



PRESS CONTACT:

Cari Feiler Bender, Relief Communications, LLC
(610) 416-1216, cari@reliefcomm.com

HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA, INC.
2011 SEASON FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION:

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. makes our nation’s history relevant and real through interpretation, interaction, and education, strengthening Greater Philadelphia’s role as the destination to experience American history. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.’s **Once Upon A Nation** is a unique program for bringing history to life, featuring Adventure Tours (walking tours), History Makers, Storytelling Benches throughout the Historic District and at Valley Forge, and the Benstitute to specially train all staff. **Franklin Square** is an outdoor amusement oasis with Philadelphia-themed Mini Golf, the *Philadelphia Park* Liberty Carousel, and SquareBurger, hosting birthday parties and many special events. *Liberty 360*, a new digital 3-D experience, is open for its first full season as a year-round indoor attraction housed at the remodeled Historic Philadelphia Center as Phase I of the all-new completely re-imagined **Lights of Liberty**. **The Betsy Ross House** allows visitors a personal look at the story and home of a famous historical figure, with newly remodeled and reinterpreted rooms and changing exhibitions.

LIBERTY 360:

Liberty 360 immerses the viewer in the symbols of freedom. Benjamin Franklin appears in a groundbreaking 360-degree, 3-D show unlike anything that has ever been seen before, and escorts the audience on a journey of discovery and exploration of America’s most beloved symbols. The 15-minute, 3-D film surrounds the audience in the new customized state-of-the-art PECO Theater.



Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets

Open daily, year-round, 363 days a year

Shows every 20 minutes

February 1 – May 26: 10 am - 6 pm, Mon – Sat; 11 am - 5 pm, Sun

May 27 – June 20: 9 am - 7 pm, Mon – Thu; 9 am - 9 pm, Fri & Sat;

10 am - 7 pm, Sun

June 21 – August 14: 9 am - 7 pm, Mon; 9 am - 9 pm, Tues – Sat; 10 am - 7 pm, Sun

August 15 – Sept 5: 9 am - 7 pm, Mon – Thu; 9 am - 9 pm, Fri & Sat; 10 am - 7 pm, Sun

Sept 6 – March 31, 2012: 10 am - 6 pm, Mon – Sat; 11 am - 5 pm, Sun

Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

\$7 adults, \$6 senior/military/student, \$6 children 12 & under

Duration: 15 minutes

HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA CENTER:

Opened in September 2010, the **Historic Philadelphia Center**, across the street from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is now a new focal point of Independence Mall, as visitors are drawn to the building with a glimpse of the technology that awaits them inside. The Center is the headquarters for all of Historic Philadelphia’s programs including the box office, providing tickets for Once Upon A Nation tours,

– more –



Liberty 360, as well as the nearby Betsy Ross House and Franklin Square. The Center also serves as the departure point for all Once Upon A Nation tours, provides guest services such as restrooms, and offers expanded retail operations by Aramark.
6th & Chestnut Streets

FRANKLIN SQUARE:



Fun family entertainment and a beautiful park are just steps away from the Liberty Bell, in one of William Penn’s original five squares, now celebrating its **5th Birthday Season**. **Award-winning Franklin Square** is an outdoor amusement oasis located in the heart of Historic Philadelphia, featuring Philly Mini Golf, a renovated vintage marble fountain, playgrounds, the *Philadelphia Park Liberty Carousel*, and the acclaimed SquareBurger, with offerings from Starr Restaurants. After a day of experiencing the treasures of Philadelphia’s history, putt through some of the city’s most famous icons, take a ride on hometown racehorse heroes Afleet Alex or Smarty Jones aboard the carousel, enjoy a rest next to the refreshing fountain, and dine on the finest burgers and shakes in town. All summer long, enjoy stories of our nation’s history from the Once Upon A Nation storyteller. **Awarded Best of Philly® two times by Philadelphia Magazine and one of the top ten playgrounds in the United States by Dream On Travel.**

Franklin Square: 6th & Race Streets. All hours are weather permitting.

