



## Time is Running Out

As part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Congress opened up a new window for tax-free charitable giving that runs through 2007. If you are 70½ years of age or older, this new legislation allows you to make cash gifts totaling up to \$100,000 from your traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities — such as the National Aviary — without incurring income tax on the withdrawal.

This is good news for people who want to make a charitable gift during their lifetime from their retirement assets, but have been discouraged from doing so because of the income tax penalty. We encourage you to consider IRA charitable transfers this year, as this provision expires on December 31st. Be sure to consult your tax advisor for details.

Contact Patricia Rambasek, Director of Development, at 412-323-7235 ext. 214, for ways to make a gift.

## Host Your Event at the National Aviary

With over 500 exotic and endangered birds, the Aviary makes a unique and exciting venue to host your event. Enjoy a casual and relaxed or elegant and intimate evening gathering in our indoor Atrium and outdoor Rose Garden Tent.

Wedding receptions  
 Holiday gatherings  
 Cocktail parties  
 Corporate engagements  
 Fundraisers  
 Reunions  
 and more...

Visit our website at [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org). For details, contact Aimee J. Plotz, Facility Rental Associate, at 412-323-7235 ext. 249 or [aimee.plotz@aviary.org](mailto:aimee.plotz@aviary.org)

*The Rose Garden is lovely in the Summer!*

## Daily Events and Activities at the National Aviary

10:30 am	<b>Penguin &amp; Me</b>	For ages 18 months-5 years. Advance registration required.
10:30 am	<b>Raptor Encounter</b>	In the Atrium. An eye-opening look at owls, hawks and falcons.
11:00 am	<b>Feeding Time</b>	In the Tropical Forest. Watch the birds swoop down to feed.
11:30 am	<b>Kitchen Window</b>	Take an up-close look at the variety of foods the Aviary birds eat.
12:00 pm	<b>Aviary Insights Talk</b>	Steller's Sea Eagle—Learn all about these large raptors.
1:00 pm	<b>Aviary Insights Talk</b>	Keel-billed Toucans—Learn about these fascinating newcomers.
1:30 pm	<b>Penguin Premiere</b>	In the Atrium. Meet one of the Aviary's African Penguins.
2:00 pm	<b>Feeding Time</b>	In the Wetlands. Help the Aviary trainers feed an afternoon snack.
2:30 pm	<b>Aviary Insights Talk</b>	Rhinoceros Hornbills—Learn about these unusual-looking birds.
3:00 pm	<b>Feeding Time</b>	In the Tropical Forest. Help feed the birds their afternoon treats.
3:00 pm	<b>Penguin Connection</b>	For ages 6 and up. Advance registration required.
3:30 pm	<b>Tropical Rainstorm</b>	In the Wetlands. Stay high and dry while the birds play in the rain.

\* Subject to change. Check the current Daily Events at [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org) or call 412.323.7235 for updated information.

## Join our Team!

By **Erin Estell**, Manager of Interactive Experiences and Animal Promotions

If you've been to the National Aviary lately, you were probably greeted by a friendly, smiling face when you came through the entrance, at an exhibit, or during a special encounter. Many of those smiling faces belong to the paid staff members who work here on a daily basis. They wear navy polo shirts bearing the Aviary's logo.

If you come back for a visit later this year you'll notice that the navy polos are mostly hidden in a sea of light blue polos. Those new shirts, belonging to our Docents and Volunteers, are taking over—and we couldn't be more excited!

The National Aviary Volunteer Staff is made up of a group of dedicated individuals, 18 and older, with a passion for birds and a passion for people. They are our front line in representing the National Aviary to visitors and the community. There is no prerequisite

of prior experience, since most of our volunteers learn about the animals “on the job.” There are two ways to volunteer with us: as an Animal Programs Volunteer or as a Docent.

Our Animal Programs Volunteers have committed one day each week to come in and help our talented trainers with the husbandry and basic care of our enormous avian collection, with animal observations, creation of enrichment, and food preparation. These volunteers don't mind getting a little dirty to help the birds!

Our newest volunteer opportunity is our Docent program. Docents commit to volunteering for half a day each week and assist with classroom, outreach and summer camp programs. They assist with greeting guests, leading guest encounters, guest interpretation at exhibits, and involving guests in

interactive activities. Docents love birds, the National Aviary, and talking to people about birds and the National Aviary!

If you would like to become part of our team, please contact Erin Estell at [erin.estell@aviary.org](mailto:erin.estell@aviary.org). Our next new volunteer orientation is scheduled for Saturday, July 21st, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

If you're interested in volunteering with another department, such as horticulture, development or marketing, see the volunteer page on our website: [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org).

## Incorporating **Natural Behaviors** into Education Programs

**C**athy Schlott, Education Program Coordinator, and Nicole Begley, Supervisor of Animal Programs at the National Aviary, presented a paper at this year's Animal Behavior Management Alliance Conference.

The ABMA is a not-for-profit organization with a membership comprised of animal care professionals and other individuals interested in enhancing animal care through training and enrichment. Every year this organization holds a conference which gives zoo professionals the opportunity to take workshops, give and hear papers, and for the overall sharing

of new ideas and techniques.

Cathy and Nicole presented their paper, “Does it just sit there? Incorporating Natural Behaviors into Education Programs,” at the conference in January. The paper focused on how the National Aviary has restructured education classes to allow more time for interactive experiences and hands-on activities. The paper was given the Sharing the Knowledge Award that recognizes achievements in behavioral management education to enhance the knowledge of professionals and/or the public to the benefit of animals in human care.



Cathy Schlott and Nicole Begley shared the National Aviary's training philosophy with other trainers in an award-winning presentation.

National Aviary Photo by Nuezi Puls

