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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELMHURST READS 2011: The Civil War

ELMHURST, IL — The third annual ELMHURST READS begins in February. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, ELMHURST READS 2011 features programs at the Library along with exhibits, activities, and presentations throughout Elmhurst.

This annual library program aims to create a conversation about an important part of American history and offers the chance for Elmhurst to revisit local roots. From food tastings and musical performances to ghost stories and theater, films and books to author visits and reenactments, Elmhurst is immersed in this national remembrance.

See the list below for program events. Look for a special edition of the library's newsletter, *Fine Print*, by February 1 for community events and local business specials. Visit the Elmhurst Reads: The Civil War page, <http://bit.ly/EPLReads>, or check the library's website, www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org, or call the Information Desk at 630-279-8696 for program updates. Copies of books featured in this year's ELMHURST READS are located at the second-floor Information Desk at the Elmhurst Public Library.

ELMHURST READS: The Civil War 2011 Events

All events held in Meeting Room 2 at the Elmhurst Public Library unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 @ 7:00PM

An Evening With Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln (Adults and Teens)

A play of President and Mrs. Lincoln's history-changing night at the theater.

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 @ 1:00PM -OR- Thursday, February 17, 2011 @ 1:00PM

-OR- Thursday, February 17, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Book Chat: *Celia, A Slave* (Adults)

A discussion of Melton A. McLaurin's written account of a remarkable true story.

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Sunday, February 19, 2011 @ 1:00-2:30PM

Civil War Ghosts and Legends (Teens)

Performer Brian "Fox" Ellis intertwines classic horror stories with songs and poems, followed with a viewing of the award-winning short film, *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*.

Monday, February 21, 2011 @ 1:00-1:45PM

Historical Perspectives presents: Harriet Tubman (Kindergarten-Grade 8)

A fascinating performance about one of the most well-known conductors on the underground railroad.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 @ 3:30-4:30PM

Book Discussion: *Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad* -AND- *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* (Grades 2-3)

A discussion of books by Marlene Targ Brill and Deborah Hopkinson. Location: Storytime Room.

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Now Be Witness Again: Walt Whitman's Civil War (Adults and Teens)

Elmhurst College professor Lance Wilcox reads selection from Whitman's Civil War poems.

Fridays, March 4-April 29, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Ken Burns' Film Series: *The Civil War* (Adults and Teens)

In this nine-week series, watch as Ken Burns' magnum opus unfolds.

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 @ 1:00PM -OR- Thursday, March 10, 2011 @ 1:00PM

-OR- Thursday, March 10 @ 7:00PM

Book Chat: *The Red Badge of Courage* (Adults)

A book discussion of Stephen Crane's classic book.

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 @ 7:00PM

The Civil War Generals (Adults and Teens)

Illustrator Jim Weren features his award-winning portraits in this multimedia presentation.

Thursday, March 24, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Battlefield Balladeers (Adults and Teens)

Patriotic, comic, and sentimental songs from the Civil War era are paired with historic anecdotes.

Saturday, March 26, 2011 @ 1:00-2:00PM

Accent on History presents: *A Civil War Spy* (Grades 1-6)

Kids are invited to meet Belle Boyd, a female spy during the Civil War, and to play with examples of modern spy technology.

Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 1:00-1:50PM

Face to Face Productions presents: *Honest Abe* (Kindergarten-Grade 6)

An interactive musical melodrama with villain Crudley Doowrong traveling back in time, attempting to change Abraham Lincoln's character and decisions.

Saturday, April 2, 2011 @ 2:00PM

Foods of the Civil War Era (Adults and Teens)

Chef Michael Niksic prepares and serves a typical meal in this educational presentation of foods consumed during the Civil War period.

Tuesday, April 5, 2011 @ 3:30-4:30PM

****Book Discussion: *Shipwreck Search* (Grades 2-3)**

A discussion of Sally M. Walker's book. Location: Storytime Room.

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Civil War Surgeon (Adult and Teens)

See real period medical instruments and learn about how modern medicine stems from Civil War methods.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 -OR- Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 3:30-5:00PM

Children of the Civil War (Grades 3-8)

Join in the role-play adventure based on experiences of the brave children from this time.

Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 1:00PM -OR- Wednesday, April 13, 2011 @ 7:00PM -OR- Thursday, April 14, 2011 @ 1:00PM -OR- Thursday, April 14, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Book Chat: *Jacob's Ladder* (Adults)

A discussion of Donald McCaig's epic novel.* See author visit on April 21, 2011.

Monday, April 18, 2011 @ 4:00-5:00PM

Book Discussion: *Lincoln and His Boys* (Grades 4-5)

A discussion of Rosemary Wells' book. Location: Storytime Room.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011 @ 4:00-5:00PM

****Book Discussion: *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine* (Grades 4-5)**

A discussion of Sally M. Walker's book.

Thursday, April 21, 2011 @ 7:00PM

***America's Unfinished War: An Evening with Donald McCaig (Adults and Teens)**

Author Donald McCaig shares his experience writing and researching more than a half-dozen historical fiction and non-fiction books. Location: Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel at Elmhurst College.

Saturday, April 30, 2011 @ 1:00PM

****An Author Visit With Sally M. Walker (Grades 2-8)**

Award-winning author Sally M. Walker shares her stories of adventures and the treasures she found during the writing of more than fifty books.

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Finding Hallowed Ground: America's Civil War Historic Sites Today (Adults and Teens)

Michael Weeks, author of *The Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide*, showcases the nation's premier Civil War sites.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 @ 7:00PM

Clara Barton: Civil War Nurse (Adults and Teens)

A first-person historical portrayal by Leslie Goddard.

Wednesday, May 18, 2011 @ 7:00PM

DuPage County During the Civil War (Adults and Teens)

Wheaton College professor and author David Maas leads a local examination of the Civil War with DuPage County, Elmhurst, and one Elmhurst family.

The Elmhurst Public Library strives to enrich life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to explore, learn and grow. EPL offers the support and resources for Elmhurst residents to develop a love of reading; access information for work and learning; pursue interests that will enrich their lives; understand changes in technology, society and culture; and gather and interact with each other. Elmhurst Public Library is a place for discovery at the heart of the community.

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