



LancasterHistory

For Immediate Release

All events are camera friendly, and principals will be available for interviews.

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February 2019 Story Ideas & Events

from LancasterHistory

Serious Nonsense: The Pennsylvania German Groundhog Lodges

Thursday, February 7, 2019

4pm Reception & Book Signing

4:30 - 5:30pm Main Presentation

Versammlinge—community events filled with songs, performances, speeches, and skits that celebrate Pennsylvania German heritage and culture—are held entirely in the Pennsylvania German Deitsch language. Some, the “groundhog lodges,” feature a ceremony honoring the groundhog, while others do not. These unique meetings, expressions of a distinctive ethnic identity in the context of a rapidly changing society, have become a traditional mainstay among Pennsylvania Germans who have worked to preserve their language and culture into the twenty-first century. And the groundhog lodges feature one Pennsylvania German tradition that has become familiar in popular culture: groundhog weather prognostication.

A light reception and book signing by the author will begin at 4pm on Thursday, February 7 at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Ave., Lancaster. The main presentation will begin at 4:30pm in Ryder Hall.

The program is free and open to the public but **requires advance registration to guarantee a seat at the presentation**. Register online at www.lancasterhistory.org/lectures or by calling (717) 392-4633. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

LancasterHistory, 230 North President Avenue, Lancaster

The Lafayette Square Tragedy
Presidents' Day Living History at Wheatland
Monday, February 18, 2019
Tours at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, & 3pm

Experience history this Presidents' Day at President James Buchanan's Wheatland! In this first-person presentation, visitors will be transported back to the White House in late February 1859 as President Buchanan, First Lady Harriet Lane, and housekeeper Hetty Parker celebrate the admission of Oregon as the 33rd State of the Union. Learn the President's thoughts about the celebratory event, plus the dastardly crime that is occupying everyone's mind—the "Lafayette Square Tragedy"—which occurred not too far from the White House.

The Presidents' Day Living History at Wheatland takes place on Monday, February 18, 2019 with tours on the hour at 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm. Advance reservations recommended.

LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster

Presidents' Day History Happy Hour
Monday, February 18, 2019
5:30 - 7:30pm at Wacker Brewing Co. in Lancaster

Join LancasterHistory for a Presidents' Day History Happy Hour at Wacker Brewing Co.! The event will focus on our 15th president, James Buchanan, and his 1856 presidential campaign.

Attendees can sip Buchanan-inspired cocktails from Thistlefinch Distillery while enjoying Wacker's food and drink menu. LancasterHistory's resident Buchanan enthusiast, Stephanie Townrow, will share historical tidbits and lead revelers in an exploration of Buchanan's campaign music. Local musicians will perform music from his campaign, including several folksy Buchanan campaign songs.

In addition, Wacker will tap its "Old Buck Brew" for the first time at the event. The beer is an homage to James Buchanan, who was called "Old Buck" by his supporters. This brew will be available for purchase in addition to the brewery's regular drink menu.

[READ THE WHOLE PRESS RELEASE IN OUR PRESS ROOM ONLINE.](#)

More information and tickets available at <https://www.lancasterhistory.org/history-happy-hour>.

Wacker Brewing Co., 417 W. Grant Street, Lancaster

Storytime

Saturday, February 23, 2019**11am**

Experience history through stories and hands-on activities! Join LancasterHistory.org as we introduce children to historic themes and read a book aloud. Then, stay for an activity or craft inspired by the day's theme. This hands-on learning opportunity broadens historical knowledge while establishing basic museum literacy and critical thinking skills.

Storytime on February 23 will focus on presidential pets, particularly President Buchanan's dog, Lara, who went with him to the White House.

This program is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 9, but all children are welcome. Storytime is free for kids and accompanying adults, but reservations are required.

LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster

PRESIDENTS' DAY HOURS

On Monday, February 18, 2019, President James Buchanan's Wheatland, the museum exhibitions, and the Museum Store will be open. The Research Library, Archives, and Administrative Offices will be closed.

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