

The Power of Children: Making a Difference

Program Ideas

Here are several program ideas for varied audiences that relate to *The Power of Children: Making a Difference* exhibition that can be adapted to your local audience and institution's needs. Please contact our constituent services team to be put in touch with other venues hosting this show at 816-421-1388 or MoreArt@maaa.org to find out what other organizations are planning. Please consider sharing your own programming ideas and venue's programming success stories with other sites taking this exhibition by posting information on the resource pages tied to this exhibition. Visit www.nehontheroad.org and click on exhibitions to locate the resources page tied to this exhibition and please share your comments.

Holocaust Remembrance Program or Event

Plan a museum program or a special memorial/remembrance event in collaboration with a local synagogue and Jewish congregation, a local Jewish Community Center, or a Holocaust Museum in your community or region. Consider commemorating *Kristallnacht* (the "Night of Broken Glass" November 9-10, 1938), Holocaust Remembrance Day April 27 (a national holiday in Israel), International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, or Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust—an annual eight-day period designated by the United States Congress for civic commemorations and special education programs that begins on the Sunday before the Jewish observance of *Yom HaShoah*. Invite a Holocaust studies scholar, religious studies expert, a Holocaust survivor (or a local relative of a Holocaust survivor), to take part in or lead the remembrance event. See the list of speakers in the programming guide for experts on this topic.

A Public Discussion on the Psychology of Prejudice

To help contextualize and understand issues of prejudice that Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, and Ryan White faced during their young lives, invite a social psychologist or expert on the psychology of prejudice. This program could address and explore human behaviors and why prejudice exists and what can be done to prevent it. Part scientific behavior, clinical psychology, and social awareness, this presentation can help promote healthy living, create awareness, and prevent prejudice in your community. See the list of speakers in the programming guide for experts on this topic.

Teacher Event: Discussing Racism, Prejudice, and Teaching Tolerance

The Programming Guide for *The Power of Children: Making a Difference*
© 2015 NEH On the Road, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Consider hosting a teacher professional development workshop or curricular event that unfolds aspects of the *Power of Children* exhibition to help K-12 teachers create awareness about racism and prejudice, to promote and teach tolerance, and/or to encourage and inspire students to make a difference. Consider a formal collaboration with other national organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center and/or the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, Dallas Holocaust Museum, Holocaust Museum Houston, or Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Please consider bringing in a Holocaust studies scholar or expert for teaching the Holocaust to teachers in your community. See the speaker resources center for contact information about Holocaust teaching trunks available for loan through the Holocaust Museum Houston. Consult the list of speakers for experts on these topics.

Panel Discussion: The Power of Forgiveness

Ruby Bridges, Ryan White, and Anne Frank faced discrimination, hatred, fear, racism, and prejudice in their young lives and people who made their lives very difficult. Consider presenting a program about the topic of forgiveness as a subject for discussion and debate tied to the exhibition. Use the example of Arkansas Nine student Elizabeth Eckford who was heckled by others on her walk to public high school in 1957. Hazel Bryan Massery was one of the people who called Elizabeth names. In 1962 Hazel phoned Elizabeth to apologize and Elizabeth accepted her apology. Is it possible to forgive all acts? How have some individuals found forgiveness to be a useful mechanism for healing? What is the distinction between forgiveness and forgetting? Use the *Power of Forgiveness* film as a platform for a panel discussion that may include a local Rabbi, a clinical psychologist, a Holocaust studies scholar, or a CANDLES speaker and/or Holocaust survivor like Eva Kor to discuss and debate this complicated issue. This program can be tailored to a younger K-12 school audience and presented as a school assembly or classroom discussion in relation to student visits to the *Power of Children* exhibition. Consider hosting Everett Worthington, PhD, expert on psychology of forgiveness, as the featured speaker for this discussion. See the speaker resources section for more ideas and contact information.

