



NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TRICENTENARY AND NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HONOR WINNING STUDENTS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ESSAY CONTEST

PHILADELPHIA, PA (April 11, 2006) – *Who is your modern-day Benjamin Franklin?*

This was the question answered by thousands of students across the region who participated in the Benjamin Franklin Essay Contest presented by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, the National Constitution Center, and the “News In Education” program of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The winning students were honored in a ceremony at the National Constitution Center on Tuesday, April 11, 2006.

From beloved family members to the likes of Bill Gates, Oprah Winfrey and Martin Luther King, Jr., students submitted stories of their modern-day heroes who embody characteristics of Franklin, including his humble beginnings, inventive spirit, scientific knowledge, and philanthropic nature. Out of 2,500 submissions, one winner was chosen in three divisions: elementary school, middle school, and high school. In addition, two runners-up were awarded Honorable Mention. Each first-place winner received a special plaque and free passes for their class to see the blockbuster exhibition *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World* at the National Constitution Center. The runners-up also received a plaque and passes for their family to see the exhibition.

The entries were judged by a selection committee from the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, the National Constitution Center and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The winners in each division are as follows:

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ADD ONE/FRANKLIN ESSAY CONTEST

High School Division:

First Place

- **Nick Ciletti** of Lincoln University, PA and Avon Grove High School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Oprah Winfrey**

Honorable Mention

- **Katie Crawford** of Holland, PA and Council Rock South High School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Her brother Eric**

Middle School Division:

First Place

- **Michelle Miller** of Sewell, NJ and Bunker Hill Middle School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Her aunt Libby**

Honorable Mention

- **Phoebe Mikalonis** of Royersford, PA and Spring Ford Intermediate School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Her teacher, Mrs. Davidheiser**
- **Irvin Mareno** of Ventnor, NJ and Ventnor Educational Complex
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Jimmy Carter**

Elementary School Division:

First Place

- **Stephen Robbins** of Laurel Hill, NJ and St. Luke's Catholic School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **His school principal, Mrs. Dugan**

Honorable Mention

- **John Saile** of Berwyn, PA and Episcopal Academy
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Bill Cosby**
- **Olivia Hyduk** of Malvern, PA and General Wayne Elementary School
Modern-day Benjamin Franklin – **Her father, Joseph Hyduk**

The Benjamin Franklin Essay Contest was made possible through the generous support of the John Templeton Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

ADD TWO/FRANKLIN ESSAY CONTEST

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.

The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, a non-profit organization supported by a lead grant of \$4 million from **The Pew Charitable Trusts**, was established to mark the 300-year anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth (1706-2006) with a celebration dedicated to educating the public about his enduring legacy and inspiring renewed appreciation of the values he embodied. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary was founded in 2000 by a consortium of five Philadelphia cultural institutions: the **American Philosophical Society**, **The Franklin Institute**, **The Library Company of Philadelphia**, the **Philadelphia Museum of Art** and the **University of Pennsylvania**. In addition, an Act of Congress in 2002 created the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission, a panel of fifteen outstanding Americans chosen to study and recommend programs to celebrate Franklin's 300th birthday. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary can be found online at www.benfranklin300.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. 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". 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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