April 1 – May 26: 10 am - 7 pm, daily

May 27 – September 5: 10 am - 9 pm, daily; open until 10 pm, Thurs – Sat

September 6 – 30: 10 am - 6 pm, daily

October 1 – 31: 10 am - 9 pm, Fri, Sat, & Sun (open Columbus Day)

SquareBurger also open 11 am - 2 pm, Mondays – Thursdays

November 25 – 27: 12 - 5 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

December 3 – 18: 12 - 5 pm, Saturdays & Sundays (SquareBurger same hours)

December 24: 12 - 4 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

December 26 – 30: 12 - 5 pm, daily (SquareBurger same hours)

December 31: 12 - 6 pm (SquareBurger same hours)

Note SquareBurger opens at 11 am and closes one hour before Franklin Square closes, except where noted.

What did you do on your 5th birthday? Celebrate Franklin Square’s 5th all season long!

- **Philly Mini Golf:** Putt around the city on this Philadelphia-themed miniature golf course! \$8 adults/\$6 children (3-12), *FREE for children under 2*
- **Philadelphia Park Liberty Carousel:** A zebra, a lion, an eagle, horses and more! Hop on this spectacular all-American style carousel with hometown racehorse heroes Afleet Alex and Smarty Jones. \$2.50 per person (adult or child), *FREE for children under 2*
- **Playgrounds:** Slides, swings, and spinners...bring the kids and enjoy two playgrounds! Open year-round and *FREE*.
- **SquareBurger:** Starr Restaurants presents a delicious menu featuring burgers, hot dogs, french fries, salad, southern-fried chicken fingers, and delectable frozen treats such as The Cake Shake with Tastykake Butterscotch Krimpet© and a Shake-of-the-Month! New additions for 2011 include the Birthday Bonanza Sundae and the With Love XOXO Strawberry Sundae.

2011 Special Events at Franklin Square [12 - 3 pm, except where noted]

All free activities are available during stated times or while supplies last

Friday, April 1 – Franklin Square opens for the season!

April 24 – Great Egg Hunt – on the Great Lawn. *FREE!*

May 7 & 8 – Mother’s Day Celebration – Make a gift for Mom, FREE! Mom is FREE with a child golf ticket.

May 19, 5:30 pm – An Evening in Franklin Square, \$150 per person

The event begins at 5:30 pm with cocktails and a silent auction.

At 7 pm, the guests will be invited to enjoy dinner along with a live auction and dancing. The Governor’s Cup Mini Golf Tournament will kick off at 4:30 pm.

May 28 – 30 – Memorial Day Fun in Franklin Square – Lightning Bolt Express is a fun train ride around the Square (tickets required). Face painting on May 28 & 29 (tickets required); fun and games on the Great Lawn on May 30, FREE!

June 11, 10 am - 4:30 pm – Flag Day Celebration – All ticket purchasers receive a flag and entry into a contest at the Betsy Ross House Flag Festival. Flag craftivity 12 - 3 pm. FREE!

June 18 & 19 – Father’s Day Celebration – Make something special for Dad, FREE! Dad is FREE with a child golf ticket.

July 1 – 4, 11 am - 7 pm – Civil War Road Show – Civil War stories, displays, and entertainment, FREE!

July 2 – 4 – Independence Day Fun in Franklin Square – Lightning Bolt Express is a fun train ride around the Square (tickets required). Face painting on July 2 & 3 (tickets required).

July 23 & 24 – Parents’ Day Celebration – Make a gift for Mom & Dad, FREE! Parent is FREE with a child golf ticket.

July 31, 11 am – Franklin Square’s 5th Birthday Celebration – Cake cutting and special promotions throughout the day, FREE! Face painting 12 - 3 pm (tickets required).

August 20 & 21 – Franklin Square Luau – Hawaiian-themed craft with music and games, FREE!

