Member Profile: Ann Toth
Member Since: 2009

When did you join the History Center?
After the Penguins won the Stanley Cup, I remember standing in a very long line to see it at the History Center. There was a shorter line for members. I said where do I sign up, became a member, and the rest, as they say, is history! It was the best investment I could make.

What is your favorite part of being a member?
I enjoy all the programs that the History Center provides, and attending the exhibition preview events for members that include a reception prior to looking at the newest exhibition. My membership also allows me to come back to look at an exhibit where there are less people so I can really read all the information and take my time looking at everything.

What is your favorite exhibition?
I enjoy the We Can Do It! exhibition because that part of history has always fascinated me.

What is your favorite program?
I enjoy attending the Educator workshops as a former teacher in the public schools (foreign language and history) and as a part-time instructor in safety education at U. S. Steel. Upon retirement, I hope to return to teaching part time.

Tell us your favorite period of history.
I like to read about the home front during World War II, not only what was happening in the war, but how people coped with it and how the war affected everything that people did. I collect movie memorabilia as well as things that relate to the war effort and how that affected Hollywood: the movies that were made, the publicity, etc. As a way of promoting patriotism, in July 1942, all the magazine covers published had an American flag as the cover. If you remember that people bought magazines from newsstands back then, think about all the magazines displayed for sale with flags on the covers.

I also like to read about the war effort as it pertains to the steel industry in our area, as I have worked for U. S. Steel for 37 years and come from a long line of steelworkers. Most people do not remember that the war was financed by the people in the sale of war bonds. Movie stars sold war bonds to an eager nation. One of the first well-known civilian casualties of World War II was the actress Carole Lombard, who was killed in a plane crash returning from her home state of Indiana on January 16, 1942, after selling $2 million worth of war bonds in one day. Most people also do not remember the local connection to the crash: several soldiers from Uniontown were on the flight with her.

For more information about leaving a legacy at the History Center through a bequest, commemorative tile, life insurance, or other gift please contact Elizabeth McMullen, Senior Development Associate at 412-454-6445 or emcmullen@heinzhistorycenter.org