

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 10, 2006)***

For more information, contact:  
Shelley Johansson, Marketing Manager  
Johnstown Area Heritage Association  
P. O. Box 1889  
Johnstown, PA 15907-1889  
814-539-1889  
sjohansson@jaha.org  
[www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org)

**Johnstown Area Heritage  
Association to hold annual gala  
on Saturday, April 29**  
*“Carnevale di Venezia” is the Gala theme*

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association is celebrating a carnival in Venice for its Gala this year. “Carnevale di Venezia” will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. at the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center.

Gala entertainment will include casino tables, allowing guests to play Texas Hold ‘Em, poker and blackjack that they can then use to buy prizes in the live or silent auctions. The evening will also feature dancing to live music by the P.T. Cruisers.

Gala decorations will include flowering plants, trees and bushes, courtesy of The Flower Barn. Specialty drinks will include Italian Margaritas, Italian Sunsets, Italian wines and coffee with liqueur. Italian fare will be served throughout the evening, and will include a broad selection of antipasta, shrimp cocktail, hors d’oeuvres, pasta with a variety of meat toppings and sauces, a chocolate fountain and more.

The newly-formed JAHA Guild is instrumental in producing the event, helping to plan the event’s theme, gather donations for the auctions, and decorate the building. The Guild is a group of volunteers who support

JAHA in the production of major events like the Gala and AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest.

“The Guild is a terrific group with a lot of creativity,” said Donna Stromsdorfer, special events coordinator for JAHA. “They’ve decorated carnival masks, solicited auction items, and generated a lot of enthusiasm for what’s going to be a great evening.”

This year, the Gala’s ever-popular Silent Auction will be joined by a live auction. Guests can use their gambling winnings in both auctions, which will feature more than 60 lots. A weeklong vacation in a luxury condominium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming is among the top items. Others include a weekend getaway package to Chautauqua, N.Y.; an overnight shopping excursion to Hagerstown, Md.; and getaway packages to area bed & breakfasts. Among the wide selection of gift baskets are tickets to professional sporting events; handcrafted home decoration items; family outing packages; tickets to professional theatres in Pittsburgh and elsewhere; golf outings; and many gift certificates to area restaurants. A preview of some of these items is available on JAHA’s Web site at [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).

The JAHA Gala is sponsored by Mark Pasquerilla and Harrigan’s Café & Wine Deck, and the live entertainment is sponsored by Laurel Auto Group. Additional event sponsors include First National Bank of Pennsylvania and The Flower Barn. Cost to attend is \$90 per person, or \$680 for a reserved table of eight. Proceeds from the event benefit JAHA programs and museums, including the Johnstown Flood Museum, Heritage Discovery Center, Wagner-Ritter House & Garden, and AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest.

Dress is black tie optional. Invitations have been sent to JAHA members and supporters, but everyone is invited to attend. Please RSVP by April 24 by calling Gwen Hartnett at JAHA, (814) 539-1889, x301. For more about the Gala, including the opportunity to purchase tickets online and a preview of auction items, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org). Anyone interested in becoming part of the JAHA Guild should contact Donna Stromsdorfer at (814) 539-1889 x307.

###

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. In addition to the Johnstown Flood Museum and the Frank & Sylvia Pasquerilla Heritage Discovery Center, JAHA produces the AmeriServ Johnstown FolkFest, a 3-day free music festival held annually over Labor Day weekend; flood commemoration events; and a wide variety of additional cultural programming. JAHA will open the Wagner-Ritter House & Garden in 2006, and a Children's Discovery Museum is being planned. For more information on JAHA programs, museums and events, visit [www.jaha.org](http://www.jaha.org).