



*The Library Company* OF PHILADELPHIA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Library Company of Philadelphia and Prof. Lori Ginzberg Receive NEH Grant**

**Philadelphia, PA— August 16, 2016**

The Library Company of Philadelphia and Prof. Lori Ginzberg of Penn State University have been awarded an NEH grant of \$81,907 to implement a three-week Summer Seminar for K-12 school teachers in July 2017. Based in historic Center City Philadelphia, this seminar will bring together sixteen educators for a close study of primary documents, scholarly readings, and historic sites to address the question "What Did Independence Mean for Women, 1776 – 1876?" Drawing from the intersections of women's social and intellectual histories, the seminar will focus particular attention on black and white women's contrasting experiences based on their racial, legal, and class identities and statuses. Through readings, discussion, field trips, and lectures, participants will address women's experiences, think critically about the concept of independence, and consider sources that would be appropriate to their own classroom discussions of United States history.

According to Director Emeritus John Van Horne, the collaboration between Professor Ginzberg and the Library Company is both exciting and timely. "Several years ago," he notes, "the Library Company established a Program in Women's History to foster scholarship, enhance public understanding, and augment our holdings in the field. We are delighted to host a summer seminar that will welcome more than a dozen K-12 teachers from across the country to this vibrant institutional, scholarly, and educational community."

Underscoring the Library Company of Philadelphia's and the NEH's commitments to making scholarship in the humanities available to the broader public, the seminar schedule will include two public lectures by prominent scholars: Erica Armstrong Dunbar, the Blue and Gold Professor of Black Studies and History at University of Delaware and Director of the Library Company's Program in African American History, will speak about her new book, [Never Caught: Ona Judge Staines, The President's Runaway Slave Woman](#). Judith Giesberg, Professor of History at Villanova University and the project director and lead editor of [Emilie Davis's Civil War: The Diaries of a Free Black Woman in Philadelphia, 1863-1865](#), will offer an address on black women's activism on the homefront during the Civil War.

Philadelphia itself will be an important resource for seminar participants, who will visit some of the historical sites associated with the early Republic, including Independence National Historic Park, the President's House Exhibit, and Mother Bethel Church. The seminar will also include a private walking tour of "women's industrial Philadelphia," designed for us by Dr. Barbara Klaczynska, who specializes in the history of women and work in Philadelphia and is an expert in public history. Participants will consider what those sites—and the interpretations of them—

demonstrate about American women's history as well as how a focus on women might shift the sites' role in shaping historical memory.

### **About the Seminar Director**

Prof. Lori Ginzberg has been a scholar and teacher of U.S. women's intellectual and social history for three decades; she has taught in the Departments of History and Women's Studies at Penn State University since 1987. Prof. Ginzberg is the author of several books, most recently [Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life](#). She is the recipient of a number of prestigious fellowships, including an NEH individual fellowship (2006-2007) and a Guggenheim fellowship (2012-2013). She is an enthusiastic and energetic teacher in a wide range of courses, including U.S. women's history, American social reform, feminist perspectives on research and teaching, and lesbian and gay history.

### **About The Library Company of Philadelphia**

Founded in 1731 by Benjamin Franklin, the Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library and educational institution specializing in American and global history from the 17th through the early 20th centuries. Claiming one of the world's largest holdings of early American imprints, the Library Company also has internationally-renowned collections in early African American history, economic history, women's history, the history of medicine, and visual culture. Through years of collaborations with local institutions and scholars, the Library Company has a successful track record for running seminars for K-12 educators. The institution's extensive collections provide a wealth of women's and African American historical resource material for researchers, making it, and the city of Philadelphia itself, ideal for this seminar. The Library Company promotes access to these collections through fellowships, exhibitions, programs, and online resources. To find out more, please visit [www.librarycompany.org](http://www.librarycompany.org)

### **About the National Endowment for the Humanities**

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).



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