

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Philadelphia, PA (February 21, 2008) – During the month of March, the National Constitution Center will pay tribute to the tremendous impact women have had in shaping America, with a special focus on their influence in the history of baseball.

Inside the *Baseball As America* exhibition, visitors can see a variety of artifacts from the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, including a 1946 Champion Racine Belles bracelet, “A Guide for All-American Girls” booklet, and the uniforms of Gloria Cordes of the Kalamazoo Lassies, who during one season had 24 complete games and an ERA. of 1.44, and Edith Houghton, who played for the Philadelphia Bobbies at the age of ten and later became the first female scout in the major leagues.

Visitors can also participate in the *Women in Baseball* event, held on International Women’s Day – Saturday, March 8. Members of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, including Ruth Richard, former catcher for the Rockford Peaches and a six- time all star, and Gertrude (Alderfer) Benner, a member of the Kalamazoo Lassies, Springfield Sallies, and Chicago Colleens, will share stories about their history-making experiences and will provide baseball tips for guests. Participants can also take etiquette classes, just as the Women’s League players did, and watch the film, *A League of Their Own*. The *Women in Baseball* event is free with museum admission and will take place from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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## ADD ONE/WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In addition, the Center has highlighted artifacts and sections throughout its main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, to draw visitors' attention to defining moments in women's history. Representing two of the most significant eras in the history of women in our nation – women's suffrage and the women's rights movement of the 1970s – are an "Ask Santa to Bring a Vote for Mother" stocking and a button from the campaign to ratify an Equal Rights Amendment. Other artifacts include a button from the National Organization for Women in support of *Roe v. Wade* and the robe worn by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Guests can also learn about the impact women have had on the Constitution in the "American National Tree", which highlights 100 people who have helped shape the Constitution over the last 200 years. The Tree includes information about influential women such as Bella Abzug, a feminist member of House of Representatives; Myra Bradwell, a feminist denied the right to practice law; Mary Goddard, printer of the Declaration of Independence; Katharine Graham, *Washington Post* publisher who authorized the publication of the Pentagon Papers; Candy Lightner, Founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Ellen McCormack, the Right-to-Life candidate in the 1980 presidential election; Patsy Mink, the first Asian-American elected to Congress; and others.

From February 15 through May 11, 2008, the National Constitution Center is hosting *Baseball As America*, the first major exhibition to examine the relationship between baseball and American culture. The 6,000-square-foot exhibition is organized by The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, and marks the first time the treasures of the Hall of Fame have left their legendary home to tour the country. The national tour of *Baseball As America* is sponsored by Ernst & Young LLP. The exhibition is presented locally by Chevrolet. CBS 3 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *Baseball As America* and the Philadelphia Phillies are a promotional partner for the exhibition.

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## ADD TWO/WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Admission to *Baseball As America* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours are also available and cost \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.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. 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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