

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (December 10, 2007) – The National Constitution Center announces the line-up of programs for Winter 2008. These evening events contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues with featured speakers such as Anthony Lewis, Senator Bill Bradley, and Valerie Plame Wilson. The Center will also host a new series, *The Legacy of 1808*, a year long dialogue with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance. Reservations are required for all programs and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Author Series Programs:

Anthony Lewis on the First Amendment

Monday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.

\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$6 for K-12 students and teachers

The National Constitution Center welcomes two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Lewis, one of the country's most esteemed experts on the First Amendment and the author of the classic, *Gideon's Trumpet*, to share his latest work, *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate*, on the importance of freedom of expression. Lewis will discuss how our First Amendment rights were created and will reveal a story of hard choices surrounding one of America's great founding ideas. Chris Finan, president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, will moderate.

The New American Story with Senator Bill Bradley

Tuesday, January 22, 6:30 p.m.

\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$6 for K-12 students and teachers

Senator Bill Bradley – bestselling author, New York Knicks star, and former presidential candidate – will join the National Constitution Center for a conversation about what it will take to make America a better, stronger, truer country. Based on Bradley's acclaimed *New York Times* op-ed piece, *The New American Story* argues that a strong nation requires a stronger two-party system with leaders who will tell the truth to the American people. Bradley's call to action is addressed not only to the parties and elected leaders, but to citizens as well. Matt Bai, national political writer for the *New York Times Magazine*, will moderate.

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ADD ONE/WINTER PROGRAMS

An Evening with Former CIA Agent Valerie Plame Wilson

Tuesday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.

\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$6 for K-12 students and teachers

Valerie Plame Wilson will join the National Constitution Center to discuss her new autobiography, *Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House*. Plame Wilson provides her perspective on the public disclosure of her identity as a CIA officer and the federal investigation that led to the trial and conviction of Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, Scooter Libby. Much has been written about her story, but Valerie Plame Wilson herself has been silent, until now.

From Philly to Baghdad to the United States Congress with Representative Patrick Murphy

Monday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, \$6 for K-12 students and teachers

The National Constitution Center welcomes U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Murphy, the Irish American son of a Philadelphia policeman and the first Iraq War veteran to be elected to the United States Congress. Murphy's new book, *Taking the Hill: From Philly to Baghdad to the United States Congress*, highlights his love for family and the belief that the American dream is still within reach. More than anything, Murphy stresses the joys and necessity of serving others, whether that means family, students, community, fellow soldiers, or the nation.

Legacy of 1808 Series:

The Legacy of 1808 is a year long dialogue with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance.

The Legacy of 1808: A Historical Perspective

Monday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.

Free

On January 1, 1808, the United States Congress prohibited the importation of slaves to America as authorized by Article 1, Section 9 of the United States Constitution. To mark the 200th anniversary of this historic legislation, and to help us understand the political and cultural climate surrounding the issue of slavery in the early days of the republic, the National Constitution Center proudly welcomes 2008 visiting scholar Martha S. Jones and other prestigious scholars of American history to place the legacy of slavery into legal and historical context.

The Legacy of 1808: "Iron Ladies of Liberia"

Wednesday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.

Free; through January 15, reservations are available to National Constitution Center members only

The National Constitution Center and The Independent Television Series present the Philadelphia premiere of "Iron Ladies of Liberia," an intimate documentary that goes behind the scenes with Africa's first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia. A discussion about Liberia and its current policy to prevent a descent into civil war will immediately follow the screening.

ADD TWO/WINTER PROGRAMS

The Legacy of 1808: Two Perspectives

Tuesday, February 26, 6:30 p.m.

Free

The National Constitution Center is home to a rare printing of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Abraham Lincoln. The Emancipation Proclamation is considered the most important document of arguably one of the greatest presidents in U.S. history. After the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation is considered the next most significant national treasure. What has established this document in the public memory? What is its influence and impact upon African Americans and all Americans? Leading scholars Harold Holzer and Robert F. Engs will help answer these questions by presenting two unique perspectives on this iconic document. Matthew Pinsker, the Pohanka Chair in American Civil War History and Associate Professor of History at Dickinson College, will moderate.

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 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. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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