

# Pennsylvania Humanities

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Spring/Summer 2009

## PHC Shares the Wealth With the Commonwealth

PHC's Latest Humanities Programs are a Gold Mine of Knowledge — and Right on Time

With the nation steeped in economic turmoil and saddled with stress, people are making hard decisions about what they must give up. But one thing Pennsylvanians cannot afford to go without is knowledge—and thanks to PHC, which is bringing humanities programs to audiences in all 67 counties for free or at little cost—they don't have to. Whether finding escape, inspiration or enlightenment in our rich array of programs, Pennsylvanians surely will gain an understanding of the human condition that is priceless.

When times are tough, sometimes laughter is the best medicine, as demonstrated by Benjamin Sota in his presentation *How the Circus Helped Folks During*

*the Great Depression*. Sota shows old footage and even performs exhilarating acts like juggling and slack rope walking as he revisits how the circus and vaudeville helped people cope and how these forms of entertainment have changed over time.

Meanwhile, no one exemplifies overcoming adversity more than women like Belinda Mulrooney and Sarah Walker, who swam upstream to make important contributions to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Rejecting the region's narrative as a land built solely by railroads, mining and men, *Alive to the Call: Women and History in Northeastern Pennsylvania* tells the story of pioneers who made their indelible mark by defying convention.

Charles Darwin defined unconventional when he introduced his renowned theory of evolution more than 100 years ago. Boldly blending history, art and science, the American Philosophical Society's theatrical work *A Play About Darwin* allows a

“re-created” Darwin to explain the history of the controversial concept himself.

No matter how humans evolved, it is culture that gives meaning to human life—even when honoring death. The Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science and Art presents an exhibition devoted to the Day of the Dead, a Latin American holiday commemorating the deceased, complete with skeleton sculptures and documentary photography. This moving look at loss is a testament to the humanities, which equip Pennsylvanians with stories and ideas that are rich and powerful, even if the economy is not.

All of PHC's programs are open to the general public. For details on attending these or any other upcoming PHC funded or produced programs, visit [www.pahumanities.org/events](http://www.pahumanities.org/events).

### How the Circus Helped Folks During the Great Depression

September 11

Presented by YMCA of Sewickley Valley's Senior Men's Club

### Alive to the Call: Women and History in Northeastern PA

October 16

Presented by Bradford County Historical Society  
[www.bradfordhistory.com](http://www.bradfordhistory.com)

### A Play About Darwin

September 4, 5, 11 and 12  
October 16-18 and 23-25

Presented by American Philosophical Society Museum  
[www.amphilsoc.org/museum](http://www.amphilsoc.org/museum)

### Day of the Dead: Art and Culture in the Americas

September 25-December 31  
Presented by Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art  
[www.everhart-museum.org](http://www.everhart-museum.org)



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Report to the People 2008

# Ireland to America: An Immigrant's Journey



Top: A lecture attendee asks Frank McCourt to autograph her book.

Bottom left: Audiences members, drawn from PHC's Read About It! program, have a lively Q&A with the author.

Bottom right: Read About It! discussion leader Matt Willen at the Lititz Public Library.

Opposite page: Frank McCourt kicks off the Speaker's Millennium Lecture at a press conference in the State Capitol's Rotunda.



Since 2000, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council has partnered with the Pennsylvania Speaker of the House of Representatives to spark dialogue about the ideas and people that have shaped our country. On November 10, 2008 acclaimed author Frank McCourt appeared in the State Capitol as the seventh Speaker's Millennium Lecturer before an audience of 600 to share his powerful story *Ireland to America: An Immigrant's Journey*.

This memorable lecture was followed on November 11 by an exclusive book discussion at Lititz Public Library. Moderated by James Murphy, Director of the Irish Studies program at Villanova University, members of PHC's Read About It! book discussion program were able to talk with the author in-depth about his journey to becoming a writer.

Matthew Willen (pictured left) is an Associate Professor of English at Elizabethtown College. He also serves as a discussion leader for PHC's Read About It! program and shares his recollections of both the lecture and library discussion.

