

## What is a Community History Partner?

At HSP we aim to tell a broad story that reflects every person in history—to portray history as “everyone’s story.” One primary means for exploring *inclusive* history is through something we call “Community History Partners.”

A community history partner can be a local or a county historical society, an ethnic community, a neighborhood organization, a professional organization, or any other community group interested in documenting, preserving, or sharing its history. These partners help HSP achieve several important objectives—extending our reach across the region and state, linking our collections with other state and local collections, and expanding our collections with new materials.

One of our best tools for linking with community history partners is through our *Pennsylvania Legacies* magazine. Each issue focuses on a particular theme and is created in conjunction with another group. For instance, our April issue focused on the French and Indian War and was written with the help of The French and Indian War 250, Inc. For our May 2004 *Altoona and the Pennsylvania Railroad* issue we teamed up with the Blair County Historical Society and the Railroaders Memorial Museum. In November 2003 our issue featured *Pan-American Philadelphia*, which linked us with Taller Puetorriqueño, our collaborator in another kind of community history partnership, one that arose from our “New Immigrants Initiative.”

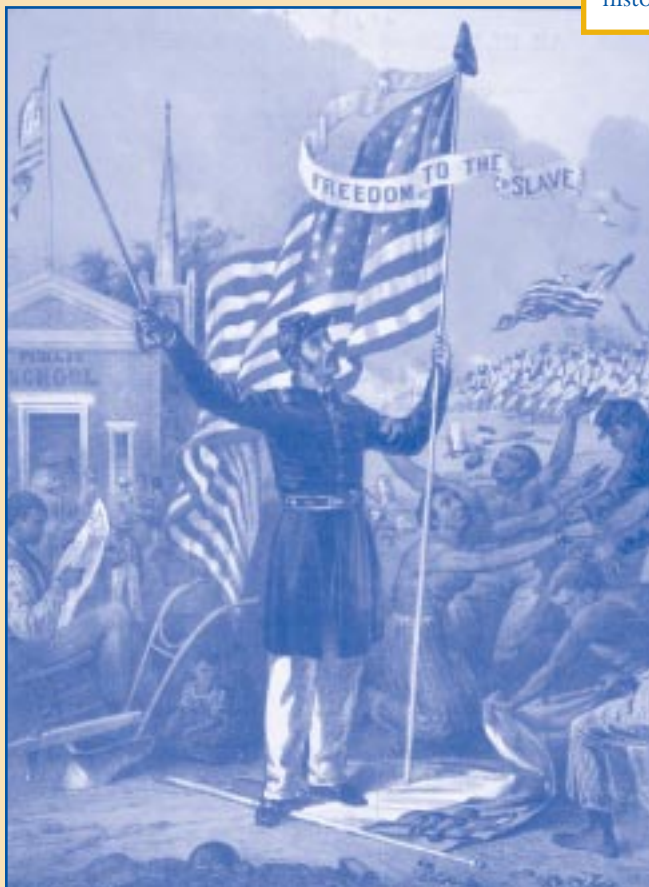
## The 2005 Founders and Heritage Award honorees, April 7, 2005, The Park Hyatt Philadelphia at The Bellevue.



Back row (left to right), Andrew Speizman, Albert R. Hunt, and Ed Bradley.  
Front row, Terry Gross, Trudy Rubin, Gene Roberts, Robert W. Bogle and Bernard Guet.

## Collections Update:

For those of you who have had occasion to visit The Bellevue during its Centennial celebration this past year, you may have come across one of several special displays featuring the exciting history of the building over the past one hundred years. We are proud to report that all of these items have been donated to HSP. The Bellevue Memorabilia Collection, 1885–2005, documents the history of the Bellevue building and the Bellevue, Stratford, and Bellevue-Stratford hotels in Philadelphia. The collection includes photographs, menus, drawings, postcards, advertisements, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, programs, letters, and other items. These items were collected and donated by Andrea M. Riso of Philadelphia, who is in the process of writing a book about the rich history of The Bellevue. ❖



*Freedom to the Slave*  
(The Society Print Collection)

2005 marks the 140th year anniversary of Juneteenth. All across the United States, and beyond, celebrations will commemorate this historical event of 1865 in Galveston, Texas. There, on June 19th, when word of the emancipation proclamation finally reached the enslaved, a new and uncertain way of life began. In the 140 years since, African Americans have elevated this celebration, publicly and privately, to one of the most important of the year. ❖

The New Immigrants Initiative is a series of projects, begun at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies and continuing at HSP, that document and represent the history and experience of recent non-European immigrants to the Philadelphia region. Earlier projects focused on local African and Arab communities, while recently we have turned our attention to “Latino Philadelphia.” Each project works with a group of advisors drawn from the community to help guide our outreach and research. Information about the community is gathered through informal visits, participant observation, oral histories, and photo documentation. All the oral histories, photographs and ephemera collected become a permanent part of the HSP archives. We then transform these materials into several outcomes—beyond a publication such as *Legacies*, these projects have resulted in exhibits, educational and resource guides, teacher workshops and programs, and additional online resources. The end result is really an expanded history record and a means for new immigrants to share with the public their own history and experience in their own voices.

We also draw on the existing historical record in our own archives to make a connection between older and more recent stories. In the case of the Latino project, research in our archives revealed that this community had a much longer history than anyone originally suspected—Philadelphia maintained an active trade with Cuba in the 18th century, for example, and Latin American revolutionaries lived in exile in Philadelphia in the early 19th century—an exciting discovery for us and the Latino community.

