From the ALPLF and ALPLM Chairs

Ray McCaskey, Chair, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation Board of Directors and
Ray LaHood, Chair, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees

The Great Unifier

Thank you for your continued encouragement of Lincoln’s Presidential Library, Museum, and Foundation. We are humbly grateful for your support as we work to give Lincoln the world-class museum and library he so clearly deserves.

As chairmen of the boards of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, we share a common admiration for, and devotion to, a man whose legacy continues to urge us to find common ground and call upon the better angels of our nature. We are proud and privileged to lead the institution forward with fresh purpose. Our highest priority is to find new directors of our respective organizations that will work with integrity in a cooperative spirit. These leaders, along with our boards and a collaborative working group, set forth by Governor Pritzker, will be devoted to sharing Lincoln’s legacy with a world that truly needs the hope it can provide.

Lincoln’s words and actions will guide us as they so often inspire people from across the globe to act with compassion and a sense of higher purpose.

We appreciate your continued generosity and commitment to our beloved 16th president and look forward to working with you.
March 4, 2020 marked the 155th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address. Though it remains the shortest inaugural speech in presidential history at just 701 words, his insightful observations about the religious meaning of the Civil War is considered a masterpiece. Today, his words are inscribed, along with the Gettysburg Address, inside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

ALPLM marked the anniversary by teaming up with NPR Illinois and the Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise to host the fourteenth annual award ceremony for the “This I Believe” essay contest. High school seniors throughout central Illinois were invited to submit brief 500-word essays that described the way they saw the world around them. The ten winning essayists each received a $500 stipend to be used to pursue their dreams after graduating high school and were invited to read their essay in the museum’s Union Theatre.

I was lucky enough to have a seat on the stage with the essay winners as they read their individual stories. One student shared her essay, “My Black is Beautiful.” She told an emotional story about her experience with racism as a middle school student. The episode led her to hate her skin color, but as she grew older, she learned to accept and love herself. Another student shared a harrowing tale of growing up with a drug addicted mother and a father who was in and out of jail, yet she resolved to avoid the mistakes she witnessed while growing up. Today, she is graduating at the top of her class and will be pursuing a college education.

Abraham Lincoln’s early life was filled with adversity. He was born in the humblest of circumstances, received less than a year of formal education, lost his mother when he was nine, and when his father remarried, he could not find his place in the new blended family. Someone in Lincoln’s shoes might have been crushed by the challenges thrown his way or become embittered by the hardships he endured, but that did not happen. He confronted the challenges, overcame adversity, and evolved into a person of tremendous resilience, who went on to change the world.

The students who read their award-winning essays at ALPLM demonstrated a Lincoln-like resilience, as they too confronted and overcame the challenges in their early lives. Sharing their inspiring stories in a public forum was an incredibly powerful way for this generation to honor Lincoln, on the anniversary of one of his most eloquent moments.
The ten winners, who are all involved in a wide range of activities at their schools, are:

**Kenya Apongule**, Southeast High School, Springfield; Essay Title: My Black is Beautiful
Activities: Poms Team, Student Council, National Honors Society, Principal’s Advisory Board, Physician’s Prep Program, ASCHE. Plans to major in sociology pre-med track.

**Grace Beyers**, Southeast High School, Springfield; Essay Title: I Believe in a Royal Flush
Activities: Student Board Member for District 186, President of National Honors Society, Mayor’s Youth Council, Principal’s Roundtable, Superintendent’s Roundtable. Plans to go into advocacy, social work, or Congress.

**Jatin Dhamrait**, Springfield High School, Springfield; Essay Title: Chalk
Activities: Robotics Team, Eagle Scout, Tennis Captain, Chess. Plans to major in bio-med engineering with a minor in computer science.

**Ashanti Hatchett**, Lanphier High School, Springfield; Essay Title – Unconventional Beauty
Activities: Student Government Association Vice President, National Honors Society, Mayor’s Youth Council President, Softball. Plans to major in mathematics.

**Kylee Kazenski**, North Mac High School, Virden; Essay Title: I Believe in Passing the Ball
Activities: Basketball, Soccer, Spanish club, Science Club, Student Council, National Honors Society. Plans to major in mechanical engineering.

**Truman Poteat**, North Mac High School, Auburn; Essay Title: I Believe in Big Ideas
Activities: Scholastic Bowl, Drama Club, National Honors Society, Key Club, Science Club. Plans to major in biology/pre-med.

**Luke Siebers**, Quincy Notre Dame, Quincy; Essay Title: Honesty is the Best Policy
Activities: Golf, Student Council, National Honors Society, Eagle Scout. Plans to major in accounting.

**Jeramey Spann**, North Mac High School, Virden; Essay Title: Superheroes
Activities: Student Council, Drama Club, Cheerleading, National Honors Society. Plans to major in Biology/Pre-med.

**Joseph Tisckos**, Southeast High School, Springfield; Essay Title: False Boundaries
Activities: Tennis, Golf, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council. Plans to major in economics.

**Ethan Whelpley**, Glenwood High School, Chatham; Essay Title: Chemistry Lessons
Activities: Show Choir, Key Club. Plans to major in advertising.

The program, reception, and $500 stipends were made possible by NPR Illinois, Rotary Club of Springfield Sunrise, ALPLM, KEB, Marine Bank, BLH Computers, Brian Barstead, ALPLF, and Rotary District 6460.
Dr. Samuel Wheeler, Illinois State Historian, was the keynote speaker at Lincoln College’s Charter Day Convocation on Feb. 7. The ceremony commemorated Lincoln College’s 155th anniversary of its charter, recognizing the institution’s rich history and accomplishments.

Wheeler spoke to the Lincoln College community and members of the public in the Johnston Center for Performing Arts auditorium, where he also received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during the ceremony.

