



MANSION NOTES

CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 31, Number 2

Spring 2009

LABOR'S LEGACY: PENNSYLVANIA INDUSTRIAL ART

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009

On Tuesday, May 5, the Centre County Historical Society, together with the Penn State Earth and Mineral Sciences Mineral Museum and Art Gallery, will host a daylong symposium called "Labor's Legacy: Pennsylvania's Industrial Art".

The purpose of the symposium is to explore the history of industry in Pennsylvania and its representation in art - including the Mineral Museum's Steidle Art Collection. A catalog of this unique and impressive collection will be published in the coming weeks, and it is the impetus for the symposium, which includes ten speakers from different organizations across the country.

The symposium will be held at the American Philatelic Society, located in the historic match factory in Bellefonte. The cost to attend this event is only **\$50.00**, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch and light reception.

SYMPOSIUM

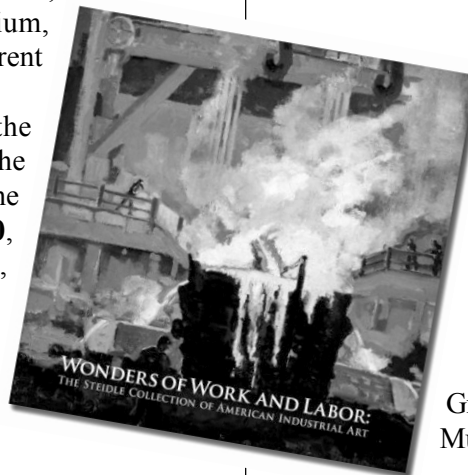
8:30 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY, 100 MATCH
FACTORY PLACE, BELLEFONTE, PENNSYLVANIA

Speakers and topics include:

- **Betsy Fahlman** (*Arizona State University*) - Wonders of Work: The Art of American Industry
- **Eric Schruers** (*Independent scholar*) - An Eye for Art: Edward Steidle's Artistic Legacy
- **Helen Langa** (*American University*) - Heroic Men, Vulnerable Workers, Economies of Power: Re-reading American Industrial Prints from the Great Depression
- **Barbara Jones** (*Westmoreland Museum of American Art*) - Born of Fire: The Valley of Work

- **Hedy da Costa Nunes** (*Muhlenberg College*) - Preserving the Black Diamond Heritage: Public Monuments to the Anthracite Industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania
- **William Pencak** (*Pennsylvania State University*) - Pennsylvania: America's Great Industrial State
- **Angela Breeden** (*Centre County Historical Society*) - Early Industries in Centre County, Pennsylvania
- **David Lembeck** (*Centre County Historical Society*, Co-curator of *A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals*, *The State Museum of Pennsylvania*) - 1930s Pennsylvania Post Office Art
- **Jonathan Mathews** (*Pennsylvania State University*) - The Legacy of Coal and Its Art
- **Julianne Snider** (*Pennsylvania State University*) - The Future for the Steidle Collection



Opening and closing remarks by Russell Graham, Director, Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum & Art Gallery, Penn State University.

RECEPTION AND EXHIBITION OPENING
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

EARTH AND MINERAL SCIENCES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY, GROUND FLOOR, DEIKE BUILDING, PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA

Copies of the newly released book, *Wonders of Work and Labor: The Steidle Collection of American Industrial Art*, will be available for purchase and for signing by the authors, Betsy Fahlman and Eric Schruers.

Please call (814) 234-4779 or email info@centrecountyhistory.org for more information.

About the Centre County Historical Society

Centre County Historical Society
Centre Furnace Mansion
1001 East College Avenue
State College, PA 16801
814.234.4779
info@centrecountyhistory.org
http://www.centrecountyhistory.org

The Centre County Historical Society operates the Centre Furnace Mansion as an historic house museum. The Mansion is open to the public for tours and library use on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. The Society's hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Founded in 1904, the Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is the oldest and largest history organization in the county, serving as the official historical society of Centre County. It is a community and volunteer based non-profit educational organization that works collaboratively with local, regional, county, and state organizations in helping to preserve and promote the area's historic, cultural, and natural resources.

