ANY other nation's efforts, he went up into a mountain and when he was set, his disciples came unto him.

2. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3. Blessed are the poor in spirit:
   for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. Blessed are they that mourn:
   for they shall be comforted.

5. Blessed are the meek:
   for they shall inherit the earth.

6. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
   for they shall be filled.

7. Blessed are the merciful:
   for they shall obtain mercy.

8. Blessed are the pure in heart:
   for they shall see God.

9. Blessed are the peace-makers:
   for they shall be called the children of God.

10. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11. Blessed are you, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven.
JOHN GRAY
The Elizabeth MacMillan Director

“Everything changes, nothing is lost.”

This saying is particularly relevant to history museums. At the National Museum of American History, we are not “saving the past” as it has not disappeared, but we are celebrating, probing and understanding the past, with the best intentions of understanding it.

As the ninth director of this incredible national museum, I take this job very seriously, and am also keenly aware that it is our past and our future, together, that has to be integrated into this American story and shared. Our history, like all histories, has many stories, many peoples, many periods and many dreams. It is not a simple story and must be told with vigor, and honesty. And to present history, we must translate it into an active, not passive, visitor experience while always keeping to the highest standard of care for the collection and our mission.

First, we are a museum about time and chronology. Our visitor both expects and deserves context for stories, artifacts, and ideas. And we have to find a better way to provide history education to many who do not already understand or know the basics of our historic narrative.

Secondly, we are a museum where artifacts, and the stories emanating from these objects, get told. We have the preeminent collection in the country about the American people and we are both compelled and challenged to use these objects brilliantly and with great respect.

If there is anything that we must do, it is to focus on the visitor experience: what they see, what they hear, and what they feel and even what they taste. And to do that for our larger public, for those who walk through our doors in the nation’s capital, for those who hope to visit here in person and for those who experience the Museum through the many ways we reach beyond our walls: on the Web, in Smithsonian magazine, on Smithsonian Channel, within books, via electronic field trips, through teacher outreach, loans to Smithsonian Affiliates and other museums and traveling exhibitions.

I invite you to move forward with us, embracing change while working to express and present our shared history, as nothing is lost.


JOHN F. W. ROGERS
Board Chair

During my tenure as Chairman of the Board of the National Museum of American History, I had the pleasure of building on a foundation laid by a generation of passionate preservationists and gifted historians: Founding Board Chairman the Honorable Ivan Selin; Pete Clausser; and the late Dick Darman, whose visionary work and role on the Blue Ribbon Commission was the catalyst for the Museum’s renovation, and without whose engagement I never would have been involved in this great institution. It is my honor to pass the torch on to new leadership and to a cadre of strong individuals who are equally devoted to both the continued growth of our work together and to an unyielding focus on the Museum’s important mission for the generations to come. I look forward to continuing to work with them as a Board member.

The central thread that runs through the fabric of my experience as chairman remains the incredible people with whom I have been so fortunate to collaborate. I have found these colleagues to be defined by an undiminished sense of purpose and a consistency of spirit that has helped to influence the evolving face and practice of preservation. There are simply too many individuals to mention in full, but I do want to thank Brent Glass, whose near-decade tenure as Director of the Museum consistently garnered my respect.

Of course, the Museum’s many achievements over the past years would not have been possible but for the wellspring of knowledge and tireless commitment of the dedicated staff. Every day, these patriots help to bring a real sense of the American experience to the fore, making it relevant to our everyday consciousness. In so doing, they bring meaning and color to the history of our nation. The educational programs and exhibits they have conceptualized and developed have become models not only for other Smithsonian museums, but also for museums around the world.

The Museum is, in a very real sense, a sanctuary for reflection and a place for gratitude and quiet awe. The objects here and the collective stories they tell remind us that adversity doesn’t pass; it is overcome. Innovation isn’t conjured from the empty air; it is bred of human creativity and human effort. Injustice doesn’t disappear; it is conquered. History does not just happen; people make it. And all who have been a part of the Museum’s effort to protect and preserve what has happened in the past are part of the equally important undertaking of preparing for what is yet to come.

Ours is famously an optimistic country. And that optimism is on proud display within the walls of our National Museum. I stand grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the Museum, and the nation, as Chairman of the Board, and look with equal optimism toward the work the next generation will do to further build out the narrative of our country. And as they say—the rest, is history.
THOMAS JEFFERSON’S BIBLE: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth

This exhibition in the Albert H. Small Documents Gallery focused on a remarkable, little-known book from the early 19th century: a private text Jefferson assembled in 1820 and called The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth. His aim was to tell a chronological version of the life of Jesus, distilling his moral teachings and excluding those aspects that appeared to him “contrary to reason.”

Bound in Morocco leather with gold tooling, this volume was constructed like a scrapbook. Jefferson cut passages from the New Testament in four languages and glued them onto blank folios in columns.

After nearly 200 years, the book required extensive conservation. The pages were stiff and the tight binding led to cracking and tearing of the pages. Conservators cleaned and stabilized the book, mended damaged pages and rebound the folios into the original cover.

