

Pennsylvania History Coalition Honoring People with Disability

Dana Olsen, *Projects Director*

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Dear Stakeholders:

The purpose of this email is to invite a member or two from your organization to a symposium sponsored by the Pennsylvania History Coalition Honoring People with Disability (PHCHPD) at the Elwyn Archives, Conference Center - Room 317, in the Elwyn Administration Building, 111 Elwyn Road, Elwyn, PA 19063 on Wednesday, August 19, 2015.

If you are a statewide or other membership organization receiving this invitation, please pass this on to your affiliates and mailing lists asap.

The PHCHPD represents organizations and stakeholders who recognize the important role history plays in decision making affecting the lives of people with disability, their families and communities. Please visit www.disabilityhistorypa.org for further information about our work.

Elwyn, our symposium host, has connected generations of services and supports for people with disability in Pennsylvania, other states and countries. Its historic archives are a testament to this organization's unique standing in support of people with disabilities from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, and a treasure trove of unique and important materials that span this time.

The Elwyn archives have undergone a significant rebirth thanks to a grant issued by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council in 2014. As the grant period is winding down, Elwyn has offered to host a symposium about what happened with this project and why it is important.

The symposium will testify to the fact that "**Magic Happens**" when the right people come together to do inspiring work in the right ways. The intended audience for the symposium includes academia; human service organizations, people with disability and their families, professionals, historical societies, students, and other community stakeholders. The symposium will provide participants with:

- * **Time** to visit the new and improved Elwyn Archives and Museum;
- * **Opportunity** to view the Speaking for Ourselves historic collection for the first time;
- * **Information** about how this experience to preserve historic materials progressed and what was discovered along the way;
- * **Perspectives** on what the future holds in sharing historic content with the public and other stakeholders.

Please read on for more information about the symposium's scheduling and be sure to send your registration to be part of the magic, too. **Seating is limited to about 60 people, so please RSVP to [Candy Demarco@elwyn.org](mailto:Candy.Demarco@elwyn.org) as soon as possible.** Please contact me at dawaho@aol.com or 717-979-6165 for information about the Coalition or if you have other questions, and thank you.

2014-2015 Project Affiliates: The Arc of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Institute, Elwyn, Millersville University, Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance, Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, Pennsylvania State Archives, Speaking for Ourselves, Verland, West Chester University, and **witf** Public Media

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Magic Happens: A Symposium on Preserving the History of People with Disability

When: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm

Where: Third Floor Conference Center, Room 317, Elwyn Administration Building, 111 Elwyn Road, Elwyn, PA. Please see the Elwyn website - www.elwyn.org for directions to the Media Campus)

Cost: *There is no charge for attending this symposium.* Morning and afternoon snacks are compliments of our host. Lunch is on your own, however, attendees have the option of ordering from a choice of boxed lunches at a nominal charge or utilizing the onsite cafeteria (located on the first floor).

Special Thanks: To the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council for its sponsorship of this and other Coalition preservation projects; Elwyn for hosting this event, the speakers who volunteered to share their experiences and event planners.

Confirmation: Please confirm your attendance by completing the following registration information and forwarding this to Candy DeMarco by August 15th @ Candy_Demarco@elwyn.org. REGISTRATION IS LIMITED TO LESS THAN 60 People, so please RSVP asap.

Magic Happens: Symposium Registration

Name of Registrant(s): (Maximum of two people per organization)

Contact phone and email:

Organization name:

Lunch: (check one for each registrant)

Either downstairs cafeteria () ()

OR sandwich combo with ham/cheese () () roast beef () () tuna () () or roasted veggie () ()

Accommodations:

People who cannot take stairs are advised to park in front of the Administration Building, use the entrance under the stairs, and take the elevator to the third floor. For further assistance with transportation, parking or accessing the conference room and archives, contact Candy DeMarco at 610-891-2577 or Dr. Elliott W. Simon at 610-891-2422, once you have arrived on Campus.

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PROGRAM AGENDA

9:00 a.m. Doors open –Opportunity to tour the Elwyn Archives with West Chester graduate students, Dr. Elliott W. Simon and Coalition guides. (Beverages & Danish served)

10:00 a.m. Dana Olsen, Pennsylvania Coalition Honoring People with Disability Director and Dr. Sandra Cornelius, Elwyn President - Opening Remarks

10:20 a.m. Dr. Elliott W. Simon, Executive Director Elwyn Research and Quality Improvement- Elwyn's history in Pennsylvania, an overview of what the Archives contain, how the magic happened, and challenges for the future

11: 00 a.m. Dr. Dennis Downey, Millersville University Honors College President and History Professor – Institutionalization and Dehumanization: A University Research and Community Outreach Perspective

11:30: a.m. Dr. Charles Hardy, West Chester University professor of history - West Chester University's role in supporting history students at Elwyn, introducing affiliates to the nuts and bolts of historic preservation, and future considerations

11:45 a.m. Dr. Brent Ruswick, visiting professor of history at West Chester University – The development and findings of current research paper and plans for further study

12:15: Lunch and Elwyn Archives self-tours (Be sure to select your lunch choice on the registration form)

1:30 p.m. Amanda Tuttle, West Chester University history student – Overview of the preservation work completed with the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council grant, preservation work yet to do, review of finding aides, and use of web-based applications for sharing historic materials

2:10 p.m. Debbie Robinson, Executive Director of Speaking for Ourselves and representatives of Elwyn's supported employment team – Why advocates of people with disability want to be involved in preserving and sharing history, Speaking for Ourselves involvement with the History Coalition, and how Elwyn supported people to get paid for preservation work under the grant

2:30 p.m. Andree May Miller, Historical Society of Pennsylvania – The Hidden Collections Initiative at Elwyn...what an amazing find.

2:45 Afternoon snacks and beverages

3:00 p.m. Jim Conroy, Co-President of the Pennhurst Memorial and Preservation Alliance – Magic Happens with Pennhurst too, an update on the Pennhurst Interpretive Center and Museum

3:20 p.m. Dana Olsen - Closing Remarks

3:30-5:00 p.m. The Elwyn Archives will remain open for individual tours and networking until 5.00 p.m. A series of historic films are planned for the Conference Room through 4:30 p.m.

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