

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH *DIANA: A CELEBRATION*

Philadelphia, PA – Visitors to the National Constitution Center will have the chance to learn more about the nature of aristocracy and America’s fascination with royalty during a series of special public programs held in conjunction with *Diana: A Celebration*. The series will shed light on the British Monarchy, the lengths to which the architects of the U.S. Constitution went to avoid such a government, and the notion of American aristocracy. Programs include:

Tina Brown: Diana and the Aristocracy of Celebrity

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

\$9 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$7 for students and teachers

Reservations required at 215.409.6700

Daily Beast founder and editor Tina Brown will join the National Constitution Center for a conversation about Princess Diana and her dramatic impact on the rise of celebrity culture. Lady Diana Spencer, a member of one of England’s most distinguished families, entered the public stage at a moment when British media was entering a racier age. The paparazzi found a willing subject in the young aristocrat, and Diana proved to be gifted at manipulating the media and gaining power from publicity. In her bestselling book, *The Diana Chronicles*, Brown writes: “She was way ahead of her contemporaries in foreseeing a world where celebrity was, so to speak, the coin of the realm.” Award-winning journalist Todd S. Purdum, national editor of *Vanity Fair*, will moderate. This program is part of the *Knight Constitutional Conversations* series.

American Aristocracy

Monday, November 2, 2009, 2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

\$21 for members, \$35 for non-members

Reservations required at 215.409.6700

The Center presents an afternoon event beginning with high tea, followed by the program “American Aristocracy,” and concluding with a private viewing of *Diana: A Celebration*. Bestselling biographer Sally Bedell Smith, author of *Grace and Power: The Private World of the Kennedy White House*, and journalist Vincent Bzdek, features writer at *The Washington Post*, will discuss American aristocracies – families synonymous with long-lived power and privilege, including the Kennedys and the Clintons, in the context of British royalty.

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ADD ONE/DIANA PROGRAMS

Aristocracy and the Founders

Monday, December 7, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

FREE; Reservations required at 215.409.6700

Gordon S. Wood, Brown University Professor of History and Chair of the National Constitution Center's Distinguished Scholars Advisory Panel, will discuss the Founders' attitudes and beliefs about aristocracy in America, where "titles of nobility" are prohibited by the Constitution, but where aristocratic elements of privilege and power nevertheless survive. The men who espoused the radical idea that all are created equal shared the tradition of British aristocracy, and Wood will examine how their beliefs differed from and mirrored those held in England. Historian Carol Berkin, professor of history at Baruch College, will moderate.

From October 2 through December 31, 2009, the National Constitution Center will host the international traveling exhibition, *Diana: A Celebration*, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn more about the life and work of the Princess of Wales. The exhibition is on loan from the Althorp Estate, the Spencer Family's 500-year-old ancestral home in England.

Admission to *Diana: A Celebration* is \$23 for adults, \$21 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$15 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Diana: A Celebration is produced by Arts and Exhibitions International, in association with the Althorp Estate, Cultural Networks International Inc. The exhibition is presented locally by Macy's, and CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it

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ADD TWO/DIANA PROGRAMS

represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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