

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Philadelphia, PA (February 9, 2009) – During the month of March, the National Constitution Center will pay tribute to the tremendous impact women have had in shaping America. In conjunction with the *America I AM: The African American Imprint* exhibition, programming will also focus on the influence of African American women and their struggles for equality.

During the “Freedom for All” event on Saturday, March 7 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., visitors can celebrate African American women who broke barriers in politics, science, and rights for all women in a fun and interactive show at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. Visitors will also learn more about famous African American women authors during a storytelling event at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. In addition, during a special craft activity, guests can explore the lives of female artists of the Harlem Renaissance, who explored art and life in a time of struggle and change.

Visitors to the *America I AM* exhibition will also have the opportunity to witness a moving theatrical experience based on first-hand accounts of the lives of brave African American women who entered the armed forces during World War II. Set in a time when the U.S. military was segregated and many African Americans were determined to make a stand against racial discrimination, the dramatic presentation, “She Went to War,” will illuminate the many struggles and victories experienced by African American women in our nation’s military service and the impact they had on American culture and society. This special theatrical production will run on Saturdays and Sundays in March between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

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ADD ONE/WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2009

America I AM also features a number of artifacts from African American women who have impacted American history, including Phillis Wheatley's writing desk, Rosa Parks' arrest card, and Marian Anderson's gown, among others.

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. Rare artifacts, including the judicial robe worn by retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, evoke landmark moments in the history of women in our nation.

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.

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.

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