

LHVA Ambassadors Update

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority

May 2006



A S O U R C E O F I N F O R M A T I O N F R O M T H E L H V A

Jessup Celebrates its Italian Heritage with Steamtown's "La Festa dei Ceri" Excursion

Steamtown National Historic Site will run a diesel-powered train excursion to the Borough of Jessup, Pennsylvania for the annual "La Festa dei Ceri," on Saturday, May 27, 2006. On the train trip up the Lackawanna Valley to Jessup, passengers will be serenaded by authentic costumed Italian singers and children and learn the fascinating history of "La Festa dei Ceri."

Known locally as "St. Ubaldo Day," the festival is an annual celebration brought to America by immigrants from Gubbio, Italy in 1911 to pay tribute to St. Ubaldo. Started in the tenth century, the festival is still honored in Gubbio. The Jessup event features "The Race of the Saints," and also offers carnival rides, artwork, ethnic gourmet food, wine tasting, and historic town tours.



"The Race of the Saints" is one of the highlights of Jessup's annual Italian festival, "La Festa dei Ceri." Image: Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors' Bureau.

Station Stops program, and has awarded a grant to the Borough of Jessup to support the festival itself.

"This community festival is a wonderful expression of Jessup's pride in its Italian heritage," said LHVA Executive Director Natalie G. Solfanelli. "Many residents in the borough are from families who immigrated to the Lackawanna Valley directly from Gubbio looking for jobs and opportunity. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is proud to sponsor 'St. Ubaldo Day.'"

The train departs the Steamtown boarding platform at 3:30 p.m., and returns at 9:15 p.m. Ticket are \$21 for adults (17 to 61 years old), \$19 for 62 and older, and \$10 for children 6 to 16. Children under 6

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority has partnered with Steamtown to offer this new excursion as part of the Heritage Valley

require a ticket at no charge. Reservations can be made by calling Steamtown National Historic Site at (570) 340-5204.

Highlighted Events throughout the Lackawanna Heritage Valley

Anthracite Heritage Museum & Scranton Iron Furnaces

Open on Memorial Day.
Info: (570) 963-4804 or
www.anthracitemuseum.org

Electric City Trolley Station & Museum

"The Laurel Line" book signing on Sun. May 21 at 11:45 am

"Trolley Through Time" performance on Sun. May 28 at 2:30 pm
Info & Tickets: (570) 963-6590 or www.ectma.org



Everhart Museum

New exhibits, "Family Gallery Tours," and more!
Info: (570) 346-7186 or www.everhart-museum.org

Lacawac Sanctuary

Many great programs for Spring!
Info: (570) 689-9494 or www.lacawac.org

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour

Open daily 10 to 4:30, with at least one tour per hour.
Info: (570) 963-MINE or
www.thecoalminetour.com



Lackawanna College Environmental Institute

Nature Series Lectures on Tuesdays
Info: (570) 961-7891

Scranton Cultural Center

Doc Watson, "Curious George," and independent films.
Info: (570) 344-1111 or
www.scrantonculturalcenter.org

Steamtown National Historic Site

Excursions, tours & new Web Ranger program for kids.
Info: (570) 340-5200 or www.nps.gov/stea

Visit www.visitnepa.org
for more regional events.



Did YOU KNOW?

The Heritage Ambassadors' Program

LHVA's popular Heritage Ambassadors Program gives area residents a full day of tours, local history, and fun. Participants learn about the Lackawanna Valley's history, industry, and national significance. With first-hand visits to historic sites and cultural attractions, the program encourages the new "Ambassadors" to view their heritage as a point of pride and join us in "telling the story."

Ambassadors' Programs run one day every month from May to September. If you know of anyone interested in becoming an "Ambassador," please contact LHVA at (570) 963-6730 or email heritage@LHVA.org



A group of Heritage Ambassadors are welcomed to the Steamtown National Historic Site.

Featured Partnership:

Electric City Trolley Station & Museum "Tracks in Time" Video Earns National Award

A video production highlighting the story of Scranton's electric trolley system has been recognized as part of the 27th Annual National Telly Awards. The program, "Tracks in Time: The Story of Scranton's Electric Trolley," was selected as an award winner in the Video Documentary Category.

The program chronicles the story of how Scranton became the birthplace of the first commercially successful electric streetcar system in the nation, and is now commonly referred to as The Electric City. The program was jointly produced by Barbara Colangelo, Lackawanna County Director of Historic Facilities (including Electric City Trolley Station and Museum) and adventures consulting inc. "Tracks in Time" recently had its local broadcast premiere on WVIA-TV, Channel 44.

The Telly Awards were founded in 1980 to showcase outstanding non-network and cable TV programming. The awards also honor local, regional, and cable TV commercials as well as video and film productions. Previous winners in the programming category include Walt Disney Studios, ESPN, The History Channel, MSNBC, National Geographic, and others.

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is proud to have supported this valuable project.



LHVA Executive Director Natalie G. Solfanelli and "Tracks in Time" producer Thomas McHugh with the Telly award.

Online Resources: *National Heritage Areas*

"A National Heritage Area is a region in which residents, businesses, and governments join together to preserve, promote and celebrate their heritage, culture, and natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations." *National Park Service website*

The United States Congress has designated twenty-seven National Heritage Areas around the country. Pennsylvania is a leader in the movement with five NHA's. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority was designated a National Heritage Area in 2000.

Find out more about how National Heritage Areas capture the American experience at www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/REP/BB.htm.



LACKAWANNA
Heritage Valley

A State and National Heritage Area



LACKAWANNA
WONDERFUL
LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ROBERT C. CORDARO AJ. MUNCHAK MICHAEL WASHO

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
1300 Old Plank Road
Mayfield, PA 18433

Phone (570) 963-6730
Email heritage@lhva.org
Web www.lhva.org