Having been an English professor for a dozen years now, the experience of meeting authors has become for me something of a commonplace experience. Colleges often bring writers, politicians and other dignitaries to campus as part of their cultural events planning. So when Dee Neff, the director of the Annville Public Library, announced during the first session of our Read About It! group, that Frank McCourt was going to be visiting Pennsylvania to speak at the House of Representatives and to meet with area reading groups, I thought to myself, "Oh that will be a nice opportunity for us." Looking back on the events in retrospect, I am struck by the extent to which my initial response underestimated how truly special the events would be, for myself and for the American Life Stories discussion group which I lead.



Best known for his first memoir, *Angela's Ashes*, which won a Pulitzer Prize, McCourt has written several books about his experiences as an Irish immigrant to America, as well as his career as an English teacher in New York City schools. His books offer a dramatic, emotive, often funny and at times quite sardonic take on the immigrant experience, particularly the struggles one faces as he or she attempts to acquire a new identity in a new country in the face of people who continually attempt to explain their behavior based on assumptions about their native culture. "Oh, that's just like the Irish," is the sort of response that McCourt encounters throughout his memoir *Tis* (the follow-up to *Angela's Ashes*), which we read as part of the discussion program this fall.

**Who would you like to see featured at the next Speaker's Millennium Lecture? E-mail PHC Assistant Director Laurie Zierer at [lzierer@pahumanities.org](mailto:lzierer@pahumanities.org) and share your thoughts.**

Our reading group had the opportunity to attend two events featuring McCourt. The first was a large lecture at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg. About a dozen of the members of the Annville Read About It! group were able to attend this session. On a Monday evening in November, McCourt told stories for an hour about his experiences as a school teacher, as an immigrant, and as a writer to a full house of people from all around central Pennsylvania. The House of Representatives is a grand venue for a lecture, with its painted ceilings and gilded ornamentation; one feels distinctive just sitting in the hall.

When our reading group met later to discuss our next book, everyone who was able to attend the lecture commented on how the event was a real treat for them. "I felt so privileged," commented one member, "to be invited to the session, to hear a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. It was a very special meeting."

The day after the House of Representatives event, we were invited to attend a small discussion with McCourt and a lunch hosted by PHC at the Lititz Public

**The 2008 Speaker's Millennium Lecture was generously sponsored with funds from NEH's We the People program, with additional funds from Columbia Gas and PECO.**

**Other supporters include AFSCME 13, Capital BlueCross and the Friends of PHC.**

**Pennsylvania Cable Network broadcast the lecture live reaching households across the Commonwealth.**

**Please contact Laurie Zierer at [lzierer@pahumanities.org](mailto:lzierer@pahumanities.org) for information on Speaker's Millennium or other PHC sponsorship opportunities.**

Library. Again, a dozen of the members of the Annville group were able to attend the session, along with members of the Lititz area Read About It! group, led by my friend Deborah Linder. This intimate session was hosted by Professor James Murphy, who led a question and answer exchange between members of the audience and McCourt, following a reading from his memoir *Tis*. This was a very different experience than the previous evening.

We got to see Frank McCourt as he would respond impromptu to a variety of diverse questions concerning his motives for writing, his experiences as a teacher, his relationship with his family and his views on the status of education in the United States. One of the Annville group participants commented that, "He talks just like he writes, in really long sentences. And he was just as funny."

All in all, fifteen members of the Annville group were able to participate in these two special events, and all were agreed that they were truly wonderful opportunities. "PHC should do this for all their programs," one of the participants said. While we understand that such opportunities are difficult to arrange, the fact that they come along infrequently makes them even more special. All of us await the next visiting author PHC arranges, and hope we'll be able to participate.

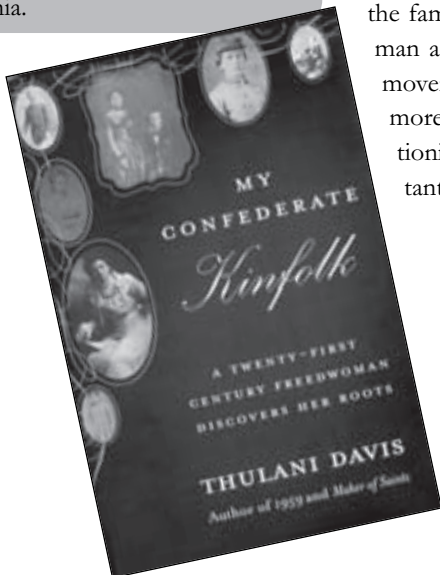
# Live a Little - Learn A Lot



Want to learn more about Pennsylvania's Civil War and African American history? Looking for an interesting and unusual way to spend a weekend getting to know your Commonwealth? PHC is in the second year of Live and Learn, a new initiative designed to increase understanding of the Underground Railroad and Civil War era. The program is presented in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's Quest for Freedom network and Jump Street Inc.

Audiences have opportunities throughout the year to participate in a Live and Learn program in their region. At events, participants receive a free copy of the weekend's featured book. They also have access to a scholar who talks about how the book ties into the larger national story. Tours of local historical sites and interactions with living history players round out the weekend.

Recently, PHC spoke with LaTonya Thames-Taylor (pictured on opposite page), who works with audiences in Chambersburg and Carlisle. LaTonya is an Associate Professor of History and the Assistant Department Chair of History at West Chester University of Pennsylvania.



## **Each Live and Learn weekend is anchored by a book. Is there a particular book you are looking forward to discussing?**

As a Mississippian, I am most intrigued by the Thulani Davis book, *My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots*. Davis, an African American woman, uncovers her family history and is surprised at what she learns about her ancestors. What's most intriguing about this book for me is that Davis explores her own misconceptions about identity. I look forward to discussing issues of identity, family and race.

## **The books in the program are varied: nonfiction, fiction and memoir. Do you see a benefit to using different types of genres to study history?**

Oh definitely. Regardless of whether it's written as fact or fiction, the author brings his/her interpretations of historical fact into the writing. Live and Learn asks the audience to do the same. Two people might see the circumstances surrounding an event differently because of what they bring to the discussion. Using different types of books allows different points of entry. Themes of flight, resistance, social change and self-empowerment are universal no matter what the genre.

## **Most people know stories about Harriet Tubman and Lincoln, but there is so much Civil War and Underground Railroad history that is not widely known. What do you hope audiences take away?**

I want audiences to see the struggle for democracy and freedom as a multi-ethnic movement that included all social classes. Blacks and whites, rich and poor took part in the struggle. There are so many lost voices. Not every slave could write and chronicle their path to freedom, but historical fact shows us that tens of thousands fought for freedom. The Underground Railroad was a specific example of democracy in action that led to greater access to civil rights for all Americans. Abolishing slavery wasn't just about making African Americans citizens; it also was about making freed Americans better citizens.

## **Have you encountered audience members who walked away with a different understanding of history because of the program?**

A man in Chambersburg came with strong opinions about John Brown, the controversial American abolitionist known for violently protesting slavery. Chambersburg is home to the John Brown House, a residence Brown occupied while preparing for the famed 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry. This man saw Brown as a lunatic, a crazy man and had a hard time seeing Brown as an important part of the abolitionist movement. During the weekend, he said he was going to revisit Brown and learn more about him. I think he realized that Brown was an important part of abolitionist history even though he may not have agreed with the methods. It's important to show that there may be different ways of interpreting history.

Thulani Davis' *My Confederate Kinfolk: A 21st Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots*, one of the featured selections of 2009.

**Your day job is professor at West Chester University. How does Live and Learn differ from teaching in a classroom?**

One major difference is that classroom learning can be limited. You read books and discuss the facts but usually don't go out into the field. Live and Learn combines "book learning" with "hands-on" experience. For example during a weekend in Chambersburg, we visited a historical graveyard. I saw the graves of former slaves, freedom seekers, black professionals and black Union soldiers. One of the more memorable experiences was touching a gravestone that read "Born a Slave." The caption underneath this statement chronicled the success he had with this life. Buried around him was his family. Coming face to face with history that went way beyond what I had read in books.