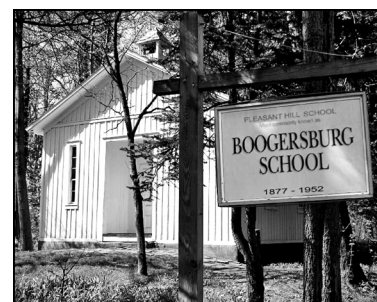
CCHS is headquartered in the Centre Furnace Mansion, a restored and furnished ironmaster's home listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic mansion and nearby iron furnace stack represent the 18th century beginnings of the charcoal iron industry in this area, and the 19th century beginnings of Penn State University, originally located on furnace lands. The site offers more than eight acres of landscaped grounds and gardens.

CCHS disseminates historical information about Centre County; offers programs and exhibits of historical and cultural interest for children and adults; marks and helps preserve and protect the Centre Furnace Mansion property and grounds, our newly acquired Boogersburg School, and other historical sites and landscapes in Centre County; maintains a collection of artifacts, books, manuscripts, maps and photographs; and publishes and promotes interest in historically significant publications relating to Centre County.

Society members and others in the community are invited to support these activities by contributing to the Centre County Historical Society Endowment Fund, managed by the Centre County Community Foundation.

Mansion Notes is published as a benefit of membership in the Centre County Historical Society, which is made possible through the Keatley Fund.

The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. Code. Donations are tax deductible. Official registration and financial information about CCHS may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Upcoming Events

April

- 🔊 **Technology Transfer and the Government in the U.S. Antebellum Iron Industry**
Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.

See page 7 for more information.

May

- 🔊 **Labor's Legacy: Pennsylvania Industrial Art Symposium**
Tuesday, May 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

See cover page or insert for more information.

- 🔊 **Bus Trip to Harrisburg**
A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals
Wednesday, May 6 at 8:00 a.m.

See page 4 for more information.

- 🔊 **Plant Celebration Sale**
Saturday, May 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



See page 5 for more information.

- 🔊 **Centre Furnace Mansion Closed for Memorial Day**
Monday, May 25

President's Corner

What We (CCHS) Do

A recent copy of a national magazine published by AAUW had this boxed comment: *Organizations are measured by what they do, not by what they just talk about.* What CCHS does on a day-to-day basis is full, rich, varied, but perhaps we don't talk about it often enough. A look at this issue of *Mansion Notes* offers some clues.

Collaboration with other organizations:

- CCHS, serving as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee, has provided historical and cultural resource information and recommendations for *The Spring Creek Canyon Strategy: A Master Plan and Management Plan for the Spring Creek Canyon*. That report is included and available in "The Public Review Draft of the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan" at <http://www.canyonplanning.com>.

- CCHS is co-sponsoring with Penn State's Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum and Art Gallery two events in May: a daylong Symposium on "Labor's Legacy: Pennsylvania Industrial Art", and a bus trip to Harrisburg to meet the curators and tour an exhibit in the State Museum, *A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals*.

- CCHS will once again be serving hundreds of school children this spring by providing visiting and program opportunities both at the Centre Furnace Mansion and the Boogersburg School.

- CCHS has worked closely with the Penn State Master Gardeners of Centre County for several years through educational gardening opportunities such as selecting and nurturing historic plants and creating plan and garden identification labels, providing programs and tours that feature and increase awareness of the gardens, fundraising through the Plant Celebration plant sale to fund garden maintenance costs and add to the period garden furniture that enhances the Victorian look of the mansion landscape, the 'Gardens' section of the CCHS website, and now with the development of an outstanding collection of garden books in the Mansion library.

- CCHS regularly works with the Centre County Planning and Development Agency in both providing and seeking information to further the preservation and promotion of the county's historic and natural resources.

- CCHS collaborates on a regular basis with other history and museum organizations throughout Centre County, and statewide with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Associations, Pennsylvania Historical Association.

