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May 29, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
and the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project present
“The Underground Railroad in New York State: Harriet Tubman and Beyond,”
a multimedia presentation by
Underground Railroad historian and author Prof. Judith Wellman
Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project are pleased to present “The Underground Railroad in New York State: Harriet Tubman and Beyond,” a multimedia presentation by Underground Railroad historian and author Prof. Judith Wellman, on Sunday, June 10, 2012. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center. This event is free and open to the public.

During the presentation, Prof. Wellman will discuss the remarkable importance of New York State in the Underground Railroad. She will outline the story of Tubman as a model for thousands of people who escaped from slavery along New York's rivers, canals, turnpikes, and railroads, aided by large numbers of abolitionists -- both African American and European American. Many people think that documenting the Underground Railroad is almost impossible, since it was a secret movement. This talk will show otherwise.

Judith Wellman, Ph.D. is Historian and Principal Investigator, Historical New York Research Associates and Professor Emerita, State University of New York at Oswego. Prof. Wellman has more than 30 years of award-winning experience in research, teaching, cultural resource surveys, and grants administration in U.S. history, women's history, local history, Underground Railroad history, and historic preservation. After earning her Ph.D. at the University of Virginia in 1974, Judith Wellman taught history at

the State University of New York at Oswego. Prof. Wellman has worked as a consultant and principal investigator on projects with the National Park Service, the New York State Archives, National Public Radio, and the U.S. Department of Education.

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 Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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