



STANISLAUS COUNTY LIBRARY

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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“Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times” at the Modesto Library

The Stanislaus County Library in Modesto will host a national exhibit during the month of June as part of the bicentennial celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. More books have been written about Abraham Lincoln than any other American, yet our knowledge of our most famous president is dominated by a series of iconic images; the son of an illiterate frontier farmer who taught himself to read; the bearded man in the stovepipe hat; the savior of the Union; the Great Emancipator; the martyred leader. This exhibit presents Lincoln’s own words in speeches, letters, and proclamations to encourage a deeper understanding of his life, accomplishments and legacy.

***Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Time, A Man for All Times* is a national traveling exhibition organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The traveling exhibition has been made possible in part through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, dedicated to expanding American understanding of human experience and cultural heritage.**

The Modesto Library is one of 40 sites chosen to host the display in the exhibit’s two-year tour of the United States. The community is encouraged to visit the Modesto Library, located at 1500 I Street, throughout the month of June and take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn more about the 16th president and life during his time.

A kickoff reception will be held Thursday, June 3, 5:30 p.m. on the main floor of the library, where guests will be greeted by a Lincoln look-alike. Winners of a children’s bookmark contest and a student essay contest will be honored at this time. Bookmark contest winners are Savannah Leeper, a first-grader of Modesto, Delaney Hakman, a fifth-grader of Modesto, and Echo Clark, a sixth-grader of Modesto. Essay contest winners are Korinne Baxter (1st place) and Saranjit Moundi (2nd place) in the high school category; and Lauren Stanislaw (1st place) and Joey Rossini (2nd place) in the middle school category. Sixth-graders Colin Brannigan

and Dalton Bergman will be recognized with honorable mentions. The Civil War era atmosphere will be carried through with period music and re-enactors who will serve as “Mr. Lincoln’s” honor guard.

On Saturday, June 5, at 1 p.m. a family program “American Life in Lincoln’s Time” will feature period music performed by Ernie Bucio and the Gottshalk’s Music band, a clothing demonstration by members of American Civil War Association and a cooking demonstration by children’s cookbook author, Loretta Ichord. A free screening of the 1939 classic film on Lincoln’s life, starring Henry Fonda, will follow at 2 p.m.

A book discussion on “Team of Rivals” will be held on Wednesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. In this multiple biography, Pulitzer Prize winning author and presidential historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, illuminates Lincoln's political genius, as the one-term congressman and prairie lawyer rises from obscurity to prevail over three gifted rivals of national reputation to become president. This *New York Times* bestseller is centered on Lincoln's mastery of men and how it shaped the most significant presidency in the nation's history. The book discussion on June 16 will be led by retired history professor, Dr. Curtis Grant and attorney, George Petrulakis. A limited number of reserved copies are available for discussion participants. Interested parties should inquire at the Modesto Library Reference Desk or call 558-7814.

All programs are free and open to the public. For more information about the exhibit and related events, visit www.stanislauslibrary.org.

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