And then, of course, CCHS regularly provides program opportunities to Society members and the general public, develops publications, shares its collections with researchers and others, and makes a beautiful restored and furnished historic house and one-room school available to visitors and the community.

Perhaps we are so busy doing that we don't have much time to just talk about it.

~ Jackie Melander

A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals

Bus Trip - Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The Centre County Historical Society is sponsoring a bus trip to Harrisburg to visit the exhibit *A Common Canvas: Pennsylvania's New Deal Post Office Murals* on **Wednesday, May 6, 2009**. A bus will transport visitors from State College to The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg, where co-curators **Dr. Curt Miner** and **David Lembeck** will greet us and answer questions about the exhibit.

The bus will leave from Centre Furnace Mansion parking lot at **8:00 a.m.** and will return by **5:30 p.m.** An optional tour of the Dauphin County Historical Society is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. (admission is \$4.50).

Cost is **\$20.00** per person. Checks should be made payable to the Centre County Historical Society.

Interested individuals should contact CCHS for more information by calling (814) 234-4779 or emailing info@centrecountyhistory.org by Monday, APRIL 20.



In 1933, the administration of newly elected President Franklin Roosevelt launched an ambitious program to place murals and sculptures in post offices across the country. To coincide with the national 75th anniversary of the New Deal, The State Museum of Pennsylvania brings together these same artworks for the first time in this special exhibition to offer a common canvas of Pennsylvania that has faded from the landscape, but not from memory.

This exhibit includes photographs, color studies, archival images, and original artwork associated with some of the 88 artworks commissioned for Pennsylvania post offices between 1933 and 1942. Although the artworks are widely dispersed across Pennsylvania, they represent a treasure trove of public art and a unique portrait of Pennsylvania society and culture circa the Great

Depression. Each artwork, whether a mural or sculpture, aimed to capture something intrinsically important about the Pennsylvania community in which they were to be installed. Given the Commonwealth's legacy as a manufacturing state, industries such as coal and steel are recurring motifs, but the collection also reflects other traditions as well: agriculture, glass making, lumbering, historical events/individuals, Native Americans and a variety of town and streetscapes.

This exhibition, co-curated by The State Museum's Dr. Curt Miner, Senior Curator of Popular Culture, and Centre County Historical Society's Graphics Designer, David Lembeck, represents the first public exhibition of Pennsylvania's collection, and will offer visitors a rare opportunity to glimpse, in one venue, what is likely the Commonwealth's largest public art collection.

This exhibit is open through May 17, 2009. Please visit <http://www.statemuseumpa.org/common-canvas.html> for more information.

The Fate of State Funding

In February, Governor Rendell proposed the elimination of funding for historic sites and museums under this 2010 Pennsylvania budget. Museum professionals across the Commonwealth, and across the nation, responded to this alarming suggestion by voicing our deep concern for the long range implications of this drastic step. But it was you, our friends and neighbors in Centre County and beyond, who flooded the capital with letters, e-mails, and phone calls that made lawmakers take notice. Many of you contacted CCHS to let us know that you value our work and our place in the community, and we would like to express our deed appreciation for your support.

As we await the final decision regarding the fate of our grant support through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), we gratefully acknowledge the funding of our 2008 application for the **2009 General Operating Support Grant** in the amount of \$6,000 which is matched by a grant from the **Centre County Commissioners**. We also received notification that our 2008 application for a **Keystone Grant** from the PHMC in the amount of \$21, 406 has been funded. It will be used to conduct much-needed repairs to the Centre Furnace Mansion later this year.

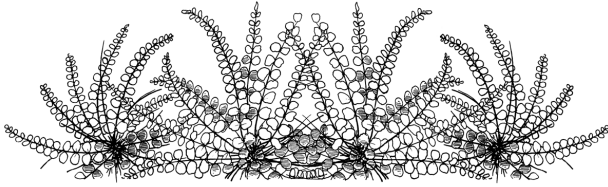
We thank the PHMC and the Centre County Commissioners for the help and support, and we thank our representatives in Harrisburg who have heard our voices and are taking action on our behalf.