Smithsonian Books released a full-color reproduction with essays by Museum historians Harry Rubenstein and Barbara Clark Smith and conservator Janice Stagnitto Ellis.

Smithsonian Channel produced Jefferson’s Secret Bible, telling the extraordinary story of this book and the intricate conservation work.

“I am of a sect by myself, as far as I know.”
—Thomas Jefferson, 1819

September 11, 2001, is remembered as one of the most shocking and infamous days in American history. Soon after, the Museum began collecting objects, ephemera, film and photographs from the disaster sites and Congress designated it as the official repository. No other collection exists of this breadth and depth.

To mark the tenth anniversary, the Museum presented a contemplative space to remember and reflect in a unique blend of public program and simple display. Fifty historical objects saved from New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, as well as recent acquisitions related to how American lives have changed, were shown on tables along with photographs for context. Staff and volunteers were available to discuss the objects with visitors. The display was only available for nine days yet was visited by 12,573 people. Through public relations efforts and a documentary, the Museum extended the reach to 15 million.

The Museum partnered with the Smithsonian Channel to produce 9/11: Stories in Fragments to tell the stories of the objects and the personal stories of their donors through a unique lens for national audiences.
EXHIBITION Openings

JANUARY
Avedon: The Kennedys 50 Years Ago
Race to the Museum: The 1929 Miller race car and 1948 Tucker sedan

FEBRUARY
Sweet & Sour: A Look at the History of Chinese Food in the United States

MARCH
COBOL: Celebrating 50 Years of Computer Programming Language

APRIL
So Much Need of Service: The Diary of a Civil War Nurse

MAY
HIV and AIDS Thirty Years Ago

JUNE
For All The World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the National Museum of African American History and Culture Gallery

JULY
Good as Gold: America’s Double Eagles (Chicago)
Have You Heard the One...? The Phyllis Diller Gag File

SEPTEMBER
Remembrance September 11th

OCTOBER
Electrifying Cars
Frank Kameny: Celebrating the Legacy of a LGBTQ Activist

NOVEMBER
Jefferson’s Bible: The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth
The First Ladies
Gift of the Artist: Photographers as Donors

The original First Ladies exhibition from 1914 was the first at the Smithsonian to prominently feature women.
**Events and Programs**

**JANUARY**
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Family Festival
- To The Mountaintop—The Words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Lift Your Voice
- Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Septet on Tour: "The Music of Johnny Hodges"

**FEBRUARY**
- Day of Remembrance: 442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity
- Seizing Justice: The Greensboro Four
- The Afro-Latin@ Reader: a Panel Discussion
- The 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides
- National Youth Summit
- Freedom Riders, a film by Stanley Nelson
- Sing Out! Songs of Freedom
- Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra: Big Band Jazz Revival

**APRIL**
- Jazz Appreciation Month performances, displays, talks and more

**MAY**
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Family Day Celebration
- The Legacy of Operation Pedro Pan: A Round Table Conversation

**JUNE**
- Flag Day Naturalization Ceremony
- National History Day

**AUGUST**
- September 11: Teaching Contemporary History Online Conference

**SEPTEMBER**
- A Conversation with "Latin Bombshell" Diosa Costello
- Living History Theater: La Buena Vida
- From Haiti: Les Petits Chanteurs and Chamber Ensemble

**NOVEMBER**
- Inventing American Photography Lecture Series

**Ongoing Demonstrations, Music and Theater Programs**
- Smithsonian Chamber Music Society: Masterworks of Four Centuries
- Axelrod String Quartet
- Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra & Small Groups
- Heirloom Garden & Victory Garden Tours
- Quilting Demonstration
- Lace-Making Demonstration
- Broad Stripes and Bright Stars
- Time Trial of John Brown
- Book signings
- Flag Folding

**Online Presence**
- 12.8 million visits to Museum websites in fiscal year 2011
- 23,000 e-newsletter subscribers
- 36,751 Twitter followers (@americanhistorymuseum)
- 30,320 Facebook fans (facebook.com/americanhistory)
- 27,000 visits per month to the Museum’s blog (blog.americanhistory.si.edu)
- 288,000 views of the Museum’s YouTube channel (youtube.com/smithsonianamhistory)
- 1,700 Museum photos and 3,500 visitor photos posted to the Museum’s Flickr group (flickr.com/photos/nationalmuseumofamericanhistory)
Selected Events

JANUARY
Museum collects Tony Hawk skateboard from Baldknobbers, a country music comedy show from Branson, MO, donate costumes and instruments

FEBRUARY
Museum receives objects from Farrah Fawcett's career including memorabilia

MARCH
Gene Tunney's son donates boxing gloves from "The Long Count" fight
International Sweethearts of Rhythm donate objects from their careers

APRIL
Robotics collection acquisitions include the first minirobot—the Miniature Autonomous Robotic Vehicle—from Sandia National Laboratories
Song stylist Nancy Wilson donates two gowns
Numismatic collection receives Sacagawea dollar coin designs from artist Glenna Goodacre

JULY
Smithsonian collects objects from the television drama Rescue Me
Phil Lesh donates "Eye of Horus" bass guitar

