

PRESS RELEASE

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JAHA Guild to form; Volunteers sought

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. – A volunteer guild is forming to support the activities of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA). The guild will take part in a variety of activities on behalf of JAHA, including organizing a fundraising Gala. The next meeting of the guild will be on Monday, April 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Discovery Center.

“We felt it was a natural extension of what some volunteers have been doing for years, organizing the Gala,” explained Dr. Elaine Confer, a member of the new guild. “Forming a guild will allow more people to take part in that project, and also allow us to branch out to support JAHA in different projects beyond the Gala. We also want to make it fun and more social.”

Guild dues will be a nominal \$20 per year, and will be used to provide drinks and snacks at meetings. Guild meetings will be held on an as-needed basis throughout the year, with more meetings scheduled before major events, such as Gala and the Johnstown FolkFest.

Guild member duties include helping plan, host and organize major JAHA events, and soliciting items for the Gala’s silent and live auctions. Other duties can vary depending on the member’s interests and abilities. The JAHA Gala has been scheduled for Saturday, April 29, and the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest will take place over Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, 2006.

Volunteers play a major role in all of JAHA’s programs and museums – in fact, more than 500 volunteers help stage the Johnstown FolkFest each year, and volunteers serve as docents at the Johnstown Flood Museum and Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center. Guild membership is not required of volunteers for FolkFest or any other JAHA program, however.

To become a member of the guild, contact Donna Stromsdorfer at 814-539-1889, ext. 307. For more about JAHA programs and museums, visit www.jaha.org.

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is a non-profit, membership-based organization dedicated to preserving and showcasing Johnstown's unique history to the nation through high-quality educational, cultural and recreational experiences. JAHA owns and operates the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center. JAHA also produces the AmeriServ FolkFest, a 3-day outdoor music festival with free admission, held annually over Labor Day weekend; events commemorating the 1889 Johnstown flood; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. The Wagner-Ritter House & Garden will soon open, and a Children's Discovery Museum is being planned. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit www.jaha.org.