Wheeler is the 10th State Historian in Illinois history. Wheeler specializes in the diverse history of the Prairie State, as well as the remarkable life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. He earned his doctorate in history from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he taught several popular courses on U.S History, including advanced courses on Illinois History, the Civil War Era, and the Art of Historical Research and Writing. Today, he regularly speaks to audiences around the country, writes for scholarly journals and popular magazines, and offers commentary to media outlets.

In addition to his scholarly work, Wheeler is proud to work in the field of Public History. For the past two decades, he has helped archives and libraries, historic sites and historic societies, and museums and non-profits fulfill their educational missions.

As the State Historian of Illinois he serves as the Director of Research at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois. He manages the ALPLM’s two research projects, the Papers of Abraham Lincoln documentary editing project and the state’s Oral History program.
Interview with Chair, ALPLF Board of Directors

Ray McCaskey

Q How and why did you get involved in the role of Chair of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation?

About a dozen years ago, while I was still fully at work at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, I was paid a visit by Frank Clark, a Foundation Board member, and Governor Jim Edgar. Frank, at a prior visit to my office, had commented on a small collection of Lincoln inspired folk art that I kept there. In talking about the collection, he uncovered my strong interest in American history and especially in Abraham Lincoln. They asked me to join the Board of the Lincoln Library Foundation and I gladly accepted. Within a year, I agreed to head the development committee of the Board, a challenging and fulfilling assignment. Six years later, my predecessor as Board Chair, stepped down after completing a term of solid progress. I believed I had something more to contribute to the Board, so I expressed my interest. And here I am.

Q What do you admire about Lincoln?

Lincoln had an amazing blend of brilliance and humility. There was also a mix of ambition, patience and persistence. It was never about Lincoln. It was driven by a higher cause, preserving the union and ending slavery. He was a master of communication and bringing people together.

Q What are your hopes for the future of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Museum and Foundation?

This institution is a treasure for the people of Illinois and the whole nation. It is organized, not only to tell the story of Lincoln and his life, but to produce an understanding of the principles and elements that are the underpinning of a government “of the people, by the people and for the people.” There is definitely a message that is relevant for today’s world. As with all worthwhile efforts, there have been challenges. But now, we have a terrific mix of seasoned veterans, new members and soon, new leadership at both the Library and the Foundation.

Q Is there anything you would like to add?

We, at the Foundation Board, are extremely excited and optimistic about the opportunity to work with Ray LaHood and the entire new Board of the Library and Museum. The talent assembled for this organization is amazing. Together we are positioned for a bright future.
Interview with Chair, ALPLM Board of Trustees

Ray LaHood

How and why did you become chair of the ALPLM Board of Trustees?

When I was a member of Congress, my district included Springfield. Of the 20 counties I represented, nine of them were represented by Lincoln. I knew there needed to be a place where all the Lincoln items could be housed, and I knew that place needed to be Springfield, Illinois where his body was buried and his home and law office still stand. I worked with the Senior Senator from Illinois, Senator Durbin, when he was on the Senate Appropriations committee, and I was on the House Appropriations committee. We worked together with then-Governor Ryan and the mayor of Springfield at the time, Mayor Hasara, and then-speaker Hastert, and we all put our heads together to raise significant federal, state and private funding to build the library and museum in Springfield.

Last year I learned from friends in Springfield that Governor Pritzker was assembling a board of trustees for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, and a few friends submitted my name for the Governor’s consideration. I interviewed with him for a position on the board, and he called me to ask if I would serve as chair. I have always had great affection for Lincoln and was honored to be asked. I know there has been controversy, but I will help mitigate the controversy and get to the essence of what Lincoln represents so that his legacy can be shared with everyone.

What do you admire about Lincoln?

I admire that he was someone from the Midwest who was able to not only win the nomination and presidency but appoint his adversaries and bring the country together. He turned adversaries into colleagues and friends who became advocates for his administration.

He achieved so much of great significance, but three things were the greatest:

1. He united the country.
2. He ended the civil war, and
3. The Emancipation Proclamation.

He accomplished so much by bringing people together. Getting people to work together was the essence of Lincoln’s presidency.

What are your hopes for the future of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Museum and Foundation?

We have two short terms goals for the institution. First, we will find the best most professional most experienced ALPLM Executive Director. We are conducting a nationwide search to get the Library and Museum the leader it deserves. There is already a very capable staff at the library and museum, and now there needs to be strong leader to guide the team.

Second, we need to bridge the gap between the ALPLM and the Foundation. I have been working closely with Foundation Chair Ray McCaskey. Every week we talk about our work to find leadership for the Foundation and the Library and Museum, and how we will work together to achieve the shared goals of our institutions. Together we will carry out our true mission and make this the best presidential library and museum in the country.

If we can accomplish those two goals very soon, we will have achieved an awful lot.

Is there anything you would like to add?

I congratulate Governor Pritzker for appointing experienced and knowledgeable people to serve together on the Library and Museum Board of Trustees. They know what they are doing and really want to do what is best for the Library and Museum. They are very dedicated people.
Lincoln Leadership Prize Dinner Honoring David M. Rubenstein

Approximately 500 generous benefactors filled the ballroom at the Fairmont Millennium Park Chicago as the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation (ALPLF) presented its prestigious Lincoln Leadership Prize to patriotic philanthropist David M. Rubenstein this past February. The event is the primary annual fundraising event hosted by the Foundation.

The Lincoln Leadership Prize, presented annually, recognizes outstanding individuals for a lifetime of service in the spirit of the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Foundation honorary life director and Pulitzer Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin presented the Prize to patriotic philanthropist David M. Rubenstein. Rubenstein, whose acceptance speech was warm and spirited, exhibited a quick wit and self-deprecating humor in his recitation of a letter ‘from’ Abraham Lincoln congratulating him on being the recipient of the Lincoln Leadership Prize. In addition to remarks by Goodwin and Rubenstein, a number of tribute videos were presented at the event including those from cellist Yo Yo Ma, actress Renée Fleming, University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer, Founder, CEO, and Co-Chief Investment Officer of Citadel, Kenneth Griffin, Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch, actress Anna Deavere Smith, White House Historical Association President Stuart McLaurin, Duke University President Vincent Price, and William Conway and Daniel D’Aniello with The Carlyle Group.

