

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM PM&PA!



Dear Friends,

As you will see below, this has been another big year for the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance! We have many great projects underway but need your support to continue! PLEASE CONSIDER THE PM&PA in your year-end giving plans. Donate via Paypal at www.preservepennhurst.org or check to 61 Cassatt Ave, Berwyn, PA 19312.

Feel free to forward the PDF of PM&PA accomplishments to others who may be interested.

PM&PA's 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETED In partnership with the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, the nationally-renowned firm Urban Partners undertook an Economic Feasibility Study to see if and how the results of the PM&PA-sponsored 2009-2010 Community Design Collaborative Re-Use Design Study could be implemented on the Pennhurst campus. We were pleased to announce that the study showed that *the sensitive,*

meaningful re-use of 11 historic core buildings is financially viable. Download Urban Partner's report at www.preservepennhurst.org. The Urban Partner's study was affirmed by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#), [Preservation Pennsylvania](#), the [Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia](#), the [Chester County Historic Preservation Network](#), and [John Milner Architects](#).

ZONING CHANGE ADVOCACY The PM&PA and the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia also weighed in on the proposed zoning change to Pennhurst, which could have made implementing the recommendations of the Urban Partner's study more difficult. Work remains to find an interested developmental partner to engage the study results, as well as to counter a false rumor started that the study aims to install low-income housing.

COMMUNITY ACTION AWARD In May the PM&PA and Nathaniel Guest were awarded the Community Action Award by the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia for their advocacy work to save the Pennhurst campus.

ARCHIVES TREASURES PM&PA volunteers led by Senior Vice President Greg Pirmann spent a great deal of time at the State Archives organizing many boxes of heretofore uncatalogued Pennhurst resources. Among the amazing finds was a 1967 WITF documentary narrated by Peter Fonda and Pennhurst "home movies" from the same era. The PM&PA is working with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and WITF to restore and digitize the film.

DISABILITY ADVOCACY MONTH Representative Murt (R-Montgomery County) worked with PM&PA and the Disability Rights Network to introduce and pass Resolution 517 declaring November Disability History Month.

PARTNERSHIP WITH "STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL GIRL" Inspired by the lives of people who lived in Pennhurst and its peer institutions, *The Story of Beautiful Girl*, written by Rachel Simon, tells the story of two individuals, a deaf man (Homan) and a woman with an intellectual disability (Lynnie), who escape

from an institution in Pennsylvania in 1968 with the woman's newborn daughter. The story unfolds over several decades, and includes many issues familiar to those in the I/DD community: the abuse and dehumanizing conditions in the institution, the advent of deinstitutionalization, the value of dedicated Direct Support Professionals. A portion of the books sold through www.preservepennhurst.org are donated to the PM&PA.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT PLANNING The PM&PA worked with renowned exhibition designer Beth Redmond-Jones to begin planning of a Pennhurst-oriented travelling exhibit. Thanks to the efforts of PM&PA Board Member Julie Gannaway, the PM&PA is in communication with the Museum of DisABILITY in Buffalo, NY, to be an exhibition partner. We also plan to seek a Pew grant and a partnership with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the latter organization already expressing an interest in such a partnership

PENNHURST BOOK The PM&PA, under the leadership of Advisory Council member Dennis Downey, continues its work on the first comprehensive scholarly work on Pennhurst. We hope to partner with Penn State Press to make the book available in 2013.