

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 12, 2015

Contact: Dot Voorhees, Friends of John Jay Homestead; (914) 232-8119;
friends@johnjayhomestead.org

Friends of John Jay Homestead To Present Joseph J. Ellis at Founders Lecture on Tuesday, November 3rd

On Tuesday, November 3rd, Friends of John Jay Homestead will present their Founders Lecture with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph J. Ellis. Mr. Ellis will be discussing his new book, *The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution 1783-1789*.

The Quartet tells the story of the adoption of the Constitution in 1783. Ellis argues that this development was as consequential to the country as the signing of Declaration of Independence. Ellis's Quartet -Washington, Hamilton, Madison and Jay -were the four Founders who believed that the Articles of Confederation were so weak that the country would fail under them, and that they needed to be not simply amended, but totally replaced. Ellis describes the foursome as strategizing for years and acting in concert to design and implement a strong national government.

Washington, Hamilton and Madison have remained well-known over the years, but Ellis's characterization of the much less familiar Jay as a man of "otherworldly serenity," "massive probity combined with persistent geniality," "permanently poised, always the calm center of the storm," is a revelation.

"One discovery that surprised me," says Ellis, "was Jay's prominence and the literary quality of his letters. He deserves to ascend to the higher reaches of any American pantheon."

Joseph Ellis is one of the nation's leading scholars of American history. The author of eight books, he won the Pulitzer Prize for *Founding Brothers: the Revolutionary Generation* and the National Book Award for *American Sphinx*, a biography of Thomas Jefferson. His essays, book reviews and commentaries appear regularly in national publications and media and he has appeared in many PBS documentaries on early America. He currently teaches in the Leadership Studies program at Williams College.

"We are grateful that an historian of such distinction is shining a light on 'our' Founder," says Melissa Vail, Vice President of Friends of John Jay Homestead. "We've always known how indispensable he was -- now more of the world will too."

The Founders Lecture is an annual event presented by the Friends of John Jay Homestead and Michaela and Skip Beitzel.

"To have an historic gem like John Jay Homestead in our community's backyard is truly wonderful," says Michaela Beitzel. "We are happy to support its programs and outreach to our community"

Lecture tickets are \$25 for Friends members and \$75 for non-members, which includes a basic Friends membership. A limited number of free student tickets will be available. Reservations are

strongly recommended. The program will begin with a wine and cheese reception at 6:00 pm; the talk itself begins at 7:00. After the lecture, there will be a question and answer period, followed by an optional dinner at the Barn at the Bedford Post Inn for an additional charge. For more information, to reserve tickets or books, or to inquire about membership, please contact the Friends of John Jay Homestead office at (914) 232-8119; email friends@johnjayhomestead.org; or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.