



HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE

HISTORIC DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

APRIL

APRIL 1 - 12

Museum of the American Revolution, Spring Break at the Museum, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily through 4/12: March into spring break to explore what life was like during the Revolutionary War with a special exhibition, family-friendly crafts, in-gallery talks, and more for guests of all ages. Included with admission. amrevmuseum.org

APRIL 3

Science History Institute, First Friday: Our Plastic Planet, 5-7 p.m.: Explore the history of synthetic materials, the rise of plastic waste, and its impact on our environment. FREE. sciencehistory.org



APRIL 4

Franklin Square, Hop-A-Long Trail, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Bring a basket and follow the train collecting treats along the way! FREE with advance registration. historicphiladelphia.org

APRIL 7

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Cheers to McGillin's on National Beer Day, 6:30 p.m.: What happened at McGillin's stayed at McGillin's...until now! Explore the iconic bar's 165-year history. \$10; hsp.org

APRIL 8

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 10-11 a.m.: Storytime and crafts near the Pavilion for kids and their caregivers. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

APRIL 9

Arch Street Meeting House, The History of Quakerism: A Religious Revolution, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: With immersive displays and rarely seen artifacts, this new permanent exhibit begins with a journey through the early origins of Quakerism. Learn how a 17th-century radical spiritual movement helped advance religious freedom in the United States and is still fighting for social justice today. Suggested donation \$5 adults; \$2 children. historicASMH.org

APRIL 10

Science History Institute, Launch Party! A History of Fireworks Opening Celebration, 5-8 p.m.: Celebrate the opening of Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks. New exhibit explores the long, global history of fireworks in honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. FREE. sciencehistory.org

APRIL 14

Science History Institute, From Nature to Nylons: A Touch-Based History of Textiles, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.: This private, guided experience brings science and materials history to life through hands-on exploration. Journey from natural fibers through modern synthetic materials discovering how advances in textiles both shaped and were shaped by a changing world. \$3; register at sciencehistory.org

APRIL 18-26

Independence National Historical Park, Junior Ranger Week, regular site hours: Celebrate National Park Week with fun ranger programs and activities. Kick off the celebration with Junior Ranger Day on April 18 and earn your own Junior Ranger badge while exploring the country's birthplace. Stop by the Independence Visitor Center Ranger Desk for details about events and activities. FREE. nps.gov

APRIL 18

Arch Street Meeting House, International Day of Monuments & Sites Walking Tour, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Meet Quaker history during ASMH's first walking tour of the season, and in honor of International Day of Monuments & Sites! The Quaker City begins with a brief exploration of the historic burial grounds, then continues on a walking tour of important Quaker sites throughout the neighborhood. \$5. historicasmh.org/events

Franklin Square, Opening Day, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Enjoy the return of the Fountain Show and enjoy eco-friendly Earth Day crafts plus games, music and fun for the kids with entertainer, YoYo. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

APRIL 22

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 10-11 a.m.: Storytime and crafts near the Pavilion for kids and their caregivers. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

Science History Institute, Othmer Library After Hours, 6-8 p.m.: It's National Library Week. Explore the scientists, ideas and technologies that have shaped the world from 1776 to today through the unique collections. Plus, enjoy book-themed cake and take home a souvenir. FREE. Register at sciencehistory.org



APRIL 24 - 26

Arch Street Meeting House, National Historic Marker Weekend, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Did you know Philadelphia is home to nearly 322 (and counting!) blue historic markers, making it one of the highest concentrations of historic markers in the United States? Tour the markers in Old City on Saturday at 11 a.m. and stop by ASMH for hands-on, all-ages activities. FREE. historicasmh.org/events

APRIL 25

Museum of the American Revolution, Makers of Revolutionary: Philadelphia Living History Day 2026, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Join over a dozen historical tradespeople for hands-on crafts and activities. See demonstrations of 18th-century skills and trades, such as a pepper-pot soup seller, an engraver, a woodworker, a bandbox maker, and more. Meet the people who made the Revolution in 1770s Philadelphia. Don't forget to get your History Explorer passport stamped by all of the different makers! Included with admission. amrevmuseum.org

