



First Ladies Forum

Program Descriptions

Chit Chat with Dolley Madison (Presented by Judith Kalaora)

A historic opportunity to converse with one of the most esteemed First Ladies in United States history! Dolley Madison - wife to 4th American President James Madison or "The Presidentess", as she was known – shall regale you with tales of escaping the White House during the British attack on Washington City. Learn how she protected the portrait of His Excellency George Washington! If you are fortunate, you may even be invited to one of Dolley's famous "squeezes," the first "bi-partisan" social gatherings where legislators could mix business and pleasure. Dolley attracted the most popular crowds for her weekly social functions and was always dedicated to advancing her husband's position. Enjoy Dolley's homespun hospitality!

The Adventures of Louisa Catherine Adams (Presented by Laura Rocklyn)

The day is March 4th, 1825, and Louisa Catherine Adams has not accompanied her husband, John Quincy Adams, to his inauguration as the sixth President of the United States. In a rare moment of solitude, Louisa reflects on the events of her tumultuous life in the public eye. From her childhood in England and France, to her adventures as the wife of an American diplomat in Europe where she charmed heads of state from Berlin to St. Petersburg, Louisa's memories provide a glimpse into international politics during the Age of Revolutions. When Louisa and John Quincy returned to the United States, the flair for entertaining and political savvy Louisa displayed as the couple moved between Boston and Washington, DC, eventually assisted her husband in becoming President of the United States. In this moment, now that John Quincy has won the coveted office for which they both worked so hard, why is she not standing by his side?

Mrs. Lincoln in Love (Presented by Laura F. Keyes)

Mary Todd Lincoln lived a life filled with triumphs and tragedies but few people know her story. Now, librarian Laura Keyes shares Mary's story in an entertaining and educational program entitled "Mrs. Lincoln in Love," which is set on January 31st 1862, when Mrs. Lincoln and her family are settled comfortably in the Executive Mansion. Visiting with ladies during Afternoon Tea, Mrs. Lincoln reflects on the Loves of her Life – her children, her husband, and her country. She even shares some of Mr. Lincoln's love letters to her! Learn how Mary's knowledge of both politics and social customs made it possible for a backwoods frontier attorney to achieve the highest office in the land.

Jacqueline Kennedy (Presented by Leslie Goddard)

It is 1964, and former first lady Jackie Kennedy is struggling to determine her next step in life. The challenge of this decision causes her to review her life. She reflects on her feelings about becoming a politician's wife, her struggle for privacy amidst intense media scrutiny, her work to showcase history and the arts in the White House and, finally, how her husband's assassination changed her life forever.