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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

Newark Public Library to Host National Exhibition on Abraham Lincoln

Two centuries after Abraham Lincoln's birth in 1809, he is one of the most revered figures in our nation's history. Lincoln's life, accomplishments, and legacy are the subject of a new traveling panel exhibition on display at the Newark Public Library.

"Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, a Man for All Times" explores how Abraham Lincoln transcended his age and left a constitutional legacy for all Americans. The exhibition, created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and funded through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will be on display from January 6 to February 3, 2011.

The exhibition tells the story of how Lincoln, a self-educated, rough-hewn lawyer with virtually no administrative experience, guided a divided nation through the crises of slavery, secession and Civil War. The exhibition makes extensive use of Lincoln's own words to encourage a deeper understanding of his principles and his legacy. Drawing on documents, broadsides, and ephemera from the Gilder Lehrman Collection, the six panels examine the legacy of slavery and emancipation, and Lincoln's commitment to every American's "right to rise."

"We are so pleased to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said Wilma Grey, Director of the Newark Public Library. "Through reproductions of documents, photographs, and posters, the exhibition invites visitors to learn about the challenges Lincoln faced and his accomplishments."

Selections from the Special Collections Division of the Newark Public Library are also on display and include original issues of *Harper's Weekly* magazine from the 1860s documenting the ongoing Civil War, an original 1860 ambrotype photograph of Lincoln in Springfield, Ill. taken just after his Presidential nomination, an original 1865 broadside announcing that there was a reward offered for the murderer of the President, as well as various postcards, engravings and etchings of Lincoln. Selections of limited edition, fine press books from the Richard C. Jenkinson Collection on the history of fine printing are also in the exhibition and include biographies of Lincoln as well as transcripts of his writings and speeches.

The Newark Public Library is one of forty sites nationwide selected to host the Lincoln exhibition. The Gilder Lehrman Institute developed the exhibition to mark the 2009 bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. The exhibition was curated by Steven Mintz, Professor of History at the University of Houston, and Richard Carwardine, Rhodes Professor of American History at Oxford University. The exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities. NEH grants enrich classroom learning, create and preserve knowledge, and bring ideas to life through public television, radio, new technologies, museum exhibitions, and programs in libraries and other community places. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available on the Internet at www.neh.gov.

The Library is sponsoring free programs for the public in connection with the exhibition:

The Living Abe Lincoln, a first person narrative of his life, from his humble origins in the backwoods of Kentucky through his trying years in the White House, will be performed on **Thursday, January 20 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** This program is suitable for middle school and older students and interested members of the public. School and community groups are asked to call 973-733-7793 to reserve space. The Living Abe Lincoln is made possible by a matching grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities.

Lincoln and Newark, will be presented on **Wednesday, February 2 at 6:00 p.m.** This program, sponsored by the Newark History Society, will feature speakers Harold Holzer, Lincoln scholar and Chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; and Thomas McCabe, Lecturer, Rutgers-Newark. Holzer, author of numerous books on Lincoln, including *Lincoln President-Elect*, will discuss Lincoln's journey from Springfield to Washington, DC in 1861 before his inauguration and touch on the important decisions he faced in the early days of his presidency. McCabe will describe the story of Lincoln's visit to Newark on February 22, 1861. For more information or to reserve space, please contact the Newark History Society at NewarkHistorySociety@verizon.net or 973-376-8273.

"Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, a Man for All Times" is on view on the 3rd Floor of the Main Library at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Programs will take place in Centennial Hall at the Main Library, 5 Washington Street.

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history. The Institute serves teachers, students, scholars, and the general public. It helps create history-centered schools, organizes seminars and programs for educators, produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions, sponsors lectures by eminent historians, and administers a History Teacher of the Year Award in every state through its partnership with Preserve America. The Institute also conducts awards including the Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Book Prizes, and offers fellowships for scholars to work in the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The Institute maintains two websites, www.gilderlehrman.org and the quarterly online journal www.historynow.org.

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