

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## **NEWSWEEK'S EVAN THOMAS TO DISCUSS THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND ITS CURRENT SIGNIFICANCE AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (May 11, 2010) – **Evan Thomas**, bestselling author and *Newsweek* Assistant Managing Editor, will join the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss his new book, *The War Lovers*. In *The War Lovers*, Thomas tells the story of six men at the center of the USS Maine explosion in 1898, a transformative event in U.S. history, and explores why the Spanish-American war has uncanny resonance today. **Sean Wilentz**, Professor of History at Princeton University, will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

*The War Lovers* follows the chain of events set in motion after the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. Despite the fact that the explosion was almost certainly a self-inflicted accident, Teddy Roosevelt and Henry Cabot Lodge, along with newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, fabricated evidence of a Spanish attack. As they had hoped, President McKinley soon declared war, which would turn out to be a bloody quagmire that would come at a tremendous cost. The war would ultimately transform Roosevelt into an American hero, but would shatter friendships among Roosevelt, Lodge, their close friends and former allies, philosopher William James and the powerful Speaker of the House, Thomas Reed.

**Evan Thomas** has served as the Assistant Managing Editor of *Newsweek* since 1991. He is the bestselling author of six works of nonfiction: *Sea of Thunder*, *John Paul Jones*, *Robert Kennedy*, *The Very Best Men*, *The Man to See*, and *The Wise Men*.

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ADD ONE/EVAN THOMAS

**Sean Wilentz** is the author of several books, including *Andrew Jackson, Chants Democratic*, and *The Rise of American Democracy*. He has also written on contemporary politics and history for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *The New Republic*, among other publications. Wilentz is currently completing a book tentatively entitled *Bob Dylan in America*, a historical and cultural interpretation of Dylan's life and work.

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

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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