Since 2006, the ALPLF has awarded the Lincoln Leadership Prize to 13 prestigious individuals. Previous honorees include 43rd President of the United States George W. Bush, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson, Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, Civil Rights Activists The Little Rock Nine, Filmmaker Steven Spielberg, 42nd President of the United States Bill Clinton, former Polish President Lech Walęsa, Journalist Tim Russert, Astronaut James Lovell, Jr., Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.
Lincoln Leadership Committee Chair Carrie Hightman

Iron Mountain Development executives with recipient David Rubenstein (from left) Lori Olson, Kristin Roberts and Melissa Smith.

Newly appointed ALPLM Board of Trustee Ray LaHood and his wife Kathy attend the event in Chicago this past February.

Master of Ceremonies and ALPLF Honorary Life Director Bill Kurtis

Donors Joan and William Brodsky (center) are pictured at the private reception with recipient David Rubenstein and presenter Doris Kearns Goodwin. Joan Brodsky was recently named to the ALPLM Board of Trustees.

Donors Norm and Virginia Bobins (pictured center along with Rubenstein and Goodwin) attend the private reception.

Tom Miles (left) and David Fithian (right), both with the University of Chicago, speak with recipient David Rubenstein following the award presentation.

Corporate donor Illinois Tool Works is represented at the annual Lincoln Leadership Prize dinner by attendees (Front row left) Shafaq Imtiatzi, Marisa Kowalsky, Natalie Dotlich, Sharon Donaldson, Karly Miller, (Back row) Brittany Skaleki, Maria Thompson, Meredith Platt and Mary Caher.
Oral History Program Reaches 1,000th Interview

Everyone has a story to tell, and the mission of the ALPLM’s Oral History Program is to preserve those stories for future generations. Under the leadership of Dr. Mark DePue, the program recently hit an important milestone: its 1,000th interview.

From the beaches of Iwo Jima to the state capitol to Illinois cornfields, the Oral History Program has captured an incredible array of stories. Some of the memories are sad or painful, while others are joyful and triumphant, but all contain moments that help listeners make a personal connection to history that often isn’t possible with an image, artifact, or text.

The interviews are uploaded to www.OralHistory.Illinois.gov and organized into projects such as “Veterans Remember” or “African-American Chronicles.” The unaltered audio clips are posted alongside a picture and a short description of the person being interviewed. Transcripts are added as they become available, as are relevant images or videos. Anyone anywhere can use the information at no cost.

Oral history is a unique method of collecting a historical archive. Rather than focusing on
artifacts and manuscripts, it uses the human voice. Hearing people tell stories that they experienced first-hand creates a tremendous sense of immediacy. Personal interviews also can provide insights into people from all walks of life.

University of Illinois Springfield historian Dr. Holly Kent describes it as “centering voices which all too often go unheard in larger historical narratives.” She said the histories collected by Dr. DePue, staff and volunteers “help us to better understand the full complexity of the state, and the many fascinating people who have shaped its history.”

The ALPL’s oral history collection continues to grow, with new interviews being added regularly. Recent additions include a section on Barack Obama’s time in Illinois and teacher resources (lesson plans) showing high school students how to conduct their own oral history projects.

Starting from a blank slate 14 years ago, the program has produced one of the best collections of Illinois oral histories anywhere. The collection will continue to grow and to be an invaluable resource for all, both present and future, who wish to study Illinois history.

DePue’s goal for the program has always been to collect high-quality interviews and to make them easily accessible.

“Personal memories add powerful information to our understanding of history,” DePue said. “It’s vital that we capture them for future generations.”
On a July night in 1952, Governor Adlai Stevenson II of Illinois returned to Springfield from the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. He restlessly haunted the executive mansion, coming to terms with his nomination by the Democratic Party as candidate for President of the United States three days earlier. He had not been a candidate vying for the nomination when he stood, as governor of the host state, to welcome delegates to Chicago. He reminded the delegates that “What counts now is not just what we are against, but what we are for. What convictions, what courage, what faith, win or lose. A man does not save a century or a civilization, but a militant party wedded to a principle can.” The rousing speech catapulted him to the nomination and caused the restlessness he felt on that July night.

Unable to spend another minute in the executive mansion contemplating the task that lay before him, Stevenson took a half-mile, late-night walk to Abraham Lincoln’s historic home. He woke the home’s caretaker—it was not yet a National Park Service site—and told him he’d like to sit for a while; there he contemplated “the difficulties [Lincoln] had met and surmounted.” Stevenson remembered that the time spent in Lincoln’s home had “perhaps opened hidden sources of strength” in him that prepared him for the road ahead. His road would lead to defeat at the hands of Dwight Eisenhower in ’52 and ’56 and then to the post of ambassador to the United Nations under President Kennedy where he forcefully confronted U.S.S.R. Ambassador Valerian Zorin over the 1962 placement of ballistic missiles in Cuba.

Stevenson II’s career of unwavering public service exists as a single strain in what he referred to as an “incurable, hereditary case of politics.” His grandfather, Adlai Stevenson I, served the public for over forty years. He began as states attorney, then went on to Congress, and then served as vice president under Grover Cleveland. Stevenson II’s father, Lewis Stevenson, served as Illinois secretary of state. Stevenson II passed the politics gene onto his son, Adlai Stevenson III, who served Illinois as a United States Senator from 1970 to 1981, where he spearheaded ethics reform and warned of the dangers of international terrorism.

