonian Exhibitions, a display case featuring an original license from 1933.

Proceeds from the event benefit the History Center.

**History Uncorked 2011: A Speakeasy Celebration**

Nearly 1,500 young professionals had a roaring good time at the History Center’s 15th annual History Uncorked, chaired by Jared Sadowinski.

Guests dressed the part for this year’s “speakeasy” themed event, wearing zoot suits and tux suits while dancing to 1920s jazz tunes. Several local restaurants and beverage vendors showcased Pittsburgh’s culinary prowess while five floors of the History Center boomed with music, activities, and a silent auction.

At a VIP reception, sponsored by Tiffany & Co., guests mingled near a display case featuring an original copy of Pittsburgh’s first liquor license from 1933.

Proceeds from the event benefit the History Center.

**Burke Foundations Grant Supports Educational Programs**

The Burke Foundations recently honored the late Charles Burke, Sr. with a generous grant of $50,000 in support of children’s educational programs at the History Center. This gift commemorates Burke’s life, spirit of generosity, and his contributions to the City of Pittsburgh.

Burke helped establish The Grable Foundation with a mission to make Pittsburgh one of the nation’s best places for children.

A stainless steel time capsule dedicated to his memory will be placed in the foyer of the McGuinn Gallery for Smithsonian Exhibitions, honoring his active participation and enthusiastic support of the History Center.

**Assisting the History Center Through EITC**

Help your company receive valuable tax credits, while supporting the History Center’s education programs at the same time. By giving through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), eligible businesses are awarded significant tax credits for their philanthropic efforts.

For more details, please contact Natalie Taylor at 412-454-6325 or ngtaylor@heinzhistorycenter.org.

**Save the Date!**

**Bocce Tournament and Festival**

**Sat., Aug. 20, 2011**

**Proceeds benefit the History Center’s Italian American Program.**

To sponsor a team, please contact Natalie Taylor at 412-454-6325.

For additional information about the Bocce Tournament, please call Natalie Taylor at 412-454-6325 or ngtaylor@heinzhistorycenter.org.
Save the Date for Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures

Join nearly 2,000 visitors for the History Center’s fourth annual “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures, An Antiques Appraisal Event.” Scheduled for Sun., July 17!

Visitors are encouraged to bring their prized possessions to the History Center and meet with professional appraisers as KDKA-TV camera teams roam the museum.

The most unique items will be featured as part of a special nine-part series hosted by KDKA’s Ken Rizer and History Center President & CEO Andy Masich on KDKA later this year.

Appraisers from a variety of disciplines will assess the historic significance of visitors’ items and provide a verbal assessment of potential monetary value. Areas of expertise to be discussed by appraisers include:

- Civil War and World War II items
- Political and presidential memorabilia
- Books and documents
- Antique coins and jewelry
- Household items (glass, china, silver, etc.)
- Classic toys

American Rifleman Exhibit Shoots Off at Fort Pitt Museum

From Daniel Boone to Daniel Day-Lewis, the image of the buckskin clad, rifle-toting backwoodsman has been an American icon for more than 350 years. Within the last 50 years, rifles have been immortalized in popular TV shows, movies, and novels.

The American Frontier Rifleman: Tall Tales & Truth, a new exhibit that opens Sat., April 30 at the Fort Pitt Museum in Point State Park, will examine this American legend, along with its cultural legacy, way of life, and place in American history.

The exhibit will include new life-like figures of famous frontiersmen Michael Cregg and Native American rifleman, Buffalo James Smith, who traded out of Fort Pitt. A number of unique artifacts, including several Kentucky rifles, will also be showcased along with costumes and clothing worn by riflemen, and a rare powder horn belonging to William Waller, one of Daniel Morgan’s riflemen during the American Revolution.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village Kicks Off 2011 Season

As a record-setting 2010, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is set to open its new season on Sun., May 1.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter, the oldest site of human habitation in North America, boasts previous attendance records—by welcoming more than 15,000 visitors last year from 41 states and nine different countries.

The National Historic Landmark, located in Avella, Pa., in Washington County, features a massive, 16,000-year-old rock overhang used by our earliest ancestors for shelter.