Myth, Media, and Fear Public Presentation: What We have Learned from the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

In relation to Ryan White's experience as a young AIDS patient in the 1980s, invite a speaker to discuss the topic of stereotyping, myth, making assumptions, and fostering fear related to public health and the news media. How do facts become misinformation? An analogy could be made to contemporary issues tied to the worldwide Ebola outbreak in 2014 and how the media communicated about the epidemic to the public. Invite an AIDS advocacy or public health speaker from your local medical community or nationwide who could address the early history of AIDS in the United States and present how and what the media communicated to the public in the early 1980s. This topic could be presented as a museum public outreach program for

younger K-12 school audiences as a classroom discussion or assembly in relation to student visits to the *Power of Children* exhibition. See the speaker resources section for speaker ideas.

AIDS Awareness Program: Celebrate/Promote A World AIDS Day Event: December 1 or National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day April 10

Host a health advocacy and awareness workshop, an art show, a music festival, a memorial or awareness program to educate, advocate, and remember those who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. Reach out to www.Aids.gov or www.amplifyyourvoice.org to obtain social media and marketing materials to promote this event and consider partnering and collaborating with your local community health centers, hospitals, or clinics and aligning it with national awareness celebrations on December 1 or April 10. Contact the AIDS Healthcare Foundation to locate resources in your region or community (as many regional AIDS non-profits have a speaker's bureau) for sourcing a speaker. See the speaker resources section for other speaker ideas.

AIDS Quilt Panel NAMES Project Workshop

Reach out to the NAMES Project and make an AIDS quilt square using their online specifications or invite a staff person to your museum to host a quilt making workshop. All quilt squares must be made using the suggested guidelines found online <http://www.aidsquilt.org/make-a-panel/step-by-step-instructions> and must be created on one three-by-six foot hemmed fabric panel (no bigger no smaller) to officially become part of the AIDS quilt. The panel must be created on durable fabric. Contact the NAMES project in Atlanta about making new panels or hosting a workshop. See speaker resource section for contact information and refer to the education outreach kit for step-by-step instructions.

Writing for Change Workshop: Share Your Voice to Make a Difference

Invite a local editorial writer to discuss powers of persuasion and best steps to create powerful letters to the editor (or other individuals in politics, corporations, or public policy) to communicate your voice and suggest change. Consider integrating case studies from other young people around the world who wrote letters, took a stand, and communicated a point of view to make a change in their community (as published in books that travel with the *Power of Children* exhibition such as *Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change* or *It's Our World Too!*) This workshop can be tailored for busy adults (to carve out time to make a difference in their communities), teens, or framed as an education outreach workshop in K-12 classrooms to teach letter writing, the power of persuasion, or to teach parts of a debate/argument and steps of refutation. The objective of this program is to convince others about something each individual may want to change in the community or world, to consider small steps to make a difference, and to persuade others to understand a meaningful personal message or point of view. Consider engaging Erin Gruwell, author of the *Freedom Writers Diary*, or

Barbara A. Lewis, author of *The Teen Guide to Global Action* to empower an audience of teens or K-12 teachers to use writing as a tool for social change. See the list of speakers for contact information and the education outreach kit for hands-on ideas.

Design and Know your Rights! Make a Powerful Poster

Feature any aspect of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and/or the Amendments to address topics such as freedom or speech, freedom or religion, freedom of expression, and the right to be treated equally as these rights relate to the lives of Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, and Ryan White and *The Power of Children* exhibition. This program can take the form of a civil rights poster-making workshop contextualized by a presentation about what the Bill of Rights and several of the Amendments (specifically Amendment XIV and XV) mean in plain language. This program can also feature a discussion and debate about some fascinating proposed amendments to the Constitution that never left Congress. Invite participants to design and illustrate a “right” or an amendment as a graphic handbill or poster using markers or other media to promote a powerful civil rights message. The poster making activity could be a public contest, a drop-in hands-on station in the museum related to the exhibition, or can be designed as an educational outreach presentation/workshop to share with K-12 school classrooms. See the speaker resources section for speaker ideas and the education outreach kit for hands-on activity guidance.

