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**NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES LINEUP OF EVENTS DURING NATIONAL PARKS WEEK NYC SEPTEMBER 19-27, 2009**

The National Parks Conservation Association will launch National Parks Week NYC, September 19-27, 2009, a series of public events which will celebrate the rich history of our national parks and launch a national dialogue about the future of the parks as they enter their second century. National Parks Week NYC will provide countless opportunities to entertain and educate the whole family, from a Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth to Grant's Tomb after Dark to an Evening Tour of Liberty Island.

The signature event of the week, "Feel Free: A National Parks Celebration in Central Park," will feature highlights from Ken Burns's documentary, "THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA" and musical acts by an array of talented performers. The live show from East Meadow in Central Park will be shared via satellite to PBS affiliates and other partners around the country.

All events listed are open to the public. For more information on National Parks Week NYC and the "Feel Free" event, go to [www.FeelFree.org](http://www.FeelFree.org).

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**Obata's Yosemite Exhibition**

Saturday, September 9 through Friday, September 25

Location: Federal Hall National Memorial

Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Service

*Obata's Yosemite* is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The exhibition's tour is supported in part by the C.F. Foundation, Atlanta and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund.

Chiura Obata (1885-1975), born in Okayama-ken, Japan, was one of the earliest Japanese artists to live and work in the United States. In 1927, he visited Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada, where he made approximately 100 drawings in pencil, watercolor and sumi ink. The following year, he returned to Japan for a visit and brought 35 of the drawings to be translated into color woodcuts. Between 1928 and 1930, while Obata was in Tokyo, he transformed these California landscape watercolors and sketches into a limited-edition portfolio titled "World Landscape Series."

The final intricate woodblock prints resemble Obata's watercolors, with lines like brush strokes and areas of delicately layered color. They are characterized by a distinctive merging of Japanese and Western printmaking styles and techniques. *Obata's Yosemite* features 27 prints and

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|   | watercolors and a series of 20 progressive proofs all depicting Yosemite National Park.   |
| <b>International Coastal Clean-up Day</b>                                 | <p>Saturday, September 19 through Saturday, September 26; 10:00am – 1:00pm<br/>           Location: Gateway National Recreation Area/ Jamaica Bay Unit/ Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and the North Channel Bridge Parking Lot<br/>           Hosted by the American Littoral Society</p> <p>The American Littoral Society is coordinating cleanups and plantings at many Gateway NRA sites in NYC. For a complete list with dates and times check <a href="http://www.alsnyc.org">www.alsnyc.org</a> or call (718) 471-2166 for more information. At Plum Beach, Brooklyn on Saturday, September 26, we will collect and document floatable debris on the beach as well as plant native grasses and trees along the marsh, dunes and uplands. Contact Don Riepe to register (718) 318-9344.</p>  |
| <b>Nature's Air Show at the Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo</b> | <p>Saturday, September 19, Sunday, September 20; 10:00am – 5:30pm<br/>           Location: Bronx Zoo<br/>           Hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Association and the National Park Service</p> <p>Bring the family for a fascinating experience with eagles, hawks, falcons and vultures during the Bronx Zoo's Nature's Air Show. Watch these raptors of the wild soar and dive overhead and visit with them up close after the show. The National Parks of New York Harbor will participate in the Nature's Air Show event with a special kiosk, and National Park Service staff will be present to speak to visitors and distribute literature about the parks. Get 50% off one child's admission with one paid adult. For more information, visit <a href="http://Bronxzoo.com/Airshow">Bronxzoo.com/Airshow</a>.</p>                                      |
| <b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20</b>   |   |
| <b>Bears in National Parks</b>  | <p>Sunday, September 20; 1:00pm<br/>           Location: Brooklyn Children's Museum; 145 Brooklyn Ave; Brooklyn, NY 11213-1900<br/>           Hosted by the Brooklyn Children's Museum</p> <p>Join Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson for an interactive talk about these furry omnivores. Find out what they eat and where they live, hear some legends people tell about them and see some ursine objects from the Museum's collection. Everyone who brings a teddy bear (children and adults) will receive \$1 off Museum admission on Sunday, September 20.</p>  |
| <b>Film Screenings: "Red Gold" and Other Short Documentaries</b>          | <p>Sunday, September 20 and Monday, September 21; 7:30pm<br/>           Location: Picnic House, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY<br/>           Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association</p> <p>"Red Gold" follows the subsistence and commercial salmon fishermen of Bristol Bay, Alaska, as they work tirelessly to make their living off the land and water, and combat the proposed open pit gold and copper Pebble Mine. This stunning, award winning documentary film captures these local subsistence, sport and commercial fishing families hard at work and sharing their thoughts and fears about how the proposed Pebble Mine may transform the region and one of the world's last remaining intact wild salmon fisheries. Event is free of charge. Visit <a href="http://www.prospectpark.org">www.prospectpark.org</a> for more information.</p> |
| <b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</b>  |   |
| <b>Grant's Tomb after Dark</b>  | <p>Tuesday, September 22, 2009; 8:00pm<br/>           Location: General Grant National Memorial<br/>           Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>Meet a Park Ranger in the outdoor plaza in front of the memorial for an afterhours visit by</p>   |