The Stevenson family donated a collection of political artifacts, family photographs, and manuscripts to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM). In Spring 2020, ALPLM will open a permanent exhibit interpreting the Stevenson family odyssey in Illinois and U.S. politics. I am proud to be part of the team building an exhibit that tells a story of a family’s fidelity to principle and a belief in what good government can accomplish. The Stevenson family’s public service is their legacy.
Looking back on the 15 years I have worked at the ALPLM, I count myself extremely lucky to have worked on so many productions here – Reunion; The Civil War; The Heaven’s Are Hung in Black; Having Our Say; The Last of Mrs. Lincoln; Flight; The Last Full Measure; One Destiny; Five Presidents. And now rehearsals have begun for Alabama Story, a play by Kenneth Jones, running for six performances in the Union Theater May 7-9 and 14-16 (Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.).

Alabama Story is based on a mostly-forgotten news story about a champion of free speech, Emily Wheelock Reed, State Librarian of Alabama. Set in 1959, well-known illustrator Garth Williams (Charlotte’s Web, Stuart Little, the Little House on the Prairie series) has written a children’s book titled The Rabbits’ Wedding, in which one rabbit is black and the other white. A local senator wants to ban the book. A parallel plot revolves around the reuniting of two childhood friends as adults—an African-American man and a white woman—as they try to piece together what happened to them. Alabama Story reflects the tensions swirling in 1959 Montgomery during the early momentum of the Civil Rights Movement. The six-character play features Ed MacMurdo, Amalia Mathewson, Chuck McCue, Joel Ochoa, Squire Prince, and Carlyn Shank. Our Technical Department, led by Jeff Nevins, will create the scenic and lighting design, with Mary McDonald and Betty Ring costuming the actors—all to tell this important story.

It usually takes at least two to three years from the time we read a script to its being produced on our stage. I heard great things about this new play and tracked down the playwright in New York, who promptly sent the script. I have been fortunate to have seen the play performed twice at different professional theaters and feel there is something exciting about experiencing a new play with an audience. I feel it is particularly appropriate to stage Alabama Story at the ALPLM because it’s about libraries, civil rights and a brave person standing up for what’s right. Playwright Kenneth Jones will travel to Springfield to attend a performance, and we hope you will join us to experience this moving story about love and censorship inspired by true events in 1959 Montgomery.

The next several months our Living History folks will continue to interact and engage our visitors about life in the 19th-century, thanks to generous grants from the Dr. Scholl Foundation and History Comes Alive! administered by Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau. The History Comes Alive! Program in downtown Springfield runs June 6 – August 15. Each Saturday we’ll host muscians, area Civil War bands and the Springfield Municipal Band – all out in front of the museum entrance or in Union Square Park.

We say a fond goodbye to Ghosts of the Library actor Cory Blissett, who has spent time with us as a student worker, temp, seasonal worker, and actor since 2008. We wish him the best.
Our new temporary exhibit, “Spies, Traitors, and Saboteurs” opens in the Illinois Gallery on March 27. Curated by the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., it includes artifacts from several significant historical events, ranging from the American Revolution to the 9/11 attacks. The exhibit did not, however, originally include a Civil War component. So, our exhibits director, Lance Tawzer, asked me to write a few panels on Civil War “Spies,” “Traitors,” and (you guessed it!) “Saboteurs.”

While all three concepts are relevant to the Civil War, treason was central to the conflict. Debates over slavery’s westward expansion sparked the crisis, but once southern states began seceding, they sparked a new debate about the relationship between Union and citizenship. Lincoln believed secession was unconstitutional. Therefore, if states could not lawfully leave the Union, anyone claiming to do so was a traitor. This is why Lincoln was careful never to officially label the conflict as a “war” or use language that would recognize the Confederacy as a “nation.” Instead he called the conflict a “rebellion” and understood he was duty-bound as president to subdue it. As he told the Confederates in his First Inaugural Address, “You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to ‘preserve, protect, and defend’ it.” Suppressing a rebellion allowed Lincoln to take various actions—most notably the Emancipation Proclamation, which effectively confiscated property (that being human property in enslaved African Americans) from traitors conspiring against the government. It is one of the great ironies of American history that by seceding from the Union to protect slavery, the Confederate states empowered Lincoln to take decisive action against it.

Spies and saboteurs also played a prominent role in the Civil War. Spies are a feature of any national conflict, but they are especially effective when both sides share a common language and culture. Americans from all walks of life stepped forward to assist espionage efforts on both sides. The most famous Confederate spy was probably Belle Boyd, whose exploits in Union camps made her an international celebrity. For the Union, many African Americans provided valuable intelligence on southern geography and troop positions. Both sides also used saboteurs, with Confederate raiders striking at northern targets—even from Canada—and southern Unionists like Robert Smalls taking every opportunity to disrupt the Confederate war effort.

Everyone loves a good spy story and they are even better when true! We hope you will join us for this fascinating new exhibit during its run from March 27 to January 24.
In the May 2019 issue of Four Score and Seven, I recounted the work of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln (PAL) on the Congressional Digital Edition, our second chronological segment covering the period of Lincoln’s life from the end of his last term in the Illinois House of Representatives (March 1841) to the completion of Lincoln’s time in the U.S. House of Representatives (March 1849). To date, we have edited 439 documents from the Congressional Digital Edition and published them to The Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library, the beta version of our first digital publication. In the upcoming weeks we will add some of the important documents from Lincoln’s time in the U.S. House of Representatives, including the “Spot” Resolutions and his speeches on the Mexican War and internal improvements.

We are on schedule to edit the remaining documents in the Congressional Digital Edition and published them to The Papers of Abraham Lincoln Digital Library by August 3, 2020. In addition, we will post 3,316 fully transcribed and searchable documents deemed supplemental to Lincoln’s life during this time from the Congressional Digital Archive, including all of the bills and acts considered by Congress during Lincoln’s term in the House. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Abraham Lincoln Association (ALA), Iron Mountain, and other donors.

