Relive cherished memories with your family this holiday season inside the Senator John Heinz History Center’s new exhibition, A Very Merry Pittsburgh.

The festive exhibit begins with a special section featuring family keepsakes, artifacts, film, and imagery that explore how Western Pennsylvanians have celebrated major winter holidays, including Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa, through the years.

A Very Merry Pittsburgh will transport visitors back to the bustling holiday season in Downtown Pittsburgh with decorations and artifacts from popular department stores like Kaufmann’s/Macy’s, Horne’s, and Gimbels.

A special section with vintage toys and historic gifts that date from the 1840s through today will showcase the evolution of gift-giving in Western Pa.

Kids of all ages can play with Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robots, Mr. Potato Head, and other retro toys as part of an interactive play area.

The exhibit includes memorable objects from Kaufmann’s Santaland, including Santa’s original chair, giant Mr. and Mrs. Claus ornaments, and the mailbox where thousands of Pittsburgh children mailed their Christmas wish lists to the North Pole. And be sure to visit Santa himself inside the exhibit on select dates (check the calendar of events on page 7 for more details).

Visitors can wrap up their holiday shopping in the History Center Museum Shop, featuring quirky Heinz products, Pittsburgh-proud T-shirts and apparel, award-winning books, and more. See page 6 for the History Center’s Holiday Gift Guide!

A Very Merry Pittsburgh will be on view from Nov. 16, 2019 through Jan. 5, 2020.

HOLIDAY MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

Give the gift of history this holiday season! Purchase now to receive 15% off all gift memberships. Plus, get a festive scarf for a limited time only. Visit heinzhistorycenter.org/join for details.
EXHIBITS

Behind the Scenes: Filmmakers Visit “Mister Rogers” Sets

The History Center played an important role in the making of “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” starring Tom Hanks. The film’s art director, set designers, costume designers, and sound engineers made frequent trips to the museum to examine the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” set pieces and costumes. With help from History Center staff, they measured artifacts, analyzed the construction of set pieces, matched paint colors and fabrics, recorded sound, and more to ensure the re-created sets for the film were as realistic as possible.

Smithsonian Spotlight: Portraits of Pittsburgh

Nearly 60 works of art from the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery are coming to Pittsburgh as part of a dynamic new exhibition opening this spring at the History Center.

The Smithsonian’s Portraits of Pittsburgh: Works from the National Portrait Gallery exhibition, which opens on March 21, 2020, will feature original paintings, sketches, and prints that showcase more than 100 people with Pittsburgh connections who exemplify the innovations, challenges, and motivations that have shaped this region and our nation.

More than just paintings on a wall, the Portraits of Pittsburgh exhibition will examine how portraiture identifies and questions changing beliefs about who is important in American culture and will explore how such individuals shaped the world in which we live today.

Check heinzhistorycenter.org/portraits for more information and updates.

Local Students Honor Constitution Day

On Sept. 17, more than 400 local students in third through fourth grade visited the History Center to celebrate Constitution Day. The holiday commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

Students participated in hands-on activities throughout the museum — including a Bill of Rights scavenger hunt and Constitution Jenga — to learn about the important documents that shaped our nation.

In addition, students learned about the legislative process during special presentations by local representatives from the Association of Former Members of Congress and the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Constitution Day activities are part of the History Center’s America 101 initiative, which engages and inspires the public to learn American history through public programs, educational outreach, and special exhibitions.

The History Center’s America 101 initiative is made possible with the generous support of the Jack Buncher Foundation and UPMC.

Museum Updates: Improve Accessibility

The History Center is working to become more accessible to all audiences. As part of this initiative, the museum now offers sensory bags for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Sensory Sensitivities. The bags include sound-reducing headphones, sunglasses, a variety of fidgets, a sand timer, a book, and more to help create an accepting and sensory inclusive museum experience. In addition, Tour-Mate assistive listening devices are now available for members of the hard of hearing community. After successful testing this summer, 75 of these easy-to-use devices are now on-site for use during guided tours and public programs to help create the best auditory experience possible. Both sensory bags and assistive listening devices can be checked out in the Museum Shop during a museum visit. The History Center’s accessibility initiative is generously supported by the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust.

