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**THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER INVITES VISITORS TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION THIS WINTER AT AMERICA'S TOWN HALL PROGRAMS**

**Constitutional Conversations Focus on Topics Including the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Women's History Month, and More**

Philadelphia (January 23, 2015) – As the only institution established by Congress to “disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis,” the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia is proud to continue its popular *America's Town Hall* program of constitutional conversations and debates. The series, which takes place at lunchtime and in the evenings, unites distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum and engages them with the public. Most events are free. Highlights this winter include a special program on February 12<sup>th</sup> (Lincoln's birthday) that will commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment, which abolished slavery, and invite visitors to view the historic document. Another program on March 4<sup>th</sup> will honor Women's History Month by exploring the topic of the women's movement of the 1960s with leading female scholars.

“As America's Town Hall, we are thrilled to invite the best constitutional thinkers in America to debate the leading constitutional issues of our time,” said Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center. “The Town Hall series gives the public a unique opportunity to hear scholars on all sides of the debate, and make up their own minds.”

Although many of the events are free, reservations are still recommended. To make a reservation or for more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org/debate](http://constitutioncenter.org/debate).

A list of the winter Town Hall series events follows.

**Lincoln's Legacy: The 13th Amendment 150 Years Later**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 12, 2015

Free

Patriotic philanthropist David Rubenstein, NEH Chairman William Adams, and leading Reconstruction scholars Allen C. Guelzo and Lucas Morel, join the Center on the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln for a special kick-off celebration commemorating the 13th Amendment. Visitors will also be able to view the historic document.

*Co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Constitutional Accountability Center*

### **David Boaz: The Libertarian Mind**

6:30 p.m., Monday, February 16, 2015

Free (includes a book sale and signing)

Executive Vice President of Cato Institute, David Boaz, just one week after the re-release of his classic manifesto, participates in a conversation around the libertarian perspective on government surveillance, the 2008 financial crisis, and more.

### **Judith Rodin: The Resilience Dividend**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Free (includes a book sale and signing)

Judith Rodin, president of The Rockefeller Foundation, discusses her latest book *The Resilience Dividend*—an astonishing range of stories on how people, organizations, communities, and cities have developed resilience in the face of otherwise catastrophic challenges.

### **The Supreme Court and Second-Wave Feminism**

12:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Free

In celebration of Women's History Month, constitutional law expert Cary Franklin, leading women's history scholar Alice Kessler-Harris, and American legal history professor Serena Mayeri explore the parallels between second-wave feminism and the Supreme Court cases of that time.

*In partnership with Vision 2020*

### **Behind the Revolt: The Origins of American Independence**

12:00 p.m., Monday, March 9, 2015

Free (includes a book sale and signing)

Generations have been taught that the American Revolution was a revolt against the king, but was it? Political theorist Eric Nelson gives his revisionist take on the central force behind the Revolution and how it speaks to America's present-day controversies around executive power.

### **How the Magna Carta Shaped America**

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Free

Constitutional law and comparative constitutionalism expert A.E. Dick Howard discusses the document that served as an inspiration for both the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights—the Magna Carta, which turns 800 this year.

*In conjunction with Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights, a new exhibition featuring a rare, original copy of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights—one of 12 surviving copies sent to the states by President George Washington in 1789—currently on display at the Center*

### **James McPherson: Why the Civil War Still Matters**

6:30 p.m., Monday, March 16, 2015

Admission starts at \$20 (includes copy of NEW book)

One of the nation's leading Civil War historians, James McPherson, explores why the war remains so deeply embedded in the national psyche and identity of Americans today, as described in his highly anticipated book, *The War that Forged a Nation*. A special book signing opportunity with James McPherson will follow the program.

*Presented as part of the National Constitution Center's commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 13th Amendment*

The National Constitution Center is located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. The Center is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, until 6:00 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special winter admission pricing, which continues through March 31, 2015, is \$10. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

### About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://National Constitution Center) in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America's Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibitions, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to "disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis," the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America's Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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