Once we complete the Congressional Digital Edition/Archives, we will move on to the Campaign Digital Edition/Digital Archive, our third chronological segment which encompasses the end of Lincoln’s tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives (March 1849) to his election as president (November 1860). These eleven years were pivotal in the personal life and career of Abraham Lincoln.
of Lincoln. Beginning in September 2020, we will be publishing documents from this crucial time in Lincoln’s life. Here are some highlights of the interesting documents coming in 2020, 2021, 2022, and beyond:

- Abraham Lincoln’s full patent application, including blueprints and diagrams.
- Letters associated with the deaths of Lincoln’s son Eddie and his father Thomas and with the birth of sons Willie and Tad.
- Documents associated with *Illinois Central Railroad v. McLean County*, *Lincoln v. the Illinois Central Railroad*, *People v. Armstrong*, and other important legal cases.
- Correspondence related to Lincoln’s failed bid to become commissioner of the U.S. General Land Office and decline of offers to become either secretary or governor of the Oregon Territory.
- Speeches, letters, and memorandum concerning Lincoln’s role in the rise of the Republican Party in Illinois.
- Speeches, correspondence, scrapbooks, and other material associated with Lincoln’s senatorial campaign against Stephen A. Douglas, including accounts of the seven Lincoln-Douglas Debates from both the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Times*.
- Correspondence, speeches, and other documents from the presidential campaign of 1860 from Lincoln’s speech at Cooper Union, to his nomination at the Republican National Convention, and through his election.
- During FY 2021 and 2022, project editors will edit and publish approximately 400 documents from the Campaign Digital Edition. To assist in meeting these performance objectives, the project will hire two additional assistant editors. Funding for these positions comes from the NEH and matching private contributions.
- Our timetable is ambitious, but we are excited about the challenges ahead and confident we can reach our goals. If you have not have an opportunity to peruse *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln* Digital Library, please check out the site. We are proud what we have accomplished, and we are extremely grateful for the part the ALPLF has played in helping PAL build a second Lincoln memorial—an edifice constructed not with marble or stone, but with the words of Abraham Lincoln and those whose lives he touched.

The *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* project was made possible by generous support from donors such as Iron Mountain, The Shapell Manuscript Foundation, the Springfield Tracy Fund, the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and others.
Tell us about your professional experience before coming to ALPLM.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in Historical Studies and Literary Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2003, I taught a variety of high school history courses, working with students across all ability levels and socio-economic backgrounds. I went back to school to earn a Master of Science in Information Science with a concentration in Archives and a portfolio in Museum Education from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009. For my Capstone project, I created online, interactive modules for students using President Johnson’s daily diaries and original records from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum. Upon graduation, I accepted the position of Education Specialist at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. I spent the next three years creating the library’s education programs by designing an extensive array of classroom resources, museum programs, and educator development opportunities. I left the library in 2014 and have spent the last five years in Alaska, working as an Instructional Designer focused on curriculum design and faculty development while completing coursework toward my Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies, where I am examining the intersections between archival education, historiography, and K-12 history education. In October of last year, I relocated to Springfield to take the position of Education Director at ALPLM.

You clearly have experience teaching history and developing education programs in a museum. When did you first know this was the career for you?

Even as a young girl, I loved to teach. As my parents tell anyone willing to listen, I started teaching in 1986 when, as a kindergartner, I lined up my younger sister and a rag tag assortment of stuffed animals in front of an old green chalkboard stuffed in the sweltering loft of my parent’s barn and taught them everything I learned each day.

A year later, my passion for history began when my grandparents moved next door and I discovered a house teeming with treasures to explore. As my grandmother encouraged my curiosity, I found pastel Fröbelstern folded by my grandmother and great aunt during the Depression when they could not afford Christmas ornaments. Later, I found World War II ration stamps belonging to Frank and Marie Bauman, elderly neighbors who my family “adopted” as their own. With each new, fantastic find, I listened as she shared our family stories. I carried these stories through school, using them to make sense of events in history that, on the surface, had seemingly few ties to my life. Through my family and our collected objects and stories, however, I found meaningful connections. These experiences, and many more, inspired me as a classroom teacher, and later as a museum educator, to create opportunities for students and visitors to understand their connections to our shared past.

Why ALPLM?

Who wouldn’t want to work here?!? As an institution dedicated to preserving, honoring, and educating about the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln and the state of Illinois, ALPLM offers a phenomenal array of opportunities through which to engage our public—particularly students and educators. I’m also a complete history nerd, so when you consider that I spend my days surrounded by the “stuff” of the past and leading a team of smart, talented individuals to create fun, interactive
What are your goals for ALPLM’s Education Department?

Knowing that education is fundamental to the mission of a museum and archive, I hit the ground running! Working with my team, I developed a robust calendar for spring and summer trying a few new programming models to gauge reception within the community. I’ve also spent time getting to know the exhibits, our collection, my peers, and the programs we currently offer to visitors. Now that I’ve settled into the position, my immediate plan is to update our existing programs to reflect best practices in the education and archives fields while continuing to offer new programs, such as Little Lincoln’s Fireside Tales and the Junior Historians Summer Reading Club, our Celebrating Remarkable Women program, and the Summer in the Stacks development opportunity for educators, to name a few.

Moving forward, the Education department will focus on creating programs that reflect President Lincoln’s life and legacy, the history and people of Illinois, and the temporary exhibits on display at ALPLM. Our programs will also highlight the various roles of individuals and departments within ALPLM to make our “behind the scenes” work more accessible to the public. Finally, I plan to develop a robust program of educator development opportunities to ensure educators see ALPLM as a leader in the field of Lincoln scholarship and the incorporation of primary sources into classroom-based instruction.

What are you most excited about right now?