In addition to ancient history at the Rockshelter, visitors can also step back in time at Meadowcroft’s Historic Village, which carefully recreates all of the charming qualities of an Upper Ohio Valley Village from the mid-19th century.

Meadowcroft is poised for another exciting season in 2011, featuring several new events and updates this summer:

1. Throughout the spring, Meadowcroft will begin the construction of two 1770s-era cabins that will help to spotlight the similarities and differences between the everyday lives of European settlers and Native Americans in the Upper Ohio Valley.
2. On June 18-19, Meadowcroft will host its annual Adal Competition, where visitors can try their hand using the adal, a spear-thrower used by prehistoric hunters.
3. This two-day contest, for all ages, genders, and skill levels is free to enter with Meadowcroft admission.
4. Meadowcroft’s Independence Day Celebration on July 2-3 will celebrate the spirit of 19th century rural America with an old-fashioned summer games, open hearth cooking demonstrations, and a pie-eating contest.

Join us at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, please visit www.heinhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft or call 724-587-3412.

Meet Pittsburgh’s Innovators in New Virtual Tour

Come face-to-face with Western Pennsylvania’s world-changing innovators with a new 360-degree virtual tour of the History Center’s Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation exhibition.

The online tour begins 16,000 years ago at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Avella, Pa., and navigates through Pittsburgh’s 21st century role as a leader in medicine, education, and robotics.

Along the way, visitors will encounter never-before-seen photos, video and audio clips, and fun facts about local innovators, including George Westinghouse, Rosie the Riveter, Mr. Rogers, and more.

Visitors can control their virtual experience by moving the camera up-and-down and side-to-side, as well as zooming in and out.

To begin your virtual experience, please visit www.heinhistorycenter.org » Exhibits & Collections » Virtual History Center Website Becomes Hub for Pittsburgh Facts

As part of the History Center’s long-term virtual initiatives, the History Center’s website – www.heinhistorycenter.org – provides a wealth of content related to Western Pennsylvania people, place, and events to a worldwide audience.

Visitors can now access hundreds of video and audio clips about Pittsburgh history throughout the pages of the History Center’s website. Just look for the new video and audio buttons to access hundreds of multimedia features on the site.

History Goes Social: Follow Us!

Want to be the first to learn about upcoming History Center exhibits, events, and contests? Then join the more than 6,000 virtual fans already following the museum’s social networking pages:


Make sure to tune in to upcoming episodes of “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures” on KDKA-TV:

Mon., April 18, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., May 23, 7:30 p.m.
Mon., June 13, 7:30 p.m.

People of America

Meadowcroft recently created two interactive kiosks that will focus on the “Peopling of America” and migration patterns that populated our region centuries ago. One kiosk will be featured at the Meadowcroft Visitors Center while the other is on display at the Pittsburgh International Airport.

Meet Pittsburgh’s Innovators in New Virtual Tour

Come face-to-face with Western Pennsylvania’s world-changing innovators with a new 360-degree virtual tour of the History Center’s Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation exhibition.

The online tour begins 16,000 years ago at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Avella, Pa., and navigates through Pittsburgh’s 21st century role as a leader in medicine, education, and robotics.

Along the way, visitors will encounter never-before-seen photos, video and audio clips, and fun facts about local innovators, including George Westinghouse, Rosie the Riveter, Mr. Rogers, and more.

Visitors can control their virtual experience by moving the camera up-and-down and side-to-side, as well as zooming in and out.

To begin your virtual experience, please visit www.heinhistorycenter.org » Exhibits & Collections » Virtual

History Center Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Smithsonian Partnership

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the History Center’s affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution. As a key component of the partnership, the History Center has a contract with the world’s largest museum to have Smithsonian artifacts on site and collaborate on a wide variety of exhibitions and public programs.

Over the past 10 years, the History Center has hosted Smithsonian traveling exhibitions, including the popular First Ladies exhibit, and developed exhibitions that were later shown at the Smithsonian museums in Washington, D.C., such as the Clash of Empires exhibit.