LEARNING

Women’s History Initiative Launches in 2020

The year 2020 marks 100 years since women won the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment. To celebrate the centennial, the History Center is launching a new initiative to highlight women’s history in Pittsburgh and the work that remains to be done in the fight for gender equity. The History Center will spotlight some of the most recognizable women in Pittsburgh’s history, including environmentalist Rachel Carson and journalist Nellie Bly, alongside notable women whose stories often go untold, such as filmmaking pioneer Lois Weber. The initiative will feature engaging public programs, voter registration opportunities, digital storytelling, and more throughout 2020 and beyond. Stay tuned for more information at heinzhistorycenter.org.

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Fort Pitt Museum’s Pittsburgh, Virginia Exhibit Now Open

Yinz would be y’all. Virginians would bleed black and gold. Pittsburgh would be for lovers, too.

The Fort Pitt Museum’s newest exhibition, Pittsburgh, Virginia, explores how Pittsburgh nearly became a permanent part of Virginia.

The exhibit focuses on the turbulent events of 1774, when Pennsylvania and Virginia fought for control of Pittsburgh, while Lord Dunmore’s War put the fate of the Ohio Country and all of its inhabitants at stake. Using 18th-century artifacts and period imagery, the exhibit tells a fascinating story about the lust for Indian lands (led by ambitious Virginian speculators like George Washington), colonial rivalries, and the quest to preserve sovereignty by all parties involved.

A key artifact in the exhibit is a carved powder horn (used by soldiers to safely carry gunpowder) bearing an extremely rare firsthand depiction of Fort Duquesne as it appeared when General John Forbes and his British army captured the Point and named it Pittsburgh in November 1758. It is believed to be one of the earliest objects made in Pittsburgh. To learn more about the story behind this important artifact, visit heinzhistorycenter.org/blog.

Pittsburgh, Virginia will be on view through fall 2020. The Pittsburgh, Virginia exhibition is generously supported by the Laurel Foundation and Brian and Mary Roman.

A Great Day for Hockey

Every day is a great day for hockey at the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum! The museum’s new A Great Day for Hockey exhibit is a must-see for Pittsburgh Penguins fans of all ages. Relive all five of the team’s Stanley Cup Championship seasons through fascinating artifacts and engaging multimedia displays. This cutting-edge exhibit features game-worn equipment from Pittsburgh hockey legends including Mario Lemieux, Sidney Crosby, Eugen Matlak, and Marc-Andre Fleury. While exploring the Steel City’s storied hockey history, make sure to snap a selfie with a life-sized figure of Lemieux hoisting an exact replica of the Stanley Cup, then put your skills to the test in a high-stakes game of bubble hockey.

Sports Museum Honors Hoops Star Chuck Cooper

The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum recently unveiled a new display case dedicated to the career of Chuck Cooper, days after the Pittsburgh basketball legend was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The display features Cooper’s uniform from the 1950 All-American game and photos from his career. In 1950, Cooper became the first African American drafted by the National Basketball Association after being taken in the second round by the Boston Celtics. Following a six-year career in the NBA, Cooper returned home, served on the Pittsburgh Public School Board, and became the city’s first African American department head as director of Parks and Recreation.

The new Pittsburgh, Virginia exhibition at the Fort Pitt Museum features 18th century artifacts, such as this carved powder horn bearing an extremely rare firsthand depiction of Fort Duquesne.

Searching for DNA at Meadowcroft Rockshelter

Cutting-edge archaeological research continues at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, the oldest site of human habitation in North America. A National Historic Landmark, the Rockshelter first underwent archaeological excavations in the 1970s that provided evidence of human habitation at the site as early as 19,000 years ago. Since then, excavations and studies have continued at the site to learn more about the peopling of North America.

Archaeologist Devin Gandy, a Ph.D. candidate at St. John’s College, University of Cambridge, recently visited the Rockshelter to collect sediment samples to be tested for environmental DNA (eDNA).

