

# Sidelights



Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania

## Commemorating the Civil

War



**One hundred and fifty years ago**, the first shots were fired at Fort Sumter in South Carolina, heralding the start of a four-year conflict that would tear our young nation apart. Many of the stories of the Civil War—captured in letters, diaries, and newspaper accounts—are here at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Our library holds one of the largest and most impressive collections of Civil War-era documents, and our staff is working to make those documents more accessible. In preparation for the Civil War sesquicentennial, HSP staff has digitized more than 8,000 documents and will make them available online this spring.

If you'd like to see these national treasures in person, come to HSP on April 12 for a special one-day display of the highlights of our Civil War-era collection. In March, look for a teacher workshop on civil liberties and the Civil War, and this fall, the Civil War in Pennsylvania will be the topic for an edition of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. In June, don't miss the arrival of the Civil War Road Show, a traveling exhibit that will visit Philadelphia's Franklin Square. These events are just a few of the hundreds that will be happening in the Philadelphia area as we commemorate this infamous conflict that pitted North against South and brother against brother.

—Kim Sajet, President and CEO

Above: 1862 lithograph of Yankee volunteers marching into Dixie  
Left: Image from HSP's Civil War envelopes collection



## Focus on 20th-Century History

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is well known for its holdings of 18th-century documents and the papers of our Founding Fathers. But many people do not know that HSP holds a rich array of collections documenting our more recent history—the 20th century.

The Society is making an effort to bring greater attention to its 20th-century collections and encourage their study. Last fall, HSP began a two-year project to process and preserve 14 post-Civil War collections that document civic engagement in Philadelphia and the United States, including politics, philanthropy, government and military service, race, gender, sexuality, and community organizing across more than 120 years. Collections include the League of Women Voters of Philadelphia records, the Indian Rights Association records, and a World War II collection, among others. This project was made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.



One of the most significant collections in this project is the Richardson Dilworth papers. Dilworth was a charismatic politician, lawyer, and reformer who served as the mayor of Philadelphia from 1956 to 1962. Thanks to a leading donation from the law firm of Dilworth Paxson LLP and support from the Annenberg Foundation, HSP will feature a display of items from the Richardson Dilworth collection in its library this spring. The exhibition, which opens March 15, will include photographs of Dilworth, newspaper articles, and personal correspondence. The exhibit opening will raise funds to preserve the legacy of Dilworth and his contemporaries through the creation of teacher workshops, an endowed research fellowship, and the publication of an edition of *Pennsylvania Legacies* on politics and reform.

Another important 20th-century collection held here at HSP is the Albert M. Greenfield papers. Greenfield was a Philadelphia real estate broker and financier whose business interests also included a chain of department stores and the Philadelphia Transportation Company. He was a philanthropist and political leader who held positions on numerous local commissions. HSP is working on a digital history project that will highlight key documents in the Greenfield papers and explore a historical theme through primary source documents, contextual essays, and teacher resources. HSP staff will select several hundred documents to digitize, transcribe, and annotate. This two-year project is part of a larger effort funded by the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation to make HSP's 20th-century holdings more accessible. HSP will also be awarding a new research fellowship in 20th-century history and creating a web portal dedicated to this subject.

Above: Documents from the Richardson Dilworth papers  
 Left: Photograph of Albert M. Greenfield  
 Right: HSP launched the Dilworth Legacy Project on October 28 with a preview reception at the law offices of Dilworth Paxson. From left: **Stephen J. Harmelin**, partner at Dilworth Paxson LLP; **Seth Williams**, Philadelphia district attorney; **Barbara L. Greenfield**, HSP Board of Councilors; **Deborah Dilworth Bishop**, HSP Board of Councilors; **Joseph H. Jacovini**, chairman at Dilworth Paxson LLP.

## A New Way to Search HSP

There are several searchable databases at [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org), a list of finding aids, and other online catalogs. HSP is working to improve and simplify the search process and to make more information easily accessible.