**Issues of race inevitably come up when looking at slavery and Civil War history. How do you deal with conflict when it arises in the discussions?**

Every person's entry into history is different. As a discussion leader, I try to move beyond conflict by building a safe, trusting environment where every audience member feels that his/her voice is heard. I can offer facts and suggest alternate ways of looking at history, but this program is ultimately about allowing audiences to explore history and come away with their own interpretations. Our hope is that by the end of a weekend, we've come to a collective understanding.

A Live and Learn weekend is no more than a few hours drive away—no matter where you live in Pennsylvania. Events take place in Chambersburg-Carlisle, Lancaster, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh-Erie. A number of Live and Learn weekends remain for the 2009 calendar year:

Erie	September 4-5
Pittsburgh	September 11-12
Lancaster	October 16-17
Philadelphia	October 23-24
Chambersburg	November 6-7
Pittsburgh	November 13-14

For details on a specific weekend, visit [www.pahumanities.org/events/](http://www.pahumanities.org/events/) and search by date.



PA audiences explore themes of slavery and freedom.



Scholar LaTonya Thames-Taylor on a Live and Learn weekend.

# Why Give to PHC?

(Answer: Because the Humanities Now are More Relevant Than Ever)

In these trying economic times, PHC is vastly aware that financial resources for individuals and organizations alike are becoming steadily scarce, and giving today comes with careful consideration. However, contributing to PHC allows donors to improve the human condition in Pennsylvania through support of enjoyable lifelong learning for adults. A gift to PHC not only supports our initiatives — it also is a gift of support to your community. People need something extraordinary — something that will give context to their existence, make sense of the world they live in and remind them of who they are. Fortunately, we have the humanities, which now are more relevant than ever.

Numerous individuals have benefited from, been inspired by and informed through connection with our Commonwealth Speakers presentations, Read About It! book discussions, Live and Learn Weekends and grant-funded projects. More than half a million people participated in over 800 PHC activities in 2008 alone. One of the best parts about that participation is that the events were of little or no cost to them!

Here's how your support can help PHC to offer such wonderful and affordable programming. For a contribution of \$75, for example, you could purchase books for a Read About It! book discussion at a participating library like the Wayne County Public Library. Through Read About It! participants enjoy and explore books (sometimes finishing a book for the first time) and have adult discussions about important topics.

No gift is too small to make a difference! Therefore, won't you help PHC by contributing your gift today? Become a friend of PHC. Please visit our website at [www.pahumanities.org/support](http://www.pahumanities.org/support) to make a gift on-line, or contact Development Associate Katrina Smith at (215) 925-1005 ext. 116 or at [ksmith@pahumanities.org](mailto:ksmith@pahumanities.org) with any questions or comments. Your support is so very important to us!

*"I have to say that this program [PHC's Read About It!] came around at just the right time. With people tightening their belts and spending less, this program provided them with four free books and four fun evenings just when they needed it most."*

— Tracy Schwarz (library staff),  
Wayne County Public Library

## PHC Advocates for the Humanities Community

In March 2009, PHC Executive Director Joseph J. Kelly, board member Susan Sherwood and former Information Associate Timothy Albro met with legislative staff and members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation in Washington, DC for Humanities on the Hill and Humanities Advocacy Day to advocate for humanities initiatives across the country.

Discussions with legislators also highlighted the community-based programs that PHC supports in each Pennsylvania congressional district enabling us to make a significant contribution to civic participation and quality of life across all 67 counties.



Humanities Advocacy Day brought together (L to R) newly-elected Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-5th); PHC Executive Director Joseph J. Kelly; Sanford Thatcher, Director, Penn State University Press; Jeanne Stoner, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh and Scott Pierce, Graduate Fellow, George Washington University, from Devon PA.



# Report to the People 2008

Annual Report of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

## PHC Funders in 2008

In fiscal year 2008, PHC presented over 770 events involving 370 humanities scholars and experts and more than 725,500 program attendees. This could not have been possible without the support of our many funders and partners.

The NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES continued to provide principal funds for PHC operations and Humanities Grants. Through NEH's We the People initiative, PHC received additional support in 2008 for 49 grants, 20 speakers and 10 book groups exploring the American experience. We the People funds supported *Humanities Live*, a public television initiative of PHC, produced in partnership with WHYY featuring Commonwealth Speakers, as well. We the People funds also were used to support PHC's annual Speaker's Millennium Lecture.

Presented on November 10 by author Frank McCourt, the 2008 Speaker's Millennium Lecture explored the impact of childhood poverty and immigration. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA and PECO also supported the lecture, with additional funds from AFSCME 13, CAPITAL BLUECROSS and many individual supporters. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA generously supported 8 Commonwealth Speaker presentations and 1 Read About It! book discussion group as well.

Our state partner in history, the PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION, supported 88 Commonwealth Speakers presentations, including presentations for family-oriented and participatory

programs. PHMC provided funds for *Humanities Live* episodes on Pennsylvania history and culture as well. PHC supported PHMC with administration of its Fast Track grants and the summer internship program, and promotion of anniversary programming on the Civil War and New Deal.

PHC's mission of informal learning was furthered at public libraries with funding from the PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S OFFICE OF COMMONWEALTH LIBRARIES. Twelve libraries hosted Read About It! book groups with Commonwealth Libraries funds. Additionally, 38 Commonwealth Speakers presentations were funded by Commonwealth Libraries.

Funds from the PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT were used to support Live and Learn weekends. Running across the state, Live and Learn is designed to increase public understanding of the Underground Railroad and Civil War era.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES continued its partnership with PHC for the Public Humanities Scholars program. In 2008, 2 central Pennsylvania organizations connected with Penn State faculty to create humanities programs for their communities.

*"Capital BlueCross was pleased to co-sponsor the Pennsylvania Humanities Council evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt, especially with our passion for education. His memoir, Angela's Ashes, about growing-up in poverty in Ireland, is written with humor and compassion and should be inspiring to everyone. His gift for storytelling was no more evident than when we were treated to his tales of teaching in the New York City school system for 30 years while we sat in the magnificent House Chamber. The Pennsylvania Humanities Council and former Speaker of the House Dennis O'Brien are to be congratulated for providing us with the opportunity to spend time with Mr. McCourt."*

— William Lehr, President and CEO, Capital BlueCross



Left to right: former PA Speaker of the House Dennis O'Brien, PHC board member William Lehr (Capital BlueCross), author Frank McCourt and Robert Baker (Capital BlueCross) at the 2008 Speaker's Millennium Lecture, presented at the State Capitol.

# PHC Donors in 2008

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council is grateful to those private donors whose generosity and commitment helped to support the development and expansion of our statewide humanities programming. We wish to recognize these gifts, which helped PHC make 2008 a memorable year.

**\$10,000 AND UP**  
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania

**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
PECO

**\$2,500-\$4,999**  
AFSCME 13  
Capital BlueCross  
Randall M. Miller

**\$1,000-\$2,499**  
Gene Barr  
Nancy L. Eaton  
Jacqueline J. Melander  
Robert and Caroline Rhodes

**\$500-\$999**  
Ann M. Benzel  
Jeffrey W. Gordon  
Bonelyn Lugg Kyofski  
H. Sheldon Parker  
Jeanne H. Schmedlen  
Mark Singel

**\$250-\$499**  
Robert Cohn  
Lynne Conner  
Kreutz Creek Valley Library Center  
David McCorkle  
J. Philip Mosley  
Terrence J. Murphy  
Sondra and Morey Myers  
Irwin Richman  
Susan L. Sherwood  
Tamaqua Public Library