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|  | <p>candlelight deep into the mausoleum’s underground crypt. See the great granite sarcophagi of Ulysses S. Grant and his wife Julia. There, you might also find yourself exchanging glances with the busts of the five notable generals who watch over Grant’s final rest. This is not an ordinary tour of the memorial, but a unique opportunity to experience the essence of the building. For additional information, call 212-666-1640.</p>  |
| <p><b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>Lantern Tour of Fort Wadsworth</b></p>   | <p>Wednesday, September 23 and Friday, September 25; 6:30pm<br/>                 Location: Gateway National Recreation Area/ Staten Island Unit/ Fort Wadsworth Visitor Center<br/>                 Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>Enjoy our most popular tour as you explore the historic sites of the fort on this ranger-led lantern tour. Bring a flashlight. Reservations required. Call 718-354-4500 or visit <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gate">www.nps.gov/gate</a>.</p>  |
| <p><b>The Children’s Museum of the Arts</b></p>  | <p>Wednesday, September 23 to Sunday, September 27; 12:00pm – 5:00pm<br/>                 Thursday, September 24; 12:00pm – 6:00pm<br/>                 Location: The Children’s Museum of the Arts, 182 Lafayette St., New York, NY<br/>                 Hosted by the Children’s Museum of the Arts NY</p> <p>Join CMA Wednesday through Sunday, during our general hours, for our park themed guided workshops. CMA teaching artist will work with visitors to use a variety of art medium to create park art! Admission \$10/person (1 to 65 years). Pay as You Wish Thursday 4-6pm. For more information visit <a href="http://www.cmany.org">www.cmany.org</a>.</p>  |
| <p><b>Feel Free: A National Parks Celebration in Central Park</b></p>                      | <p>Wednesday, September 23; 7:00pm<br/>                 Location: Central Park; East Meadow<br/>                 Hosted by the National Parks Conservation Association and PBS</p> <p>Event will include clips from Ken Burns’s “THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA’S BEST IDEA” and musical performances from Eric Benet, Gavin DeGraw, Jose Feliciano, Carole King, Alison Krauss and Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas and Peter Dinklage. The live show from East Meadow in Central Park will be shared via satellite to PBS affiliates and other partners around the country.</p>  |
| <p><b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>Federal Hall National Memorial September 1776</b></p>                                | <p>Thursday, September 24; 10:00am – 4:00pm<br/>                 Location: Federal Hall National Memorial<br/>                 Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>Federal Hall National Memorial will conduct a special program on the American Revolution and its impact on New York City. The program will consist of NPS staff and volunteers in period uniforms and civilian clothing interpreting the time period concentrating on military operations, but also the day-to-day life of the city residents. Fife and drum music will be provided as well as a lecture conducted by Barnett Schecter, author of the Battle for New York. Programs will also be conducted by NPS Staff as well as the staff of the Van Cortlandt House Museum. Programs will cover the military operations of both the Crown and Continental Forces as well as the contribution of African Americans and women to the war effort on both sides.</p> |
| <p><b>Spotlight Tour: The National Parks at the American Museum of Natural History</b></p> | <p>Saturday, September 26; 11:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm<br/>                 Location: American Museum of Natural History (meet at entrance to The Akeley Hall of African Mammals, just off the main entrance rotunda)<br/>                 Hosted by the American Museum of Natural History</p>   |

