

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

SLAVERY AND THE LITERARY IMAGINATION DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (June 27, 2008) – The National Constitution Center’s *Legacy of 1808* series continues in July, featuring writers **Lorene Cary**, **Lawrence Hill**, and **Beverly Lowry**, who have each examined slavery through fiction and scholarship. Fiction and non-fiction writers have different constraints on what stories they tell, but the storytelling techniques they sometimes share are powerful tools for stimulating the historical imagination. “Slavery and the Literary Imagination” will take place on Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Lorene Cary is the author of several works, including *The Price of A Child*, a 1995 novel chosen as a One Book, One Philadelphia selection, and the best-selling memoir *Black Ice*, an American Library Association Notable Book for 1991. A Senior Lecturer in creative writing at the University of Pennsylvania, Cary is the founder of Art Sanctuary, a non-profit performance series that brings black artists to speak and perform at the Church of the Advocate. For her writing and arts activism, she received The Philadelphia Award.

Lawrence Hill’s most recent novel, *Someone Knows My Name*, received the 2008 Commonwealth Writer’s Prize for Best Book of the year and the 2007 Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize. Hill is the son of American immigrants – a black father and a white mother – who served as some of Canada’s most prominent civil rights activists. Hill’s bestselling memoir, *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada*, tells his family’s story.

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ADD ONE/LITERARY IMAGINATION

Beverly Lowry is the author of six novels and the nonfiction works *Crossed Over* and *Her Dream of Dreams*. Her most recent work, *Harriet Tubman: Imagining a Life*, is a reimagining of the remarkable life of Harriet Tubman. The recipient of the 2007 Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, Lowry teaches at George Mason University. She currently resides in Austin, Texas.

This program is part of the *Legacy of 1808* speaker series, a year long dialogue at the National Constitution Center with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance.

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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