September 3 – 5 – Labor Day Fun in Franklin Square – Lightning Bolt Express is a fun train ride around the Square (tickets required). Face painting on September 3 & 4 (tickets required); fun and games on the Great Lawn on September 5, FREE!

October 1-30, dusk to 9 pm – Spooky Mini Golf – Philly Mini Golf is transformed into spooky fun for the season with fog, lights, music, and surprises (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings) (tickets required).

October 15, 5 pm – Great Pumpkin Party – Save the date for a fun kids’ fundraiser in Franklin Square (tickets required)!

October 15 & 16 – Lightning Bolt Express – A fun fall train ride around the Square (tickets required)!

October 22 & 23 – Pumpkin Patch & Lightning Bolt Express – Pick a pumpkin out of our Pumpkin Patch and decorate it to take home, FREE! Plus, a fun fall train ride around the Square (tickets required)!

October 29 & 30 – Trick-or-Treat Trail & Lightning Bolt Express – Make your very own Trick-or-Treat bag and follow the Trick-or-Treat Trail map throughout Franklin Square. FREE! Plus, a fun fall train ride around the Square (tickets required)!

November 25, 26, & 27, 2 - 5 pm – Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus – Bring your Christmas list and visit with the Clauses, FREE!

November 29, 5 pm – Franklin Square Holiday Lighting

Holiday lighting ceremony with Santa Claus and Benjamin Franklin illuminating thousands of holiday lights throughout Franklin Square. Attractions open 5 – 7 pm.

December 3 – 18, 2 - 5 pm – Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus – Bring your Christmas list and visit with the Clauses, FREE!

December 31, 6 pm – Kids’ New Year’s Eve Countdown – A kids’ version of the famous New Year’s Eve celebration with a dropping “square” in lieu of the famous ball, FREE! Penn’s Landing Fireworks visible from Franklin Square.

Franklin Square is available for birthday parties, special events, and group outings!

ONCE UPON A NATION STORYTELLING BENCHES:

Thirteen one-of-a-kind award-winning Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches are scattered all over Philadelphia’s Historic District, telling riveting stories of our nation’s history in the places where they actually happened. Specially-trained, uniformed storytellers delight and entertain with free, short 5-minute stories while sharing the secrets of Philadelphia’s and America’s history. Children can pick up a Story Flag at any storytelling bench, then collect a star from every storyteller on their journey. Flags with all 13 stars can be redeemed for a History Hero Certificate and special coupon book at the Historic Philadelphia Center, Franklin Square or the Betsy Ross House.

May 28 – September 5: 11 am - 4 pm, daily

Throughout Philadelphia’s Historic District, FREE



The free storytelling benches will be at these 13 locations in the Historic District:

1. Independence Visitor Center
2. Independence Square, behind Independence Hall
3. Signers’ Garden
4. Second Bank of the United States presented by PNC
5. The ACE Charitable Foundation Storytelling Bench at Carpenters’ Hall
6. Harmony Lane
7. Franklin Court
8. Christ Church

9. Elfreth’s Alley

10. Betsy Ross House

11. Arch Street Meeting House

12. The Lincoln Storytelling Bench at the National Constitution Center

13. Franklin Square

Stories from the Underground Railroad and the Civil War: Start at any storytelling bench and visit all thirteen “stops,” hearing tales of the famous and not-so-famous people who lived in these times.

TOURS:

FOR ALL TOURS: recommended to arrive 30 minutes in advance to pick up tickets and see the new *Liberty 360* show for only \$5.

Independence After Hours

This evening walking tour visits some of the landmarks of Philadelphia’s Historic District and is populated with Colonial characters who bring history to life right in the place where it happened. Tour-takers walk through the shadows of Independence Hall (in this exclusive opportunity to visit inside the Hall at night, with no crowds) and experience what those late nights of the summer of 1776 were like for the Founding Fathers. The evening begins with a delicious three-course meal at the Historic City Tavern where Colonial townspeople entertain guests. The Colonial host then “sneaks” everyone into the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall), once he talks his way past the vigilant night watchman. Inside the Hall, visitors witness several Founding Fathers deep in discussion over the creation of the Declaration of Independence.