Power of Children Live Theatre Performance

Use the live theatre scripts written and performed by the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis *Power of Children* exhibition staff and included in this programming guide to design and perform your own *Power of Children* live theatre interpretation. Curate three of the fifteen-minute performances that describe the lives and experiences of Anne Frank, Ruby Bridges, or Ryan White into one hour-long theatre program with discussion onstage at your museum or at a local theatre company. Each 15-minute segment can also be performed in the exhibition space at scheduled intervals and advertised to the public using the museum exhibition walls as a partial set. Consider partnering with a local professional theatre group or a University or high school theatre department for presenting a live theatre performance tied to the exhibition.

Mix It Up At Lunch!

With inspiration from the exhibition, work with your local schools or an entire school district to assist them in designing and promoting a community-wide Mix It Up at Lunch Day. This national campaign, launched by Teaching Tolerance (www.tolerance.org) more than ten years ago, encourages students to identify, question, and cross social boundaries. Activities can be designed at each school site in the cafeteria to help students interact over lunch with someone who may be different from them. See the speaker resources section and the education outreach kit for additional information about organizing this type of event or program.

Talking about Change: History of the Civil Rights Movement

Engage a public speaker to further contextualize Ruby Bridges' challenges as a student in the 1960s during desegregation in the South. See the list of speakers for vetted speakers on this topic.

Programming Resources

List of Speakers

Speaker Ideas and Contact Information

The following individuals have been contacted on your behalf by Mid-America Arts Alliance for this NEH on the Road exhibition and they have expressed an interest in receiving invitations from your organization to present a strong humanities-based program inspired by *The Power of Children: Making a Difference*. Please consider using funds from your NEH on the Road programming grant to bring in these nationally recognized speakers. Please discuss speaker honoraria and travel fees, your program's goal, the intended audience, and the timeframe for the program with each individual for full consideration of your invitation.

Kiel Majewski

Executive Director

CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center

1532 S. 3rd Street

Terre Haute, IN 47802, USA

812-234-7881 office

812-229-2316 mobile

www.candleholocaustmuseum.org

TOPIC: Surviving the Holocaust, hope, forgiveness, and the power of the human spirit.

Eva Kor, a Holocaust survivor, forgiveness advocate, and a public speaker, founded a Museum and Education Center to promote awareness of the atrocities of the Holocaust and to promote forgiveness as a mechanism for healing. Please contact the executive director of CANDLES for fees and speaking arrangements for Eva.

Eva Mozes Kor is a survivor of the Holocaust, a forgiveness advocate, and a revered public speaker. Powered by a never-give-up attitude, Eva has emerged through a life filled with trauma as a brilliant example of the power of the human spirit to overcome. She is a community leader, a champion of human rights, and tireless educator of young people.

In 1995, Eva opened CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Terre Haute, with a mission to prevent prejudice and hatred through education about the Holocaust. Thousands of people, including many school groups, have visited CANDLES since it opened. In 2003, the museum was destroyed by a hate-filled arsonist. Eva vowed to rebuild, and with the help of a generous public outpouring of support, the museum was rebuilt and reopened in 2005.

*Eva has delivered her message all over the world, including several times in Germany, Israel, and Poland, and was a featured speaker at the 10th and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Her story is documented in the award-winning film *Forgiving Dr. Mengele* and the popular young adult book *Surviving the Angel of Death: The Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*.*

Maureen Costello
Director, Teaching Tolerance Project
Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-956-8200
Maureen.costello@splcenter.org
<http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up/what-is-mix>

TOPIC: Dedicated to reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations, and supporting equitable school experience for our nation's children.