Numerous History Center staff members have participated in training programs at the Smithsonian, in areas ranging from collections management to museum marketing, and the History Center regularly collaborates with the Smithsonian on educational programs, such as the innovative Abilify Pittsburgh event.

Throughout 2011, the History Center will host Smithsonian-related events, including the Freedom Riders Teen Town Hall this past Feb. and the nineteenth annual History Makers Award Dinner in April, and add artifacts from the Smithsonian to each major exhibition, including America’s Best Wooly and Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World.

Stay tuned for future exhibitions and events related to the 10th anniversary, as we celebrate “the Smithsonian’s home in Pittsburgh”!
A new History Center exhibition takes an in-depth look at the most influential American African newspaper of the past 100 years, America's Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier, features rare photos, artifacts, and videos which illustrate the Courier's significant impact on social change and American journalism. Founded in 1910, the Pittsburgh Courier evolved from a small start-up publication to the most prominent weekly news source for African Americans. At the height of its popularity in the 1950s, the Courier produced 21 national editions for distribution across the globe—all printed at its offices at 2628 Centre Ave. in the Hill District—and was read by more than one million readers each week. The Courier became one of the first publications in the nation to extensively highlight black athletes. Its coverage of boxer Joe Louis aided his rise to fame. The boxing gloves used by Louis in his famous 1936 fight against Max Schmeling are included in the exhibit, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

Other highlights of the exhibit include the old kitchen copy of The Pittsburgh Courier from Nov. 5, 1930; a powerful display on the Courier's coverage of the Civil Rights Movement and wartime issues; a camera belonging to legendary photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris; and a detailed look at the Courier's founders, Edward H. Horatio and Robert L. Vance.

For more information, including exhibit videos and photos, visit www.heinrichistorycenter.org.

The Story of the American Flag Coming to the History Center

Considered the most visible symbol of our union, the American Flag can be a source of strength, pride, security, and freedom. As our nation's history has evolved, so has the meaning of the flag, providing different interpretations to different people, especially in times of conflict and war.

Scheduled to open on Sept. 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation, the History Center is planning a major exhibition examining Americans' relationship with the flag and how it has changed over time.

Using objects and archival materials from the History Center's collection, as well as loaned objects from institutional and private collections, especially the collection of former Pittsburgh Dr. Peter Keim, the exhibition will trace the intertwined story of key events in American history and the evolution of the flag.

Stay tuned to www.heinrichistorycenter.org for more exhibition details.

Road Show Weekend Shines Spotlight on 150th Anniversary of Civil War

The History Center and the Fort Pitt Museum will feature re-enactors, demonstrations, and musicians that will transport visitors back to the Civil War era as part of a special weekend commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Pennsylvania, May 6-8.

The Civil War 150 Commemoration Weekend, an event endorsed by the PA Civil War 150 committee, will mark the inaugural showing of the PA Civil War 150 Road Show, a new 55-foot trailer exhibit that examines the significant role that all Pennsylvanians played during the War Between the States.

Visitors can post and send information online as well as share artifacts and family stories related to the Civil War with a state-of-the-art multimedia room included as part of the exhibit, which will be located across the street from the History Center.

At the Fort Pitt Museum, visitors will see and hear how armament and equipment from the French & Indian War era compare with the firearms and uniforms from the Civil War. A free trolley will take visitors to and from the History Center and Fort Pitt Museum throughout the weekend. The History Center, Fort Pitt Museum, and the PA Civil War 150 Road Show will be open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.heinrichistorycenter.org or www.PACivilWar150.com.

Jewish Chronicle Donates Collection to Rauh Jewish Archives

The Jewish Chronicl, Pittsburgh's only Jewish weekly newspaper since 1962, recently donated a large collection of historic documents and photographs to the Rauh Jewish Archives at the History Center.

From Franklin, page 1.

items related to his activities in publishing, firefighting, postal service, libraries, education, diplomacy, and government;
• Personal objects such as books, a chess set, china, furniture, coins, and other possessions which are rarely displayed to the public;
• An original copy of the 1787 U.S. Constitution, with annotations from John Dickinson; and
• A print shop setting including some of Franklin's 18th century printing equipment and an original sign from the Blue Ball candle-making shop owned by Franklin's father.

