Time is running out to see 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.

This 8,000 square-foot exhibition, which closes on Sun., July 31, highlights Franklin’s astonishing achievements, which stemmed from his lifelong desire to understand and improve the world around him.

“Visitors have been amazed at the breadth of Ben Franklin’s accomplishments, ranging from his work establishing the nation’s first public hospital, first public lending library, and first fire insurance company, to his charting of the Gulf Stream and his invention of the bifocals,” said Andy Masich, History Center president and CEO. “Throughout the exhibit, visitors will gain new insights on many previously unknown aspects of his amazing life.”

More than 150 artifacts are on loan from nearly 50 lenders, including the Smithsonian Institution, Franklin Institute, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Library Company of Pennsylvania, University of Pennsylvania, and rarely seen objects from private family collections.

Exhibit highlights from *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* include:

- One of the first books Franklin printed, “Religion of Nature Delineated;”
- Franklin’s ledger book, which helped to establish the U.S. Post Office, on loan from the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum;
- An original copy of the 1787 U.S. Constitution, which Franklin helped to craft, plus 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 items related to his activities in publishing, firefighting, postal service, education, and diplomacy;
- Rarely displayed personal objects such as books, a chess set, china, furniture, and coins;
- A print shop setting including some of Franklin’s 18th century printing equipment and the original sign from the Blue Ball candle-making shop owned by Franklin’s father;
- A touchable electric generator in which visitors can create static electricity to make their hair stand up and sparks fly; and
- A display highlighting pop culture references related to Franklin, featuring everything from Franklin advertising campaigns and pins to masks, and even bobbleheads.

A special section of the exhibit is dedicated to Ben Franklin’s ties to Western Pennsylvania. 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. The incident was later referred to by Franklin in his autobiography as “the wagon affair.”

Included in this section of the exhibit are artifacts taken directly from Dunbar’s Camp as well as remnants from the wagons used in Braddock’s Expedition, a Robert Griffing painting titled “The Wounding of General Braddock,” and a recreated 18th century farmer’s wagon designed and built by students at Burgettstown High School. The section also includes a pewter writing desk that belonged to Josiah Davenport, who was Franklin’s nephew and a local fur trader who worked at the Fort Pitt Provincial Store.

“Franklin’s charming blend of curiosity, wit, and wisdom helped him to become one of the first international celebrities,” said Masich. “More than 300 years after his birth, he remains one of the most remarkable and influential Americans of any generation.”

For more information, photo galleries, videos, and a new virtual tour featuring *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*, please visit us online at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/franklin.
FEATURED BY THEIR OPPONENTS AND REVERED IN THEIR HOMETOWN, THE PLAYERS WHO MADE UP THE STEEL CURTAIN BECAME LEGENDS DURING THE 1970S.

INSPIRED BY THE PLAY OF THE STEELERS’ IMPENETRABLE DEFENSIVE LINE OF JOE GREENE, ERNIE HOLMES, DWIGHT WHITE, AND L.C. GREENWOOD, ARTIST GREG NIXON CREATED A BANNER WHICH BECAME AN ICON IN ITS OWN RIGHT.


EARLIER THIS YEAR, NIXON DECIDED TO SELL THE BANNER AS PART OF THE SUPER BOWL AUCTION IN DALLAS. PROJECTED TO BE WORTH MORE THAN $10,000, SPARKED BIDDING PUSHED THE PURCHASE PRICE TO MORE THAN $50,000. PURCHASED BY A MEMBER OF THE STEELERS NATION, THE BANNER WILL EVENTUALLY HANG IN A SPECIAL SPOT IN THE COLLECTOR’S NEWLY BUILT HOME IN NEW JERSEY.

UNTIL THEN, THE STEEL CURTAIN BANNER IS BACK HOME IN PITTSBURGH, FEATURED IN THE CHARITY RANDALL THEATRE OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS MUSEUM AT THE HISTORY CENTER. FOR A SHORT TIME, VISITORS TO THE SPORTS MUSEUM CAN RELIVE THE GLORY DAYS OF THE CITY OF CHAMPIONS AND THE STEEL CURTAIN DEFENSE THAT HELPED EARN THAT IDENTITY.

