

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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SALLY BEDELL SMITH AND VINCENT BZDEK TO SPEAK ABOUT AMERICAN ARISTOCRACIES AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Presented in conjunction with the Diana: A Celebration exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (October 13, 2009) – Bestselling author **Sally Bedell Smith** and journalist **Vincent Bzdek** will join the National Constitution Center on Monday, November 2, 2009, to discuss American aristocracies – families synonymous with longstanding power and privilege, including the Kennedys and the Clintons – in the context of British royalty. The program includes an afternoon tea beginning at 2:30 p.m., followed by the presentation with Smith and Bzdek at 3:30 p.m., and a private viewing of *Diana: A Celebration* from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$21 for members and \$35 for non-members. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. This program is part of a series on the nature of aristocracy and America's fascination with royalty, held in conjunction with the *Diana: A Celebration* exhibition.

Vincent Bzdek is the news editor and a features writer at *The Washington Post*. He has also written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Wired Magazine*, and *The Denver Post*. Bzdek's most recent book is *The Kennedy Legacy: Jack, Bobby, Ted and a Family Dream Fulfilled*.

Sally Bedell Smith is the author of the bestselling biographies of William S. Paley, Pamela Harriman, Princess Diana, John and Jacqueline Kennedy, and Bill and Hillary Clinton. A contributing editor at *Vanity Fair* since 1996, she previously worked at *Time* and *The New York Times*, where she was a cultural news reporter.

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ADD ONE/AMERICAN ARISTOCRACY

Dr. Will Swift will moderate. Swift is a leading expert on American presidents and British royalty of the nineteenth and twentieth century. His first book, *The Roosevelts and the Royals*, tells the story of two ruling dynasties – the Roosevelts and the British royal family – and their interactions over 125 years. His 2008 book, *The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm*, recounts how the Kennedy family, during Joseph Kennedy's ambassadorship at the beginning of World War Two, stepped onto the world stage as America's aristocratic family in London.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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.

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ADD ONE/AMERICAN ARISTOCRACY

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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