APRIL 30

Arch Street Meeting House, Opening Reception - The History of Quakerism: A Religious Revolution, 5-7 p.m.: With immersive displays and rarely seen artifacts, this new permanent exhibit begins with a journey through the early origins of the Religious Society of Friends. Learn how this 17th-century spiritual radical movement helped advance religious freedom in the United States, and is still fighting for social justice today. FREE. historicasmh.org/events

MAY

MAY 1

Science History Institute, First Friday: May Flowers, 5-7 p.m.: Celebrate the amazing chemical powers of plants! Stop by the handling collection table to learn how plants become the clothing in our closets and the drinks in our cups or make your own botany book to help distinguish between what's medicine and what's poison! FREE. sciencehistory.org

MAY 6

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 10-11 a.m.: Storytime and crafts near the Pavilion for kids and their caregivers. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org



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The Historic Philadelphia Gazette is always FREE

The Gazette is also available at historicphiladelphia.org



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facebook.com/historicphilly



WELCOME TO YOUR FIRST STOP FOR VISITING PHILADELPHIA

Make the most of your visit by starting at Independence Visitor Center, 6th & Market streets. Learn how to visit Independence Hall, speak with friendly staff for free trip planning advice; explore things to do on digital installations; and purchase discounted tickets for local attractions and tours. After starting here, you'll know what to do, where to go and how to get there! phlvisitorcenter.com



EXPERIENCE A WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM AND THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

NOW OPEN: *America's Founding* takes you on a journey from the colonies' growing tensions with Great Britain through the drafting, ratification, and adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

On May 15, 2026, the National Constitution Center will open *Governing the Nation*—a new exhibit about the separation of powers that will explore how the Constitution defines roles and balances power between the three branches of government and between the federal government and the states.

SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, April 1 through Sunday, April 12

We're ringing in the spring with interactive programs highlighting stories from "We the People." Discover the role students, soldiers, activists, and everyday citizens played in forming "a more perfect Union".

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

April 1 / 5-8 p.m. \$5.00 admission

In celebration of America's 250th, kickoff Spring Break with Family Fun Night! Enjoy extended hours in the galleries, including the new *America's Founding* exhibit, and a guided flashlight tour of *Signers' Hall*. Try out 18th-century themed crafts, activities, and workshops throughout the evening – you'll feel as though you traveled back to Philadelphia in 1776! This fun and interactive night will be educational and entertaining for the whole family.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY DAY

April 19 and May 31, 2026

Visitors with sensory-processing challenges can experience the museum in a secure and comfortable environment that includes modified programming and emotionally safe spaces with sensory objects, comfortable seating, and cool blue lighting. Join Averil Smith Barone for her Watercolor Workshop and learn the many different techniques of this wonderful medium in a welcoming and fun space. Admission to the Center is free from 9-10 a.m. during Sensory-Friendly Days.

ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDERS HERITAGE MONTH | JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 31

This May, celebrate both Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month at the National Constitution Center. Explore the impact and legacy of historical figures like Fred Korematsu, Mabel Ping Hua Lee, and Ernestine Hara Kettler through daily educator-led programs.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Saturday, May 23 through Monday, May 25

All weekend long, the National Constitution Center will honor the nation's fallen service members and highlight the history of Memorial Day holiday, which has its roots in the years following the American Civil War. Join us for flag ceremonies, trivia, artifact highlights, as well as crafts for learners of all ages!