Exercise Your Body and Mind with New SmartSteps Exhibit

The History Center and UPMC Health Plan have partnered to encourage museum visitors to climb the stairs and blend health and history with the launch of SmartSteps, a new fun and fit exhibit which opened this summer.

Visitors who forego the elevator and take the steps to explore the History Center’s six floors will be treated to a unique exhibit in the stairwells, featuring innovative facts and artifacts related to Pittsburgh history along with UPMC Health Plan health and wellness tips that will encourage them to lead a healthier lifestyle.

The History Center is proud to be the first museum in the nation with an exhibit in its stairwell, which coincides with other health and wellness options at the museum, such as the Health & The Body section of the Sports Museum and healthier eating options at MixStirs Café.

Visitors who participate in the SmartSteps exhibit and take the stairs to all six levels of the History Center will be rewarded with a complimentary collectible Heinz pickle pin. So keep stepping!

WPIAL Inducts Newest Hall of Fame Class

As part of an ongoing partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) recently announced their 2011 Hall of Fame class during a press conference at the Sports Museum. A number of honorees attended the event, including from left: Melanie Buddemeyer, Bob Miller, Joe Colella, Clinton Davis, Tom Dolde, Pam Cherubin, and Mrs. Willie Thrower.

Each WPIAL Hall of Fame inductee will be part of a permanent display inside the Kaiser Room of the Sports Museum.
Help your company receive valuable tax credits, while supporting the History Center's education programs, exhibitions, and services. 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.

Assisting the History Center Through EITC

More than 120 guests joined the History Center for the annual 1879 Society Dinner, which celebrates the generosity of Chairman's Circle and Founder's Circle members.

History Center President & CEO Andy Masich shared stories of Benjamin Franklin's connection to Western Pa. as he led guests through an exclusive tour of the Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World exhibition.

The event, graciously hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barensfeld, Mr. and Mrs. David Barensfeld, and the Compton Family, also paid tribute to the late Grace Compton for her dedicated service and support of the 1879 Society and the History Center.

For more information about the 1879 Society, please contact Alexis Tragos at 412-454-6324 or altragos@heinzhistorycenter.org.

1879 Society Dinner Attendees Preview Ben Franklin Exhibition

Sat., Aug. 20, 2011

Proceeds benefit the History Center’s Italian American Endowed Fund. For sponsorship information or to organize a team, please contact Natalie Taylor at 412-454-6325.

Bocce Tournament and Festival

The History Center recently celebrated the 19th Annual History Makers Award Dinner at the Westin Convention Center Hotel.

Co-chaired by Robert P. Kelly, Chairman and CEO of BNY Mellon, and Ralph J. Papa, Chairman of Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, the dinner raised a record $350,000 for the History Center's educational programs, exhibitions, and services.

The History Center recognized Herbert W. Boyer, Ph.D., co-founder Genentech, Inc. (Science & Research); Swim Cash, WNBA All-Star and Olympic Gold Medalist (Sports); J. Brett Harvey, President & CEO of CONSOL Energy, Inc. (Business & Industry); brothers Judge Justin M. Johnson and Judge Livingstone M. Johnson (Government); Michael Keaton, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actor (Entertainment); and Gerald E. McGinnis, founder Respironics (Innovation).

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Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures Returns on July 17

Stephen Kaucel knew his 1930s Pittsburgh Hornets jersey was special. His father had worked at Duquesne Gardens and the Civic Arena for many years and had passed along his most cherished keepsakes from the old ice hockey arenas.

While the Hornets jersey had a rich sentimental value to Kaucel, he was curious to learn about its monetary value, so he brought it to the History Center’s “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures” event last summer. Kaucel was elated when appraisers valued his Hornets jersey at nearly $5,000.

Visitors will once again have the opportunity to bring their most prized possessions to the History Center and meet with professional appraisers at the fourth annual “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures: An Antiques Appraisal Show” event on Sun., July 17, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The most unique items will be featured as part of special 30 minute programs on KDKA-TV later this year, hosted by KDKA’s Ken Rice and History Center President and CEO Andy Masich.

