

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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ACCLAMIED SCHOLARS GORDON WOOD AND RICHARD BROOKHISER JOIN THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER FOR UPCOMING PROGRAMS ON THE FOUNDING FATHERS

PHILADELPHIA, PA (May 10, 2006) – Historians **Gordon Wood** and **Richard Brookhiser** will join the National Constitution Center for upcoming programs to discuss their new books, which look at America's founding fathers in unique ways. On **Wednesday, May 31, 2006**, Wood will discuss his book *Revolutionary Characters: What Made the Founders Different?*, in which he explores the iconoclastic side of some of the most prominent founding fathers. On **Monday, June 5, 2006**, Brookhiser will join the Center to discuss his new book, *What Would the Founders Do? Our Questions, Their Answers*, an examination of what America's founding founders would think of today's most controversial and important issues. Both programs begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$6 for students and K-12 teachers. Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Wood's *Revolutionary Characters* offers a series of revealing studies of the men who came to be known as the founding fathers - George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Adams, Thomas Paine, and Aaron Burr. *Revolutionary Characters* shows the reader that despite all that has changed in two hundred years, the virtues these founders defined for themselves are the virtues to which we still aspire.

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ADD ONE/WOOD AND BROOKHISER PROGRAMS

Wood is professor of history at Brown University. He is one of the foremost scholars on the American Revolution in the country. His book, *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1991. Professor Wood has written numerous other books, including *The Creation of the American Republic 1776-1787*, which was nominated for the National Book Award and *The Americanization of Benjamin Franklin*. He is a member of the National Constitution Center's Board of Scholarly Advisors and is a founding father of the Center.

In *What Would the Founders Do?*, Brookhiser uses historical, social and intellectual context to theorize the founding father's answers to some of today's hotly debated questions on topics such as stem cell research, the war on drugs, and social security. The book also reveals that many of the public policy questions that confronted the early American republic are similar to challenges Americans wrestle with today.

Brookhiser is a columnist for the *New York Observer*, contributes regularly to the *National Review*, and has written for the *New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. His previous works include *Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton* and *The Adamses*, among others.

A book signing will take place following both programs, courtesy of the 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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues.

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ADD TWO/WOOD AND BROOKHISER PROGRAMS

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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving 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 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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