

### **Our Mission:**

We are a non-profit corporation under the laws of Pennsylvania. Our goal is to help the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in their endeavors to tell the story of the worst inland water disaster in this nation, the 1889 Johnstown Flood. We have turned over our properties in the National Register Historic District to the National Park Service, so that they can be saved for future generations.



### **When we meet:**

The Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial organization meets the first Monday of every month at 6:00pm.

Summer meetings are held at the  
1889 Club House  
186 Main Street,  
St. Michael, Pennsylvania

For more information see our website  
[www.friendsofjofl.com](http://www.friendsofjofl.com)  
email: [friendsofjohnstownflood@yahoo.com](mailto:friendsofjohnstownflood@yahoo.com)

### **The Johnstown Flood Story:**

The story of the Johnstown Flood has everything to interest the modern mind: a wealthy resort, an intense storm, an unfortunate failure of a dam, the destruction of a working class city, and an inspiring relief effort.



The South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club was formed in 1879 among some of the most prominent men of Pittsburgh. Within a few years several cottages and a clubhouse had been built along the shores of a lake in what is now St. Michael, PA.

The dam forming the lake held for almost ten years, failing during one of the worst storms of the nineteenth century. On May 31, 1889, the South Fork dam gave way spilling the contents of Lake Conemaugh into the valley leading to Johnstown. The release of the 20 million-ton lake resulted in over 2,000 dead in the valley.

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, felt the Red Cross could and perhaps should provide relief for peacetime disasters as well as battlefield care. The Johnstown Flood was the first major peacetime relief effort for the American Red Cross. The effort helped establish the American Red Cross as the major disaster relief agency in the United States.



Join  
the  
Friends  
of Johnstown  
Flood National  
Memorial

◆Membership Application◆

**Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial**

P.O. Box 219 St. Michael, Pennsylvania 15951

**Membership \$10.00 Per Year**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$10 Individual/ Family  \$25 Organization/Business  \$150 Lifetime

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash  Check

Receipt for Membership Fees  
 Tax Deductible  
 Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial  
 P.O. Box 219 St. Michael, Pennsylvania 15951

**Why our work is important:**

Johnstown Flood National Memorial has many cultural resources within its boundaries. The historic South Fork Fishing and Hunting Clubhouse, and cottages line Main Street in St. Michael, Pennsylvania. The remnants of the South Fork Dam and the restored Unger House are near the park visitor center. All are important in the story of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889. Yet to make the story of the Johnstown Flood come alive for park visitors there are many things the park would like to have and to do but can't. It is our goal to assist the park with support via volunteers, fund raising, and generation of new ideas so that future generations will understand and preserve the history of this triumph over tragedy.



**Special Events:**

Every year, lighting of luminaria serves as a tribute to the victims of the flood. More than 2,209 candles are lit on the ruins of the South Fork Dam and on the farm of Elias Unger, president of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club. The candles are lit at dusk on May 31st and burn for several hours. Various special programs and events are also offered to honor the heroes and victims of the 1889 flood.



**Message from the Chairman:**

*In 2008 Walter Costlow stepped down as the Chairman of the 1889 South Fork Fishing & Hunting Club Historic Preservation Society after he helped to make a successful transition to a Friends group related to the Johnstown Flood National Memorial.*

*The Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial will be raising funds for the National Memorial and volunteering our services. We help with visitor contacts at the Visitor Center and the Clubhouse, do sewing projects, support the park staff when they have special events, and more. We could use your help and inspiration. Please consider joining our organization.*

Yours Truly,  
 Pauline Roberts, Chairman