Maureen Costello leads the Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance project, one of the nation's leading providers of anti-bias education resources. She oversees all aspects of the project, including the award-winning Teaching Tolerance magazine, the development of multimedia teaching kits, professional development resources and special projects. Before joining the SPLC, she oversaw development of the 2010 Census in Schools program for Scholastic Inc. in partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau. For eight years, she directed Newsweek's education program, which was dedicated to engaging high school and college students in public issues. She served as academic dean at Notre Dame Academy High School in Staten Island, N.Y., where she also taught history and economics. As a teacher, she worked with both the Advanced Placement Program and the New York State Regents on assessment-related projects. She is a graduate of the New School University and the New York University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

Mary E. Kite, PhD
Professor of Psychological Science and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Psychological Science

The Programming Guide for *The Power of Children: Making a Difference*
© 2015 NEH On the Road, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Ball State University
North Quad (NQ), room 104
Muncie, IN 47306
765-285-8197
breakingprejudice.org
mkite@bsu.edu

TOPIC: Breaking the Prejudice Habit (Awareness, Harmony, Acceptance Advocates)

*Mary Kite received her B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. from Purdue University. A social psychologist, she is currently Professor of Psychological Science and Director of Undergraduate Studies at Ball State University. Strongly committed to psychology education at all levels, she is Past-President of The Society for the Teaching of Psychology (STP, APA Division 2); she has held a number of other leadership roles for STP. She also chaired the APA Presidential Task Force on Diversity Education Resources and is Past President of the Midwestern Psychological Association. She is a Fellow of APA Divisions 2, 9, 35, & 44 and maintains an active research program in the area of stereotyping and prejudice; she recently coauthored the second edition of a textbook on that topic (with Bernard E. Whitley, Jr.; *The Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination*, published by Cengage). She also co-authored a textbook on research methods with Dr. Whitley, published by Taylor and Francis (*Principles of Research in Behavioral Science*). She received the Charles L. Brewer Award for Distinguished Teaching in Psychology in 2014 and received a Presidential Citation from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology in 2011. Other honors include being named a Minority Access National Role Model in 2007 and being recognized as a G. Stanley Hall Lecturer for the American Psychological Association in 2009. She was a Virginia Ball Center Fellow for Ball State in 2013. The resulting immersive learning project can be viewed at breakingprejudice.org.*

Everett Worthington Jr., PhD
Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
880 W. Franklin
Richmond, Virginia
Director, Counseling Psychology Program
804-828-1150
eworth@vcu.edu

TOPIC: Psychology of Forgiveness

Everett Worthington, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is also a licensed Clinical Psychologist in Virginia. He has published over 30 books and over 350 articles and scholarly chapters, mostly on forgiveness, marriage, and

family topics and religion and spirituality. Get free resources on promoting forgiveness at www.EvWorthington-forgiveness.com.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Regional Workshops for Educators for Teaching the Holocaust

(check the website to draw upon resources nearest your community)

<http://www.ushmm.org/educators/professionals/events-and-resources/additional-professional-development-opportunities>

LaTonya Thames-Taylor, PhD

Associate Professor of History/Director of African American Studies Minor

Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

West Chester University of Pennsylvania Campus

College of Arts and Sciences

Dept of History- Wayne 432

West Chester, PA 19383

tonya@tonyathames.com

610-209-7825 (cell)

TOPIC: Abolitionism and the Modern Civil Rights Movement (speaking fee \$500 plus travel expenses)

Mississippi native of African American and Choctaw Indian ancestry, Dr. tonya thames taylor (lower case is intentional) is a humanitarian, civil rights advocate, volunteer, orator, writer, and Quaker. She considers her most admirable qualities: authenticity, courage, and optimism. In the community, she is an active member of the Junior League of Philadelphia, Recording Clerk of the Western Quarterly Meeting, lifetime member and PA State Executive Committee Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Worthy Matron of Eureka #12 of Deborah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Adopted, PA. She has been an elected official, president of a local NAACP chapter, and creator of the Lilies and Pearls Cotillion. thames taylor is committed to justice and it manifests in her campaigns and public lectures: anti-hunger, anti-Human Trafficking and interrogating the expansion and injustices of the mass incarceration and the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). Above all, Dr. thames taylor appreciates the life lessons she received from her grandmother's porch. It was there that she learned about community, service, religion, politics, negotiation, and culture. She is a graduate of Tougaloo College (BA) and the University of Mississippi, "Ole Miss," (MA and Ph.D). In her career, thames taylor, in June 2014, enjoyed an National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Fellowship to study civil rights in Mississippi and presented a paper, in August at Bucknell University, about white supremacy's pipeline-to-prison agenda. She is an associate professor of American History

for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (West Chester University campus). Her current academic interest is the roles that reality television play in shaping images and perceptions of nonwhites. Also, she examines just how white supremacy continues to reimagine itself in contemporary conversations.

