

Date: December 22, 2014

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On Thursday, January 15, Friends of John Jay Homestead will launch their 2015 John Jay Scholars Lecture Series, *America at War: Managing the Message*, with Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy presenting *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution and the Fate of the Empire*.

The loss of America was a shocking defeat for the British Empire. Contemporary propaganda then and common wisdom now blame incompetent leadership in Britain. But O'Shaughnessy instead presents ten British leaders as sympathetic and skilled, struggling with the challenges of domestic politics, the expense of their own European wars, and the logistical difficulties of maintaining an army far away from home -- in addition to the fierceness of the Americans. *The Men Who Lost America* has won the New-York Historical Society American History Book Prize and the George Washington Book Prize, among many others. O'Shaughnessy is Vice President of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, the Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, and Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

The series will continue on Thursday, February 12, with Ambassador Donald Gregg presenting his new memoir, *Pot Shards: Fragments of a Life Lived in CIA, the White House and the Two Koreas*; and on Thursday, March 12, with Harold Holzer and his *Lincoln and the Power of the Press: the War for Public Opinion*.

The 2015 John Jay Lecture Series is organized by the Scholars Committee of Friends of John Jay Homestead, whose members include Sheila and John Bernson, Cynthia and Steven Brill, Joyce and Gary Corrigan, Vanessa Diebold, John M. Greenwood, The Honorable Donald P. Gregg, Susan Allport Howell, Gary S. Jacobson and Bridget C. Thorne, Alexia and Jerry Jurschak, Brian Kelly, Migs and Brian Landry, Heather G. Langham, Bonnie and Piers MacDonald, Holly Ann Maggio, Silvia and Steve Ohler, George Hunter Roberts, Linda A. Mahon and Robert H. Saunders, Timothy P. Schieffelin, Janet K. Schloat, Jennifer and Roger Schwartz, Norman Selby, John J. Stockbridge, Kate and Tom Terry, Marilen G. Tilt, Melissa Vail (Chair), and Caroline and John Walker. This lecture will be held in the Ballroom at John Jay Homestead State Historic Site at 7:00 P.M., registration beginning at 6:15 P.M. with light refreshments. A book signing will follow the lecture. Tickets are \$20 for Members of Friends of John Jay Homestead and \$25 for non-members. Reservations recommended.

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.