

Contact: Hilary Malson
202-829-0436 x31228
hmalson@savingplaces.org

UPDATED: November 5, 2013

DC Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick to Commemorate 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address with Dramatic Performance at Lincoln's Washington Home

On November 19th 2013, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, visitors are invited to follow Kendrick's lead and recite Lincoln's most enduring words en masse from the steps of President Lincoln's Cottage in NW Washington, DC.



Washington, D.C. – Ten elegant sentences that have shaped our understanding of the nation's most divisive event will come to life on November 19th at President Lincoln's Cottage. In honor of the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, the public is invited to come together for mass recitations of Lincoln's transformative speech from the steps of the veranda at President Lincoln's Cottage, the Lincoln family's seasonal residence in Washington, DC. DC Poet Laureate Dolores Kendrick (pictured) will open the ceremony with a dramatic solo performance of the Gettysburg Address at 10:30 am.

“Living at the Cottage brought Lincoln face to face with the consequences of war,” says Erin Carlson Mast, Executive Director of President Lincoln's Cottage. “At the adjacent national cemetery he witnessed fresh burials of thousands of soldiers. On his commute to the White House he saw caravans of wounded soldiers. Noted scholar Matthew Pinsky wrote that ‘Lincoln must have drawn on his solitary reflections at his wartime sanctuary’ while ‘he crafted the ten elegant sentences of his brief address that would culminate months of work at explaining the war's purpose.’ On the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, we welcome notable guests and visitors alike to his beloved home to give voice to his illustrious speech and to re-dedicate ourselves to the unfinished work.”

Following welcoming remarks from Erin Carlson Mast at 10:30 am, Dolores Kendrick will recite the Gettysburg Address from the steps of the veranda. Public recitations will take place at 10:45 am, 11:45 am, 12:45 pm, 1:45 pm, and 2:45 pm. Participation in this program is free of charge, and groups are welcome to participate. Recitations will occur on the veranda, located on the south side of President Lincoln's Cottage. Memorization is not required – the text of the speech will be provided. Confirmed guests include school groups, media personalities, veterans, and active duty members of the military. **Pre-registration is required; register at www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150.**

For more information, visit www.lincolncottage.org/GettysburgAddress150 or call 202-829-0436.

President Lincoln's Cottage, “the Cradle of the Emancipation Proclamation,” is located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. While living here for more than a quarter of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln bonded with soldiers and veterans, made crucial decisions about the Civil War, and, most notably, developed the Emancipation Proclamation his first summer in residence. His daily commute put him in regular contact with wounded soldiers and self-emancipated men, women, and children. Today, the

site offers an intimate, never-before-seen view of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and private life, and new perspectives on the influential ideas Lincoln developed while living here.

President Lincoln's Cottage entrance is located at the intersection of Upshur St and Rock Creek Church Rd NW. Hours of operation: The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center is open 9:30am-4:30pm Monday-Saturday and 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. Cottage tours are on the hour, 7 days a week. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: www.lincolncottage.org or call 202-829-0436.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. President Lincoln's Cottage is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit: www.preservationnation.org.

Native Washingtonian Dolores Kendrick was appointed Poet Laureate of the District of Columbia on May 14, 1999. Kendrick is the author of the award-winning poetry book *The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women*; her other works include *Through the Ceiling*, *Now Is the Thing to Praise* and *Why the Woman is Singing on the Corner: A Verse Narrative*. Kendrick's rich history of poetic contributions to local and national publications has earned her numerous awards and honors, including a National Endowment for the Arts Award, the George Kent Award for Literature, and the prestigious Anisfield-Wolf Award. She has received two Yaddo Fellowships and a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship. She was the first Vira I. Heinz Professor Emerita at Phillips Exeter Academy. Chicago State University has inducted Kendrick into the International Literary Hall of Fame for writers of African-American descent, an honor sponsored by the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing.