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**ANDREW JACKSON'S HERMITAGE TO HOST 123RD SPRING OUTING
FEATURING ACCLAIMED AUTHOR GERALDINE BROOKS AS KEYNOTE**

Hundreds Expected at Time-Honored Event Tuesday, May 14

NASHVILLE (Jan. 17, 2024) – Spring Outing at The Hermitage, a highly anticipated Nashville occasion with roots dating back to the 1890s, will return to the historic homeplace of Andrew Jackson for the 123rd time Tuesday, May 14. This distinguished seated luncheon will welcome hundreds of guests to the grounds of the 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark, continuing a time-honored tradition known for its elegance, hospitality and commitment to philanthropy.

New York Times-bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks will keynote this year's event. Celebrated for her impeccably researched historical novels, including "Horse," "The Secret Chord" and "March," Brooks brings a wealth of knowledge and literary prowess to the event. As a former *Wall Street Journal* correspondent in various countries, Brooks combines storytelling with a journalist's eye for detail and a deep engagement with historical and social issues.

"The Hermitage serves a vital role in preserving American history and facilitating discussions on the relevance of Andrew Jackson's life and times to contemporary events," said Brooks. "It is an honor to contribute to this Nashville tradition as the keynote speaker at this year's Spring Outing."

Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Brooks' "Horse" is a novel that explores art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism. Published in 2022, the novel received the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. The Hermitage was a notable home to horse racing and breeding during Jackson's time when it was the nation's most popular sporting pursuit. Jackson so loved it that as president, he brought his entire stable and racing operation with him to the White House.

"I am proud to serve as the chair of this year's Spring Outing, a beloved Nashville event that supports the Andrew Jackson Foundation's many education programs and preservation projects," said Rebecca Collins, a seasoned leader in fundraising for the arts and education. "It is a wonderful opportunity to come together to reflect on history and contribute to the Andrew Jackson Foundation's mission to create learning opportunities and inspire citizenship."

Spring Outing began as a picnic on the main lawn of the mansion, hosted by the Ladies' Hermitage Association. Uniting to preserve Andrew Jackson's home and legacy, the association became the Andrew Jackson Foundation (AJF). Over the years, Spring Outing has become a prominent Nashville fundraiser benefiting the foundation's educational and preservation programs. Past speakers have included former

First Lady Laura Bush, former Tennessee First Lady Crissy Haslam and former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman, adding to the event's distinguished history.

"Each year's Spring Outing plays a crucial role in our ongoing work to promote education and dialogue about the Jacksonian legacy," said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation. "We are excited to welcome the distinguished Geraldine Brooks, reconnect with old friends and make new connections as the Nashville community supports this tradition in its 123rd year at The Hermitage. And mid-May is one of the loveliest times of the year to experience this remarkable property."

The 123rd Spring Outing luncheon will feature floral designs by Alison Bryant Events, setting design by Curated Events and a menu prepared and served by Kristen Winston Catering. Past AJF Regent George Paine will deliver the event's invocation, and AJF Regent John L. Nau III will officially welcome the attendees.

Planned for Tuesday, May 14, the 2024 Spring Outing begins at 11:30 a.m. on the grounds of The Hermitage. Individual tickets start at \$150 and are available at thehermitage.com/spring-outing. Andrew Jackson's Hermitage is located at 4580 Rachel's Lane in Nashville. For more information, visit thehermitage.com.

About Andrew Jackson's Hermitage

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President is one of the largest, most well preserved and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened to the public in 1889, The Hermitage is one of America's first presidential museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 20 historic buildings, including Jackson's mansion and tomb, restored slave cabins, a church and gardens. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as the history of slavery have enhanced the experiences of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit thehermitage.com.

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