Nearly 50 appraisers from a variety of disciplines will assess the historic significance of visitors’ items and provide a verbal assessment of potential monetary value. Among the areas of expertise discussed by appraisers on July 17:

- Civil War and World War II items
- Political and presidential memorabilia
- Books and documents
- Antique coins and jewelry
- Household items (glass, China, silver, vases, etc.)
- Classic toys
- Textiles (wedding dresses, quilts, etc.)
- Fine arts
- Furniture
- Historic photographs

In addition to the appraisers, a variety of conservators will be on hand to provide tips on how to preserve your treasures, including conservation expert Gail Joice from the Smithsonian. The “Pittsburgh’s Hidden Treasures” event is free for members and is included in the regular History Center admission price for non-members: $10.00 for adults, $9.00 for senior citizens, $5.00 for children ages 4-17 and students with valid ID, and free for children under age three.

Special Members-Only Access

History Center members will be allowed to enter the event at 9:00 a.m. on July 17, one hour before the museum opens to the public, to attend a “members only” appraisal session.

Throughout the day, History Center members will also have access to a fast-track line that will expedite their opportunity to meet with appraisers.

For more information about becoming a History Center member, please contact Megan Kuniansky at 412-454-6436 or membership@heinzhistorycenter.org. Representatives from the History Center’s membership department will also be on hand at the event.

Stay tuned to www.heinzhistorycenter.org for additional event information and a detailed list of appraisers scheduled to attend.

Major Flag Exhibition Opens on Sept. 10

We pledge allegiance to it, we parade it, and we display it on occasions both solemn and celebratory.

As the most enduring symbol of the Republic, the American flag represents the nation and its people, patriotism, and pride, but has also served as a divisive symbol during times of war and strife.

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the U.S., the History Center will open a major exhibition on the American flag on Sept. 10, 2011.

This 7,000 square foot exhibition, featured in the History Center’s first floor McGuinn Gallery, will include a variety of objects, images, and archival materials from the History Center’s collections, as well as items from the Smithsonian Institution and private collectors, including noted flag expert and Pittsburgh native, Dr. Peter Keim.

The exhibition will begin with the nation’s first flag, unraveling the myths and reality about its creation. A selection of 13-star flags from the Keim collection will offer a look at the inspiration for early flags and include the story of the War of 1812 and the writing of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Francis Scott Key.

Highlights include a fragment of the Star Spangled Banner from the Smithsonian’s collection and an early edition of the song’s sheet music from 1815.

Additional areas of the exhibition will examine the flag during times of conflict, as a symbol of pride and power to some and a symbol of oppression to others. Featured flags will include examples of battle flags, Confederate flags, funeral flags, and a flag created by American P.O.W. James Fennimore on loan from the Smithsonian.

Posters from WWI and WWII and an original Uncle Sam costume worn by a war bond salesman will show the role of the flag during wartime as the preeminent symbol of our nation, both for our allies and our enemies. Flags representing the Civil War and the civil unrest of the 1960s and 70s will illustrate the flag as a divisive symbol as Americans battled over unpopular wars and issues of equality at home.

Throughout the exhibit, interactive stations and video presentations will help bring the symbolism of the flag to life for visitors.

For updated information about the flag exhibit and related events, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org.
American Indian Heritage Weekend Highlights Region’s Native Past

Join Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village for its second annual American Indian Heritage Weekend on Sept. 24-25, where visitors will experience a variety of activities in Meadowcroft’s recreated 16th century Indian Village.

Adults and children can participate in hands-on activities that show how the region’s early inhabitants lived with help from dozens of native artisans dressed like their ancestors. Visitors will learn how to pound corn into corn meal with a mortar, crack nuts with a nut-cracking tool, and make holes using a pump drill.

Visitors can also explore the interior of a wigwam, inspect carefully reconstructed prehistoric artifacts, learn about American Indian agriculture, and try their hand at using an atlatl, a prehistoric spear thrower.

"Peopling of America" Explores 16,000 Years of Population Growth

Throughout the summer, visitors to Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village and the Pittsburgh International Airport will enjoy the new "Peopling of America" kiosks, sponsored by the Colcom Foundation, that show the major factors which affected population growth in America, from Paleo-Indian prehistoric life and the agricultural movement to slavery in America and modern immigration trends.

The high-tech kiosks feature a touchscreen video display with a map and interactive timeline showing the dramatic population boom from 16,000 years ago to the present.

