



April 1, 2009

MANCHESTER, CT -- There is a new kid in town! Well, actually it's lots of kids, and adults, and families, and friends, all being re-introduced to some of the longest-standing organizations and destinations in Manchester.

S.H.A.R.E, stands for South Manchester History Arts Recreation and Education, and it's a collaboration brought together with common goals – to support each other and increase awareness of, interest in and attendance at various destinations in South Manchester, Connecticut.

Brought on by simple conversations between some of the members, a decision was made to get together, see what the common goals were, what they could do for one another, and how they could promote the wonderful activities, programs and offerings to those who live in the greater Manchester area.

The members of S.H.A.R.E. are; the Little Theatre of Manchester at Cheney Hall, the Manchester Historical Society, the Connecticut Firemen's History Museum, the Lutz Children's Museum, the Downtown Special Services District, the Mary Cheney Library, and the Manchester Art Association and Greater Hartford Arts Council, with support from several town-wide entities.

The common interest in building new audiences and finding opportunities to support each other led to the idea of planning a day of activities where all could provide varying programs and even include transportation to and from the different sites. The Town of Manchester produces Pride Week and Heritage Day each June, so the group decided to join forces and join in on the already-planned celebration. This date in 2009, June 13, coincides with the Governor's statewide "Open House Day", so the idea of a joint event couldn't have been more advantageous.

Joyce Hodgson Kristof, Executive Director of Little Theatre of Manchester, says "Working with these new colleagues and their varying programs is a delight, and enhances what we do at Cheney Hall. For instance, whenever Lutz reaches out to its members, the parents and grandparents hear about the plays and concerts at our Hall, or when the Historical Society conducts tours or puts on an exhibit, it often tells the wonderful story of Cheney Hall – how can we not benefit from working together?"

The planning will also include a similar "joint" day in early December, with activities all along Main Street, Hartford Road, and Pine Street to celebrate the holiday season. The group has applied for funding from a local philanthropic organization to underwrite the cost of a promotional brochure, and hope to have a website in the near future.

For more information on this organization, contact any of the listed organizations which can be found on the internet, the phone book or by calling Joyce Hodgson Kristof at 647-9824.

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