This is such a hard question to answer with so many exciting programs coming up. From a programming standpoint, I’m incredibly excited to engage our local educator community to facilitate their application of best practices for using original records in classroom instruction. I also can’t wait to see how the community reacts to our new youth programming, including Little Lincoln’s Fireside Tales, our Discovering History’s Mysteries camps, and the Summer Reading Club. For the Library and Museum as a whole, I’m having such a blast working with the amazing professionals across all our departments and within the Foundation to collaborate on creating the best possible experience for our visitors. In previous jobs, I’ve often been in the position of “Education: Department of One,” so it’s really exciting to work in such a dynamic team environment.
New ALPLM Board of Trustees

Ray LaHood will serve as Chairman of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Directors. With a 36-year career in public service, former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary LaHood has extensive experience in policy areas such as transportation and infrastructure. LaHood oversaw 55,000 employees and a $70 billion budget in charge of air, maritime and surface transportation. Before serving as head of DOT, he represented the 18th District of Illinois in the United States House of Representatives for 19 years, where he served on the House Appropriations and House Intelligence Committees. In addition, LaHood served as Chief of Staff to the U.S. House Minority Leader Robert Michel for 12 years. In his community, LaHood served as the Director of Rock Island County Youth Services Bureau, Chief Planner of the Bi-States Metropolitan Planning Commission and District Administrative Assistant for US Congressman Tom Railsback. He earned his Bachelor of Science from Bradley University.

Joan Brodsky will serve as the Historic Preservation Expert on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Directors. Brodsky is a current member of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, Newberry Library in Chicago, the Board of Visitors of the Syracuse University Library and the Board of Overseers of the Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City. A lifelong librarian and conservator, she is the founder and sponsor of an annual endowed lecture series and workshop on book and paper conservation and a sponsor of the Brodsky Lecture Series in support of the JD – MBA Program at Northwestern University. She earned her Master of Science in Library Science and her Bachelor of Arts in Latin and Education from Syracuse University.

Kathryn Harris will serve as a Library and Museum Expert on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Directors. Harris brings 25 years of ALPLM experience as the former Library Services Director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Historical Library. In her 43 years of service, Harris has also been the Head of Reference for the Illinois State Library and Public Services Librarian for the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. In addition, she has been a Librarian at Florida International University Library, Miami Florida and the Lincoln Library, Springfield’s public library. Harris has earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society, was named a Rail-Splitter Honoree by the American Society of Public Service Administrators and won Woman of Excellence Award from the Springfield YWCA. Harris serves on the Springfield and Central Illinois African American Arts History Museum Board, Sangamon County Historical Society Board as President, and the Abraham Lincoln Association. She earned her Master of Science from the University of Illinois and her Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University.
Gary Johnson will serve on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Directors. Johnson became the President of the Chicago History Museum after 28 years as a lawyer and partner in international law at Mayer Brown and Jones Day. Under his leadership, the Chicago History Museum has received the National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest award for museums and libraries. Johnson also served for 10 years as President of Museums in the Park. Additionally, he worked as Vice Chair on the Special Commission on the Administration of Justice in Cook County. Johnson is a member of the American Law Institute and a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Illinois State Bar Association Foundation, and he served as president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers. Johnson earned his Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, his Master of Arts from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and his Bachelor of Arts from Yale College. He also holds an honorary doctorate from Lake Forest College.

Eunice Santos will serve on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Directors. Santos is a Professor and Dean of the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, specializing in the areas of distributed processing, cybersecurity, complex adaptive systems and human modeling. She previously served as a professor at Illinois Institute of Technology, Leigh University in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Virginia Tech in the Department of Computer Science and the Genetics, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Program. Santos was also the founding director of the Institute of Defense & Security and department chair of Computer Science at the University of Texas, El Paso. Santos has received numerous awards, including a National Science Foundation Career Award, the Spira Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Robinson Faculty Award. She earned her PhD in computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

J. Steven Beckett will serve as the Abraham Lincoln Historian on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. Beckett is a frequent lecturer on the law practices of Abraham Lincoln and is a board member the Abraham Lincoln Association. He previously chaired the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Advisory Board from 2012 to 2015. Beckett is a Practitioner-in-Residence and the former director of Trial Advocacy at the College of Law, and counsel to the Urbana firm, Beckett & Webber, P.C. that he founded in 1988. In his time at Beckett & Webber, P.C., Beckett focused on litigation and appeals, appearing in Federal Courts across the Midwest and the Illinois Supreme Court twice. Beckett is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. He received awards from the Illinois Public Defenders Association and the Champaign County American Civil Liberties Union and served as president of the First Amendment Lawyers Association.

Jessica Harris will serve on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. Harris currently serves as the Interim Provost for Inclusive Academic Excellence at Southern Illinois University, where she formerly served as Director of the Black Studies Program and Provost Fellow for Diversity and Inclusion. She previously worked as an associate and assistant professor in SIU’s Department of Historical Studies. She also worked with students as a lecturer at Cornell University and as an instructor at Ithaca College’s Pre-Freshman Summer Program. Harris has earned awards such as the Dillard University 40 Under 40, the SIUE Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and the SIUE Phenomenal Woman Award. She is a member of the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, Association for the Study of African American Life and History and Association of Black Women Historians. Harris earned both her PhD and Master of Arts in history from Cornell University and her Bachelor of Arts from Dillard University.
**Jason Lesniewicz** will serve as a Cultural Tourism Expert on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. Lesniewicz currently works as the Director of Cultural Tourism at Choose Chicago. In 13 years of work in the cultural tourism industry, Lesniewicz has worked within Choose Chicago as the Cultural Tourism Manager for Neighborhoods and as Group Coordinator for the Chicago Neighborhood Tours Program. Previously, he served as a Senior Associate for the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture. Additionally, Lesniewicz serves on the Chicago Cultural Alliance Board as the Co-Chair of the Fundraising and Strategic Partnerships Committee. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Dan Monroe, Ph.D.,** will serve as the Illinois Historian on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. Currently, Monroe is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Millikin University. In addition, he has taught at universities across Illinois, such as Bradley University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 26 years of experience as a researcher, consultant and professor, Monroe has worked for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, Illinois Historical Survey of UIUC and the Abraham Lincoln Historical Digitization Project. He is a member of the Southern Historical Association, Abraham Lincoln Association, Illinois State Historical Society and Hemingway Society. Monroe earned his PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, his Master of Science from Illinois State University and his Bachelor of Science from Bradley University.

