

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On Thursday, January 21, Friends of John Jay Homestead will launch their 2016 John Jay Scholars Lecture Series, *Telling Stories of War*, when Darden Smith and Mary Judd will present *SongwritingWith:Soldiers-the Civil War Diaries of Our Times*.

SongwritingWith:Soldiers pairs professional songwriters with active duty and veteran service members to produce songs about their experiences. The evening will include a performance as well as information about the program. Darden Smith, Creative Director, is a singer-songwriter based in Austin, Texas, who founded the program after performing in a military hospital in Germany in 2012; Mary Judd is an educator and the program's Executive Director.

The Scholars Lecture Series will continue on Thursday, February 18, when Kevin M. Murphy will present *American Encounters: Anglo-American Portraiture in an Era of Revolution*, and on Tuesday, March 15, when Nicholas A. Robinson will present *The Forest Charter and Magna Carta: Evolving Human Rights in Nature*.

The *Telling Stories of War* theme came from a growing focus on John Jay's role in the adoption of the US Constitution. Jay was motivated at least in part by his dismay (shared by Washington and other Federalists) at the shabby treatment of soldiers in the Continental Army in the War for Independence; under the Articles of Confederation, states paid taxes on a voluntary basis, and the Treasury was starved for funds.

The 2016 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, Donald P. Gregg, Susan Allport Howell, Gary S. Jacobson and Bridget C. Thorne, Brian Kelly, Migs and Brian Landry, Heather G. Langham, Bonnie and Piers MacDonald, Holly Ann Maggio, Silvia and Steve Ohler, George Hunter Roberts, Martin J. Rosen, Esq., 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, Frances Train, Melissa Vail (Chair), and Caroline and John Walker.

The January 21st 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 are 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.