

## Making the World Fair for All Philadelphians

THE FOURTH OF JULY IS NOT JUST FIREWORKS, the boardwalk and three days off from work. It is, of course, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

On this occasion, I thought about another celebration of the Declaration – this country's 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

(Yes, I know that this is the Bar Foundation's column; we'll get there, don't worry).

The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876 was the first official World's Fair in the United States; it attracted an estimated 10 million visitors, the equivalent of about 20 percent of the country's population at that time.

The stated reason for the exhibition was to celebrate the centennial. But, as always, there was subtext. Historians tell us that the United States wanted to demonstrate that it was a world leader and would be one in the future. The Civil War had complicated relations with Europe and many nations saw the United States as a provincial, unsophisticated, war-torn country. In fact, America had been embarrassed at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London in 1851 because of the poor showing of its exhibits. So, in 1876, the Centennial Exhibition, besides celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, showcased America's emergence from reconstruction and its successes in science and industry.

America had developed technology and culture that surpassed many foreign

visitors' expectations. Revealed at the exhibition were the Corliss steam engine, the telephone, the typewriter and the precursor to the electric light. And, signaling the beginning of America's consumer culture, Hires Root Beer (invented by a Philadelphia pharmacist) and Heinz ketchup debuted at the centennial.

President Ulysses S. Grant, accompanied by his wife and the Emperor and Empress of Brazil, opened the centennial on May 10, 1876. Both houses of Congress and the Supreme Court justices apparently attended, along with the governors of Louisiana, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and 186,000 citizens. Richard Wagner composed the "Centennial Grand March" for the occasion and John Greenleaf Whittier read his poem, "Centennial Hymn," whose words express the sense of a country moving into a different age. "We meet today, united free, / And loyal to our land and Thee, / To thank Thee for the era done, / And trust Thee for the opening one."

During the six months the centennial was open, many notables visited, including Mark Twain (who liked it) and Henry Adams (who didn't). Herman Melville called it a "Vanity Fair."

(Now for the beginning of the connection to the Bar Foundation) Where did this occur? Philadelphia, of course. More

By Amy Ginensky



than 200 buildings were erected in Fairmount Park for the Centennial with Memorial Hall being one of the few currently remaining. It was designed to be the Centennial Art Gallery by Fairmount Park Chief Engineer Hermann Schwarzmann who had never before designed a building and ended up creating one of America's first examples of Beaux-Arts architecture.

After the Centennial Exhibition closed in November, most of the buildings were razed. The only ones left in Fairmount Park besides Memorial Hall are Ohio House, and two small brick outbuildings. (Now, the connection.) If you read the April column, you know that you will have an opportunity to visit Memorial Hall, recently renovated and the new home of the Please Touch Museum, on Saturday, Nov. 21. The Andrew Hamilton Benefit will be held there.

When you delve into the history of the Centennial Exhibition, one of the first things you learn is that the idea of having the exhibition had its detractors. Why hold such a "fair?" What would the United States gain? The answer: this first American World's Fair offered our relatively new country the opportunity to demonstrate its culture and industry in a world setting. Despite its cost, the exhibition helped boost the American economy and was a celebration of the accomplishments of American businesses and technology.

The newly renamed Andrew Hamilton Benefit has performed much the

**The Andrew Hamilton Benefit is Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park.**

same function for the legal community throughout the years. As the largest social gathering of lawyers and judges in the city, the Benefit gives us an opportunity to highlight the pro bono work of our colleagues by bestowing the Citizens Bank Pro Bono Award and acknowledges contributions of the outstanding members of our public interest community through the presentation of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award. Just as the centennial was a place for a war-weary nation to come together as a country, the Andrew Hamilton Benefit, especially this year, will be a place for us to come together as a legal community to remember, support and celebrate the public interest organizations when they need our support the most. So join us on Nov. 21 at the American birthplace of the World's Fair, where together we will continue to "Make the World Fair for Philadelphians." Get it? And yes, that's really the connection.

Have a great holiday.