Gandy worked with James M. Adovasio, Ph.D., the History Center’s Director of Archaeology, to collect samples from the deepest, and therefore oldest, part of the site. The samples are being tested for traces of ancient plant, animal, and even human DNA in the coming weeks.

If discovered, human DNA from the Rockshelter would enable researchers to look for genetic similarities with DNA samples found during other comparable archaeological excavations; help identify the origin of the humans who used the site thousands of years ago to better understand how North America was populated; and identify any similarities between the DNA and that of modern-day American Indians.

Smithsonian Intern Explores African American Collections

As an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the Heinz History Center partners with the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) and its prestigious Robert Frederick Smith Internship and Fellowship Program each summer. The program allows student interns to work with the NMAAHC through the top museums in the nation. Most recently, Iris Afantchao, a senior studying government and archival studies at Smith College, spent the summer conducting research in the African American Collection focused within the Detre Library & Archives. Working primarily with Samuel W Black, director of the History Center’s African American Program, and Matthew Strauss, chief archivist, Iris focused on processing and digitizing collections, including material from the Aurora Reading Club, the oldest African American women’s club in Western Pennsylvania, and 19th-century photographs and newspaper clippings from the Writt-Richards collection. Her efforts culminated in August with a presentation at the annual Association of African American Museums Conference in Jackson, Miss.

Chuck Cooper's uniform from the 1950 All-American game is on display at the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum.

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PROUDLY ROOTED IN PITTSBURGH

UPMC Health Plan and the Senator John Heinz History Center— learning from the past to care for the future.

UPMC Health Plan
www.upmchealthplan.com
HAPPENINGS

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

The History Center Museum Shop is your one-stop shop this holiday season. From the Heinz History Center to “Wickie’s” Rogers Neighborhood,” there’s a Shop online at shop.heinzhistorycenter.org or visit us in-store daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum Shop is open to the public with no admission fee.

Don’t forget! History Center members save 10% on all purchases.

TOP 5 MUSEUM SHOP GIFTS

1. 57 SERVINGS FROM THE HEINZ TABLE BOOK
   New from Heinz History Center
   200 recipes and stories
   From history to the kitchen
   $24.95

2. MISTER ROGERS’ T-SHIRT
   Show your love for Pittsburgh’s favorite neighbor with a “By Kindness Only” t-shirt available in youth and adult sizes.
   $16.95

3. HISTORY CENTER STICKER PACK
   Featuring the Pittsburgh skyline, Rosie the Riveter, and more, these History Center stickers are perfect for your water bottle or laptop.
   $4.00

4. HEINZ BEANIE
   This youth-friendly Heinz beanie will keep you warm even on the coldest of days.
   $12.95

5. COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS
   From baseballs and hockey sticks to vintage-themed caps, commemorative gifts offer the chance to bring home a slice of history. Visit the Shop at 4th Street and Ninth Ave.
   $8.95

FIND MORE GIFT IDEAS ON OUR BLOG AT HEINZHISTORYCENTER.ORG/BLOG

WELCOME HOME, FRANCO AND GEORGE

Welcome Home, Franco and George

NHL Hall of Famer Franco Harris joined Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, History Center President and CEO Andy Masich, and Pittsburgh International Airport CEO Christina Cassotis to welcome back the new-and-improved lifelike figures of Franco and George Washington. The iconic figures recently received a makeover and are once again ready to welcome millions of travelers at the airport!

HISTORY UNCORCKED 2020

History Uncorked 2020

Grab your legwarmers and put on your favorite mixtape – the 22nd annual History Uncorked, presented by BNY Mellon, is all about the ‘80s Co-chaired by Abby Krizner and Cathy Schodde, Pittsburgh’s premier party for young professionals returns on Friday, Feb. 21, 2020. Partiers can dress in their ‘80s best and enjoy a totally awesome night of live music, dancing, and tubular activities. Tickets will go on sale in January 2020. Follow us on social media or check out heinzhistorycenter.org/events for the latest!

