



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, May 4, 2012

CONTACT: Eileen Labrador  
619-533-3968

### **SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST “MAKING SENSE OF THE CIVIL WAR” READING AND DISCUSSION PROGRAM**

*Program Reflects on the Ramifications of America’s Greatest Internal Conflict*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will host “*Making Sense of the American Civil War*” reading and discussion program sponsored by the American Library Association, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cal Humanities, and the California History-Social Science Project on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. at the Logan Heights Branch Library located at 567 So. 28th St. San Diego CA 92113. Participants may read one of three books available at the library. Leading Civil War scholar, Professor Edward Blum of the Department of History at San Diego State University (SDSU) will lead the program, designed to encourage participants to consider the legacy of the Civil War and emancipation.

“The Civil War takes us back to a time in American history when civility ruptured and the nation split in two,” said Jim Leach, chairman of NEH. “The sesquicentennial of the Civil War and emancipation is an occasion for America to reflect together about the causes and ramifications of our greatest internal conflict, and a most appropriate way for ‘us the living’ to renew the American spirit in these still-troubled times.”

The San Diego Public Library is one of four public libraries across the state to host “Making Sense of the Civil War.” Local support for the series is provided by the San Diego Unified School District and are lineage societies including the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The following works in the series are available for check out:

- ***March*** by Geraldine Brooks, is a novel which imagines the Civil War experiences of Mr. March, the absent father in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*
- ***Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*** by eminent Civil War historian James McPherson paints a masterful account of the Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day in American history with more than 6,000 soldiers killed, the events that led up to it, and its aftermath.

-more-

- ***America's War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries***, edited by Edward Ayers, compiles historical fiction, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biography, and short stories.

Dr. Blum is a historian of race and religion in the United States. He is the author of *Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865-1898* for which he was awarded the Peter Seaborg Award for the best book in Civil War Studies in 2006. His courses include Antebellum America, the Civil War and Reconstruction, American religious history, and history through biography.

City of San Diego Public Library cardholders who would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to read and participate in the discussion and need copies of the books may pick them up at the Logan Heights Branch Library, or go online to place holds on the titles with their library account and PIN to have them sent to a San Diego Public Library branch.

Learn about future programs and other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org). All library events are free and open to the public.

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*  
###