HSP recently unveiled a new search interface called Discover, where visitors can use one tool for easy access to HSP's books, journals, manuscripts, maps, images, and other items. At present it includes everything in the classic Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) and several dozen finding aids, all in one search. Over the next year the database will grow to include more than 9,000 items digitized through the Digital Center for Americana project and thousands of collections that appear in the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1991) as well as the 1993 Supplement to the Guide.

We encourage our members to visit Discover at <http://discover.hsp.org> to test the new service. If you have comments about the site, please complete the online user survey or contact us at [discover@hsp.org](mailto:discover@hsp.org).

## Making Music from Archives



Most researchers know what a finding aid is—a written description of an archival collection. But what about a “musical” finding aid? The Historical Society of Pennsylvania recently created its first musical finding aid—a musical interpretation of a collection. For this project, HSP focused on the collection of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt, an eccentric inventor and musician who lived in Philadelphia in the early 1900s.

Greenewalt developed an art form that she called “nourathar,” where an organ displays colored light scored to music using her own custom notation system. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds extensive records on Greenewalt's life. “This was the perfect collection for such a project,” says Matt Shoemaker, director of digital collections & systems at the Historical Society. “Greenewalt was a pioneer in the arts with her interests in music, light, and color.”

Shoemaker and HSP staff invited artists to create musical interpretations of different sections of the Greenewalt collection's traditional finding aid. The artists are: Andrea Clearfield, Willhem Echevarria, Ted Houghtaling, Max Lawrence, and Maurice Wright. The artists' work was funded by a grant from The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, through the Heritage Philadelphia Program.

The composers will discuss their work at a free event at 6 p.m. Thursday, January 27, at HSP. At the event, the public will hear the artists' original work and view the Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt collection. To listen to the Greenewalt musical finding aid, visit [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org).

Above: Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt



### Legacies and PMHB Now Online

Now you can read all the issues of *Pennsylvania Legacies* and the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* through JSTOR, an online repository of scholarly journal articles. Access to JSTOR is available on site at HSP's research library. HSP members who are Patron level and above receive a special code to access JSTOR off-site as well. To upgrade your membership and receive an online subscription to the full run of *PMHB* since 1877 and *Legacies*, call 215-732-6200 ext. 235.

### 1860 Cookbook Coming Soon

HSP has in its collection an 1860 cookbook compiled by Ellen M. Emlen. The Historical Society will be printing limited-edition copies of the cookbook and offering them for sale through its online shop later this year. The book contains more than 200 recipes, with categories including meats, vegetables, sauces, food for the sick, and desserts.

### Welcome New Councilors

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania welcomes five new members to its Board of Councilors, who were appointed at the Society's annual general meeting in November. They are: **Lori Cohen**, director of Arader Galleries in Philadelphia; **Senator Larry Farnese**, who represents Philadelphia's First Senatorial District; **Shanta Ghosh**, chairperson of Development Consultants (DC) Group; **Councilman William Green** of the City of Philadelphia; and **John Pickering**, partner and portfolio manager at Cooke & Bieler, L.P., a specialist investment counseling firm. **James Malott**, regional private banking manager and senior vice president of the Private Bank at Wells Fargo, was named an Ex Officio Councilor. HSP also welcomes back former councilor **Henry Lafayette Collins III**, who was appointed Councilor Emeritus.

### Executive Committee Appointed

At the annual general meeting in November, the Society appointed the Board of Councilors' Executive Committee. The members are: **Bruce K. Fenton**, chair; **Thomas Moran**, executive vice chair; **Majid Alsayegh**, treasurer and vice chair of the Planning & Finance Committee; **Nathan K. Raab**, secretary; **Robert G. Souaid**, vice chair of the Audit Committee; **Howard H. Lewis**, vice chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee; **Page Talbott**, vice chair of the Collections & Programs Committee; and **Robert J. Rittenhouse** and **Alice L. George**, at-large members. Also at the meeting, it was announced that the Board had ratified approval of the proposed amendments to the Society's Bylaws.