**\$100-\$249**  
Anonymous  
AAUW – Makefield Area Branch  
Robin Fern Adeleman  
Cindy Banducci  
James Beidler  
Jeanne A. Bovard  
Christopher Breiseth  
Carole Briggs  
Debbie Camponovo  
Madeleine Casal  
S. Andrew Chen  
Yvonne Chism-Peace  
Francesca Colechia  
Mimi Barash Coppersmith  
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Jonelle Prether Darr  
David Library of the American Revolution  
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Marjorie Dunaway  
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Mandy Fleisher  
Charles Fletcher  
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Martha Dudley Keller  
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Tina R. Powers  
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Thomas Rippon  
Meredith S. Scheiner  
Kristin Scofield  
David Shumway  
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John Vanco  
C. Reynold Verret  
Asha Verma  
Edith Walsh  
Stephanie Grauman Wolf  
Bonnie Young  
Mary Clare Zales

**\$50-\$99**  
Allegheny City Society  
Irene Baird  
Barrett Township Historical Society  
Phyllis Beck  
David Belanger  
Michael Birkner  
Peter and Sally Bohlin  
Christine Bomgardner  
Marianne Caplan  
Caryn Carr  
Sara Jane Cate  
Children's Museum  
Paul Collier  
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Friends of the Lebanon Community Library  
Friends of the Montgomery District Library Center  
Friends of the West Lawn/Wyomissing Hills Library  
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Beatrice Hulsberg  
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King Beaver Archaeology  
Ann Knox  
Albert C. Labriola  
Lower Macungie Township Historical Society  
Lycoming County Historical Society and Taber Museum  
Macungie Historical Society  
Patricia Maxwell  
Margie McGregor  
Glenn R. Miller  
Yvonne Milspaw  
Dale Mitchell  
Neighborhood Art House  
Network of Victim Assistance  
David Othmer  
Steven Peitzman

Evan Radcliffe and Nancy J. Shaw  
Rodef Shalom Congregation  
Rob Ruck  
Diane Sandquist  
Edward Schaller  
Jean Soderlund  
Spring Grove Area Historical Preservation Society  
Douglas Stump  
Michael Tomor  
Anne Wambach O.S.B.  
Warren County Historical Society  
Nancy Welfer  
Mark Yacovone

**UP TO \$49**  
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Judith Cohen  
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Karen Cullings  
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Eugene Feldman  
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Betty Ann Funk  
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Margaret Harting  
Charles Hartwell  
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Karen Micka  
Catherine Murray  
Liane Norman  
Francis O'Brien  
Kathleen Pavelko  
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Pleasant Mount Public Library  
Red Lion Area Historical Society  
Phil Rosen  
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Amy Skillman  
Society for Pennsylvania Archeology – Cumberland Valley Chapter #27  
Harold Strickberger  
Olivia Susskind  
Robert Unger  
Union County Historical Society  
Judy Verdone  
Barbara Weisberger  
Wissahickon Valley Historical Society  
Aleta Yarrow

Please note: This list reflects donations made between November 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008. PHC makes every attempt to account for all contributions. If your donation does not appear or your name is misspelled, please accept our apologies and inform us so that we can correct our records.

# Financial Statement

For years ended October 31, 2008 and October 31, 2007

## Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

	2008 Total All Funds	2007 Total All Funds
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grant Proceeds:		
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$1,025,920	\$1,025,920
Gift-and-Matching Contributions	33,459	41,344
Other Grants and Gifts	466,327	782,429
Investment Income	4,643	6,911
Other	—	1,568
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,530,349</b>	<b>\$1,858,172</b>