14th Annual Plant Celebration

Saturday, May 9, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PLANT & GARDEN SALE



AT THE CENTRE FURNACE MANSION

Plans for the Plant Celebration plant sale on Saturday, May 9 are well underway and hundreds of plants are being potted up during the Garden Committee's weekly gardening times in preparation. We will be continuing to create mixed perennial and annual baskets for sale as well. Pam Calkins has led a group effort to start over 3,000 annual flower seeds this year for both the gardens and the Plant Celebration. Tait Farm, Beverly Lipski and Chris Igo generously donated seeds for this effort and the selections are representative of what was available in Victorian times. At the Plant Celebration, the Centre Furnace Mansion Gardeners will be, once again, auctioning off a day in someone's garden that guarantees 6 gardeners (and has historically been twice that) for four hours as well as a pre-planning meeting to optimize our time in your garden - don't miss that!

The day's activities will include a plant sale of native and non-native plants from local growers and the Centre Furnace Mansion gardens. Garden enthusiasts will be able to choose from annuals, perennials, trees, herbs, shrubs among many others. A Silent Auction of garden-related items and artwork will also be held.

MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND!

Besides highlighting the extensive work of the Centre Furnace Mansion Garden Committees, the sale will greatly contribute to the continuing development of the Centre Furnace Mansion gardens, with the emphasis on historic plants.

Please visit our website for updates on vendors and plants for the sale: <http://centrecountyhistory.org/eventsexhibits/plantcelebration.html>



It takes many, many hands to keep the gardens at Centre Furnace Mansion a vital part of the property and, as we go into the garden season, we would like to recognize their efforts. There are people who, for years (some for 9 or 10), continue to go far above and beyond our regular gardening times, whether in donations of large amounts of time, projects, purchased plants or supplies for our gardens, or all of these things. A special thanks for this level of commitment go to **Beverly Lipski, Chris Igo, Bob Leonard, Jo Merrell, Marshall Garrett, Pam Calkins, Ruth Merritt, Katie Frieden, Judy Heberling, Jan Villastrigo, Cassandra Burke, Joe Banks and Susan Evans.** We also are very thankful for, and could not do all that we do without those on our gardening committee that attend either many of our weekly gardening times, share plants from their gardens and/or help us out during special days like the Plant Celebration, the United Way Day of Caring and Spring UP Day to name a few. For this, we would like to thank volunteers **Alaina Esber, Barbara Sarra, Bob and Susan Urion, Carol Baney, Deb McManus, Cindy Shultz, Connie Horne, Gloria Holahan, Crystal Copella, Deb Mezaros, Diane Galbo, Dorothy Habecker, Martha Orland, Fran Nuhfer, Gary Thornbloom, Ingrid Blood, Joann Dornich, Lenore Foster, Lucy Boyce, Lynn Klees, Lisa Coggins, Mary Kay Williams, Michelle Ebaugh, Michelle Aukerman, LaDonna Weiler, Patie Wilcox, Bonnie Walter, Ray Nungesser, Susan Stark, Sue Smith, Stephanie Kohler, Susan Bowser, Suzanne Tedesco, Teresa Tassotti, Suzanne Thompson, Tina Czajkowski, Effie Zuck and Vickie Spadaccio.** Many thanks to all of you.

Spring Creek Canyon

A year ago, CCHS Board member Bob Hazelton presented a CCHS program on the historical and cultural resources that were known about the Spring Creek Canyon, a program that he has given several times in the ensuing months. A good deal of additional information has been assembled since that first presentation and has formed the basis of a Cultural Resource Report for *The Spring Creek Canyon Strategy: A Master Plan and Management Plan for the Spring Creek Canyon*. The report is included and available in "The Public Review Draft of the Spring Creek Canyon Master Plan" at <http://www.canyonplanning.com>.

