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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project
and the Black History Project Committee
present an author talk and signing with
DEBORAH WILLIS and BARBARA KRAUTHAMER -- coauthors of
ENVISIONING EMANCIPATION: BLACK AMERICANS AND THE END OF SLAVERY
Sunday, September 22, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the
Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project will host an author talk and signing on Sunday, September 22, 2013 with Deborah Willis and Barbara Krauthamer, coauthors of *ENVISIONING EMANCIPATION: BLACK AMERICANS AND THE END OF SLAVERY*. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center. Following the presentation, Professors Willis and Krauthamer will be available to sign copies of the book at the New Deal Store. Attendees can visit the Library's new permanent exhibition after the program, free of charge. This event is free and open to the public.

In their pioneering book, *ENVISIONING EMANCIPATION*, renowned photographic historian Deborah Willis and historian of slavery Barbara Krauthamer have amassed 150 photographs -- some never before published -- from the antebellum days of the 1850s through the New Deal era of the 1930s. The authors vividly display the seismic impact of emancipation on African Americans born before and after the Proclamation, providing a perspective on freedom and slavery and a way to understand the photos as documents of engagement, action, struggle, and aspiration.

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ENVISIONING EMANCIPATION illustrates what freedom looked like for black Americans in the Civil War era. From photos of the enslaved on plantations and African American soldiers and camp workers in the Union Army to Juneteenth celebrations, slave reunions, and portraits of black families and workers in the American South, the images in this book challenge perceptions of slavery. They show not only what the subjects emphasized about themselves but also the ways Americans of all colors and genders opposed slavery and marked its end. Filled with powerful images of lives too often ignored or erased from historical records, *Envisioning Emancipation* provides a new perspective on American culture.

DEBORAH WILLIS, a leading historian and curator of African American photography and culture, is Chair and Professor of Photography and Imaging at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. She was a MacArthur Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, and a Fletcher Fellow. Her co-authored book *MICHELLE OBAMA: THE FIRST LADY IN PHOTOGRAPHS* received the 2010 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work -- Biography/Autobiography. Her most recent books are *POSING BEAUTY: AFRICAN AMERICAN IMAGES FROM THE 1890S TO THE PRESENT* and *BLACK VENUS 2010: THEY CALLED HER "HOTTENTOT."*

BARBARA KRAUTHAMER is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is the author of *BLACK SLAVES, INDIAN MASTERS: SLAVERY, EMANCIPATION, AND CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATIVE AMERICAN SOUTH* as well as many articles and essays on the history of slavery and emancipation. She has received fellowships and awards from the Association of Black Women Historians, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Stanford University, The University of Texas at Austin, Yale University, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

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Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

The Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project (MHAHP) is a non-profit group created in 2006 to bring together researchers, educators, community leaders, and members of the public to: conduct and synthesize research on the history of antislavery in the Mid-Hudson Valley, with special emphasis on the Underground Railroad; interpret this history and share these interpretations with a wide array of residents and visitors in our area, with particular attention to students and youth; and place this local history in the broader contexts of racial slavery in the New World, the African-American experience, and antislavery legacies today, including the impact of this historic grassroots movement on subsequent struggles for racial and social justice. For information visit www.mhantislaveryhistoryproject.org.

The Black History Project Committee, a new name change, has operated for over 20 years. Our purpose is to promulgate the history of Black People through a variety of programs that will inform the community of the rich history and contributions made by Black People for the benefit of all people. We do this by sponsoring education forums and lectures for the general public; promote forums and lectures associated with our mission; engage in outreach programs in schools and colleges and launch trips to historic sites which support our purpose. Membership is open to all who are interested in African-American History.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

As generations of Americans that have no personal memory of the Roosevelt Era emerge, it is more critical than ever that the lives and legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt be preserved and presented to new generations. The Franklin D. Roosevelt

Presidential Library and Museum stands ready to serve as a visible and valuable resource for children and families, educators and students, and an international audience seeking to understand the past to make a better tomorrow. With a newly renovated building and new permanent museum exhibits the Library seeks to honor President Roosevelt's vision in dedicating his Library to the American people. The Roosevelt Library is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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