

Our Mission:

We are a non-profit corporation under the laws of Pennsylvania. Our goal is to assist Johnstown Flood National Memorial in their endeavors to tell the story of the worst inland water disaster in this nation, the 1889 Johnstown Flood.



When we meet:

Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial meet the last Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM.

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

Winter meetings are held at the
Visitor Center
733 Lake Road
South Fork, Pennsylvania

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 by some of the most prominent men of Pittsburgh.

Members of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club built sixteen cottages along the shore of Lake Conemaugh. These cottages, plus a club house, were erected on eighteen numbered lots between 1881 and 1888 in what is now the village of Saint Michael, PA.

The South Fork Dam was originally built between 1838-1853 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of the canal system to be used as a reservoir for the state's Main Line of Public Works canal basin in Johnstown. It was abandoned by the Commonwealth, sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad, and sold again to private interests. The dam holding back the lake failed 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 nearly 20 million-ton lake resulted in over 2,200 dead in the valley.

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



**JOIN
FRIENDS OF
JOHNSTOWN
FLOOD
NATIONAL
MEMORIAL**

Membership Application

Membership \$10.00 per Calendar Year

Please mail to:

**Friends of Johnstown Flood National
Memorial**

**186 Main St., PO Box 219
Saint Michael, PA 15951**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Receipt for Membership Dues

Keep this portion for your records

**Friends of Johnstown Flood National
Memorial**

186 Main Street
PO Box 219
Saint Michael, PA 15951

Date: _____ **Amount: \$** _____

Why our work is important:

Johnstown Flood National Memorial has many cultural resources within its boundaries. The historic South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club House and Cottages line Main Street in Saint Michael, Pennsylvania, along with the remnants of the South Fork Dam and the restored Col. Unger's Lake View House near the park visitor center are all important to the story of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889. 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 volunteers, fund raising, and generating new ideas so that future generations will understand and preserve the history of this triumph over tragedy.



Message from the President:

Friends of Johnstown Flood National Memorial have a firm belief that the historic memorials of the Johnstown Flood of 1889 are important and deserve to be preserved and cherished. We have established a good working relationship with the National Park Service. We encourage and promote membership in the Friends group to support the National Park Service in the preservation and promotion of the South Fork Fishing and Hunting Club House, Cottages, and Memorial to the victims of the Great Flood of 1889.

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 Club House, 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,
Rob Koenigsberg, President

Special Events:

Commemorating the Anniversary of the Great Johnstown Flood:

Every year, lighting of the luminaria serves as a tribute to the victims of the flood. 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.

Various types and locations of Fund Raisers will be announced.