The National Constitution Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit constitutioncenter.org. Beginning May 25, the Center will be open 7 days a week, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MAY 7

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1774 And All That: Paths To Independence, 6:30 p.m.: Groundbreaking historian Mary Beth Norton will reveal the "back story" to her George Washington Book Prize-winning book, 1774: The Long Year of Revolution. This talk marks the opening of the new exhibit Paths To Independence, 1765-1787, on view through September 18, 2026. \$20; hsp.org

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Exhibit Opening: Paths to Independence, 1765-1787, regular site hours: Featuring rare original documents including letters, pamphlets, broadsides, prints, and drafts of the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution—the display traces the complex path to American independence. It highlights not only the perspectives of well-known figures from history, but also the experiences and evolving views of ordinary Philadelphians. FREE. hsp.org/usa250

MAY 9

Independence Seaport Museum, Sensory Friendly Seaport, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.: New sensory friendly kits allow visitors of all ages to feel safe and comfortable during their visit. FREE. phillyseaport.org



Franklin Square, Play Day in the Square, 1-3 p.m.: Crafts and games, giant bubbles, music, fitness fun, and play for kids with YoYo. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

MAY 12

Science History Institute, From Nature to Nylons: A Touch-Based History of Textiles, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.: See April 14 for details.

MAY 20

Franklin Square, Storytime in the Square, 10-11 a.m.: Storytime and crafts near the Pavilion for kids and their caregivers. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

MAY 23

Arch Street Meeting House, Meet Quaker History, regular site hours: Pop by the Education Cart to create, learn, and explore some unexpected history. FREE with admission. historicismh.org/events

Franklin Square, Play Day in the Square, 1-3 p.m.: Crafts and games, giant bubbles, music, fitness fun, and play for kids with YoYo. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

MAY 25

Arch Street Meeting House, A Quiet Roar: The Unparalleled Lives of Bayard Rustin & Sarah Mapps Douglass, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. & 12:30-1:30 p.m.: A theater performance will bridge the stories of Bayard Rustin and Sarah Mapps Douglass, two phenomenal Black Philadelphian Quakers who walked the halls of ASMH a century apart. Yet, both struggled with racial injustice, political activism, and their experiences within the Quaker faith. FREE. historicASMH.org/events

MAY 30

Arch Street Meeting House, Meet Quaker History, regular site hours: Pop by the Education Cart to create, learn, and explore some unexpected history. FREE with admission. historicismh.org/events

ONGOING

Franklin Square, Tai Chi in the Square, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Tues., Thurs. & Sat.: Club meets next to the fountain or in the Pavilion on rainy days. All are welcome. FREE. historicphiladelphia.org

Independence Seaport Museum, Seeking Profit and Power: Philadelphia, China Trade, and the Making of America, regular museum hours: New exhibition looks at how the United States built trade alliances in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War. Check out more than 150 rarely seen objects and learn the story of the birth of economic independence in the city where everything began. Included with admission. phillyseaport.org

Independence Seaport Museum, Spring Break at the Seaport 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mondays; 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays – Fridays through 4/30: Explore the museum, learn something new and make a fun craft all month long! Included with admission. phillyseaport.org

Liberty Bell Center, Independence National Historical Park Walking Tour, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Meet on the east side viewing window of the Liberty Bell Center for a Ranger led walking tour of the Historic District. FREE. nps.gov/inde

Arch Street Meeting House, Meeting House & Burial Ground Tour, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Fridays from 5/15: Step inside Arch Street Meeting House, built in 1804 and still an active Quaker place of worship. Discover how early Quakers helped shape Pennsylvania and influence the founding ideals of the United States. FREE. historicismh.org/events

Mother Bethel AME Church, Crowns!, special exhibit hours in May: See elegant and elaborate hats, crowns and headpieces worn by women of all ages on display in celebration of faith, culture and identity. Learn the personal histories... every hat tells a story, every crown holds a legacy. FREE. For information and hours, motherbethel.org

VISIT INDEPENDENCE HALL

Stop by during the **daily open house from 9 to 10:30 a.m.**, when visitors can enter without a ticket. **Guided tours are offered 10:40 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with advance tickets at recreation.gov. For a more in-depth experience, **reserve the 4:20 p.m. expanded tour**, which includes access to the building's second floor. A **\$1 ticket handling fee** applies. More information: nps.gov/inde.

