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DOYLESTOWN MUSEUMS TO OFFER FREE ADMISSION ON SUNDAY, MARCH 28

DOYLESTOWN, PA (March 2, 2010) –Back by popular demand, Fonthill Museum, James A. Michener Art Museum, the Mercer Museum and the Moravian Pottery & Tile Works will once again offer a day of free admission and special activities on Sunday, March 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The 2nd annual “Doylestown Museums Free for All,” will also feature free shuttle service between the sites, courtesy of Bucks County Transport. Free parking is available at all four museum locations.

Last year, thousands of people came out to Doylestown to enjoy a treasure-trove of culture and history at the museums. This year’s “Free for All” will feature the following:

Dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the art and cultural heritage of the Bucks County, Pennsylvania region, the James A. Michener Art Museum presents the community with a diverse program of educational activities. The Michener Art Museum spotlights this core initiative on March 28 by providing free self-guided tours appropriate for young children, a free scavenger hunt activity and a free guided tour of the collections at 2:00 p.m. (space is limited), in addition to free general admission to the galleries where “Ask Me” docents are available throughout the day. The Museum Shop offers exhibit-related merchandise and gifts and jewelry by local artisans. The Max @the Michener Cafe—overlooking the outdoor sculpture garden—is open for lunch and light fare. The James A. Michener Art Museum is located at 138 South Pine Street in Doylestown. For more information, visit www.michenerartmuseum.org or call (215) 340-9800.

The Mercer Museum offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The collection features 40,000 tools of more than 60 early American crafts and trades on display. On March 28, the museum’s five floors will be open for self-guided exploration along with the museum’s elegant Elkins Gallery housing its collection of Bucks County paintings, including “The Peaceable Kingdom” by Edward Hicks. The Friends of the Bucks County Historical Society will be on hand to answer any questions about the paintings. Families will also enjoy the interactive exhibit, “Animals on the Loose.” The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown. For more information, visit www.mercermuseum.org or call (215) 345-0210.

Henry Mercer's castle home, Fonthill, featuring an incredible array of the famed collector, scholar and tile-maker's handcrafted tiles, is offering a free ground floor open house. This open house format includes access to the Entrance Hall, Conservatory Library, Saloon, and Morning Room. In addition, other buildings on Fonthill's grounds will be open for exploration including

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the Terrace Pavilion and the Spring House, both of which are covered in colorful Mercer tiles. Full guided tours are also available with paid admission. Fonthill Museum is located at East Court Street and Route 313 in Doylestown. For more information, visit www.fonthillmuseum.org or call (215) 348-9461.

The Moravian Pottery & Tile Works is a National Historic Landmark and working history museum producing handmade decorative tiles and mosaics. Operated by the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department, it is the only tile works in the country owned by a county government. The museum offers self-guided tours featuring ceramists making tiles in a manner similar to that employed by Henry Mercer over a century ago. Visitors can experience a behind-the-scenes look at mosaic setting and the kiln room, enter a prize drawing for a free tile and take advantage of discounted rates on select tiles. The Moravian Pottery & Tile Works is located at 130 East Swamp Road (Route 313) in Doylestown. For more information, call (215) 345-6722.

Two shuttle buses, courtesy of Bucks County Transport, make a continuous loop to the museum sites enabling visitors to conveniently experience all four locations. The pick-up/drop-off locations include Pine Street between the Mercer Museum and Michener Art Museum and the parking area between Fonthill Museum and Moravian Pottery & Tile Works. Free parking is available throughout Doylestown on Sundays.

Media for the “Doylestown Museums’ Free for All” is generously sponsored by the Intelligencer/Bucks County Courier Times.

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