

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR APRIL–JUNE 2010

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – Please Touch Museum rings in spring with loads of interactive fun! On April 23, the museum celebrates the 25th Anniversary of its Book Award, the only award of its kind presented by a Children's Museum to honor the publication of quality books for young children. The award is given annually to two books in categories based on the age of the museum's visitors, kids ages seven and under. "Exploring Trees Inside and Out," a traveling exhibit introducing kids to nature, is on display through May 2. Other highlights this spring include special programming during "Earth Week" (April 22–30), the "Spring Strings" concert series (May 7–10) and the return of the Annual ABC Games in June! *All events, unless otherwise indicated, are free with museum admission.*

### APRIL

#### April 4

##### **Easter Sunday – Museum is OPEN!**

##### **Celebrate author Maya Angelou's Birthday**

To honor this beloved author's birthday, there will be a special Poet's Corner at 1 p.m. in the Program Room featuring Angelou's poetry with jazz piano accompaniment.

#### April 7

##### **Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.**

*First Wednesdays* allow visitors extra playtime before bedtime! Enjoy the museum's exhibits, programs and theater shows at an affordable price: Admission for guests over the age of 1 will be just \$2 from 5–7 p.m.

#### Through May 2

##### **"Exploring Trees Inside and Out" Traveling Exhibit**

Family members of all ages can discover the wonders of trees at Please Touch Museum in the Nature Explore Traveling Exhibit, "Exploring Trees Inside and Out." The national traveling exhibit is sponsored by Doubletree Hotels. The exhibit contains pieces and parts of a tree – in larger-than-life scale – which enables visitors to take a walk through the inside of a tree trunk and through the veins of the leaves. Visitors will also experience the sights, sounds and scents of trees in a fun, interactive way, and will leave the exhibit with a greater understanding and appreciation of trees and the key role they play in our daily lives.

#### April 11

##### **Cherry Blossom Queen Appearance**

As part of Fairmount Park's annual Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival, the Cherry Blossom Queen will be appearing in Please Touch Museum's Story Castle on Sunday, April 11 at noon. She will read from the traditional Japanese folktale *Momotaro, the Peach Boy* and will be available for a meet-and-greet following the reading.

#### April 14

##### **Crazy Hair Day**

Kids can join in the fun in the crazy hair salon set up in the Program Room from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Try on crazy wigs or decorate your own hair with ribbons, pipe cleaners, clips and berets! Storytimes in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. will feature "Crazy Hair Day" written and illustrated by popular author Barney Saltzberg.

#### April 15

### **Celebrate artist Leonardo Da Vinci's Birthday**

Kids will get to engage in the following activities in the Program Room: Kid's Inventions with K'Nex, Variety of Building Blocks, Painting Facial Expressions and Postcard Art with Expression Stamps.

### **April 22- 30**

#### **Earth Week**

To recognize both *Earth Day* (April 22) and *Arbor Day* (April 30), we will be celebrating 'Earth Week' between April 22 and April 30. There will be a variety of art, literacy, and theatrically based programming, all formed around the concepts of nature, recycling, and creative re-use.

### **April 23**

#### **25th Annual Book Award Ceremony**

The winners of the 25th Annual Book Award will be honored at a special ceremony at noon at Please Touch Museum. Winning author **Leslie Patricelli** will be here for a meet-and-greet and will be signing her award-winning book *Higher! Higher!* immediately following the award ceremony. *The Kids Store* will feature both Book Award winners at a discounted rate of 15% for each individual Book Award winner and 20% when purchasing both books on the day of the Book Award ceremony.

### **April 23-25**

#### **Celebrate Stories Weekend**

In celebration of the 25th Annual Book Award, join us for a celebration of all different types of reading and storytelling, including Storytimes with Sir Read-a-Lot and Dorothy; musical storytelling, featuring a variety of fairy tales and a retelling of *Peter and the Wolf*; and a very special new PTM Puppet Pal.

