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Fall Lectures at David Library Focus on The Constitution
Akhil Reed Amar Will Open Series

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- Over the autumn months, and with the help and insight of six very distinguished lecturers, the David Library will offer its lecture audiences a chance to explore the Constitution of the United States of America from a range of historical perspectives. In the lecture series, which the Library is calling “The Unfinished Constitution,” speakers will endeavor to explain the intentions of the framers’ intentions in their original crafting of the Constitution, and how the two-centuries-old document still applies to the daily lives as 21st Century Americans.

The David Library regularly offers lectures by leading historians to the general public as a means of advancing the Library’s mission to promote study of American history at the highest level. There is no charge to attend the lectures, but space is limited and reservations are strongly encouraged, and can be made by calling (215)493-2233 ext. 100, or by sending an email to rsvp@dlar.org.

The lecture series on the Constitution will open on Sunday, September 25th at 3PM with the return of Akhil Reed Amar, a renowned Constitutional scholar who has lectured twice before at the David Library. Prof. Amar is the author of America’s Constitution: A Biography and The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction. He has been a member of the Yale Law School faculty since 1985, and is frequently seen on television and heard on the radio commenting on Constitutional issues in the news. In his lecture, “America’s Unwritten Constitution,” Prof. Amar will provide an overview of the lingering problems left unaddressed by the Constitution.

MORE

Page 2 of 2 – David Library Fall Lectures

David Library lectures are held in Stone Hall inside the Feinstone Conference Center
adjacent to the Library at 1201 River Road Washington Crossing. The lecture will be followed by a book-signing reception and a preview of an exhibit of rare North American maps in the Rose Gallery downstairs from Stone Hall.

Subsequent lectures in the series will explore how the Constitution addressed the issues of slavery and religion, how Thomas Jefferson might view the First Amendment as it applies to the Internet, and Benjamin Franklin’s role in the framing of the Constitution.

The schedule of remaining lectures is as follows:


**Thursday, October 20th at 7:30PM: Kenneth C. Davis, “Why A President?”** At the Philadelphia Convention, the nature of the Presidency was a subject of hot debate. What did the framers of the Constitution want the “chief magistrate” to be? What changes have been made to the Constitution that directly relate to Presidential powers and elections? What would the Framers think of the modern American Presidency? These are some of the questions that Kenneth C. Davis, author of *Don’t Know Much About History*, will address.

**Thursday, November 3rd at 7:30PM: John Fea, “Was American Founded as a Christian Nation? How Did the Founders Understand the Relationship Between Church and State?”** John Fea, Associate Professor of American History at Messiah College and a David Library Fellow, will investigate the role of religion in shaping the Constitution.

**Thursday, December 1st at 7:30PM: Paul Finkelman, “America’s Covenant With Death: Slavery and the Founding.”** Paul Finkelman is the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy, and Senior Fellow in the Government Law Center at Albany Law School. His lecture will explore the relationship of slavery to the American founding, and will examine how slavery was written into the original Constitution, and protected by it.

**Thursday, December 8th at 7:30PM: George W. Boudreau, “‘A Republic, If You Can Keep It’: Benjamin Franklin and the Crafting of the Constitution.”** The series closes with a talk by an audience favorite, George W. Boudreau, Associate Professor of Humanities and History at the University of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg is Project Director of the “Teaching Franklin” website, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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