

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY FROM THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (November 14, 2008) – The holiday season is quickly approaching, and the National Constitution Center is offering a wide array of gifts celebrating our nation's rich history. Unique gift choices for the whole family and beyond include one-of-a-kind jewelry, family-friendly board games, exhibition tickets, memberships, and books for both adults and children.

For the perfect stocking stuffer, visitors can surprise friends and family with tickets to *America I AM: The African American Imprint*. One of the hottest tickets in town, the *America I AM* exhibition will make its world debut at the Center from January 15th through May 3rd, 2009. The exhibition celebrates 400 years of African American contributions to this country, and presents a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction and creativity that solidifies the undeniable imprint of African Americans across the nation and around the world. Featuring more than 150 artifacts culled from every period of U.S. history, the exhibit includes objects, texts, religion, music, narration and media. Among the poignant pieces are the doors to the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana that enslaved Africans passed through to board ships to the "New World" (Doors of No Return), Alex Haley's typewriter used to write *Roots*, a first edition of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, personal effects of Malcolm X, the door key and stool from the Birmingham jail cell that held Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he authored his infamous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", and many other important items from the beginnings of our nation through contemporary popular culture today. To give the gift of legacy, visitors can pre-purchase tickets at www.AmericaIAM.org.

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ADD ONE/HOLIDAY GIFTS

For a truly memorable gift that is ideal for collectors, the Center is offering watches and cufflinks with customized faces created from minted coins, including a commemorative We the People coin. For that special someone, visitors will want to consider a “Heart of Philadelphia” necklace, earrings, or key chain (available for individual purchase or as a complete set). Created by Steven Lagos, each piece of the heart is inspired by the architecture of historic Philadelphia landmarks.

The holidays are the perfect time to gather family and friends for game nights, and the Center has fun options for all ages that bring history and heritage together. For a creative twist on a classic board game favorite, guests can purchase Stratego: America’s Civil War or Stratego: Democrats vs. Republicans. America’s Civil War players must choose to fight for the North or the South, and capture their opponent’s flag. In the Democrats vs. Republicans game, players will need to run a great campaign and have all of their party members aligned on the road to the White House. Other games available for purchase include a 1,000 piece Civil War jigsaw puzzle, an American Trivia Board Game, and the Presidential Brainiac flash card game for on-the-go fun.

Kids can also learn more about our nation’s past through a vast selection of books in the Center’s store. *John, Paul, George, and Ben* by Lane Smith offers an introduction to the founding fathers through hilarious takes on history and quirky illustrations. *Patriots, Pirates, Heroes, & Spies: Stories from Historic Philadelphia*, comprised of twenty favorite stories from the renowned Once Upon A Nation storytelling benches, provides a connection between the past and the present, and tells the amazing true stories of people who lived in or around Philadelphia from the 1600s through the present. In light of this year’s historic election, kids everywhere will enjoy *Grace For President*. In this timely story, author Kelly DiPucchio not only gives readers a fun introduction to the American electoral system, but also teaches them the value of hard work, courage, and independent thought.

For adult book lovers and history buffs, the Center is offering *Founding Brothers*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning book written by Joseph Ellis, which explores the challenges these

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ADD TWO/HOLIDAY GIFTS

men faced as they founded the United States. The Center is also selling *The Audacity of Hope*, the second book written by President-Elect Barack Obama, in which he discusses many of the subjects that became a part of his historic 2008 campaign for the presidency.

And since every family has their share of “goofy” aunts and uncles, the Center has plenty of quirky gifts to offer them, including an assortment of bobble-heads, ranging from George Washington to John F. Kennedy to Laura Bush. For the environmentally conscious family member, the Center also offers biodegradable We the People soy socks.

For those on your holiday list who are an important part of your life all year – whether it is a child’s teacher, a babysitter, or a neighbor – and for all those hard-to-buy-for individuals, a membership to the Constitution Center is a gift that gives all year round. National Constitution Center memberships start at \$35, and offer free access to the Center’s changing and permanent exhibits for a full year. Members also enjoy advance notice and premium seating for special programs; discounts to the Museum Shop, Delegates’ Restaurant, and evening programs; a monthly e-newsletter; and invitations to members-only events.

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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