

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Friends of John Jay Homestead to Host Pulitzer Prize Winner Annette Gordon-Reed on
Andrew Johnson on Friday, March 4**

On Friday, March 4th, Friends of John Jay Homestead will continue their 2011 John Jay Lecture Series, *Presidential Power and its Limits*, with Pulitzer Prize winner Annette Gordon-Reed discussing her new biography *Andrew Johnson: The American Presidents Series: The 17th President, 1865-1869*.

Andrew Johnson became President following Lincoln's assassination, just six weeks after becoming Vice President. He had been the most prominent War Democrat in the Senate; Lincoln was running on a National Union Party ticket. He inherited an extremely difficult task: to follow in the steps of a martyr; heal a divided country; and lead a radical Congress with which he was deeply out of sympathy. The first of our Presidents to be impeached, he was acquitted by one vote. The book has been described as "a fair-minded, toned-down portrait of a deeply problematic president who could not rise to the country's challenge after the Civil War."

Gordon-Reed—the recipient of a 2010 MacArthur Fellowship, National Humanities Medal, Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award—was recognized for dramatically changing the course of Jefferson scholarship, culminating in her 2008 book *The Hemingses of Monticello: an American Family*, which she discussed at the Homestead on April 1, 2009. She currently teaches at Harvard, with joint appointments in the Law School, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Following Gordon-Reed, the series will conclude on April 7 with Jeff Shesol discussing his *Supreme Power: Franklin Roosevelt vs. The Supreme Court*, telling the gripping story of Roosevelt's struggles with the Supreme Court over his New Deal.

The 2011 John Jay Lecture Series is organized by the Scholars Committee of Friends of John Jay Homestead, whose members include John Greenwood, Donald Gregg, Mary Hamill, Timothy Harwood, Helen and Richard Henshaw, Alexia and Jerry Jurschak, Brian Landry, Bonnie and Piers MacDonald, Holly Ann Maggio, Silvia and Steve Ohler, George Roberts, Robert Saunders, Timothy Schieffelin, Roger Schwartz, Doris and Richard Seidlitz, Norman Selby, John Stockbridge, Kate and Tom Terry, Melissa Vail (Chair), and Caroline and John Walker.

Attendees will also be able to visit the Homestead's Back Parlor exhibit, *Slaves, Slavery and the Jay Family*; and examine original documents brought by Seth Kaller, a document collection advisor.

Lecture tickets are \$15 per lecture for Friends members; \$25 for non-members; free for students (limited availability). Reservations are recommended. Registration begins at 6:30; the talk begins at 7:00; and is followed by a short reception and book-signing. For more information, or to reserve tickets or books, please contact the Friends of John Jay Homestead office at (914) 232-8119; email friends@johnjayhomestead.org; or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.