### **April 24**

#### **Storybook Ball**

**6–9 p.m.**

Families are invited to the annual *Storybook Ball* at Memorial Hall! Children and their grown-ups are encouraged to dress as their favorite storybook characters for an evening of enchanted entertainment, family-friendly cuisine, carousel rides and a Please Touch Playhouse performance of "There's Something Under My Bed." Other highlights include character appearances, music, dancing and a fantastic raffle.

The regular ticket price for adults and children is \$40. Member tickets are \$30. Children 1 and under are free. Family 4-packs are available at \$140 (\$100 for members). Sponsorship opportunities are also available. All proceeds benefit Please Touch Museum's interactive exhibits and programs. For more information, contact Laura Stanley at 215-581-3160 or [lstanley@pleasetouchmuseum.org](mailto:lstanley@pleasetouchmuseum.org).

### **April 27**

#### **Celebrate author Ludwig Bemelman's Birthday**

Special appearance by mascot Madeline in the *Story Castle* at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Each visit will feature a Ludwig Bemelman storytime and a meet-and-greet where kids will get a chance to take a picture with Madeline.

#### **Weekly Fun all month long:**

*Schedule is subject to change. Check the "Today's Fun" signs on the gallery floor for the most up-to-date listing and more details.*

#### **Art Activities in the Program Room**

Recycled materials printmaking; Drawings in the sand; Window blocks with recycled materials, and more.

#### **Storytimes in the Story Castle**

Join us Mondays–Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the *Story Castle* for interactive storytimes.

#### **Musical Playtimes**

Join us for daily musical playtimes featuring dress up, instruments and more in a small interactive group setting.

**Creative Dramatics Playtimes: “Camping Kids”**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon in the Program Room.

**Poet’s Corner**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Program Room.

**MAY****May 1****Dia De Los Niños**

Join Please Touch Museum and Telemundo as we celebrate this Latino holiday with honoring the joys of childhood and the children in our lives! The festivities include Milagros in the Program Room, performances by guitarist Louie Miranda, and bilingual dance parties throughout the day.

**May 5****Target First Wednesday, 5–7 p.m.**

*First Wednesdays* allow visitors extra playtime before bedtime! Enjoy the museum’s exhibits, programs and theater shows at an affordable price: Admission for guests over the age of 1 will be just \$2 from 5–7 p.m.

**May 7-10****Spring Strings**

Join in as we celebrate the arrival of spring at the first ever “Spring Strings” concert series featuring all sorts of instruments that make music using strings: Bluegrass band, string quartet, harp player, guitar player, sitar player, hammered dulcimer duo, and more. There will be multiple musical groups playing in various locations throughout the museum on each day (Friday–Monday). *For more details, check the “Today’s Fun” signs on the gallery floor.*

**May 8-10****Special Discount on Centennial Grown-Up Tours**

In celebration of *Centennial Day* on May 10, the museum will offer discounted Grown-Up Tour tickets at \$10 per person and offer special 2:00 p.m. guided tours May 8–10. Grown-Up tour visitors will also receive a 10% discount in the Kids Store with their receipt.

**May 10****Centennial Day Celebration**

To celebrate the history and excitement of the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, the museum will feature special programming that highlights the major themes (music, patriotism, discovery, transportation) running through the Centennial. All programming is intended to introduce our young audience to the concept of history through age-appropriate, familiar, and fun activities. A Centennial Parade will take place in the *Centennial Exploration* exhibit’s train station at noon and 2 p.m., featuring period-appropriate music and appearances by some of the museum’s favorite puppets dressed in festive Centennial garb.