### Our Appreciation

HSP would like to thank **Sarah D. Price**, who stepped down as chair of the Board of Councilors after two years of service. Also, HSP would like to thank four councilors who recently left the Board for their hard work—**Thomas H. Bishop**, **Leonard L. Combs**, **Jerry Maginnis**, and the **Rev. Joseph Watkins**.

# Calendar

2011

## January

### Making Music from Archives

Thursday, January 27 / 6 p.m.

Five artists have composed music inspired by the collection of Mary Elizabeth Hallock Greenewalt, an eccentric Philadelphia inventor and musician. The artists will discuss their work and play original compositions. **FREE**

## February

### The Morreys and the Montiers of Philadelphia: A Love Story

Tuesday, February 1 / 6 p.m.

**GENEALOGY EVENT** / During African American History Month, come hear the family story of Dr. William Pickens III, whose family tree includes the first mayor of Philadelphia and one of the city's most prominent interracial families. Pickens's journey will inspire you to search for your own family roots. Cosponsored with the Urban League of Philadelphia and Southwest Airlines. **FREE**

### Getting the Most Out of Your Membership

Wednesday, February 2 / 6 p.m.

**MEMBERS EVENT** / Have you recently joined HSP? Or maybe you're a long-time member in need of a refresher course? Come out for this insider look at HSP and discover all of the great resources that our library has to offer. **FREE**

### One Book, One Philadelphia

Thursday, February 17 / 6-8 p.m.

**A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT** / Shirley Brown of the National Writing Project will lead a discussion about historical issues in Native American culture as addressed in this year's One Book, One Philadelphia selection, *War Dances* by Sherman Alexie. Cosponsored by the George S. Pepper Society at the Free Library of Philadelphia. By invitation only.

### Poetics and Politics: The Life of Frances Harper

Wednesday, February 23 / 6 p.m.

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, one of the best known African American poets of the 19th century. Join us for a discussion about Harper's life. **FREE**



## March

### The Fortunate Ones

Wednesday, March 2 / 6 p.m.

**MEET THE AUTHOR** / The novel, *The Fortunate Ones*, describes the difficult life of blind and visually impaired people who lived and worked in 18th-century Philadelphia. Author Frederick W. Noesner lost his sight during early childhood. **FREE** for members, \$10 for nonmembers.



### Tracing Your Native American Roots

Wednesday, March 9 / 6 p.m.

**GENEALOGY EVENT** / Have you ever wondered if you descended from a Cherokee Indian princess? Genealogist David "Iron Head" Vann, a Cherokee descendant, will explain how to find the information you need from federal records, libraries, and archives. **FREE**

### Preserving the Legacy of Richardson Dilworth

Tuesday, March 15 / 6 p.m.

**EXHIBIT OPENING** / Join us for the opening of an exhibit about former Philadelphia Mayor Richardson Dilworth. The event, made possible by Dilworth Paxson LLP, will raise funds to conserve the Dilworth Collection. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Emilie Kretschmar at 215-732-6200 ext. 300 or ekretschmar@hsp.org.

### Civil War and Civil Liberties

Wednesday, March 30 / 4:30-6:30 p.m.

**TEACHER WORKSHOP** / Dr. Michael Karpyn of Marple Newtown Senior High School will compare events and stories from the Civil War and our modern conflicts, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Attendance qualifies for two hours of Act 48 credit. **FREE**



### Treasures Society Reception

Thursday, March 31 / 6 p.m.

**A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT** / Treasures Society members and their guests are invited to see a private collection of historical documents, followed by a cocktail reception, in a stunning Center City home with spectacular views of Philadelphia.

# April

## An American Hero in the Age of Sail

Wednesday, April 6 / 6 p.m.



**MEET THE AUTHOR** / Son of a hardscrabble Irish farmer, John Barry became known as the “Father of the American Navy.” Author Tim McGrath brings the story of this self-made American back to life in a recently published biography. **FREE** for members, \$10 for nonmembers.