Meadowcroft, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa., Washington County, is open Wednesdays through Sundays through Labor Day. Meadowcroft Rockshelter is the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org and click on the Meadowcroft tab or call 724-587-3412.

New Garrison Flag A Historic Symbol In Point State Park

This summer, the Fort Pitt Museum, in cooperation with the Daughters of the American Revolution, welcomes a beautiful new 80-foot tall, 36-foot wide American flag in Point State Park. The 13-star flag will be an iconic symbol to identify Fort Pitt Museum and Point State Park, and will become a defining historic feature of the Pittsburgh skyline.

The new garrison flag, generously donated by Dan and Bonnie Sandman, will fly next to the Fort Pitt Blockhouse along with two new French and British flags near the Point State Park portal bridge, representing the three-sided struggle during the French & Indian War.

For more information, please call 412-281-9284 or visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org and click on the Fort Pitt Museum tab.

American Rifleman Exhibit Fires Off With A Bang

The Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park recently opened a new exhibition, *The American Frontier Rifleman: Tall Tales & Truth*, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Sportsmen’s Luncheon Club, which examines the enduring American legend of the rifle-toting backwoodsman, including their material culture, way of life, and place in American history.

As part of the exhibit, the Fort Pitt Museum unveiled two new lifelike museum figures, including the Revolutionary War frontiersmen Michael Cresap, and rifleman Buffalo James Smith, an American Indian who traded out of Fort Pitt. Other highlights of *The American Frontier Rifleman* exhibit include:

- One of four surviving 18th century hunting shirts, the iconic garment of the American rifleman, on public display for the first time;
- Several rare powder horns, including one owned by William Waller of Morgan’s Riflemen and carried by him during the Revolutionary War, and two 1760s-era powder horns with carved illustrations of Fort Pitt;
- Original American longrifles dating from the 1770s to the 1830s; and
- A display on riflemen in popular culture, including original 1950s Davy Crockett memorabilia and the rifle carried by Fess Parker when he portrayed the “King of the Wild Frontier” in the movies.

*The American Frontier Rifleman* exhibit is on view through Oct. 30 at the Fort Pitt Museum. Admission is free for History Center members and $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for students and children ages 4-17, and free for children 3 and under.

For more information, please call 412-281-9284 or visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org and click on the Fort Pitt Museum tab.
History Center Commemorates 150 Years of the Civil War in Pa.

This spring, nearly 4,000 visitors enjoyed the Civil War 150 Commemoration Weekend at the History Center, which included the first stop of the PA Civil War 150 Road Show traveling exhibit, a 53-foot expandable trailer that will visit all 67 counties in Pennsylvania over the next four years to honor the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Pennsylvania State Senator Wayne D. Fontana and Barbara Franco, the executive director of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, joined History Center President & CEO Andy Masich for the opening ceremony, which showcased the importance of Western Pa. during the Civil War.

Throughout the weekend, visitors enjoyed cannon demonstrations, a variety of re-enactors and musicians, a tin-type photography display, and free trolley rides to the Fort Pitt Museum in Point State Park.

As part of the four year commemoration (2011-2015), the History Center will travel a special Civil War exhibit featuring life-like museum figures and Civil War artifacts to regional historical societies, libraries, and schools this fall.

In early 2012, the History Center will publish the first of two special books chronicling this seminal era in American history.


In the fall of 2012, the History Center will also launch a major exhibition titled From Slavery to Freedom: The Underground Railroad and the Legacy of Freedom in Western Pennsylvania, which will bring to life the impact that our region has had on African American history over the past 250 years.

For more information on Civil War commemoration activities at the History Center, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/civilwar.

New Virtual Tour Encourages Online Visitors To Meet Benjamin Franklin

Discover the many sides of one of the most remarkable Founding Fathers with a new 360-degree virtual tour of the History Center’s Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World exhibition.

The online tour tells the story of Franklin’s innovations and achievements, including the founding of the first fire company, first public hospital, the first lending library, as well as his famous experiments with electricity. Along the way, visitors will encounter enhanced video and audio clips, photographs, and fun facts. 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, and to enjoy the History Center’s four other virtual exhibit tours, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org -> Exhibits & Collections -> Virtual Tours.

