

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

WINTER WONDERLAND CELEBRATION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (December 3, 2009) – In conjunction with the *Diana: A Celebration* exhibition, the National Constitution Center is celebrating the winter season on both sides of the pond during a **Majestic Winter Wonderland** from Saturday, December 26 through Friday, January 1, 2010. Visitors will learn about New Year's Eve traditions in the United States and Britain, while creating take home crafts to help ring in the New Year. Winter Wonderland activities will take place daily from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and are free with regular museum admission.

During a special presentation at 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., guests will learn about the origins of New Year's Eve and the differences between celebrations in the United States and Britain. Visitors will discover the meaning of the traditional British song *Auld Lang Syne*, learn how many New Year's Eve balls have dropped in Times Square, and find out who established the tradition of setting New Year's resolutions. At craft activity tables, children can create New Year's Eve party favors, including masquerade hats, noise makers, poppers, and party hats.

The first visitor to the Center on Friday, January 1, 2010, will join in a British New Year's tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, which suggests the first person over the threshold on New Year's Day brings good luck. As a result, this visitor will receive free admission to the Center.

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ADD ONE/WINTER WONDERLAND

In addition, guests can cast a vote in the 3rd annual Gingerbread White House Contest through Monday, December 28. Each year, White House pastry chefs display an ornate Gingerbread White House in the State Dining Room to celebrate the winter season; the Center invited children to create their own version of this White House tradition. In conjunction with the *Diana: A Celebration* exhibition, participants could also submit a gingerbread replica of Buckingham Palace. The winner of the competition will be announced in a ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 28.

Through December 31, 2009, the National Constitution Center is hosting the international traveling exhibition, *Diana: A Celebration*, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn more about the life and work of the Princess of Wales. The exhibition is on loan from the Althorp Estate, the Spencer Family's 500-year-old ancestral home in England.

Admission to *Diana: A Celebration* is \$23 for adults, \$21 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$15 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. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Diana: A Celebration is produced by Arts and Exhibitions International, in association with the Althorp Estate, Cultural Networks International Inc. The exhibition is presented locally by Macy's, and CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

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.

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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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