

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Newsletter
August 2006

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RECENT NEWS

Commemorative Coin Act Passes Senate

The U.S. Senate on June 29 unanimously approved legislation directing the U.S. Treasury to mint a commemorative \$1 coin in 2009 marking Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday.

The measure was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), ALBC co-chair. An identical measure, sponsored by another ALBC co-chair, Rep. Ray LaHood (R-IL), has 309 cosponsors, and is expected to come before the House for a vote before Congress adjourns this fall.

The Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 500,000 \$1 coins, which will be comprised of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper. The coin's design, which will be selected by the Treasury Secretary in consultation with the ALBC, "shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln."

Speakers Bureau Now Available

Community groups, universities and schools, corporations and other organizations seeking experts who can speak on Abraham Lincoln, his life, his leadership, and his legacy have a new resource to assist their planning.

Pulitzer Prize and Lincoln Prize winners, renowned historians, and leading academics are among the more than 30 Abraham Lincoln experts listed in the new Speakers'/Writers' Bureau, now available on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Web site (www.lincoln200.gov).

Among the experts who have agreed to be listed in the Speakers' Bureau, Doris Kearns Goodwin has most recently won acclaim for her best-selling book *Team of Rivals*, for which she won the prestigious 2006 Lincoln Prize. (She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1995.) Other Lincoln Prize winners include Allen Guelzo (2000 and 2005), Harold Holzer (2005), Richard Carwardine (2004), and Lincoln Prize finalists Michael Vorenberg (2002) and John F. Marszalek (1993).

All of the experts listed have written and spoken extensively about Abraham Lincoln. The list of topics on which they are available is wide and varied, ranging from Lincoln family relationships, Lincoln's religious philosophy, his legal career, his leadership, the assassination, and others subjects.

The ALBC offers the Speakers' Bureau as a service to the public. All arrangements and negotiations related to their services should be conducted directly with the speakers.

The Speakers' Bureau can be found on the ALBC Web site under "Planning the Bicentennial," at <http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/planning/speakers/>.

Summer Intern Completes ALBC Service

New Jersey native Meghan Rafferty, a 2006 graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Penn., completed a six-week internship in the ALBC offices this summer and has been hired as a historical interpreter and guide at Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate in Virginia.

Rafferty graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in history from Dickinson, where her advisor was ALBC Advisory Committee member Matthew Pinsker. She had completed earlier internships with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Plymouth Plantation in Plymouth, MA.

While working at the ALBC offices at the Library of Congress, Rafferty provided research support for ALBC staff, created a number of databases, and assisted with the planning and logistics of the July 24th Commission meeting.

States, Local Communities Establish Bicentennial Commissions

The states of Delaware and Missouri, and the City of Lincoln, IL, have recently established Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commissions to plan state and local events and to coordinate their activities with the national ALBC.

Missouri Governor Matt Blunt signed an executive order in July to create a 10-member commission, including national ALBC state liaison Gary Kremer. In Delaware, Governor Ruth Ann Minner signed legislation July 10 creating a 12-member commission. They join Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Rhode Island, and Idaho which also have established state commissions. Pennsylvania has a Bicentennial working group.

The national ALBC is encouraging each state to create a commission and has drafted model legislation which can be used. Contact the ALBC offices for more information.

CALENDAR

August 16 – September 29

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

Irving Public Library

Irving, TX

August 21-27

Lincoln Kalamazoo Visit Sesquicentennial

<http://www.michiganhistorymagazine.com/extra/lincoln/kalamazooevents.html>

A week of re-enactments, forums, children's events, and other activities will mark the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's only visit to Michigan, in 1856 while campaigning for presidential candidate John Fremont.

Kalamazoo, MI

August 25

Legacy: Abraham Lincoln in the Presidential Years

<http://sluma.slu.edu/legacylincoln.html>

Opening of an exhibit that will feature autographed manuscripts as well as significant historic artifacts relating to the presidency of Abraham Lincoln.

St. Louis University

St. Louis, MO

August 25 – October 20

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

Virginia City High School & Community Library

Virginia City, NV

September 9-10

Lincoln Festival

Civil War reenactments, exhibits, history presentations, a parade.