*Thanks to the Free Library of Philadelphia and Please Touch Museum Web sites and Wikipedia for providing information for this article.*

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## Award Nominations Sought

THE PHILADELPHIA BAR FOUNDATION is seeking nominations for two awards to be presented at the Andrew Hamilton Benefit on Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Please Touch Museum.

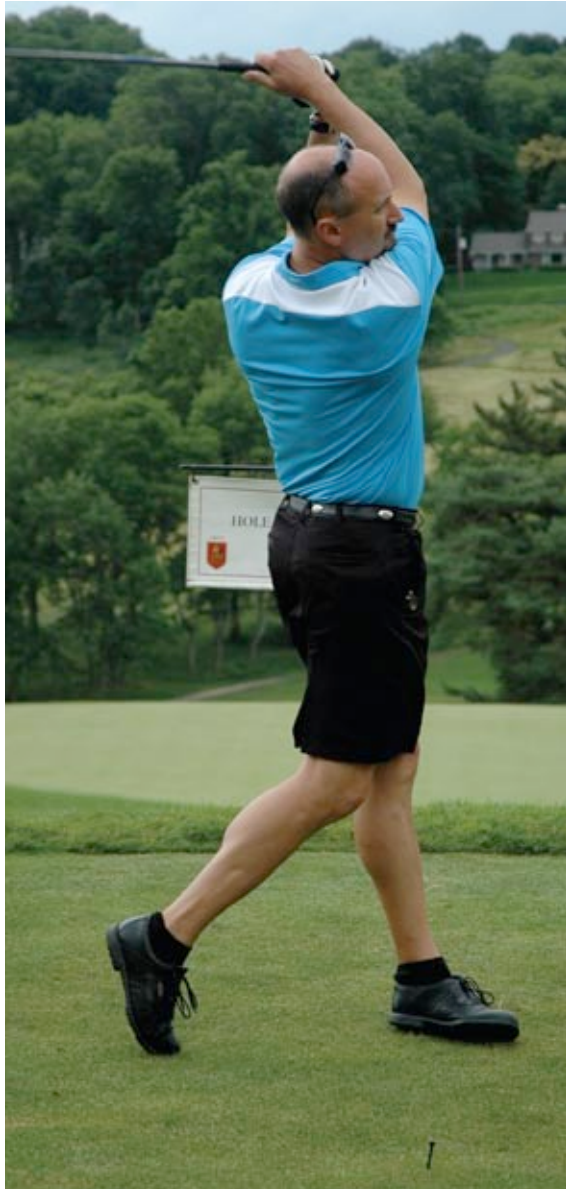
The Citizens Bank Pro Bono Award is presented by Citizens Bank, the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and is given annually to a Philadelphia law firm or corporate legal department demonstrating outstanding volunteer efforts to help provide legal services to those in need.

The recipient of the Citizens Bank Award designates the \$10,000 monetary award to one or more Bar Foundation grantees.

The Philadelphia Bar Foundation Award is given to an attorney who is working in the nonprofit legal services community. A \$2,500 award will be presented each year to an attorney who is providing direct legal services to the poor and the underprivileged in Philadelphia.

Visit [PhilaBarFoundation.org](http://PhilaBarFoundation.org) for more information. The deadline for nominations is Friday, Aug. 14.

# 21st Annual Bar Foundation Golf Classic



Chancellor-Elect Scott F. Cooper (left) watches his drive off the first tee at the Philadelphia Bar Foundation's 21st Annual Golf Classic on June 22 at Huntingdon Valley Country Club. More than 100 golfers helped raise more than \$50,000 for Bar Foundation grantees at the event. Other participants included William P. Fedullo (above) and Cathy Devlin (right).



Bar Foundation Executive Director Gene Sirni (from left) is joined by playing partners Michael Trudgeon, Jack Hubbert, Golf Committee Chair Rod Wittenberg and Charles Weeks. The group won the Colburn Cup for lowest gross score. Wittenberg (right photo) tries his hand at the putting contest.



Photos by Jeff Lyons