## Culinary Ephemera: A Delicious History

Thursday, April 7 / 6-8 p.m.

**A YOUNG FRIENDS EVENT** / You are what you eat . . . or are you? Follow the paper trail of culinary ephemera to HSP, and join food historian William Woys Weaver as he uncovers what stories our food castoffs reveal. \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers.

## The Start of the Civil War

Tuesday, April 12 / 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

With the first shots fired on Fort Sumter, April 12 marked the start of the Civil War. On this momentous anniversary, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania will host a one-day display of the highlights of its Civil War collection. **PAY WHAT YOU WISH.**

## Preserving Our National Treasures

Thursday, April 28 / 6 p.m.

At its annual Founder's Award dinner, HSP will celebrate the treasures of its collection. The Founder's Award will be presented to Susan Eisenhower, president of the Eisenhower Group and granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Howard H. Lewis, a longtime member of HSP's Board of Councilors, will receive the Heritage Award. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Emilie Kretschmar at 215-732-6200 ext. 300 or [ekretschmar@hsp.org](mailto:ekretschmar@hsp.org).



# May

## Wanamaker's: Meet Me at the Eagle

Wednesday, May 4 / 6 p.m.

**MEET THE AUTHOR** / In his recently published book, Philadelphia native Michael J. Lisicky takes a nostalgic journey through the history of this iconic department store, from its beginnings as a haberdashery to the final poignant closing of its doors. **FREE** for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

## Archives Without Tears

Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 11

**A HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT** / Attendees will get practical advice, sample forms, and learn basic practices, so that they can collect and preserve historic documents and assist researchers. \$25 for two-day workshop, \$15 for one day.

## Share Your Story: Civil War

Wednesday May 18 / 6 p.m.

**GENEALOGY EVENT** / Do you have an ancestor who participated in the Civil War? During this special night at HSP, you'll have the opportunity to share your own research, photographs, and stories. To be considered as a presenter, contact Jon-Chris Hatalski at [jchatalski@hsp.org](mailto:jchatalski@hsp.org). **FREE**

# June

## Chairman's Reception

Sunday, June 5 / 4-6 p.m.

**A TREASURES SOCIETY EVENT** / Treasures Society members and their guests are invited to a reception at the home of the Chairman of the Board of Councilors. Invitation will follow.

## Understanding Your Historic Building

Wednesday, June 15 / 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**A HISTORY AFFILIATES EVENT** / This workshop will explore a preventive conservation approach to historic buildings, and how caring for your historic building benefits the collections stored inside. Cosponsored with the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. \$50.

## Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show

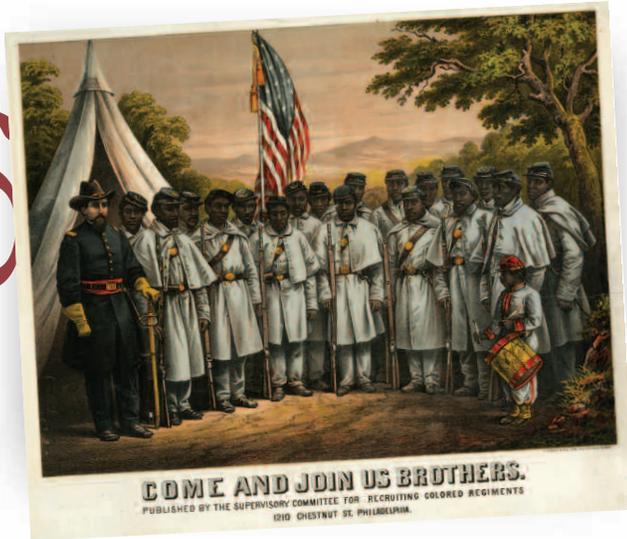
June 30 through July 4

Come visit the Pennsylvania Civil War Road Show when it stops in Philadelphia's Franklin Square. From 2011 to 2015, this exhibition will travel throughout the state. For the full schedule, visit [www.pacivilwar150.com](http://www.pacivilwar150.com).