**Martin Sandoval, C.P.A.,** will serve as a Business Administration Expert on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. With over 25 years of experience in business, strategic planning and financial management, Sandoval is the founding partner of Compass Associates. He previously was a Director of Corporate Development of Sara Lee Corporation and did similar work for organizations such as the McDonald’s Corporation and Arthur Andersen. Sandoval is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society, and he has also served as Vice President for the National Museum of Mexican Art, Treasurer of the Little Village Chamber of Commerce and Vice Chair of the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement. Sandoval earned his Master of Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Commerce from DePaul University.

**Melinda Spitzer-Johnston** will serve as a Digitization, Conservation and Historic Preservation Expert on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Board of Trustees. Spitzer-Johnston is currently the Digital Media Assets Manager at Encyclopedia Britannica. She spent eight years prior at her namesake firm, Armstrong-Johnston LLC, where she served as a principal partner, archivist, historian and curator. She has also worked as the Curator of Visual and Digital Resources for the Harvard Law School Library’s Historical and Special Collections Division, and in a variety of roles for the Chicago History Museum, including Research Coordinator, Project Archivist and Curator. In addition, she served on the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Board of Trustees and as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum study panel. Spitzer-Johnston received her Master of Arts in American History from DePaul University and her Bachelor of Arts in American History from Northwestern University. She became a certified archivist in 2018.

For complete bios, visit www2.illinois.gov/alplm/museum/About/trustees/Pages/default.aspx
Upcoming Events

For more details, updates, and full events list, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov.

Exhibits

Opening TBA to help stop the spread of coronavirus – January 24, 2021

Spies, Traitors, Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America

Spies, Traitors, and Saboteurs reveals nine major events in history when Americans were threatened by enemies within the United States borders. The exhibit depicts how the government and the public responded, highlighting the evolution of U.S. counterintelligence and homeland security efforts, as well as examining the challenge of securing our nation without compromising the civil liberties upon which it was founded.

Illinois Gallery, Museum

Open Now
All Aboard!

Working in partnership with the Springfield Railroad Society, Inc., a working model railroad brings to life the construction of the rail line and the significance of connecting the United States via rail.

Union Station

Now-September 2020
“Return Visit” Sculpture

The bronze sculpture of President Lincoln and an unnamed “modern man” by Seward Johnson stands 31 feet tall and weighs 37,200 pounds.

In front of the Museum

Performances

May 7-9 and 14-16, 2020
Alabama Story

7:00 p.m.

The ALPLM is proud to present “Alabama Story.” This remarkable play written by Kenneth Jones tells the story of Alabama State Librarian Emily Wheelock Reed defunding a 1958 children’s book called “The Rabbits’ Wedding.” A local senator wanted to ban the book because it portrayed a black rabbit marrying a white rabbit. Jones bills the play as “a humor-laced social-justice drama that’s sort of a vest-pocket cousin to To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Union Theater, Museum

Tickets: $20 / $18 Members. For tickets, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8844.

Lectures and Book Signings

May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12, 2020
Illinois History Forum

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

May 14: All Aboard for Springfield’s Railroads – From the Time of Lincoln to the Present
Railfans and local history fans alike get a historical overview of the railroads existing at the time of Lincoln along with his relationship with railroads, the railroads served by Union Station during its over 70 years as an active rail passenger station, and railroads currently operating in the Capitol City.

July 9: “I Have Done My Duty as I Best Know”: The Life of Robert Todd Lincoln
Robert Todd Lincoln was the only one of Abraham and Mary’s children who lived to adulthood. Though he built a successful law practice, served the nation as secretary of war and minister to Great Britain, and flourished in business, his legacy remains divisive. Join Illinois State Historian Dr. Samuel Wheeler for an examination of Robert’s life and learn more about an upcoming LLCC Academy of Lifelong Learning bus trip that will explore “Robert Lincoln’s Chicago,” taking place September 23-25, 2020.

September 10: Defy the Odds: Illinois Women and the Nineteenth Amendment
1919 was a landmark year for women’s rights in the Land of Lincoln, as Illinois became the first state east of the Mississippi River to grant women the right to vote for president. Join Anne Moseley, Director and Curator of the Lincoln Heritage Museum, as she tells the story of the women’s suffrage movement in Illinois and the historic effort it took to secure the vote.

November 12: Civil War Stories
In commemoration of Veterans Day, join Dr. Mark DePue and local author Mark Flotow for a discussion of Flotow’s book, In Their Letters, In Their Words: Illinois Civil War Soldiers Write Home, a book that was primarily researched right here in presidential library and recounts the lives of 165 Illinois Civil War soldiers’ and sailors’ through the historical lens of their personal letters.

Multi-Purpose Room, Library


Thursday, May 21, 2020

Traitors I Have Known: Lecture and Book Signing with James Olson

Signing 6:00 p.m. Program 6:30 p.m.

Some did it for money. Others for ego. Even sex! Whatever the motivation, they were all traitors and you’ll hear the real stories when James Olson, former Chief of CIA Counterintelligence, takes you into the world of espionage as he lived it during his 31-year undercover career.

Mr. Olson will reveal why these traitors did what they did, how they operated, and how they got caught.