What has been the outgrowth of these Community History Partnerships? For several HSP staff members it has provided a meaningful way to give back to the community. Staff members have helped partners develop and mount their own exhibits and have conducted oral history workshops to help these communities continue archiving their histories. HSP has felt the benefit of these partnerships in two significant ways. First, it has helped us frame the exploration of the past based on a particular community’s present concerns and needs. And second, it has helped reveal stories from our collections that might not have otherwise seen the light of day. These partners are able to see themselves in HSP—they are part of the story—we are all a part of history. ❖

The small tin of Squibb Aspirin that was found at HSP while removing old shelving has found a new home! It has become an artifact in the archives of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Ben McDowell of Squibb reported that the control number and tin design places the manufacture date to December 1949. What a wonderful link this little tin created! ❖

## Education & Interpretation—increasing ways of understanding history

While most of you are familiar with HSP's library and research services as a means to access our great collections, some of you are no doubt unfamiliar with our other non-library activities that share these collections with others. HSP's Education and Interpretation Department works diligently not only to expand access to the historical collections, but to increase ways of understanding history. In a sense, our E&I Department acts as a mediator between the raw source material and the needs of our constituents. This is accomplished through a variety of outlets, such as teacher workshops and online curriculum development, programs, exhibits, and publications. Along with an occasional intern or two, all of the activities of E&I are developed and instituted by three hard-working and talented people.

**Kathryn (Kate) Wilson** became director of education and interpretation at HSP shortly after the merger with the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in 2002, where she served in a similar capacity. Working at HSP represents a coming full circle for Kate, who was a graduate student intern here in the early 1990s and did a large part of her dissertation research in the HSP archives when she was working toward her PhD in folklore and folklife at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research then focused on women's clothing in 19th-century Philadelphia and the connection between dress and broader understandings of gender, race, and class difference in the 19th-century city. At the Balch she turned her attention to contemporary ethnicity and immigration; in addition to her many other duties, Kate is the primary architect and director of the Society's "New Immigrant Initiative," a series of community-oriented history projects documenting and representing different immigrant communities in the greater Philadelphia area. Today she combines both interests. Always straddling the related worlds of history and culture, she particularly enjoys teaching workshops, connecting with members of different local communities, and delving into the collections to make exciting connections between the rich record of the past and the burning questions of the present, all in order to tell a fuller American story.

**Joan Saverino** began working at HSP in November 2003 on a part-time basis to develop an educational web site on Pennsylvania ethnic history and to assist in the design and implementation of a general education program. This month Joan becomes full time as she assumes the role of project director for a planning grant awarded by Pew's Heritage Philadelphia Program to develop two neighborhood history tours. Joan brings extensive expertise to HSP with over 25 years experience in education, museums, and as a private consultant. Joan earned a masters in anthropology with a museum specialization from The George Washington University. Her first job was at the Smithsonian Institution, working first at the National Anthropological Archives, and then moving to the education department at the National Museum of African Art. When Joan moved to Philadelphia in 1988 to pursue a doctorate (1996) in folklore and folklife at the University of Pennsylvania, she decided to focus on her own ethnic heritage. This interest grew from the time she spent studying Italian needlework with her great-grandmother and the interviews she



E&I staff members Tammy Gaskell Miller, Kate Wilson, and Joan Severino

conducted with her over many years. Joan's own research is ethno-historical and focuses on Italian and Italian American culture and identity. She has an abiding interest in the history of her home and that of her Mt. Airy neighborhood. As part of a Pennsylvania Humanities Council local scholar grant for the Germantown Historical Society, she developed a tour and an Italian American Heritage Guide to the city's historic northwest, which includes Germantown, Mt. Airy, and Chestnut Hill.

**Tamara (Tammy) Gaskell Miller**, the editor of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* and of *Pennsylvania Legacies*, joined the staff of HSP in October 2002. Tammy is a graduate of Amherst

College and earned her PhD in American history from Brandeis University in 1995. A newcomer to Pennsylvania and to Pennsylvania history, Tammy has warmly embraced her adopted home and its history. Her previous research and work experiences have given Tammy valuable perspectives, which she brings to her work at HSP. Tammy's own research has focused on the history of early Ohio, and especially on the role of women in building communities on the trans-Appalachian frontier. Tammy began her working life as a documentary editor at Rutgers University and is the assistant editor on the first two volumes (of a projected six) of *The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony* (Rutgers University Press, 1997, 2000). Her experience as a documentary editor honed her research and writing skills and instilled in her a passion for the documents themselves. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Tammy lived for several years in Memphis, Tennessee, where she broadened her editorial experience as managing editor of the *West Tennessee Historical Society Papers* and as editor of the publications of the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis. Tammy also has worked as a reference librarian and thus feels an affinity for HSP's library staff and is right at home here at HSP. ❖

### National History Day Philly

HSP was a lead participating partner in this year's revitalized National History Day Philly program held at the National Constitution Center on April 21, 2005. This year's theme was "Communications in History: The Key to Understanding." National History Day—a sort of "science fair" for history—encourages middle and high school students to undertake their own history projects utilizing original research through primary sources. Students submit documentaries, papers, exhibits and performances for judging.

HSP's Director of Education and Interpretation, Kate Wilson, was judging coordinator for the event. Three other HSP staff members, Max Moeller, Carrie Foley and Courtney Smerz helped judge the competition. It was especially fun for Carrie to participate as a judge as she had been a participant as a high school student back in 1993, when NHD had the same theme as this year. Carrie commented, "The judging was enjoyable—it was a fun change of pace from archival processing and it gave me the chance to interact with students and meet fellow judges who were mostly colleagues from historical organizations around town."

As a participating partner, HSP helped fund a scholarship to send the local winners to the state level competitions in State College. ❖