Diane Nash

Civil Rights & Peace Activist

Chicago, IL

c/o Zach Radoski, Senior Agent

American Program Bureau, Inc.

One Gateway Center, Suite 751

Newton, MA 02458

617-614-1601

zradoski@apbspeakers.com

TOPIC: The Civil Rights Movement; non-violent protest and the Freedom Riders of the 1960s (her speaking fee is \$8,000 plus airfare, hotel, and ground transport to and from Chicago). Please contact her agent to book Diane Nash.

A Chicago native who never experienced segregation in public accommodations before moving to the South, Diane Nash went on to become one of the pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement. Nash's involvement in the nonviolent movement began in 1959 while she was a student at Fisk University. In 1960 she became the chairperson of the student sit-in movement in Nashville, Tennessee—the first southern city to desegregate its lunch counters—as well as one of the founding students of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. In 1961 she coordinated the Freedom Riders from Birmingham, Alabama, to Jackson, Mississippi, a story that was documented in the recent PBS American Experience film Freedom Riders. Her many arrests for her civil rights activities culminated in Nash being imprisoned for 30 days in 1961, while she was pregnant with her first child. Undeterred, she went on to join a national committee—to which she was appointed by President John F. Kennedy—the promoted passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Ruby Bridges

P.O. Box 430

Harvey, LA 70059

For school speaking engagements please contact Annie Hall, anniehall504@gmail.com

For public speaking engagements, please contact Spirit Tricky, spirittrickey@gmail.com

TOPIC: Please consider inviting Ruby Bridges to speak about her childhood experiences attending William Frantz elementary in 1960 and the aftermath of desegregation.

Born on September 8, 1954, in Tylertown, Mississippi, Ruby Bridges was six years old when she became the first African-American child to integrate a white Southern elementary school, having to be escorted to class by her mother and U.S. marshals due to violent mobs. Bridges' bravery paved the way for continued Civil Rights action and she's shared her story with future generations in educational forums.

Jeanne White-Ginder

<https://www.facebook.com/jeanne.whiteginder>

jwhiteginder@aol.com

TOPIC: Please consider inviting Jeanne to speak about Ryan's life and the work Jeanne is doing to promote AIDS education.

Jeanne White-Ginder is the mother of Ryan White who has become a key player in AIDS advocacy and education. Since her son's death in 1990, she has published the book that Ryan White wrote for other children, appeared at many AIDS fundraisers and benefits, and given many lectures to education young people about HIV/AIDS. She serves on the advisory board of the AIDS Institute, and speaks across the country about her story as a mom, and seeks to educate teens and adolescents on the personal, family, and community issues related to HIV/AIDS. Her book, Weeding out the Tears: A Mother's Story of Love, Loss, and Renewal was published in 1997. Jeanne and her daughter Andrea donated Ryan's bedroom full of memorabilia to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis (these artifacts are on display in the Power of Children permanent exhibition at the Museum). Jeanne lives in Leesburg, Florida, with her husband of twenty-two years.

Erin Fitzgerald

Program Coordinator

Project Kindle

28245 Ave Crocker, Ste. 104

Santa Clarita, CA 91355

erin@projectkindle.org

[877-800-2267 ext. 706](tel:877-800-2267)

Mandy Nickolite

Vice President and PsychoSocial Lead

Project Kindle

PO Box 8114

Lincoln, NE 68501

mandy@projectkindle.org

402-440-4888

TOPIC: HIV/AIDS education and awareness; Please consider reaching out to Project Kindle to coordinate a presentation by a teen who will share information about HIV/AIDS for the purpose of reaching other teens.

