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**Annette Gordon-Reed to be Honored with Old North Illuminated's Third Lantern Award
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Historian to Serve as Keynote Speaker at Event Celebrating the Anniversary of Paul
Revere's Ride and Old North Church's 300th Birthday**

Thursday, April 20



Annette Gordon-Reed, Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard University, Pulitzer Prize Winner, MacArthur "Genius Award" Recipient

BOSTON – “One if by land, two if by sea.” On Thursday, April 20, Old North Illuminated will honor Annette Gordon-Reed, Carl M. Loeb University Professor at Harvard, Pulitzer Prize Winner, and MacArthur “Genius Award” Recipient, with the Third Lantern Award at Lanterns & Luminaries, a commemoration and reenactment of the famous lantern signal that illuminated the path for the American Revolution. The event concludes a week-long celebration with Patriot’s Day and the 300th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for Old North Church, Boston’s oldest surviving church.

The celebration recognizes the events of April 18, 1775, when allies of Paul Revere hung two lanterns from Old North Church’s steeple as a warning to their fellow patriots that British troops were on the move. After passing critical information to the signal holders, Paul Revere began his iconic midnight journey to Lexington and Concord. The courageous actions of Revere and the lantern bearers are an inspirational reminder of the power of active citizenship to spark change and create equitable communities and a more perfect union.

Since the 1975 bicentennial anniversary of the lantern hanging, Boston residents and community leaders have gathered at Old North Church every April for a celebration recognizing the patriots who facilitated that fateful night. Gordon-Reed is the 2023 recipient of the national landmark’s Third Lantern Award for her continued work shining a light on the stories and histories that have been previously excluded from the accepted historical understanding of our nation’s origins. Her lauded academic contributions demonstrate the importance of historical inclusion, empowering communities to claim their place in history. She will serve as the keynote speaker for this year’s event.

“Annette’s work spotlighting the Hemings family has helped change how we can and should teach the complex origins of our nation,” says Nikki Stewart, Executive Director of Old North Illuminated. “Old North Illuminated is undertaking a similar effort to present a comprehensive history that includes Old North Church’s active participation in colonialism and enslavement. The lantern signals helped launch a revolution that, unfortunately, did not bring liberty and justice for all.”

Gordon-Reed has received numerous honors for her work, including the Pulitzer Prize for History, the National Book Award, the Frederick Douglass Book Prize, the McArthur Fellowship and the National Humanities Medal. She was the Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at the University of Oxford (Queens

College) 2014-2015. Between 2010 and 2015, she was the Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Gordon-Reed served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College from 2010 to 2018. In 2011, she was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served on the Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences. She was the 2018-2019 President of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Additionally, in 2019, she was elected as a member of the American Philosophical Society. Today, she is the President of the Ames Foundation, a nonprofit that strives to advance legal knowledge and improve the law, as well as the President of Society of American Historians.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Third Lantern Award. It is always good to know that others appreciate your work and understand what you were trying to do when creating it. Giving voice to the people who were silenced by slavery is at the heart of my work. I'm so glad my effort has been recognized," says Gordon-Reed.

Lanterns & Luminaries will be an uplifting evening featuring the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums; a reading of the poem "Paul Revere's Ride" by Susan Tran, Emmy Award-winning anchor for NBC Boston; a keynote provided by Gordon-Reed; and Old North Illuminated Executive Director Nikki Stewart's reflections on the role of active citizenship in the ongoing struggle for justice and equity. The event will conclude with the ceremonial lighting and hanging of two lanterns in Old North's iconic steeple as a beacon of liberty, tenacity, and hope with a reception to follow.

This year's celebration will be held in person from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Old North Church & Historic Site, located at 193 Salem Street in Boston. Proceeds will support Old North Illuminated's virtual and on-site programs, which aim to inspire children and adults alike to consider the ways in which they can build a more just and equitable world. Individual tickets range from \$75 to \$200 and must be purchased in advance. To register, visit:

<https://www.oldnorth.com/lanterns/>

About Old North Illuminated / Old North Church & Historic Site

Established in 1991 as the Old North Foundation, Old North Illuminated is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is responsible for historic site operations and interpretative, educational, and preservation programs at the iconic Old North Church & Historic Site. A secular organization that is independent of Christ Church in the City of Boston, Old North Illuminated welcomes approximately 500,000 visitors annually while overseeing the preservation of an enduring symbol of American independence. Old North Illuminated serves a wide audience by creating meaningful experiences through educational outreach, site-specific programming, and historical analysis. ONI works collaboratively with the City of Boston, the U.S National Park Service, the Freedom Trail Foundation, and other partners to foster educational and interpretive programs for students and visitors while engaging the public in Old North Church's history and its role in inspiring liberty and freedom. For more information, visit: www.oldnorth.com.

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