Add on Liberty 360 to complete your night for only \$5.

April 15 – June 11: 5:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays

June 14 – August 13: 5:30 pm, Tuesdays - Saturdays

August 19 – October 22: 5:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays

Departs from the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets

\$75 adults, \$50 children 12 & under, \$70 senior/military/student (dining gratuity included)

Duration: 3 hours. Wear comfortable shoes. Recommended for children 10 and older.



Tippler's Tour

On Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s weekly tavern tour of Colonial and modern day watering holes, a Colonial hostess or host shares historical facts about the traditions of drinking and leads guests in Colonial drinking songs and toasts. With drinks and snacks at each of the four stops: Salon 401 at Omni Hotel, National Mechanics, Triumph Brewery, and the historical City Tavern, the tour guide entertains guests with songs and stories of the drinking traditions from Colonial times, and shares some of Benjamin Franklin's most fun phrases for someone who is drunk, including "nimptopsical" and "tipsicum grave."

April 14 – December 22: 5:30 pm, Thursdays

Departs from the Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets

\$35 adults, \$30 senior/military/student. (tastings & gratuity included, 21 and over with valid I.D.) Duration: 2½ hours

Colonial Kids Quest

The Declaration of Independence is missing! Help Phineas Bell search for clues at historic sites that will save the day. Along the way, find his runaway dog, Freedom, and meet helpful two-legged and four-legged friends. A kid-friendly "Whodunit" that's great for detectives of all ages!

May 28 – September 3: 11 am, Sat

ALSO July 3 and 4 at 11 am

Departs from Historic Philadelphia Center, 6th & Chestnut Streets

\$17 per person, children 2 and under free

Duration: 60 minutes. Recommended for children 10 and under.

VALLEY FORGE:

Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches at Valley Forge

Guaranteed to educate and entertain, these one-of-a-kind Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches are in three locations around Valley Forge National Historical Park. Storytellers, trained at the unique Benstitute, share riveting stories of the encampment, and how it became a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Short, five-minute stories are told for free at one of the signature 13-foot curved benches. Unlike the storytelling benches in Philadelphia's Historic District which close for the season on Labor Day, the benches at Valley Forge will continue to operate into the fall, corresponding to the popular time of year for the Park.

May 28 - June 5: 11 am - 4 pm, Saturdays and Sundays (also Memorial Day, May 30)

June 11 – September 5: 11 am - 4 pm, daily

September 10 – October 23: 11 am - 4 pm, Saturdays and Sundays

THREE locations: Visitor Center, Train Station at Washington's Headquarters, Varnum's Quarters, FREE

Valley Forge Secrets & Spies

George Washington needs help. There's rumor of a plot to have him kidnapped at Valley Forge. Meet the General as he enlists children and adults to join his American spy network to uncover the traitors involved. Learn 18th-century spy techniques including invisible ink, counterespionage, and looking for secret messages as young guests work with operatives to foil the plot.

June 11 – September 3: 2 pm, Saturdays

\$17 per person. Duration: 1¼ hours.

Recommended for children ages 8 and up.

Departs from the Train Station at Washington's Headquarters. Tickets available at Valley Forge NHP Visitor Center or at www.historicphiladelphia.org. (Note ticket pick-up and tour departure are separate locations.)

Valley Forge After Hours

Travel back in time to June 1778, a turning point in the Revolutionary War, spend an exciting evening at the famous encampment at Valley Forge, and see what nights were like for the Continental Army. Enjoy a traditional Colonial dinner with Martha Washington before checking in at General Washington’s Headquarters and then relax around the group campfire and listen to the soldiers’ tales.

May 28 – September 3: 6 pm, Saturdays

September 10 – October 22: 5 pm, Saturdays

\$55 adults, \$50 student/senior/military and children 12 & under. Duration: 3½ hours

Departs from Valley Forge NHP Visitor Center.

Tickets available at Valley Forge NHP Visitor Center or at historicphiladelphia.org.

NEW IN 2011 – Call to Arms: 1778!

It’s May, 1778, and word is spreading that the British may soon evacuate their occupation of Philadelphia. The cause of Liberty needs YOU! Come to Varnum’s Quarters to be recruited into the Continental Army and be trained in a fun and spirited Military Muster. After you complete your training, receive orders for your first mission!

June 11 – September 4: 12 noon, Saturdays and Sundays

In addition to the Muster, meet a member of Washington’s Troops from 11 am – 4 pm, Saturdays and Sundays.

FREE

Varnum’s Quarters

BETSY ROSS HOUSE:

The Betsy Ross House is dedicated to preserving the legend of the first flag and the story of Betsy Ross, and all Colonial working-class women. The House, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is one of Philadelphia’s most popular historic attractions with nearly 300,000 visitors annually. The House is two and a half stories with eight rooms and was originally built in 1740. The House is restored to the period from 1773 to 1785, when Betsy Ross, as the story tells it, created the first American flag. The house is furnished with period antiques and some reproduction furniture. Highlights include several objects known to have belonged to Betsy Ross. Visit Betsy Ross in the country’s only interactive colonial upholstery shop and get an up close look at the parlor, where she famously received the Flag Committee, and her bedroom where the first flag was secretly stitched. Kids will love the interactive exhibits in the House’s basement. See changing exhibits in the gallery and meet Betsy Ross, in person. Plus, meet Betsy’s Colonial counterparts, the History Makers, throughout the summer. **From Memorial Day to Labor Day, begin the day at the Flag Raising with Betsy Ross and friends at 10 am!**



April 1 – November 30: 10 am - 5 pm, daily

December 1 – February 28: 10 am - 5 pm, Tuesdays - Sundays

March 1 – 31: 10 am - 5 pm, daily

239 Arch Street

Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 children/students/seniors/military. Audio tour available for \$6 adults, \$5 children/students/seniors/military, includes admission. Duration: 25 minutes.

2011 Special Events at the Betsy Ross House

April 12 – Exhibit Opening – The House’s newest exhibit *Rally 'Round the Flag: Civil War Color Bearers and the Flags They Carried* commemorates the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War with a look at the most dangerous job on the battlefield: the color bearer.

May 7, 4 - 5:30 pm – Mother’s Day Tea Party with Betsy – \$35 for two; \$15 each additional person. Dine on an elegant array of tea sandwiches and pastry and sip on fine teas in a beautiful, historic setting.

May 28 - 30 – Memorial Day Weekend Celebration – Celebrate the unofficial start of summer with make-and-take crafts and a scavenger hunt for kids. Plus, free summer programming kicks-off in the Courtyard.

June 11, 10 am - 5 pm – Flag Festival 2011: A Turn of the Century Celebration – Celebrate the Stars and Stripes at this annual street fair featuring crafters, old-fashioned entertainment, midway games, food, and more.

June 14, 12 - 1 pm – Flag Day Celebration – Philadelphia’s official Flag Day ceremony, presented by the Philadelphia Flag Day Association, features patriotic music and a flag-folding ceremony.

July 4, 11 am - 3 pm – Betsy’s Independence Day Bash – Activities for kids, a children’s naturalization ceremony at 1:30 pm, ceremonial bell ringing at 2 pm. FREE!

September 3 - 5 – Labor Day Celebration – Back-to-school scavenger hunt with prizes. FREE!

December 31, 11 am - 4 pm – Betsy’s Birthday Bash – Birthday cake and crafts for kids. FREE!

FREE PROGRAMS:

ALL FREE PROGRAMS RUN MAY 28 – SEPTEMBER 5 (unless otherwise noted)
History Makers

Meet some of your favorite characters from the Once Upon A Nation stories come to life and hear their first-hand account...second to none. Pick up a Historic Philadelphia *Gazette* to discover the daily schedule.