Project Kindle has an extensive community HIV/AIDS education and outreach program. Through the peer-to-peer speakers bureau, SPEAK OUT, Project Kindle has educated thousands of students and adults across the nation and is building resources to continue to combat social stigma and improve the quality of life for all people living with HIV/AIDS through additional presentations.

SPEAK OUT stands for “Sharing Personal Experiences And Knowledge: Our Unique Truths.” The SPEAK OUT program uses a wide variety of young speakers that are either infected with HIV or affected by HIV to educate their peers. The speakers are between the ages of 7 – 17 years old. They share their personal stories about how HIV has changed their life and other important information. For many, this will be the first time ever meeting someone who is knowingly HIV-positive. The speakers are matched to the demographics of the students at each school so the audience is best able to relate to the speakers. The many similarities between the speakers and audience allow for a once-in-a-lifetime educational experience for thousands of students.

NAMES Project–AIDS Memorial Quilt

Roddy Williams

Director of Operations

The NAMES Project Foundation

ATTN: New Panels

204 14TH ST NW

Atlanta, GA 30318-5304

Rwilliams@aidsquilt.org

404-790-5485

TOPIC: hosting a quilt panel-making workshop; HIV/AIDS awareness. Please contact the NAMES foundation to inquire about hosting a quilt making workshop and/or for submitting a quilt panel. It is also possible to borrow a quilt panel from the NAMES Project for display (<http://www.aidsquilt.org/host-the-quilt/display-application>). Consult the website for specifications or review the education outreach kit.

Advocates for Youth

2000 M St, NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20036

202-419-3420

info@advocatesforyouth.org

<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/youthaidyday>

TOPIC: National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day promotion or AIDS advocacy public speakers. Please contact Advocates for Youth to organize a speaker or celebrate and promote National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day.

One of the first mainstream organizations to recognize the potential dangers of HIV for adolescents, sponsoring a groundbreaking national conference on AIDS and adolescents among other HIV prevention initiatives as early as 1987. Since its founding in 1980, Advocates for Youth has served as a bold voice and respected leader in the field of adolescent reproductive and sexual health. For more than three decades, the organization has worked tirelessly to promote effective adolescent reproductive and sexual health programs and policies in the United States and the global south. This organization has a wealth of online materials and resources to foster youth change programs and create awareness of social issues.

Stephanie Kyriazis
Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Cultural Resources
Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
1515 SE Monroe Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-354-4273 x231

TOPIC: Brown v. Board of Education and school desegregation in the 1960s. The National Park Service will send out a park ranger/historian to speak about Brown v. Board of Education to museum sites in a three to four hour driving radius of Topeka Kansas (or will consider speaking engagements on a case by case basis). There is no honorarium to engage a speaker from this National Historic Site.

Barbara A. Lewis
www.barbaraAlewis.com
1-800-735-7323
help4kids@freespirit.com

TOPIC: How to inspire teens to take action for social change in their community and world; empowering young people to make a difference with themselves and others (note: Barbara Lewis requires an honorarium of \$1000–3,000, depending on the type of program and time involved, plus hotel and travel expenses). Please consider engaging Barbara to present for your organization.

Barbara Lewis is an award-winning author and educator who teaches kids how to think and solve real problems. When she taught at Jackson Elementary School

in Salt Lake City, Utah, her students initiated the cleanup of hazardous waste, improved sidewalks, planted thousands of trees, and fought crime. They instigated and pushed through several state laws and an amendment to a national law, garnering national acclaim, including two President’s Environmental Youth Awards. They also were recognized in the Congressional Record three times. Barbara has been featured in many national newspapers, magazines, and on news programs, including Newsweek, The Wall Street Journal, Family Circle, CBS This Morning, CBS World News, and CNN. She has also written numerous articles and short stories for national magazines and has received many state and national awards for teaching. Her books from Free Spirit Publishing have won Parenting’s Reading-Magic Award and been named “Best of the Best for Children” by the American Library Association, among other honors.