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|   | <p>On each hour-long tour, 25 visitors will discover the landscapes and legacy of National Parks at the American Museum of Natural History. This tour, free with suggested Museum admission, will explore a variety of park environments through the Museum’s stunning dioramas, and learn how the history of the parks and the Museum are closely intertwined.</p>  |
| <p><b>Natural Hysteria Scavenger Hunt: National Parks Edition</b></p> | <p>Saturday, September 26; 3:00pm<br/>           Location: American Museum of Natural History<br/>           Hosted by Watson Adventures</p> <p>Go on a national park-themed version of one of Watson Adventures most popular hunts—a whirlwind tour of everything American about the American Museum of Natural History. Highlights include an angry otter, a tree trunk with more square footage than most New York apartments, the Grand Canyon and a critter you’d hate to kiss. \$31 to participate. Advance purchase required via <a href="http://WatsonAdventures.com">WatsonAdventures.com</a>.</p>  |
| <p><b>An Evening on Ellis Island</b></p>                              | <p>Thursday, September 24; 6:30pm – 9:30pm<br/>           Location: Ellis Island Immigration Museum<br/>           Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>A special opportunity to visit Ellis Island and see the skyline of Manhattan and Lady Liberty from a whole new perspective. By reservation: tickets include ferry ride, tour of the museum and island, snacks and beverages. Call 212-363-3200 x100.</p>   |
| <p><b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b></p>                                    |  |
| <p><b>An Evening On Liberty Island</b></p>                            | <p>Friday, September 25; 6:30pm – 9:30pm<br/>           Location: Statue of Liberty National Monument<br/>           Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>A special opportunity to visit Liberty Island and experience the majesty of Lady Liberty and New York Harbor at night. By reservation: tickets include ferry ride, tour of the Island, snacks and beverages. Call 212-363-3200 x100.</p>   |
| <p><b>Sandy Hook Beach Campfire</b></p>                               | <p>Friday, September 25; 7:00pm – 9:00pm<br/>           Location: Gateway National Recreation Area/ Jamaica Bay Unit/ Jacob Riis Park, Bay 14<br/>           Hosted by the National Park Service</p> <p>Park rangers and volunteers will give talks on the natural and historic treasures found at the park, all in a beautiful beach setting. A sing along will follow. Bring a chair or blanket. Reservations required. Call 718.318.4300 or visit <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gate">www.nps.gov/gate</a>.</p>   |
| <p><b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26</b></p>                                  |  |
| <p><b>National Public Lands Day</b></p>                               | <p>Saturday, September 26, 10:00am – 1:00pm<br/>           Location: Gateway National Recreation Area/ Jamaica Bay Unit/ Various Gateway sites in Brooklyn and Queens<br/>           Hosted by National Park Service</p> <p>National Public Lands Day, a program of the National Environmental Education Foundation, is the nation’s largest single-day service event for public lands. This September 26, over 130,000 volunteers will gather at over 2,000 projects and lend a hand to our public lands. To sign up for these events, call 718-338-3799. Visit <a href="http://www.publiclandsday.org">www.publiclandsday.org</a> for more information and to find additional work projects in the New York City area.</p> |

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| <b>Jamaica Bay Sunset Cruise</b> | Saturday, September 26; 4:00pm – 7:00pm<br>Location: Gateway National Recreation Area/ Jamaica Bay Unit/ Sheepshead Bay Pier<br>Hosted by the American Littoral Society<br><br>Enjoy a three-hour boat tour of Jamaica Bay with the American Littoral Society. Learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of the bay, and see many migrating species. Cost: \$45 includes narrated tour and onboard snacks. Reservations required. Call 718-318-9344 or visit <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gate">www.nps.gov/gate</a> . |
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**About National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)**

Since 1919, the nonpartisan National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting our national parks. With 325,000 members and supporters, NPCA is the largest independent, membership organization dedicated to protecting the natural, cultural, and historic treasures of our National Park System. Our mission is to protect and enhance our national parks today for our children and grandchildren tomorrow. For more information, visit: [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

For more information on National Parks Week NYC and opportunities to support America's national parks with the National Parks Conservation Association, visit [www.FeelFree.org](http://www.FeelFree.org). Visit the National Parks online via Facebook at [www.facebook.com/npca.org](http://www.facebook.com/npca.org), on Twitter at @NPCA.

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