Highlights of the daily schedule:

- Flag Raising, 10 am, *Betsy Ross House*, with Betsy and friends
- Rally Round the Flag, 11 am, *Independence Mall outside the Independence Visitor Center*, photo opportunity with History Makers in costume
- We The People, 12 noon, *Independence Mall outside the Independence Visitor Center*, dramatic reading
- Military Muster, 2 or 3 pm, *Signers’ Garden*, kids join the Continental Army
- Declaration Reading, 3:45 pm, behind *Independence Hall*, greet the History Makers and hear moving readings from the Declaration of Independence.

See more at *Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, daily*
also at *Independence Visitor Center, 6th & Market Streets, 11 am - 3 pm, daily*

Free Quaker Meeting House

Free Quakers from Revolutionary War, Timothy Matlack or Samuel Wetherill, or 19th-century descendent John Price Wetherill, share their controversial views in a historic house of worship.

Free Quaker Meeting House, 5th & Arch Streets

February 3 – May 28: 11 am - 4 pm, *Wednesdays - Sundays*

May 28 – September 5: 11 am - 4 pm, *daily*

September 7 – December 31: 11 am - 4 pm, *Wednesdays - Sundays*

CLOSED: *January*

Military Muster

The fife and drum are a sure sign: the Continental Army is looking for a few good kids, for drills in the art of marching and musket etiquette.

Signers’ Garden, 5th & Chestnut Streets, 2 and 3 pm, twice daily

PARTNERS:

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. is led by President and CEO Amy Needle and Board Chair Wayne Spilove, in partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, City of Philadelphia, Independence National Historical Park, Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, Fairmount Park Commission, and Valley Forge National Historical Park.

FUNDERS:

The Lenfest Foundation and H.F. Lenfest, PECO, Delaware River Port Authority, PARX Casino, William Penn Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, ACE Charitable Foundation, Lincoln Financial Group Foundation, Philadelphia Eagles Go Green, Avery Foundation, Brett's Pony, Cash Is King Racing Stable, Team Smarty and the Chapman Family, ARAMARK, Connelly Foundation, Lewis Katz, Esq., Wayne S. Spilove, The McLean Contributionship, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Thomas Skelton Harrison Foundation, Parx Casino, Google, Valley Forge Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1956 Otto Haas Charitable Trust, American Express, PNC Foundation, Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation, Blank Rome LLP, Starr Restaurants, The Home Depot, Religious Society of Free Quakers, Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, Hotel Monaco Philadelphia, National Constitution Center, Robert Ambrosi / ARC Properties, Inc., James & Nadine Biles, Bittenbender Construction, LP, Chapman Auto Group, Cozen O'Connor, Giordano & Associates CPAs, P.C. / Streamline Payroll, LLC, Hill International, Inc., Independence Business Alliance, Independence Visitor Center Corporation, Lumbermens Merchandising Corporation, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau, The Phillies, Stonehenge Advisors Inc., Valley Forge Hotel Management Company, S.R. Wojdak & Associates, Amtrak, Omni Hotel at Independence Mall, and media partners WHERE Magazine, KYW Newsradio, and WXPN's Kids Corner.

BACKGROUND:

Historic Philadelphia, Inc. enhances the visitor experience and helps strengthen Philadelphia's tourism industry through interpretation and interaction, making our nation's history relevant and real. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s programs include the Betsy Ross House, Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and Lights of Liberty.

MORE

INFORMATION:

For all **Historic Philadelphia, Inc.** event information, call 215-629-4026, 877-462-1776, or visit www.historicphiladelphia.org to buy tickets online. Tickets available in person at the Historic Philadelphia Center, Betsy Ross House, Franklin Square, or the Independence Visitor Center. Follow HPI at twitter.com/HistoricPhilly and [http://twitter.com/FranklinSqr](https://twitter.com/FranklinSqr) or on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/facebkHPI> or <http://tinyurl.com/facebkFnkSq>.

All events, prices, and dates are subject to change.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photographs are available for media usage at: <http://tinyurl.com/HPIphoto>. Email cari@reliefcomm.com for login information.