Local News Recognize Franklin's Western Pa. Adventures

In addition to these items, a special section of the exhibit is dedicated to an incident during the French & Indian War known as "The Wagon Affair." In 1755, Franklin obtained nearly 150 wagons from farmers throughout Pennsylvania that were used during General Edward Braddock's failed attempt to capture Fort Duquesne from the French.

Included in this section is a Robert Griffling painting titled "The Wounding of General Braddock," numerous artifacts from the Braddock Expedition, an 18th century military encampment, and a recreated 18th century farm wagon, designed and built by students at Butlertown High School.

Today, Franklin's image is ubiquitous and his achievements are legendary. The conclusion of the exhibit highlights pop culture references related to Franklin, featuring everything from Franklin advertising campaigns, cloth- ing, action figures, lottery games, and even bobbleheads.

"Franklin's charming blend of curiosity, wit, and wisdom helped him to become one of the first international celebrities," said MacB. "Franklin wasn't perfect—he liked to buy fine things, occasionally got into trouble, and was a flirt—but he always wanted to improve himself. We hope Franklin's amazing accomplishments will inspire visitors to continually contribute to the betterment of society."

The exhibition was originally created in celebration of the 300th anniversary of Ben Franklin's birth in 2006 and enjoyed by 750,000 visitors at six venues on two continents. The Minnesota History Center redesigned the exhibit two years ago and the History Center is the third venue of a five-city tour.

For more information about Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, please visit www.heinrichistorycenter.org/franklin and enjoy updated event details, photo galleries, and videos.

Visitors can also follow the History Center on Facebook and Twitter to receive the latest news.
Calendar of Events

Ben Franklin Toren Night
April 27, 5 - 7:00 p.m.
See front page for details.

Franklin Family Fun Day
April 30, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Families will enjoy special hands-on activities related to Benjamin Franklin's scientific, political, and personal interests.

Civil War 150 Commemoration Weekend and PA Civil War 150 Road Show
May 6 - 8
See page 6 for details.

History Center Affiliates Program Mini-Conference
May 20, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hallowed Ground Conservation in Chartiers Cemetery
May 22, 1 – 5:00 p.m.

Live and Learn Weekend
This weekend-long program will focus on The Pittsburgh Courier’s influence on race relations and civil rights in Pittsburgh and throughout the nation.

June 17, 7 - 9:00 p.m.

June 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Saturday panel discussion on the power of race.

Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures
July 17, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
See page 4 for details.

First Floor
NEW! Ben Franklin: In Search of a Better World (April 16 through July 31);
John Heinz: A Western Pennsylvania Legacy; Kidsburgh (mezzanine); Vintage Vehicles

Second Floor
Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation; Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum

Third Floor
Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum; Discovery Place; Prime Collection of Woodworking Plans; Rediscovering Lewis and Clark: A Journey with the Rooney Family; Outdoor Advertising

Fourth Floor
NEW! America’s Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier (through Oct. 2);
NEW! The Stories That Touch Our Lives: Images from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 2010 (through Aug. 2011);
Angels of Mercy - Sisters in Healthcare in Western Pennsylvania (through Oct. 1); Special Collections Gallery; Glass: Shattering Notions; Heinz 57

Sixth Floor
Wrought Metal Treasures from the Blum Collection


Born and raised in Pittsburgh, McCullough has a long-term connection with the History Center. He served as the honorary campaign chairman prior to the History Center’s dedication of its Strip District building in 1996, is a past recipient of a History Makers Award, and served as the keynote speaker for the Pittsburgh 250 History Makers Gala.

On June 11, McCullough will present a special talk about “The Greater Journey.” Attendees will be able to purchase pre-signed copies of the new book.

Advanced registration will be required, and ticketing information will be released soon.

For updated details about the event and ticketing information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org or contact Megan Kuniansky at 412-454-6436 or mkuniansky@heinzhistorycenter.org.