FREE PROGRAMMING KICKS OFF MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Check it out May 23-25 & May 29-30



Kick off summer where America's story began by **joining Betsy Ross at 10 a.m. to raise the flag at the Betsy Ross House**. Throughout Memorial Day Weekend, the Historic District comes alive with free, family-friendly programs honoring the nation's founding with hands-on fun for visitors of all ages.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., explore the **Once Upon A Nation Storytelling Benches**, where engaging storytellers share inspiring, little-known tales from history—many highlighting women, African Americans, and everyday people who shaped our country. Pick up a storytelling flag at any bench, collect stars, and redeem your completed flag for a prize at Franklin Square. Bench locations appear on the map on page 4.

Throughout the district, **Meet the History Makers (11 a.m.–4 p.m.)** brings costumed interpreters portraying figures from the past face-to-face with visitors. Meet them at 11:45 a.m. at City Tavern; 12:45 p.m. near Carpenters' Hall; and 1:45 p.m. near the Second Bank. And in Franklin Court, **Franklin under the Mulberry Tree:** Meet Ben or one of his friends or family for stories at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

At 2 p.m. and 3 p.m., head to Signer's Garden (5th & Chestnut streets) for **Colonial Muster**, featuring marching drills and stories of Revolutionary War soldiers.

End your afternoon at 3:45 p.m. behind Independence Hall with a stirring public **Declaration Reading**, a reminder of the courage and ideals that continue to define the nation.

All programs are free and within easy walking distance. See the **map on page 4** for locations and visit historicphiladelphia.org for the full Memorial Day Weekend schedule. Programming continues May 29–30.



SPRING INTO 52 WEEKS OF FIRSTS WITH APRIL & MAY FIRSTIVALS!

As flowers bloom and temperatures rise, Philadelphia's yearlong celebration of innovation continues with exciting spring Firstivals that shine a spotlight on some of the city's most remarkable "firsts." Each Saturday, neighborhoods across the city host a free Firstival — a lively celebration featuring live music, family activities, Once Upon a Nation storytellers, and a whimsical #1 sculpture marking that week's milestone.

This April and May, join us for springtime stories that helped shape American culture and invention:

- **April 4: First Stadium in America** at *Franklin Field*
- **April 11: First Circus Performance in America** at *Philadelphia School of Circus Arts*
- **April 18: First Botanical Garden** at *Bartram's Garden*
- **April 25: First Postmaster** at Franklin Court
- **May 2: First American-Made Piano & Soudaphone** at *Ensemble Arts Philly*
- **May 9: First Mother's Day** at *Historic St. George's Museum & Archives*
- **May 16: First Hospital in America** at *Pennsylvania Hospital*
- **May 23: First World's Fair in America** at *Please Touch Museum*
- **May 30: First Steamboat for Passengers & Freight** at *Independence Seaport Museum*



Each Firstival brings history to life with entertainment, hands-on fun, and a celebration of Philadelphia's legacy as a city of innovation. Whether you're visiting for a spring weekend or sightseeing in your own backyard, these Saturday events are great ways to explore the city, learn something new, and enjoy Philadelphia's rich culture.

Find the full schedule at 52firstsphilly.com and follow [@52FirstsPhilly](https://www.instagram.com/52FirstsPhilly) on Instagram for weekly highlights and event details.

PHLASH

Ride the Philly PHLASH
Hop-On, Hop-Off All Day for Just \$5

The Philly PHLASH runs Fridays–Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This convenient hop-on, hop-off bus connects riders to Philadelphia's top historic sites and attractions—from Old City and the Independence Visitor Center to the Rocky Steps and the Parkway.

Ride all day for \$5, or \$15 for a family of four. Buy tickets and redeem parking discounts at the Independence Visitor Center, with up to 60% off the day rate at five nearby garages, or purchase online at ridephillyplash.com.

