

Cornell Library Presents Lincoln Exhibit

By Tompkins Weekly Staff

Abraham Lincoln spent a lifetime working to end slavery in America, but he did not live to see it completed. "Lincoln's Unfinished Work," Cornell University Library's newest exhibition, marks the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Congress passed it on Jan. 31, 1865, but it wasn't ratified by the required three-fourths of the states until December of that year; long after Lincoln's death on April 14.

Cornell holds one of 14 commemorative manuscript copies of the 13th Amendment signed by Lincoln, as well as by the members of Congress who voted for it. The new exhibition features the signed document, as well as a pair of slave

shackles, a playbill from Ford's Theater on the night of Lincoln's assassination and other artifacts associated with Lincoln's final months and his funeral.

In honor of Lincoln's birthday and President's Day, the original copy will be on display in the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections (RMC), Kroch Library, level 2B. Visitors may view the document Monday, Feb. 9, through Friday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Monday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Also on Feb. 12 and Feb. 16, curator Lance Heidig will offer tours of the exhibition at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and a talk, "Exploring Cornell's Lincoln and Civil War Collections," at 3:30 p.m. in Kroch Library, room 2B48.

Heidig will discuss the events of the early months of 1865 that culminated with the end of the Civil War; Lincoln's assassination and the founding of Cornell University.

"Another aspect of Lincoln's unfinished work is his education legacy. Back in 1862, he had signed the Morrill Land Grant Act that provided federal land for each state to fund and create colleges," Heidig said in a statement. "In 1865, at the same time as the 13th Amendment is being debated in Washington and ratified by the states, Ezra Cornell and A.D. White are struggling to secure New York's land-grant money for their institution and pushing a bill through the State Legislature that become the charter for Cornell University."

"Lincoln's Unfinished Work"

dovetails with the larger sesquicentennial celebration in the library and the rest of the university, and it serves as a prelude to the "150 Ways to Say Cornell" exhibition in RMC's Hirshland Gallery. Tours of that exhibition will also be given on Feb. 12 and 16 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public. The original 13th Amendment manuscript will be on display at various times throughout the spring, including Charter Day and Cornell's reunion; a high-quality facsimile will be viewable for the rest of the exhibition. Additional events are planned as well; please visit the exhibition's events listing for details.

The exhibition is made possible through the support of the Nicholas H. Noyes Jr. Memorial Foundation.

Spellers, Sponsors Sought for Annual Spelling Bee

It's time for spellers and sponsors to sign up for the upcoming Spelling Bee. Whether it's a love of spelling, a personal challenge, or the way to serve a good cause, past participants in the Ithaca Public Education Initiative (IPEI) Adult Spelling Bee all agree the event is something to buzz about.

"I loved spelling bees at school, and had thought that all that fun was gone for good. But no! Last year's competition was a continuation of those bygone days," said Sam Goodyear, member of last year's championship team from WSKG.

"I became excited about the Spelling Bee when I read about it in the paper. What? I thought. A spelling bee for adults? That sounds

like a dream come true," said Joan Doria, another longtime speller.

Ithaca City School District (ICSD) Superintendent Dr. Luvelle Brown said he looks forward to the event each year. "The annual IPEI Adult Spelling Bee has been a great way for me to appease my competitive nature while simultaneously supporting a great organization."

This year's Spelling Bee is scheduled for Sunday, March 1 at 2 p.m., at the Ithaca High School Wellness Center Gym. Now in its 17th year, this fun-filled community event draws a large crowd of all ages eager to watch the competition and cheer on the spellers.

Inspired by the classic spelling bee format, with rules, a pronouncer, a timekeeper, and three judges;

IPEI's Bee features contestants competing in teams of three representing local businesses, schools, and community groups. Team costumes are encouraged, and cheering sections rally the competitors as the teams battle it out to make it to the championship round vying for the Fuzzy Bee trophy.

"I love the community spirit and sense of fun that surrounds the event—the enthusiasm, the variety of people and organizations involved, the clever team names and costumes, all of it," said Russ Charif of the Spellicans.

Doria recalled of her team, the Bee-Attitudes: "Our 'regalia' included bright yellow scarves with our name in black letters, along with deely-boppers for our heads.

What a hoot! When I saw that a lot of people 'dress' for the occasion I knew I had found a fun community."

Spelling Bee teams are the heart of the event. Up to 28 teams can take part, with a \$400 minimum entry fee per team paid by community sponsors or the spellers themselves. While online registration is encouraged (ipei.peakmaker.com), entry forms as well as tips for finding team sponsors can be downloaded from www.ipei.org.

All proceeds from the Bee support IPEI grants for teachers. The four grants programs are Teacher Grants, Red and Gold Grants, Community Collaboration Grants, and Connecting Classroom Grants.



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