## EXPENSES

### Program Services:

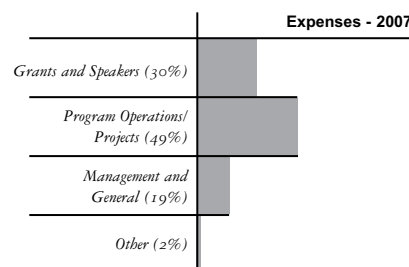
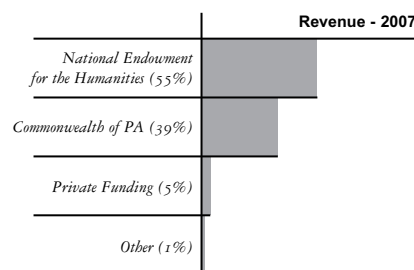
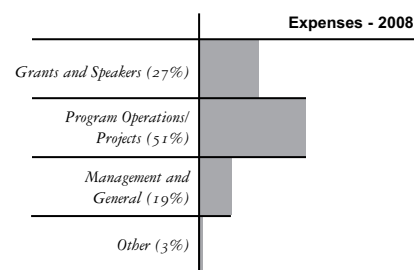
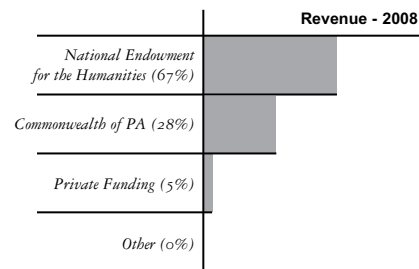
Grants	\$323,561	\$351,174
Commonwealth Speakers	107,416	117,934
Program Operations	358,119	324,917
PHC-conducted Humanities Programs and Projects	448,851	437,648
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$1,237,947</b>	<b>\$1,231,673</b>

### Support Services:

Management and General	\$294,909	\$296,640
Depreciation	10,814	6,445
Fundraising	35,042	22,692
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>\$340,765</b>	<b>\$325,777</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,578,712</b>	<b>\$1,557,450</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>(\$48,363)</b>	<b>\$300,722</b>

## NET ASSETS

Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,041,014	\$740,292
Net Assets, End of Year	\$992,651	\$1,041,014



# Council News

As 2009 began, PHC bade farewell to three outstanding board members who served two consecutive three-year terms. Cheryl McClenney-Brooker, Vice President for External Affairs, Philadelphia Museum of Art, served on the Executive Committee and represented the board on grant review panels for Humanities-and-the-Arts and Humanities grants. Jacqueline Melander, President of the Centre County Historical Society, served as Program Committee Chair and Secretary-Treasurer. Randall M. Miller, Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University, served as Program Committee Chair and board Chair.

These members were instrumental in moving PHC forward from fall 2002 through fall 2008. During their tenure they emphasized the value of high-quality programs and strong partnerships with state agencies, particularly those devoted to Pennsylvania history, the arts and public libraries. PHC is deeply grateful for the service of Cheryl, Jackie and Randall. They will be greatly missed.

PHC is now seeking applicants for council membership for terms beginning in fall 2009 and fall 2010. For information about board roles, responsibilities and the application process, contact Joseph Kelly at [jkelly@pahumanities.org](mailto:jkelly@pahumanities.org). We need individuals committed to our mission and ready to help us: raise awareness of the value of the humanities to individuals and local communities; strengthen and develop relationships across a wide range of diverse groups; and strengthen PHC resources, adding expertise in communications and fundraising.

## Opportunities for Internships

Interested graduate and undergraduate students should inquire about opportunities to serve as a PHC program assistant or intern — to learn about the public humanities while supporting program administration, special projects and office operations. Past interns have come from Philadelphia-area institutions such as Haverford, UPenn and Temple.



A special PHC event celebrating Women's History Month and the value of history programming featured musician and educator Paula Purnell in the Capitol on March 23, 2009. Purnell is a member of PHC's speakers bureau. Co-sponsoring the event was the Office of the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Keith R. McCall. Also on the program was Barbara Franco, Executive Director of Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.

## PHC BOARD

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Captions for inside front cover (clockwise):

Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication by Charles Darwin. 1868. Image courtesy APS.

Portrait of Jennie Augusta Brownscombe. Photo courtesy Wayne County Historical Society.

Charles Darwin. Photo courtesy Library of Congress.

Benjamin Sota, featured presenter of *How the Circus Helped Folks During the Great Depression*. Photo courtesy of Heather Mull.

Excerpt from *Catrinás* by Hector Tellez, 2008. Tellez created these catrinás (skeletons dressed in finery) to illustrate how all people, rich or poor, are susceptible to death.

*Ofrenda* by Hank Tusinski, 2006. These altars are set up to celebrate the ancestors and loved ones who have passed away.

Jennie Brookhart and Eleanor Markham, first graduates of the Scranton Oral School for Deaf Mutes, 1901. Photo courtesy Scranton State School for the Deaf.