



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC YELLOW SPRINGS WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors of Historic Yellow Springs announced today that it has concluded its search for a permanent executive director with the appointment of Prudence Haines of Media, PA.

Haines comes to the organization with a long history of experience associated with other cultural institutions in the Delaware Valley. For the past five years she has been Executive Director of the Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park. Prior to that she was the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission's Site Administrator for Hope Lodge and Mather Mill in Fort Washington. In the early 1990s she served a seven year term as Curator and acting Director of the Rockwood Museum in New Castle, Delaware. When she left that position she began a four year stint in the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Education Department. A 1977 graduate of Earlham College, she obtained a Master's degree in Museum Studies in 1979 from the Cooperstown Graduate Program. She has co-authored *Standards and Practices for Historic Site Administration* as well as an article on incorporating volunteers into the process of doing historic research.

In announcing the hire Board President Mark Ashton noted that the challenging economic environment of the past year had afforded the board a wide range of well qualified candidates. "But Pru's depth of experience not only in site administration but development made this a natural fit for an organization with numerous buildings and multifaceted arts and history programming." The Board voted unanimously to offer her the job at its organizational meeting on September 20, 2009.

Ashton acknowledged that it had been a trying summer. "It is always difficult to lose an experienced Director such as we had in Rob Lukens. Our silver lining came in Sandra Momyer's agreement to resume her role as Executive Director on an interim basis and in recruiting another former executive director Karen Jacoby to head the Search Committee. When the outside world could see our former staff members stepping forward to fill in, I believe that it demonstrated how the board and the staff leadership support one another."

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