**RSVP** online at [www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org) or call 215-732-6200 ext. 214 for more information.



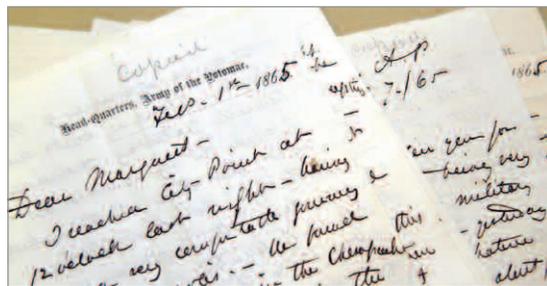
# Genealogy



## Search for Your Civil War Ancestor

Was your great-grandfather a Rebel or a Yank? Now is the perfect time to find out, since this year marks the sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is the perfect place to begin your genealogy search. HSP's library holds one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Civil War-related manuscripts, diaries, muster rolls, and documents in the region.

Do you want to learn about the forces that led up to the Civil War? Resources at HSP include the papers of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, the Underground Railroad records of abolitionist William Still, and a printed edition of the Confederacy's constitution. HSP also holds the papers of James Buchanan, who was president in the years before the Civil War.



The Society's Civil War Collection contains Union Army muster rolls, consolidated reports, returns, enlistment certificates, correspondence, reminiscences, manuscripts, and memorabilia from 1861 through 1878. A highlight of the collection are the military papers and letters of George Gordon Meade, a

celebrated Union general and commander of the Army of the Potomac. The Society also holds 128 volumes—containing tens of thousands of documents—of *The War of the Rebellion Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*.

HSP has records of more than 20 newspapers and periodicals that cover the Civil War. One of the most helpful resources for researchers and genealogists is *Forney's War Press*, which was published in Philadelphia and contains engravings, news from war correspondents, and casualty reports. HSP also holds a large number of diaries and family papers, which came directly from the men and women who served during the war, as well as their families.

Want to learn more? At HSP, you can find helpful information in the book *Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor* by Bertram Hawthorne Groene. Also, visit HSP's online Civil War Guide to view a list of diaries, letters, reminiscences, papers, newspapers, and other manuscripts. This list was compiled by Dr. Daniel Rolph, HSP's historian and head of reference services. Rolph is also the author of an article titled "Family Folklore and the Civil War," which was published in *Genealogy Digest*. Copies are available at HSP's library.



## HSP Website Wins Honor

*Family Tree Magazine* named the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's website—[www.hsp.org](http://www.hsp.org)—to its 2010 list of Best

State Websites for Genealogy. HSP earned the honor in the magazine's December 2010 issue. The list of 75 websites represents the go-to bookmarks for browsing America's past, state by state.

According to *Family Tree Magazine*, HSP's website "has plenty to offer, including several exhibits covering a range of topics, from the immigrant experience to ethnic wedding traditions to leading abolitionists. A wealth of catalogs and finding aids will lead you to the right stuff in the society's non-digitized collections."

Other local websites that made the list include the Pennsylvania State Archives, the New Jersey State Library, and the Delaware Public Archives.

Top: Lithograph published by the Supervisory Committee for Recruiting Colored Regiments, circa 1864  
Bottom left: Letters from General George Gordon Meade to his wife, dated 1865

## HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

A look at recent events and happenings at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania



Philareyto performed traditional Puerto Rican dances.

### Hispanic Heritage Month:

In September, HSP celebrated the culture and heritage of Philadelphia's Hispanic population. The event featured a lecture by history professor Dr. Victor Vazquez Hernandez and a performance by Puerto Rican folkloric music and dance groups. The event was cosponsored by *Al Día*, Raíces Culturales Latinoamericanas, and El Caféito.



Dr. Victor Vazquez Hernandez, associate professor of history at Miami Dade College, spoke about the Latinization of Philadelphia.