Westfield, NY

September 14 – October 27

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

Benicia Public Library, Benicia, CA

and

Oxnard Public Library, Oxnard, CA

September 22

Emancipation Day

http://www.washingtonch.k12.oh.us/Senior_High/Emancipation_Day/emancipationday.htm

Students at Washington High School, Washington Court House, Ohio, worked with their state legislator to pass legislation declaring September 22 Emancipation Day in Ohio.

ALBC endorsed project.

State of Ohio

September 29 – January 19

The Lincoln Family Album

An exhibition of snapshots of life among the Lincolns.

The Lincoln Museum

Ft. Wayne, IN

September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST

A Walk Through Lincoln's Life

<http://www.nps.gov/abli/pphtml/eventdetail23508.html>

A family/school field trip event that provides an opportunity to experience rural Kentucky life as it might have been when Abraham Lincoln experienced growing up in rural Kentucky.

Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Hodgenville, KY

October 11 – November 24

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

San Diego Public Library

San Diego, CA

October 21-22

Lincoln Symposium: "Now He Belongs to the Ages: Lincoln's America"

<http://www.lmunet.edu/pdf/symposium.pdf>

A perspective on the aftermath of Lincoln's assassination and attempts to reunify the country.

An ALBC endorsed program.

Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum

Lincoln Memorial University

Harrogate, TN

November 3 – December 22

Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

Park City Library

Park City, UT

November 9 – December 21

Forever Free: Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ppo/currentprograms/foreverfree/foreverfreeabraham.htm>

Brigham City Library, Brigham City, UT

and

Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR

November 16-18

Lincoln Forum Symposium

<http://www.thelincolnforum.org/symposiumSchedule06.html>

"The Genius of Abraham Lincoln"

Gettysburg College
Gettysburg, PA

November 18, 1:00 p.m.

Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremonies

Annual parade of Civil War living history and reenactment groups through Gettysburg with ceremonies to follow at the G.A.R. Memorial and the High Water Mark Monument. Sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Gettysburg, PA

November 18

4th Annual Luminaria

Luminary candles will be placed on each Civil War grave as a testament to the sacrifices made there in 1863. Sponsored by the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg. For more information, contact Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, 717-334-0772.

Soldiers National Cemetery

Gettysburg, PA

November 19, 1:00 p.m.

143rd Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address

An annual observance with brief memorial services. Sponsored by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania and held in conjunction with the Lincoln Forum Symposium (see above).

Soldiers' National Cemetery

Gettysburg, PA

February 2-3, 2007

Lincoln and the Rule of Law

Presentations by Frank J. Williams, William Miller, and Ralph Gary.

Hildene, VT

“Lincolniana,” a quarterly digest of events in the Lincoln world, appears elsewhere on the ALBC Web site at www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/about/lincolniana.php. Compiled by Commissioner Frank J. Williams, Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, “Lincolniana” appears in the *Lincoln Herald*, a quarterly publication of The Abraham Lincoln Museum at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, TN. It is published on the ALBC Web site with their permission.

COMMISSION MEETING

Six projects, including two Boy Scout Lincoln pilgrimages and a theatrical “dinner party with history” featuring Abraham Lincoln, were endorsed by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission at its July 24 meeting at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

In addition to approving the six endorsement applications, Commissioners received reports from the chairmen of the four program committees, the budget committee, and the committee charged with conducting a search for an executive director. They continued their discussion of

partnerships with National History Day on various initiatives and with the Gilder Lehrman Institute on production of a "Lincoln Box," and agreed to explore further a proposed international Lincoln conference at Oxford University. Commissioners approved a comprehensive marketing communications plan and appointed Co-Chair Harold Holzer to represent them on the Library of Congress's scholarly committee advising planners of the national traveling exhibit scheduled for 2009-2010.

Projects endorsed by the Commission are granted permission to use the ALBC logo in their promotion. In addition, endorsed projects will be listed on the ALBC Web site. Information on how to apply for ALBC endorsement can be found on the Web at <http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/planning/>

Projects granted the ALBC endorsement on July 24 include:

- Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan for the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/126libo/
The lesson plan serves to increase knowledge and awareness of Lincoln by focusing on his lesser-known childhood years (1816-1830) in Indiana. By providing teachers and students with materials they can use to explore the early development of his character and personality, the lesson plan has applicability to the long-term study of Abraham Lincoln. "Teaching with Historic Places" is a program of the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.
- 2008 National Council for History Education Conference for K-12 Teachers of U.S. and World History
The NCHE <www.nche.net> will hold its 2008 national conference in Louisville, KY. The theme of the conference is "The Role of Leadership in History." A major strand of the conference's theme is the significance of Lincoln's leadership in the United States and the world, and will emphasize the role of individuals in such ideas as freedom, democracy, and equal opportunity.
- Abraham Lincoln Council, Boy Scouts of America, Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage
For 61 years, the Abraham Lincoln Council, Boy Scouts of America www.alincolnbsa.org, in Springfield, IL, has organized a Lincoln Pilgrimage. A highlight of the event is a 21-mile hike on the Lincoln Trail from New Salem to Springfield. The weekend culminates with a wreath laying at Lincoln's Tomb followed by a march of as many as 10,000 to the Illinois State Capitol. The ALBC endorsed this program for the years 2007-2009.
- Detroit Council, Boy Scouts of America, Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage www.dacbsa.org/cc_camp/Lincoln-pilgrimage.htm
The Annual Lincoln Pilgrimage organized by the Detroit Area Council of the BSA is an outdoor program held every February, and is targeted to Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, school-aged youth and their families, and the general public. It typically includes Civil War re-enactors, Lincoln presenters, Lincoln speeches, games from Lincoln's era, and formal

dedications at Alphonso Pelzer's Lincoln statue in Detroit. The ALBC endorsed this program for the years 2007-2009.

- **National Historic Theater Lincoln Plays and Musicals**
Among the historical productions written, directed and produced by the National Historic Theater www.nationalhistorictheater.com, several will focus on the life Abraham Lincoln. The performances are initially presented at the historic Elias Theater in Mifflinburg, PA. The first Lincoln-centered show, Miss Chase, Mr. Lincoln, is a one-woman dramatic/musical performance dealing with the life of Secretary Salmon Chase's daughter Kate and her association with President Lincoln. These performances enable audiences throughout the country, especially high school students, to acquire a deeper and more meaningful understanding of Abraham Lincoln.
- **Dinner Party with History**
A Dinner Party with History is a dramatized series of discussions among major figures of American history "meeting" in our own time for a dinner party discussion. The introductory discussion is on "power," and the dinner guests are Abraham Lincoln, John Jacob Astor, Jane Addams, and Malcolm X. The program is produced by Lightbeam Studio Institute, of Vienna, VA, in association with the National Portrait Gallery, guided by an Advisory Group which includes ALBC Co-Chair Harold Holzer and Commissioner Jim Horton.

LINCOLN IN THE NEWS

Bill to Eliminate Penny Introduced

Calling the penny "a nuisance," Congress Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) has introduced legislation in the U.S. House to eliminate the Lincoln penny from American coinage. Kolbe's bill would require that all cash transactions be rounded to the nearest amount ending in a "0" or "5." The bill also would phase out the dollar bill in favor of a dollar coin.

"So it's time for us to say that the penny stops here," Kolbe said.

Newspaper editorials from around the country have given the idea mixed reviews. The Seattle Times agrees that "the American penny should be cashiered." The National Review calls the Lincoln penny a "nettlesome coin" that is "inflict[ed]" on adults conducting cash transactions. USA Today supports Kolbe's legislation but goes on to suggest that Lincoln's portrait be put on the \$1 coin proposed as a replacement for the greenback. The Myrtle Beach Sun News, however, disagrees with Kolbe. "The end of the penny?" the Sun News's editorial writer asks. "Don't bet on it." The Mankato (MN) Free Press also argues that there are many reasons for keeping the penny. Most significantly, the Free Press writes:

"That Lincoln is on the smallest U.S. denomination also has meaning. Those who chose Lincoln for the penny may have been thinking every American, no matter how poor, must see Lincoln, must know the story of Lincoln and what can be achieved through a system of democracy and civil rights. Everyone has access to the penny and the story."

Five-Dollar Bill to Get Makeover

The U.S. government's Bureau of Engraving and Printing announced on June 29 that it plans to redesign the \$5 note, with Abraham Lincoln's portrait, as part of ongoing security enhancements to U.S. currency. The redesigned \$5 note is expected to be issued in early 2008.

Officials had originally planned to forego a redesign of the \$5 note. The \$50, \$20, and \$10 bills have all been redesigned in recent years to introduce color in an effort to reduce counterfeiting. However, the government's scrutiny of counterfeiting techniques had detected a pattern in which criminals bleach the ink off of \$5 notes, then print counterfeit \$100 notes on the paper.