In the Program Room, there will be a “Painting with Carriages, Horses and Trains” activity, as well as Froebel Block Play. Story times in the Story Castle will feature Fair/Carnival books at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**May 14- June 5****Please Touch Playhouse presents “Pinch Bear”**

Born from the dust of a falling star, Pinch Bear is so named because people can’t help but pinch her cheeks, she’s that cute. Soon Pinch Bear wants more than to be just “cute” and sets out alone to prove herself. The show is highly interactive and runs approximately 25 minutes. Free with museum admission. Performances are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**May 22****Celebrate artist Mary Cassatt’s Birthday**

To honor this artist’s birthday, kids will have the chance to paint a portrait of a loved one in the Program Room today.

## **May 28-31**

### **Teddy Bear Faire**

Join Please Touch Museum's very own Papa Bear along with the Three Bears as we celebrate the joy of spring and welcome all those hibernating bears out to play! Bear-themed stories, program room activities, sing-alongs, and creative dramatic playtime will be offered all weekend long!

### **Weekly Fun all month long:**

*Schedule is subject to change. Check the "Today's Fun" signs on the gallery floor for the most up-to-date listing and more details.*

#### **Art Activities in the Program Room**

Storytelling Masks, "Find It" Games, Floam, Soft Building Blocks and more.

#### **Storytimes in the Story Castle**

Join us Mondays- Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the *Story Castle* for interactive storytimes.

#### **Musical Playtimes**

Join us for daily musical playtimes featuring dress up, instruments and more in a small interactive group setting.

#### **Creative Dramatics Playtimes: "Camping Kids"**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon in the Program Room.

#### **Poet's Corner**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Program Room.

## **JUNE**

### **June 2**

#### **Target First Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.**

*First Wednesdays* allow visitors extra playtime before bedtime! Enjoy the museum's exhibits, programs and theater shows at an affordable price: Admission for guests over the age of 1 will be just \$2 from 5-7 p.m.

### **June 4-29**

#### **10th Annual ABC Games**

June brings the return of the annual *ABC Games*, which get kids active while encouraging sportsmanship, physical fitness and of course fun! All activities help children develop an interest in sports and fitness, while providing families with healthy alternatives to sedentary lifestyles. Please Touch will kick off this year's games with an Opening Ceremony on Friday, June 4.

### **June 6**

#### **Celebrate artist Frank Lloyd Wright's Birthday**

To honor this famous artist's birthday, kids will have the opportunity to engage in the following activities in the Program Room: "Designing Buildings," "Stained Glass Art."

### **June 10**

#### **Celebrate author Maurice Sendak's Birthday**

To honor this beloved children's book author, there will be a special appearance by a *Wild Thing* in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Each visit will feature a Sendak-inspired storytime and a meet-and-greet where kids will get a chance to take a picture with the character.

### **June 21**

#### **Please Touch Playhouse "Pinch Bear" returns to the stage**

Born from the dust of a falling star, Pinch Bear is so named because people can't help but pinch her cheeks, she's that cute. Soon Pinch Bear wants more than to be just "cute" and sets out alone to prove herself. The show is interactive and runs approx. 25 minutes. Free with museum admission. Performances are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**June 25****Celebrate author Eric Carle's Birthday**

To honor this children's book author, there will be a special appearance by *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in the Story Castle at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Each visit will feature an Eric Carle storytime and a meet-and-greet where kids will get a chance to take a picture with the Caterpillar.

**Weekly Fun all month long:**

*Schedule is subject to change. Check the "Today's Fun" signs on the gallery floor for the most up-to-date listing and more details.*

**Art Activities in the Program Room**

Daily "ABC Sponge Printing," Olympic Flags with Rings, Gears and more.

**Storytimes in the Story Castle**

Join us Mondays–Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the *Story Castle* for interactive storytimes.

**Musical Playtimes**

Join us for daily musical playtimes featuring dress up, instruments and more in a small interactive group setting.

**Creative Dramatics Playtimes: "S is for Sports"**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon in the Program Room.

**Poet's Corner**

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Program Room.

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**About Please Touch Museum**

Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit our web site at [www.pleasetouchmuseum.org](http://www.pleasetouchmuseum.org).