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SUMMER OF FUN PLANNED AT THE BETSY ROSS HOUSE; FLAG FESTIVAL TOPS LIST & FREE PROGRAMMING RETURNS

Philadelphia, PA – Located in the heart of Historic Philadelphia, just blocks from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the Betsy Ross House offers visitors a unique view of colonial history, plus free family programming and special events all summer long.

The Betsy Ross House is dedicated to preserving the life and legend of America's most famous flagmaker. Visitors will learn how the legend of our first Stars & Stripes became a part of our American story and they'll hear about Betsy Ross, herself, a working wife, mother, business owner and patriot. The House is the only place you'll find in Historic Philadelphia that is dedicated solely to telling the story of working-class colonial women.

Our continuing commitment to bringing history to life is never more evident than in the warm weather months when the House and courtyard buzz with the sights and sounds of the 18th century.

All this, plus *Flag Festival* June 8-15 and *Betsy's Independence Day Bash* on July 4, make the summer of 2008 a great time to visit the Betsy Ross House. Here's a sampling of what you'll see:

Free Programming

The free family programming that has become a summertime staple at the Betsy Ross House returns in full-force in May. As always, visitors have the chance to meet Betsy in person and ask her all about her exciting life and times. The courtyard hosts crafters demonstrating traditional techniques and *A Soldier's Story*, featuring a Continental Army warrior talking about his experiences fighting for independence.

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On the courtyard stage, visitors will be treated to performances of *Girl Wonder*, the story of the contributions colonial women made to history, and wowed by the magic of our *Colonial Conjuror*. Little known stories from colonial times will be told by *Once Upon A Nation's* storytellers throughout the day ... when the bell rings, a story is about to begin.

New this season, visitors can enjoy lunch or a snack from our concession stand as they relax in the shady courtyard and take in all the history.

Flag Festival

It's a grand old flag and there's no better place to celebrate it than at the birthplace of our Stars and Stripes. ***Flag Festival 2008***, set for June 8-15, 2008, will celebrate Old Glory in all its forms and continue the tradition of Flag Day celebrations that began here more than 100 years ago.

The Betsy Ross House hosted its first Flag Day event on June 14, 1891 and has long been the site of Philadelphia's official commemoration. For 2008, tradition will be turned upside down with a weeklong event featuring a world-class historic flag exhibit, guest lecturers, crafters and more capped by a weekend street fair sure to bring out the flag-flying patriot in everyone.

The weekend fair promises food, games, exhibitions by artisans and crafters and, last but not least, the creation of the world's largest Post-It® Note flag. Visitors can join in our record attempt by writing their thoughts about our nation's flag on a Post-It Note, which will then be added to what will become a 20' x 30' "Betsy Ross flag." A variety of musical entertainment and a ceremony by the Philadelphia Flag Day Association top off the festivities.

Fourth of July – Betsy's Independence Day Bash!

Join us on Fourth of July for our traditional celebration, ***Betsy's Independence Day Bash!*** Daylong performances and make-and-take crafts for the kids are highlights. At 1:30 p.m., cheer on our nation's newest citizens in our annual naturalization ceremony and at 2 p.m. join us for the ceremonial nationwide bell-tapping event, *Let Freedom Ring*.

The Betsy Ross House, located at 239 Arch Street, is one of Philadelphia's most popular historic attractions with nearly 300,000 visitors annually. The House is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily April through October and Tuesday through Sunday in winter months. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors. An optional audio guide is \$5, which includes admission.

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For more information about *Flag Festival* or any other programs at the Betsy Ross House, call (215) 686-1252 or visit www.betsyrosshouse.org.

The Betsy Ross House is managed by Historic Philadelphia, Inc. HPI enhances the visitor experience and helps strengthen Philadelphia's tourism industry through interpretation and interaction, making our nation's history relevant and real. Historic Philadelphia, Inc.'s other programs include Once Upon A Nation storytelling and Adventure Tours, Franklin Square, and the Lights of Liberty Show. For more information, call (215) 629-4026 or visit www.onceuponanation.org.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution photographs are available for media usage by emailing heather@historicphiladelphia.org