To become a sponsor or for more information about History Uncorked, please contact Angela Gaitaniella, Development Manager, at agaitaniella@heinzhistorycenter.org or 412-454-6405.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

Nov. 17 • Treasures in the Archives
This annual event presented by the Detre Library & Archives offers an opportunity to see highlights from one of the largest collections of historic materials about Western Pennsylvania.

Nov. 20 • History Explorers: Shattering Notions
Family-friendly activities will be provided by the Detre Library & Archives during Santa Spectacular in Point State Park.

Dec. 5 • Tuscan Sensations
The History Center’s Italian American Program presents Tuscan Chef Giovanni Farante, Danielle Pescara, and accompanying musicians for a Holiday concert in the true (Italian) holiday tradition.

Dec. 11 • Step into History: Home for the Holidays
A Very Merry Pittsburgh Holiday Traditions tour presented by the Detre Library & Archives.

December

Nov. 21 • Behind the Scenes of a Very Merry Pittsburgh
The History Center’s exhibitions team will present a panel discussion on the making of one of the most anticipated holiday exhibits.

Dec. 10 • School Break Workshop: Game Design Basics
Kids ages 8-12 can explore the A Very Merry Pittsburgh exhibit, learn about holiday traditions and the history of gift-giving, and design their own game to play as a gift.

Dec. 12 • Feast of Seven Fishes
The History Center’s Italian American Program presents the annual Feast of Seven Fishes.

Dec. 16 • Pittsburgh Portraits with Andy Masich
Join History Center President and CEO Andy Masich for an afternoon of storytelling as he presents some wonderful stories of Pittsburgh history.

Dec. 30 • Pittsburgh Portraits with Andy Masich
Join History Center President and CEO Andy Masich for an afternoon of storytelling as he presents more wonderful stories of Pittsburgh history.

December 30

Jan. 17 • Friday Night Fun: Celebrate Heinz Kids in Ward through eighth grades can enjoy a fun night of art, cooking, and sneak preview inspired by the H.J. Heinz Company’s 150-year history.

Jan. 27 • NFL PLAY 60 Training Camp
One week before fans watch pro football’s biggest game, the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum at the Heinz History Center is welcoming kids to get up and get active at the eighth annual NFL PLAY 60 Training Camp. As an added perk, admission to the museum is FREE for kids ages 17 and under, made possible by DICK’s Sporting Goods.

January

Feb. 21 • 22nd Annual History Uncorked
Pittsburgh’s premier party for young professionals, will be an ‘80s-inspired night of live music, dancing, and tubular activities. Tickets are $65.00, and sales are possible by DICK’s Sporting Goods.

February

Feb. 21 • First Friday: Art, Cooking, and Salesmanship
Kids in third through eighth grades can enjoy a fun night of art, cooking, and salesmanship inspired by the Heinz History Center.

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW EVENT

November 21 • Holiday 2019 | February 21 • Holiday 2020

EXHIBIT EVENT

A VERY MERRY FAMILY EVENT

PITTSBURGH LIBRARY & ARCHIVES EVENT

DETRE FREE EVENT

Visit Santa inside the History Center’s new A Very Merry Pittsburgh exhibition from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on select dates this holiday season.

Nov. 16-17 • Nov. 23-24 • Nov. 29
Dec. 1 • Dec. 7-8 • Dec. 14-15 • Dec. 21-24

For more information about History Center events and to purchase tickets, please visit heinzhistorycenter.org/events.
In this issue...

- A Very Merry Pittsburgh Exhibit Explores Holiday Traditions
- New Mister Rogers Artifacts Now on View
- Holiday Gift Guide: Pittsburgh Gifts for Everyone on Your List
- Sports Museum Honors Duquesne Basketball Star Chuck Cooper

412-454-6000 | www.heinzhistorycenter.org

Did You Know?

Boyce Park, an Allegheny County Park, covers about 1,096 acres and is located in Plum Borough and Monroeville. The park is the only location in Allegheny County for downhill skiing, with ski lifts and a large ski lodge called “Four Seasons.”