Taylor Mims, Communication Specialist
Erin Gruwell, Founder Freedom Writers
The Freedom Writers Foundation
taylor@freedomwritersfoundation.org
562-472-2608

TOPIC: Video chat with Freedom Writers Speakers or Erin Gruwell about diversity and tolerance, the power of reading, writing, and finding one’s own voice, other themes by request. Honorarium is \$300 for Freedom Writers Speakers or \$500 for Erin Gruwell.

The Freedom Writers Speakers each share their personal stories of triumph; overcoming poverty, sexual abuse, violence, substance abuse, and homelessness. Many suffered learning disabilities, disliked school, performed poorly in class and were never expected to graduate. Each presentation describes how they used the Freedom Writer Method to make incredible transformations and their continued success. The mission of the Freedom Writers Foundation is to empower educators and students to positively impact their own lives and the world around them.

*Erin Gruwell is a teacher, an education activist, and the founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation. She created the Freedom Writer Methods, a progressive teaching philosophy and curricular designed to achieve excellence from all students. By fostering an educational philosophy that values and promotes diversity, Gruwell transformed her students’ lives. She encouraged them to re-think rigid beliefs about themselves and others, reconsider daily decisions, and ultimately re-chart their futures. With Gruwell’s support, they chose to forego teenage pregnancy, drugs, and violence to become aspiring college students, published writers, and catalysts for change. They dubbed themselves the “Freedom Writers”—in homage to civil rights activists The Freedom Riders—and published a book. Inspired by Anne Frank, Erin and her students captured their collective journey in *The Freedom Writers Diary*. Through poignant student entries*

and Erin's narrative text, the book records their "eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding."

Kerry Sautner
Vice President of Visitor Experience & Education
National Constitution Center
Independence Mall
525 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106
ksautner@constitutioncenter.org
215-409-6730

TOPIC: The U. S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, Amendment XIV and XV)

Kerry Sautner serves as Vice President of Visitor Experience and Education at the National Constitution Center. In this capacity, she leads the visitor experience team and manages the museum's Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the nation's leading constitutional education resource, which develops interactive programs, theatrical productions, webcasts and standards-based classroom materials available onsite and online. Sautner is the 2011 recipient of the International Museum Theatre Alliance Award. Previously, she served as the museum's director of public programs for six years. She has served as an adjunct professor of education at Drexel University where she focused on science teaching methods and learning theories for K-12 teachers.

Shawn Decker and Gwenn Barringer
PO Box 7865
Charlottesville, VA 22906
434-409-1442
www.shawnandgwenn.com/speaking/

TOPIC: Living with HIV/AIDS; Since 2000, Shawn and Gwenn have been educating together, using their relationship as a married couple as a way to talk about the issues of sexual health. By combining humor and candor, they've successfully engaged tens-of-thousands of college students, and have shared their story with millions of people through Cosmopolitan Magazine, MTV, BBC and HBO films.

Shawn Decker was infected with HIV as a child through the contaminated blood products used to treat his hemophilia. Shawn learned early in life about discrimination. Within a month of testing positive for the virus, he was kicked out of the 6th grade. By all accounts, he wasn't expected to live five years. After beating the odds and graduating from high

school, Shawn opened up about his life, creating one of the first "poz blogs", describing his life as a twenty-year old dating with HIV. He penned a column for Poz Magazine, entitled "Positoid", and his first book, My Pet Virus: The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure, was published by the Penguin Group in 2006. Gwenn Barringer was an undergraduate at Wittenberg University, when a young woman with HIV spoke at Gwenn's sorority house. Inspired, Gwenn began to speak with her friends about sexual health and then took a class on HIV/AIDS. While attending James Madison University's graduate program, Gwenn volunteered for an AIDS Service Organization and obtained her Master's degree. Her thesis examined the likelihood of condom usage in long and short-term relationships among college-aged women. Gwenn and Shawn met through their AIDS activist activities. She fell in love with him in spite of the virus, and in spite of his love for professional wrestling. Five years after meeting, Shawn and Gwenn were married in October 2004.