New Statues Portray More Casual Lincoln

The State Journal Register (Springfield, IL) reported July 2 on a new statue of Abraham Lincoln unveiled the week before outside the Livingston County (IL) Courthouse in Pontiac. The statue shows a young Lincoln relaxing against a split-rail fence, his elbows propped up on the top rail and his coat draped over his arm.

A number of Illinois communities have dedicated new Lincoln statues in recent years, many of them depicting him in more casual, informal settings. In Taylorville, Lincoln is depicted with a pig. On the Old Capitol Plaza in Springfield, a sculpture of the Lincoln family appears, and Lincoln sits on a bench outside the McLean County History Museum in Bloomington.

The State Journal Register reported that Lincoln image experts are not sure if there is a clear trend toward casual Lincolns, but Thomas Schwartz, interim director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, is quoted saying that he thinks "the era of a heroic Lincoln is over."

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Lincoln SOS! – Saving Abraham Lincoln's Monumental Legacy

According to the Inventory of American Sculpture, Abraham Lincoln is the most honored person in America's outdoor sculpture. As our nation prepares to celebrate Lincoln's bicentennial birthday, these memorials will assume increased significance. Unfortunately, an estimated one-half of the more than 220 Lincoln outdoor sculptures across the country are in serious disrepair.

In February, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission endorsed a proposal presented by Save Outdoor Sculpture! www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/SOS/sosmain.htm to save significant, deteriorated Lincoln sculptures before the Bicentennial so that by 2009 they can be rededicated as appropriate focal points for both public commemorations and private reflections.

Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) is an award-winning program of the organization Heritage Preservation www.heritagepreservation.org/Index.html. The program began in 1989 by involving 7,000 volunteers and state and local organizations to catalogue and assess 30,000

publicly accessible outdoor sculptures. Since then, SOS! has been an advocate for the proper care of America's most forgotten sculpture resources. They just recently completed a similar project, endorsed by the White House Millennium Fund, that conserved 123 sculptures.

According to SOS!, pollution, weather, vandalism, and structural weaknesses have worked together to damage numerous outdoor Lincoln statues, many of them created by some of America's finest sculptors. Finishes are discolored; materials are eroding; parts are missing; and inscriptions are becoming illegible.

Efforts are currently underway to secure funding for the Lincoln SOS! – Saving Abraham Lincoln's Monumental Legacy project. Once funding has been secured, program guidelines will be issued, and SOS! will begin taking applications from communities and organizations that would like to receive grants for their restoration efforts.

In the meantime, SOS! is seeking current photographs and information on the condition of all public sculptures that depict Abraham Lincoln. This information will be helpful as SOS! seeks funding for the project. Send relevant information to Jill Wiley White at jwhite@heritagepreservation.org.

'LIVE THE LEGACY'

...simple ways you can be involved in the Bicentennial.

To encourage broad public participation in the Bicentennial, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has established an endorsement program for events and other activities that embody the Bicentennial's themes of "freedom, democracy and equal opportunity." Local communities, schools, civic organizations, youth groups, Scout troops and other non-commercial entities are encouraged to seek endorsement for their Lincoln Bicentennial efforts.

Twenty-four projects from around the country have been endorsed by the ALBC since the program's inception. A list can be found on the Web at http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/planning/endorsed_projects.php

To gain the ALBC's endorsement, a project must promote at least one of the Bicentennial's goals:

- Increase knowledge and awareness of Lincoln in the United States and abroad.
- Encourage public participation and attendance at Bicentennial activities and institutions.
- Increase historical literacy about Lincoln for young people.
- Leverage the Bicentennial for discussion of Bicentennial themes of freedom, democracy and equal opportunity; serve as a catalyst for a conversation and engagement of diverse perspectives.
- Create a lasting legacy of Lincoln themes and contributions to endure beyond the Bicentennial.

Endorsed programs will receive recognition on the ALBC Web site and be granted permission to use the ALBC logo on promotional materials.

Individuals, political or religious organizations, and for-profit ventures are not eligible for endorsement.

An application for endorsement is available on the ALBC Web site at <http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov/files/PDF/Application072606.pdf>

For more information, contact the ALBC program office at 202-707-6998.