

SPORTS

Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers

MAY 26 – AUGUST 20, 2006

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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CONTACTS: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

**THE CONSTITUTION CULTURE CLUB DISCUSSES THE ROCKY STEPS
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (July 12, 2006) – Since 1976, the Academy Award® winning film *Rocky* has inspired thousands to imitate Sylvester Stallone and climb the 72 steps in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Now, with the Philadelphia Art Commission set to vote on whether to bring the Rocky statue back to the Ben Franklin Parkway, the film and the steps are once again a topic of conversation and debate. The National Constitution Center presents *Constitution Culture Club: Rocky Stories* on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700. This program is held in conjunction with the Center's summer exhibit, *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers*.

As the final weeks of the Center's *Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers* exhibit approach, Michael Vitez and photographer Tom Gralish will discuss their new book, *Rocky Stories: Tales of Love, Hope and Happiness at America's Most Famous Steps*, as part of the Center's Constitution Culture Club series. They will share their essays, present their photographs, and answer questions about the year they spent capturing stories of some of the thousands who visit the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art each year.

Michael Vitez has been a staff writer at the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for twenty years. In 1997, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Journalism for his series chronicling the experiences of five people as they approached the end of life. He has also taught journalism and writing at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University.

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ADD ONE/ROCKY STORIES

Since 1983, **Tom Gralish** has worked as both an editor and photographer at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In 1986, he won both the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography and the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for his photo essay on the homeless. Since 1998, he has published a weekly photo column in which he documents everyday life in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia.

The Constitution Culture 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. Culture Club events are free and open to the public.

From May 26 through August 20, 2006 the National Constitution Center is hosting ***Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers***, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition that tells the stories of 35 athletes and their performances in 17 different sports. The exhibit also features an exclusive National Constitution Center created section, *Local Legends*, as a tribute to hometown heroes who have made a difference in the Philadelphia sports community.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers is free with regular museum admission of \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Sports: Breaking Records, Breaking Barriers was developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). Audi is the exclusive national sponsor of the exhibition.

The Constitution Center's showing of the *Sports* exhibit is sponsored in part by the *Philadelphia Daily News*. The *Daily News* has a longstanding tradition for excellent sports coverage by an award-winning staff. *Daily News* sports writers also are seen each weekday on *Daily News Live* from 5-6:30 p.m. on Comcast SportsNet. The show is currently in its ninth season.

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ADD TWO/ROCKY STORIES

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center 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."

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