Library & Archives Launches New Blog

The History Center’s Library & Archives recently launched a new blog highlighting its fascinating collections related to Western Pennsylvania history. Blog readers receive special access to rarely seen photographs and helpful information, including online finding aids. Subscribers to the Library & Archives blog – who can sign up for free online – will receive notifications of new posts. Sign up and visit the blog at heinzhistorycenter.wordpress.com.

History Center Microsite Commemorates Civil War’s 150th Anniversary

To kick off the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in Pennsylvania, the History Center launched a special microsite that focuses on Western Pennsylvania’s role in the war. The microsite features information about special events, programs, exhibitions, and publications the History Center will unveil throughout the four year anniversary, as well as an image gallery and multimedia page. Visit the History Center’s new Civil War microsite at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/civilwar.
Soul Soldiers Exhibit Completes Nationwide Tour

The History Center's award-winning traveling exhibition Soul Soldiers: African Americans and the Vietnam Era recently completed a four-year, seven city nationwide tour.

Soul Soldiers, which debuted at the History Center in 2006, tells the story of African American life and culture during the Vietnam War and its impact on the Civil Rights Movement.

Nearly 350,000 visitors experienced the Soul Soldiers exhibit, with stops at the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago; the African American Museum in Dallas; The Philadelphia African American Museum; the Virginia Museum in Richmond; the Birmingham (Ala.) Civil Rights Institute; the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis; and the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.

The exhibition received several national honors, including the American Association for State and Local History Award of Merit; the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations Award of Merit; the S.K. Stevens Award; and the American Advertising Federation Mosaic Award.

History Center Honored by Smithsonian

Throughout the year, the History Center is celebrating its 10th anniversary as an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. As part of this spring's annual History Makers Awards Dinner, Smithsonian undersecretary for history, art, and culture Richard Kurin presented History Center President & CEO Andy Masich with a plaque recognizing the History Center as the best Smithsonian affiliate. Earlier this summer, six History Center staff members also attended the Smithsonian Affiliates Conference in Washington, D.C., where they participated in a variety of training sessions and collaborated with more than 150 museum professionals from across the U.S.

Tavern Night Features Food and Fun with Franklin

To celebrate the opening of the Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World exhibition this spring, the History Center hosted a members-only “Tavern Night” reception, sponsored by Penn Brewery. More than 700 members and guests enjoyed local beers from Penn Brewery, sampled tavern fare, and toured the History Center’s newest exhibition. For more information on membership opportunities, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org and click on Membership at the top of the page or contact Megan Kuniansky at 412-454-6436 or membership@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Magazine Earns National Accolades

The History Center’s Western Pennsylvania History Magazine recently earned three national design awards from The International Academy of Visual Arts. “The summer 2010 “Beat ‘Em Bucs” issue earned an Award of Excellence for its cover design and an Award of Distinction for the educational institution category and the interior design category. Back copies of the magazine are available in the History Center museum shop.
To make reservations, please contact Natalie DeRiso at 412-454-6373 or nnderiso@heinzhistorycenter.org.

For details, please see page 2.

Mon., Sept. 12 • 10:00 a.m.
Eighth Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament

For details, please see page 3.

Second Annual Bocce Tournament and Festival
Natalie DeRiso at 412-454-6373 or nnderiso@heinzhistorycenter.org.

Westinghouse Railroad Air Brake Marker Dedication
July 23 • 10:00 a.m.
Commemorate the breakthrough air brake design with the dedication of a
Company on Liberty Ave. in the Strip District. For more information, please contact

WWI Trailer Truck
July 22/3
The History Center will host a traveling truck exhibit featuring objects from the

Second Annual Boice Tournament and Festival
Sat., Aug. 20 • 1:00 p.m. to dusk
For details, please see page 3.

Sixth Floor
Wrought Metal Treasures from the Blum Collection

First Floor
NEW! Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World (through July 31); John Heinze: 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 Planes; Rediscovering Lewis and Clark: A Journey with the Rooney Family; Outdoor Advertising

Fourth Floor

Fifth Floor
Clash of Empires: The British, French, & Indian War, 1754-1763

Calendar of Events
Visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org for the latest information on upcoming events.