Because of the importance of these cultural resources and because of the wide community interest that has centered around the transfer of these Rockview lands into a different ownership arrangement, the CCHS Board of Governors has submitted the following statement to the planning consultants, Environmental Planning & Design, LLC:

Dear Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Yagle,

The Centre County Historical Society (CCHS) has appreciated the opportunity of working with you and participating through the Technical Advisory Committee in the document, The Spring Creek Canyon Conservation Strategy: A Master Plan and Management Plan for the Spring Creek Canyon. While information about some of the cultural resources within the Spring Creek Canyon site were identified when the planning process began, new information has been assembled and the possibility of additional cultural resources still to be identified have been highlighted in the creation of the document on Conservation Values of the Rockview Divestment Lands.

The CCHS recommendation to the Master Plan has outlined several methods or guidelines that meet state and federal requirements and procedures in the protection of cultural resources. They include a Cultural Resource Assessment of prehistoric and historic resources, National Register of Historic Places listing for the Benner Cemetery, and possible National Register listing for the Village of Rock. The Spring Creek Canyon offers a unique and significant educational opportunity -- one that will be substantially strengthened through the assessment, identification, and preservation of these cultural resources.

CCHS Recommendations:

The Centre County Historical Society joins ClearWater Conservancy in the following recommendations related to the significant and sensitive cultural and natural resources of the Spring Creek Canyon. These recommendations are in support of the Master Plan and in support of an effective management structure being in place before the land is transferred. CCHS recommends:

** DCNR and ClearWater should begin working on the conservation easement immediately*

** Legislation to **authorize** the transfer of the 1,800 acres of Rockview land north of I-99 consistent with the use and management recommendations of the Master Plan may be introduced upon the completion of the Master Plan.*

** However, the **actual transfer** of land will not take place until the time that the conservation easements are recorded and the Land Management Partnership is functioning at a sufficient level to address the issues associated with opening the land and its significant and sensitive natural and cultural resources to public use.*

** Rockview State Correctional Institution will retain ownership and site security until these protective conditions are met and the land is transferred to new owners. Further, Rockview's active management of the site in the interim between the completion of the Master Plan and the land transfer should also be consistent with the recommendations of the Master Plan (e.g., no tilling and planting of areas designated for restoration, no tree removal, no earth disturbance, etc.).*

In addition to these recommendations, the Centre County Historical Society would like to make explicit the recommendations of educational opportunities discussed by the Technical Advisory Committee and implied in the Master Plan:

** Once the transfer of land has occurred and planning commences, that future work on the properties by the owners commit to broad community educational opportunities about cultural and natural resources.*

Again, CCHS has appreciated the opportunity to be involved in planning for the future of the Spring Creek Canyon, and we look forward to working with others in the community to enhance awareness and appreciation of this exceptional Centre County resource.

Sincerely,

*Jacqueline Melander, President
Board of Governors
Centre County Historical Society*

Technology Transfer and the Government in the U.S. Antebellum Iron Industry

Join us on **Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Centre Furnace Mansion for a special presentation by Dr. Steven A. Walton from Penn State's Science, Technology, & Society Program.

Between 1800 and 1860, the U.S. went from an overwhelmingly agricultural nation to a surprising industrial upstart on the world scene. While that remarkable growth has been investigated both in aggregate and for individual inventions (telegraph, revolver, reaper, etc.), historians are now focusing on regional industries and their interconnected development in this period.

Prof. Walton will be speaking on the connections surrounding an Irish foundry master who arrived just after the War of 1812 and became the technical seed of three major foundries (or varying fortunes), and especially looking at the role of federal support for private ironworks in this period. His work on this ironmaster and the regional development of iron technology in the U.S. points to the importance of the mobility of experts as well as the relative importance of public and private support at various phases of industrial development.

In Memoriam ~ Ilene Glenn

With deep sorrow we mourn the loss of long time friend and Centre County resident, Ilene Peters Glenn. Until just last year, Ilene was an active volunteer with the Historical Society, serving for many years as a Mansion docent and more recently as a Sunday greeter. Living just short of a century, Ilene will be remembered for her generous support of community efforts in her native College Township, and particularly by CCHS for the important role she played in raising funds to finance the restoration of the side porch at the Centre Furnace Mansion.



