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Photographs available of Derek W. Beck, Susan McLellan Plaisted and Andrew Burstein.

David Library Offers Three Events to Kick Off Independence Weekend

2 Lectures and Ice Cream-making at David Library on July 2

WASHINGTON CROSSING, PA -- The David Library of the American Revolution will present three events in one day on Saturday, July 2 to kick off Independence Day weekend 2016.

At 11:00 AM, the Library will present a lecture titled “Igniting the American Revolution: The Campaign of Boston and Why History is Important” by Derek W. Beck, author of *Igniting the American Revolution: 1773-1775* and *The War Before Independence, 1775-1776*. Beck was an officer in the U.S. Air Force on Active Duty in science roles and in space operations. After earning a master of science degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he transitioned to the Air Force Reserves, currently holding the rank of major, in order to pursue his passion for writing about military history. In his lecture at the David Library, he will discuss his perspective into the Boston Campaign of the American Revolution and explore the relevance of Revolutionary-era history to modern readers.

From 1:00 to 2:30 PM, there will be a demonstration of 18th Century ice cream-making by Susan McLellan Plaisted of Hearth to Hearth Cookery. This event will take
place outside on the David Library grounds and children are encouraged to attend to see ice cream made with reproduction 18th century equipment using only flavors and recipes available in the era. Culinary historian Plaisted is a founding member and past president of the Historic Foodways Society of the Delaware Valley, and a member of the Food History Committees of both Association of Living History Farms and Museums, and the International Association of Culinary Professionals.

The final program of the day, starting at 3:00, will be a lecture on the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, by Andrew Burstein, Ph. D., who is the Charles P. Manship Professor of History at Louisiana State University. The lecture is titled, “Who Thomas Jefferson Was and Who He Wasn’t.” Burstein is the author of several books on Jefferson, including the New York Times bestseller Madison and Jefferson (coauthored with his wife, Nancy Isenberg). “After studying the historical Jefferson for decades, I turned my attention to his iconic status—his position in political speech—over the past three-quarters of a century,” Burstein explains. He began to ponder, who “owns” Jefferson? Democrats or Republicans? “The third president remains a fixture in the culture wars of today,” Burstein continues, “lauded by some, disparaged by others, a Christian, an atheist, a liberal, a conservative. What will Jefferson’s legacy look like as the current century progresses?” Burstein’s most recent book is Democracy’s MuseL How Thomas Jefferson Became an FDR Liberal, a Reagan Republican, and a Tea Party Fanatic, All the While Being Dead.

All three of the July 2 events are admission free and will take place at the David Library of the American Revolution, 1201 River Road (Rt. 32), Washington Crossing. Reservations are required for both the 11:00 and 3:00 lectures, and can be made by calling (215)493-6776 ext. 100, or sending an email to rsvp@dlar.org. Reservations are not necessary for the ice cream-making demonstration.

The David Library of the American Revolution is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of American History, 1750-1800. In addition to making its unparalleled collection of primary source materials available to researchers, DLAR offers educational programs to the public, such as those being offered on July 2. For more information, visit www.dlar.org.

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