Prior to his presentation, James Olson will be signing copies of his new book, To Catch a Spy: The Art of Counterintelligence, available for purchase from our Museum store.

Union Theater, Museum

Tickets: $15 / $12 Members. For tickets, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8844.

Friday, June 5, 2020

Terror in the Heartland: 25 Years After the Oklahoma City Bombing

6:30 p.m.

As part of our on-going Spies, Traitors, Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America exhibit, an educator and archivist from the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum will share the story of the domestic terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Plus, you’ll have an opportunity for an up-close view of several artifacts from the bombing site that now serves as a memorial and museum to honor the 168 killed on April 19, 1995.

Union Theater, Museum

Tickets: $8 / $5 Foundation Members. For tickets, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8844.

July 2, October 1, and November 5, 2020

Tales from the Vault

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

July 2: The Making of An Exhibit: Lincoln’s Life in Letters

Producing new exhibits at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is a team effort. Join us for a look behind the scenes, as Illinois State Historian Dr. Samuel Wheeler hosts a discussion with the ALPLM team that is working to produce a future exhibit in the library, “Lincoln’s Life in Letters.”

Hear the stories that inspired the exhibit, learn about some of the work that is going into making it a reality, and see some of the original documents and objects that will be featured in the exhibit.

October 1: Rare Books - What qualities define a rare book? Is age, value, construction, or something else entirely? Could it be the story of the book: how it was made or who may have owned it? Join ALPLM’s Reference Librarian Meghan Harmon as she highlights some of her favorite treasures from the library’s Rare Book collection.

November 5: Mysteries at the Museum - The Presidential Library is not only a repository for all
things about our 16th President, but it maintains a treasure trove of Illinois history, Join ALPLM’s Acquisitions Chief, Ian Hunt for an opportunity to learn about and view up-close some of the collection’s most unique and unusual items.

**Multi-Purpose Room, Library**

Free; no reservations required.

**Friday, July 23, 2020**

**Celebrating the Girls of Summer**

7:00 p.m.

When the “Boys of Summer” shipped off to World War II and it looked like baseball might be canceled, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) stepped up to the plate to keep America’s Pastime alive and well. This summer two All-American diamond gems will relive those glory days when women ruled at the ballpark!

Not only will Shirley and Mayhelle recount their playing days and life after baseball, as well as getting the league recognized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and how the 1992 movie *A League of Their Own* immortalized the AAGPBL, but they will highlight their efforts to promote the next generation of women in baseball. This program made possible through a generous bequest by Rozanne Flatt-Robertson.

Union Theater, Museum

Tickets: $15 / $12 Members. For tickets, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8844.

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**Social**

**Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month**

**Little Lincoln’s Fireside Readers**

10:00 a.m.

Little Lincoln Fireside Tales is a new children’s literacy program for our youngest guests that’s being launched by The Education Department of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

Children 0 to 5 years old (Pre-K) are invited to join us every fourth Tuesday for Little Lincoln Fireside Tales story time, which includes arts and crafts, show and tell, and hands-on, engaging activities.

Through the creation of this program, we hope to share Abraham Lincoln’s love of books and fondness for story telling by engaging with the community at this free monthly event.

**Classroom, Library**


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**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

**ALPLM 15th Anniversary Celebration**

9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum marks our 15th anniversary this Spring with a celebration that will have you soaring to new heights!

All the fun happens Saturday, April 18 with kids getting FREE admission all-day and the museum staying open late until 8:00 p.m. The party starts in the Union Square Park with an ABE-mazing array of games and activities for the kids throughout the afternoon and culminates in a special Twilight Tethered Hot Air Balloon Experience to thrill your entire family, presented by Green Audi.

You can also learn more about the use of hot air balloons during the Civil War at our Civil War Tech-themed hot air balloon activity table.

**Museum**

Free.

**June 15, July 13, and August 10, 2020**

**Summer Reading Club**

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Junior Historians Summer Reading Club invites youth who love history and want to learn more about the past to engage in a monthly “coffee shop-style” book discussion. Each month we will select a book and ask students to read and write questions before attending the discussion. During the reading club, we will discuss key themes from the book, examine original records related to the event, and consider how the book adds to our understanding of the past.

**Classroom, Library**


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**Friday, June 19, 2020**

**Celebrating Juneteenth**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

To celebrate “Juneteenth Day”, our copy of the Emancipation Proclamation will go on display for a limited time in the museum’s Treasures Gallery. Please join us on this day as we highlight the legacy of the Emancipation Proclamation through a variety of special interactive features that will focus on original records and works of literature and art celebrating the freedom and independence of formerly enslaved people.

**Plaza and Treasures Gallery, Museum**

Free.

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**Friday, July 17, 2020**

**Modern Pop Art Experience**

6:30 p.m. (21 and older)

American Pop Artist/Author Michael Albert will lead you in a Hands-On Collage workshop. We’ll provide the art supplies and complimentary light snacks. Plus, beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available for purchase as you create your collage. All participants will also receive a free signed poster of one of Michael Albert’s limited-edition prints.

**Multi-Purpose, Library**

Tickets: $20 / $15 Members. For tickets, visit www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov or call (217) 558-8844.

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**Saturday, August 1, 2020**

**Back-to-School Bash**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shake off those end of summer blues and get ready for school at our exciting, outdoor “Back to School Bash!!” with games and hands-on, minds-on learning opportunities. All students and their families are invited to this free community event.

**Plaza, Museum**

Free.

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

**It’s the 100th of the 19th!**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us as we recognize the ratification of the 19th Amendment and 100 years of women’s right to vote! To supplement your museum experience, the Education Department has created interactive tables in the museum where you will learn more about the suffrage movement and the process to amend the U.S. Constitution. You’ll also be able to think like a historian by examining original records and answering questions about key suffragettes and the passage of the 19th Amendment.

**Plaza, Museum**

Free.

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For additional events and updates: www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov