



# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
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## Historical Society of Pennsylvania forms Young Friends group

### Inaugural event “Treasure Hunt” to be held December 3

Philadelphia, PA (November 10, 2009) – It’s a happy hour with a history lesson. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania will host a special event December 3, the first in a series of Young Friends events. At the “Treasure Hunt,” guests can socialize with friends and enjoy wine and cheese. They’ll also get a chance to see historic documents that are rarely shown to the public. The Young Friends group, aimed at those between the ages of 21 and 45, will host social events throughout the year that appeal to a younger crowd and make history fun and relevant today. This is a new outreach for the Historical Society, which traditionally has served an older audience with lectures and scholarly programs.

At the **December 3** event, guests can view some of the “treasures” from the Historical Society’s collection, including the printer’s proof of the Declaration of Independence, handwritten drafts of the Constitution, and one of the first known maps of the City of Philadelphia. The guests will search the documents to find hidden “clues” and prizes will be awarded. But the event is more than just old documents. Attendees will enjoy wine and hors d’oeuvres, compliments of TRIA, a popular restaurant located around the corner from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Historical Society is one of a growing number of arts and culture organizations in the city that are reaching out to a younger audience. Other organizations with Young Friends groups include the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Penn Museum, and the African American Museum of Philadelphia.

In an effort to communicate to those in their 20s, 30s and 40s, the Historical Society has created a Facebook page, sends news via e-mail, and publishes several blogs. “Most members of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania are over the age of 50,” said Christi Balsamo, the society’s membership coordinator and organizer of the Young Friends event. “We are interested in getting a younger generation involved in the work we do.”

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The Historical Society of Pennsylvania hopes to recruit new Young Friends members at the December 3 event. “We are looking for young people who share a common appreciation for history,” Balsamo said. “In addition, these events are a great place to network, meet new friends, and learn more about our city’s incredible history.”

Tickets to the “Treasure Hunt” will be \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Space is limited, and Balsamo expects a full house. “At this event, we will be bringing out the most significant documents from the Historical Society’s collection. How often do you get a chance to see George Washington’s diary and a copy of “The Star-Spangled Banner”? This is a unique opportunity for people to see these treasures up close, and we expect it will be a big draw,” she said.

For more information, contact the society’s Director of Programs and Communications, Lauri Cielo, at (215) 732-6200 ext. 233 or [lcielo@hsp.org](mailto:lcielo@hsp.org). **Media is invited to attend the December 3 event.**

#### **EVENT DETAILS:**

Young Friends Treasure Hunt

5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 3

Where: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia

Cost: \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door

RSVP: Online at [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) or by phone at 215-732-6200 ext. 235

More information: E-mail [youngfriends@hsp.org](mailto:youngfriends@hsp.org) or call Christi Balsamo at 215-732-6200 ext. 235

#### **About the Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

Founded in 1824 in Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania collects and shares the stories of Pennsylvania. It is home to some 600,000 printed items and more than 21 million manuscript and graphic items. Its unparalleled collections encompass more than 300 years of America’s history—from its 17<sup>th</sup>-century origins to the contributions of its most recent immigrants. The society’s remarkable holdings together with its educational programming make it one of the nation’s most important special collections libraries: a center of historical documentation and study, education, and engagement. ([www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org))

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