### Young Friends:

The Young Friends of HSP competed in a challenging scavenger hunt through historic documents on November 4. The event was sponsored by local restaurant Tria and raised money for HSP's Adopt-a-Collection program.



From left: Young Friends of HSP Joe LaRosa, Sarah Spielvogel, Zoe Maltby, and Nameir Majette competed in a challenging Hidden Histories scavenger hunt.



From left: Lori E. Cohen, Marciarose Shestack, and Carol Asher attend Professor Beeman's lecture and book signing.



### Treasures Society:

This fall, Treasures Society members, a special group of HSP supporters, were treated to two exclusive events: a reception at the home of HSP President & CEO Kim Sajet, and a lecture by Professor Richard Beeman of the University of Pennsylvania. Members had the opportunity to socialize and learn more about the Society and its good work.

Lou Oschmann (left) and Alice George (center) chat with Karen Pearlman Raab (right) at the President's Reception.

### Historical Marker Dedication:

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission awarded HSP a blue-and-gold historical marker, which was erected in front of the HSP building at 1300 Locust Street on October 25. The marker unveiling was one of several events commemorating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Society's building.



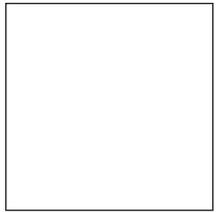
From left: Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Flora L. Becker; Pennsylvania State Senator Larry Farnese; Chairman of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Wayne Spilove; Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter; and President and CEO of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania Kim Sajet.

# Sidelights



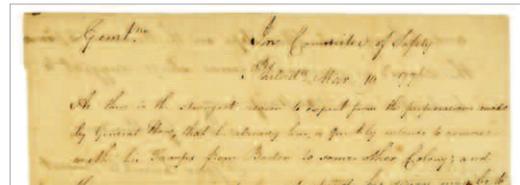
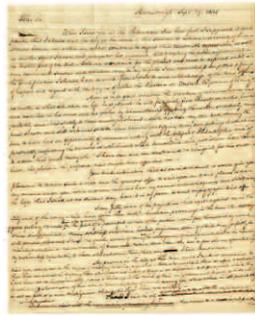
Historical Society  
of Pennsylvania

1300 Locust Street / Philadelphia, PA 19107



## Adopt a Collection

Many collections at HSP are in need of your help. Your donation will enable us to preserve, organize, and catalog a collection, so it is more easily accessible to researchers. Choose from the collections listed below or visit the “Adopt a Collection” section of the HSP website.



Above: (left) Trade card collection, (top center) George Wolf papers, (top right) World War II propaganda collection, (bottom right) Jasper Yeates papers

### Trade card collection

These trade cards come from a wide variety of 19th- and early 20th-century businesses—from hat makers to soda companies to dry goods stores and blacksmiths. Some are simple and black and white, while others are colorful and decorative. You can adopt this collection with a \$2,300 donation.

### George Wolf papers

Wolf served as Pennsylvania's seventh governor from 1829 to 1835. He also practiced law, served as postmaster of Easton, Pennsylvania, and was named first comptroller of the Treasury of the United States. You can adopt this collection with a \$250 donation.

### World War II propaganda collection

This collection contains recruiting posters, Christmas cards from the World War II era, magazine ads for war bonds, warnings from the Office of War Information, and booklets from the U.S. Army Ordnance Department. You can adopt this collection with a \$200 donation.

### Jasper Yeates papers

Yeates was a leading lawyer in Lancaster County and judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from 1791 to 1817. His papers include notes on trials, evidence, arguments, depositions, judicial opinions, and personal correspondence. You can adopt this collection with a \$1,850 donation.

**THANK YOU** to the following individuals and organizations who adopted a collection between July 1, 2010, and December 15, 2010: **George Ahern, W. Graham Arader, Sheila Bodine, The Buckman Family Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lafayette Collins III, Mary Dugan, Melissa Hozik, Carol Ingald, Morris Lloyd Jr., Thomas Moran and Cynthia Starrett, The Raab Collection, and The Young Friends of HSP.**