



## NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS  
SPECIAL PROGRAMMING ABOUT FIRST LADIES**  
*In conjunction with First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image exhibit*

Philadelphia, PA – Presented in conjunction with the *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* and *The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family, Photographs by Richard Avedon* exhibitions, the National Constitution Center is hosting a variety of free programs exploring the unique American institution of the first lady and the first family.

The schedule of upcoming *First Ladies* programs is as follows:

**Monday, October 8, 6:30 p.m.: *Mr. Jefferson's Women***

Author Jon Kukla, executive vice president of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, will join the National Constitution Center to discuss Thomas Jefferson's role in determining the position of women in law, culture, and education during and after the American Revolution. Kukla will provide an examination of the former president's attitudes toward women in his life, as well as their place in American politics and society, as detailed in his new book, *Mr. Jefferson's Women*. David Stewart, author of *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Wrote the U.S. Constitution*, will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

**Wednesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.: *Alice Roosevelt Longworth: White House Princess to Washington Power Broker***

Historian Stacy Cordery will discuss her intelligent new biography, *ALICE: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker*, and the uniquely American institution of the first family. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, President Theodore Roosevelt's eldest daughter, was a legend in her own time and is remembered today for her acerbic tongue, and, more importantly, for her influence on public policy. Noemie Emery, political writer for *The Weekly Standard* and author of *Great Expectations: The Troubled Lives of Political Families*, will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

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## ADD ONE/FIRST LADIES PROGRAMS

### **Tuesday, October 30, 6:30 p.m.: *The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family***

In 1961, world-renowned photographer Richard Avedon took intimate and illuminating images of the Kennedy family on the eve of John F. Kennedy's inauguration, only six of which have ever been seen. Shannon Thomas Perich, associate curator in the Photographic History Collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and author of the new book, *The Kennedys: Portrait of a Family*, will reveal the photographs never seen outside of the Smithsonian collection and will share the story of a first family on the brink of history. Dr. Myra Gutin, author of *The President's Partner: The First Lady in the Twentieth Century*, will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required at 215.409.6700.

From October 5 through December 31, 2007 the National Constitution Center will host *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image*. The exhibition features more than two centuries of elegant inaugural and evening gowns, clothing and jewelry, White House furnishings and china, photographs and portraits, and campaign and personal memorabilia. It examines the demanding duties of the presidential partner and national hostess, explores how her role has evolved from ceremonial colleague to one of international celebrity and recognized political power, and illustrates the importance of the first lady's public image to the success of a presidential administration.

Admission to *First Ladies: Political Role and Public Image* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

*First Ladies* is based on one of the Smithsonian's most visited permanent exhibitions and contains artifacts from the rarely traveled first ladies collection of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, Behring Center. Organized by the National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *First Ladies* is made possible by A&E Network. Macy's is the local presenting sponsor and NBC 10 is the official media partner for the Center's showing of *First Ladies*.

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## ADD TWO/FIRST LADIES PROGRAMS

Funding for the National Constitution Center's changing exhibits program has been made possible through a \$1 million grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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. Also, 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 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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