CCHS Vice President John Ziegler with Ilene on her 98th birthday

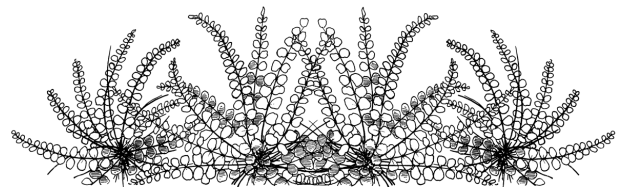
A Note From the Gardens

By Mary Sorensen
CFM Garden Coordinator

Rains are abundant with just enough sunny days in between and temperatures cool - all the makings of an ideal spring, at least for the gardens; the summer will come for us humans soon enough! Spring bulbs currently blooming include Winter Aconite *Eranthis hyemalis*, Anemone Blanda, Crocus, Snow Drops *Galanthus Nivalis* and many Daffodils. During the next several weeks there will be a profusion of early, mid and late season bulbs, lilacs along with spring ephemerals like Bleeding Heart *Dicentra spectabilis*, Corydalis, Bloodroot, Primula and many others leading up to Mother's Day weekend and beyond. Mid to late spring is a very lovely and colorful time of year in the gardens and I hope you will soon take a few moments to come for a stroll at Centre Furnace Mansion and enjoy the grounds.

On Sunday, April 19 Centre Furnace Mansion will host over 20 Penn State students to come and help us do spring clean up in the landscape on Spring UP day - a part of PSU's "We Are Campaign". Several volunteers from our CFM Garden Committee will lead efforts to rake, clean up sticks, and mulch. One of the projects that will be happening on that day is the installation of a tree and shrub screen area near Laura's Lilac Bower. Boy Scout Jason Contino has selected this backdrop screening at the Mansion property edge is for his Eagle Scout Project and has been working with Jeff Dice and Derek Kalp, landscape professionals from PSU Office of Physical Plant, and Martin McGann from the Landscape Contracting Department. Several donations of trees and shrubs will be planted based on what would have been available during the Victorian era, and that will be suitable for this area and be good for site screening and be wildlife friendly.

Please visit Centre Furnace Mansion on any **Thursday evening between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.** from now until, at least, mid-October and meet the Volunteer Gardeners, most are PSU Master Gardeners of Centre County. We welcome you to bring your garden questions, samples of plant material that has mysterious damage, or just to have a chance to see what we do.





CENTRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

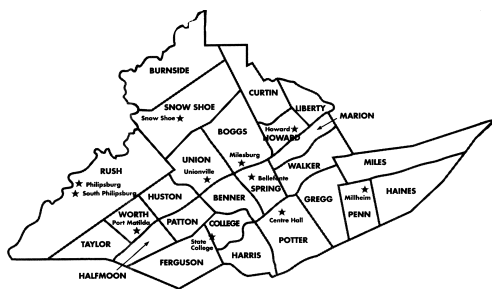
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Membership



Your membership supports all aspects of the Historical Society's operations. Membership benefits include: quarterly issues of *Mansion Notes*, the Society's newsletter; *Centre County Heritage*, the Society's journal; advance notice of programs; and a 10% discount on all Society publications.

Thank you to all of our new and continuing members. We hope you value your membership in the Centre County Historical Society as much as we have valued having your support and participation. We invite you to return your membership renewal, if you have not yet renewed for this year. Make checks payable to CCHS and send to 1001 E. College Avenue, State College, PA 16801.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ Annual (09)	\$35
_____ Friend (F)	\$60
_____ Business (Bus)	\$100
_____ Patron (P)	\$100
_____ Life (L)	\$350
_____ Benefactor (B)	\$500

☐ I wish to help cut down on mailing costs and help the environment. Please send me information via e-mail!