HISTORIC SITES

Arch Street Friends Meeting House (E3)
320 Arch Street
(215) 627-2667
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. through 5/24; daily from 5/25
historicismh.org

Betsy Ross House (F3)
239 Arch Street
(215) 629-4026
Daily 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
historicphiladelphia.org

Carpenters' Hall (E5)
320 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-0167
Tues. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
carpentershall.org

Christ Church Philadelphia (F4)
2nd Street above Market Street
(215) 922-1695
Mon. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
christchurchphila.org

Christ Church Burial Ground (D3)
5th & Arch streets
(215) 922-1695
Daily 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
christchurchphila.org

Congress Hall (C5)
6th & Chestnut streets
(215) 597-2305
Closed through April 24 then daily 9:15–4:15; Tours every 30 minutes
Programs every 30 minutes
nps.gov/inde

Elfreth's Alley Museum (F2)
124-126 Elfreth's Alley
(267) 457-4159
Fri. – Sun. 12-4 p.m.
elfrethsalley.org; elfrethsalley.org/audio_tour

Federal Reserve Bank (B2)
10 N. Independence Mall, West
(215) 574-6000
philadelphiafed.org

Free Quaker Meeting House (C3)
500 Arch Street, (215) 597-2305
Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. from 5/23
nps.gov/inde

Franklin Court Printing Office (E4)
320-322 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Franklin Square (C1)
6th & Race streets
(215) 629-4026 (x400)
daily 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. to 4/30; 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. 5/1-23; 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. from 5/23
historicphiladelphia.org

Independence Hall (C5)
Chestnut Street between 5th & 6th streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.
recreation.gov

Old City Hall (D5)
5th & Chestnut streets
Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(215) 597-2305
nps.gov/inde

Physick House (E8)
321 South 4th Street
(215) 925-7866
Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun. 12-3 p.m. (tours on the hour)
philalandmarks.org

Powel House (E7)
244 South 3rd Street
(215) 627-0364
Sat. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun. 12-3 p.m. (tours on the hour)
philalandmarks.org

President's House Site (C4)
555 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Daily 7 a.m. – 10 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial:
Sat. & Sun. 12 – 4 p.m.
301 Pine Street
nps.gov/thko
(215)597-2305

MUSEUMS

American Philosophical Society Museum (D6)
104 South 5th Street
(215) 440-3400
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
amphilsoc.org

African American Museum in Philadelphia (B3)
7th & Arch streets
(215) 574-0380
Thurs. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
aampmuseum.org

Benjamin Franklin Museum in Franklin Court (E4)
Enter from Chestnut Street between 3rd and 4th streets
(215) 597-2305
Daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Fireman's Hall Museum (F2)
147 North 2nd Street
(215) 923-1438
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
firemanshallmuseum.org

Independence Seaport Museum (H6)
211 Columbus Blvd.
(215) 413-8655
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thurs. – Tues.
phillyseaport.org

Liberty Bell Center (C4)
526 Market Street
(215) 597-2305
Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
nps.gov/inde

Mother Bethel AME Church & Richard Allen Museum (C9)
419 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 925-0616
Wed. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat. 4/4 & 5/2 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Sundays 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
motherbethel.org

Museum of the American Revolution (E5)
101 South 3rd Street
(215) 253-6731
Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
amrevmuseum.org

Museum of Illusions (D4)
401 Market Street
(267) 703-2270
Sun – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
moiphilly.co

National Constitution Center (D3)
525 Arch Street
(215) 409-6700
Wed. – Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
constitutioncenter.org

National Liberty Museum (E5)
321 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-2800
Thurs. – Mon. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
libertymuseum.org

Science History Institute (E5)
315 Chestnut Street
(215) 925-2222
Wednesday–Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
sciencehistory.org

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History (D4)
101 South Independence Mall East
(215) 923-3811
Fri. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
theweitzman.org

OTHER SITES

Independence Visitor Center (C4)
6th & Market streets
(800) 537-7676
Daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
phivisitorcenter.com

SquareBurger (C1)
Franklin Square, 6th & Race streets
(215) 629-4026
12 p.m. to closing of Franklin Square; see hours above
historicphiladelphia.org

U.S. Mint (D2)
151 North Independence Mall East
(215) 408-0114
Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
usmint.gov

For the most current hours and information about **Independence National Historical Park**, stop in the Independence Visitor Center or visit nps.gov/inde

