

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EXPLORE ISSUES OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
THROUGH THE HBO SERIES "BIG LOVE"
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**
As part of the members only Constitution Culture Club series

PHILADELPHIA, PA (March 30, 2006) – What happens when a religion's practices clash with the law and the First Amendment's freedom of religion? The National Constitution Center will explore the issue of religious freedom through the new HBO series, "Big Love", about modern day Utah polygamy, on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. Sarah Barringer Gordon, a professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and nationally respected expert on religious clauses in the First Amendment, will lead the discussion. Admission is free, but the Culture Club is limited to National Constitution Center members only. Please call the membership line at 215.409.6767 to reserve your place.

Gordon is the author of *The Mormon Question: Polygamy and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America*, which explores how the Mormon practice of polygamy transformed the U.S. legal system. She is a widely recognized scholar on the role of religion in American public life and the separation of church and state, and holds degrees in religion, law, and history. Gordon served as clerk to Hon. Arlin M. Adams, U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals and is a member of the National Constitution Center's advisory board.

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ADD ONE/BIG LOVE CULTURE CLUB

HBO's new series "Big Love", starring Bill Paxton, explores the life of a modern-day Utah businessman trying to balance life with his three wives, seven children, and a new and thriving business. "Big Love" explores the evolving institution of marriage through a typical atypical family. Polygamy was banned by the Mormon Church in 1890.

The Constitution Culture Club is an exclusive offering for members of the National Constitution Center. The club meets monthly to discuss the current constitutional issues we encounter in our daily lives through the lens of new books, film, television, theater, and other cultural activities. Similar to a traditional book club, participants will be expected to have experienced the subject of the month before attending. Culture Club events are free of charge to National Constitution Center members. Culture Club events are sponsored by Philadelphia Magazine.

Membership to the National Constitution Center is an easy way to become a part of history. Benefits include free admission for you or your family for one year, a 10% Museum shop discount, the *Signature* newsletter, member only discounts to National Constitution Center programs and membership to the Culture Club.

For more information about National Constitution Center Membership or to make a reservation for an upcoming event, please call the membership line at 215.409.6767 or contact by email at membership@constitutioncenter.org.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also,

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ADD TWO/BIG LOVE CULTURE CLUB

serving 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 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.

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