AUGUST
Explore the National Quilt Collection video release

SEPTEMBER
Museum receives objects from Peace Corps' first half century
Sweet Stuff: An American History Of Sweeteners From Sugar To Sucralose by Deborah Jean Warner book release

OCTOBER
Grammy-winning jazz artist Esperanza Spalding donates performance dress
Kelly Slater donates winning surfboard

DECEMBER
Smithsonian, Library of Congress and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory partnership presents a first listen to the 1884 experimental sound recordings of Alexander Graham Bell

The Museum acquired 6,441 objects and 225 cubic feet of archival material in 2011.
The Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation's 2011 activities engaged the public with invention and innovation through significant scholarly work manifested in books, articles and presentations and through the medium of exhibitions that reached millions of people; inspired both young people and adults with stimulating programs; and, in taking much of our content online, reached audiences far beyond the Smithsonian.

The Center finished out 2011 with the closing of Invention at Play in the Lemelson Hall of Invention and Spark!Lab in preparation for the Museum’s next phase of renovations. Over two million people visited, learned from and invented in these spaces since 2008. Our staff looks forward to using what we’ve learned from them to build our way toward the opening of a new exhibition, Places of Invention, and a revamped Spark!Lab in 2015.

Highlights:
- The first Spark!Lab off the National Mall opened at the Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno, Nevada, in September.
- Staff Projects Initiative allowed Museum colleagues to research innovations in winemaking and mathematics re-creations as well as the technologies that enabled “supermarket sushi.”
- The Spark!Lab Outreach Kit Program brought our activities and philosophy to over 20,000 visitors at six museums around the country.

Programs:
- Pop-up Workshops with artist Carol Barton
- Innovative Lives: Kim Vanderbroucke
- Open Minds: 2011 NCAA Student Inventors’ Showcase and Inventive Washington Tour
- NanoDays
- National Robotics Week with Innovative Lives: Dr. Gill Pratt
- Innovative Lives: Chuck Popenoe
- Innovative Lives: Daniella Reichstetter
  - Moving Beyond Earth: Innovations in Space Symposium held at the National Air and Space Museum

We gratefully acknowledge members of the Smithsonian Council for American History for their enthusiastic commitment throughout the year. The Council is a membership group for individuals who make unrestricted contributions of $1,000 or more to support a variety of the Museum’s critical needs, from the preservation of national treasures to the presentation of world-class exhibitions and educational programs.

Founded in 2010, the Council is a growing national network that includes members from 26 states who share a passion for history and advocate for the Museum’s role within their communities.

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Programs, Education & Outreach

Collections & Acquisitions
Lemelson Center
Smithsonian Council for American History

Thank You to Our Supporters
Board & Staff
Looking Forward

National Museum of American History
Highlights Report 2011
americanhistory.si.edu
THANK YOU to Our Supporters

The Smithsonian gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations that made possible numerous activities of the National Museum of American History in 2011.

Elizabeth and Whitney MacMillan
A. James Clark
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In March 2011, Elizabeth and Whitney MacMillan made an extraordinary commitment to the Museum by establishing an endowment to support the Associate Director for Education and Public Programs. As the MacMillan Associate Director, Judy Gradwohl is responsible for all of the Museum’s diverse educational programs. The MacMillans’ gift provides a perpetual source of funding and ensures that education and public programming remain among the highest priorities of the Museum.

A. James Clark made a major gift in August 2011 to create the A. James Clark Excellence in History Teaching Program, an innovative, two-year pilot program for K-12 social studies and history teachers. Museum educators travel to select school districts across the country and engage teachers in employing the national collections and everyday objects to help students understand the connections between the past and the present to make history personal, tangible and engaging.

kate spade new york became the lead corporate sponsor of the American Stories exhibition in April 2011. The exhibition takes visitors on a journey through time by telling both well- and little-known stories about the American experience. It is designed to serve as an introductory experience to American history and as a dedicated space to feature new acquisitions that illustrate the breadth of the American experience. It opened to the public in April 2012.

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LOOKING FORWARD
New Exhibitions and Continuing Renovations

FOOD: Transforming the American Table 1950–2000
November 2012

Julia Child's beloved Cambridge, Mass., kitchen serves as the opening chapter in the Museum's story of FOOD. The Smithsonian's first major exhibition on food history looks at how new technologies and various social and cultural shifts in the second half of the 20th century influenced major changes in food, wine and eating in America.

American Stories
April 2012

American Stories is a signature exhibition that takes a chronological look at the people and events that shaped the American experience and showcases historic touchstones through more than 100 objects. It is the new home for the Ruby Slippers while the Museum's renovation continues.

West Exhibition Wing Renovation Underway

Under the leadership of Director John Gray, the Museum is embarking on a strategic plan and beginning the revitalization of its 120,000-square-foot west exhibition wing. The renovated space will include a new multimedia exhibition on American business history, a gallery for the Lemelson Center for Invention and Innovation with the popular hands-on science Spark!Lab space, a gallery for the National Numismatic Collection and public floors themed around American democracy and popular culture.