Hyde Park, NY – Educators are invited to discover new ways to use the region's special places to teach about controversy and decision making at In Conflict & Crises: Teaching the Hudson Valley from Civil War to Civil Rights and Beyond. Registration is now open for THV’s annual institute, July 24-26, at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home and Presidential Library in Hyde Park.

This year's opening talk, KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PRIZE: Controversy and Connection in the Classroom of Life, will feature Kim and Reggie Harris, musicians, storytellers, educators, and interpreters of history. Accepting THV’s invitation they wrote, “Our nation’s history is filled with conflict, opposition, controversy, and crisis, but is also rich in perseverance, collaboration, determination, and compromise. We look forward to reflecting on ways to use these realities to prepare students to be thinkers and problem solvers.”

During the institute, more than 15 workshops will connect educators with historians, writers, and scientists, as well as their colleagues from schools, parks, and historic sites throughout the Valley. Topics include Evaluating Scientific Claims (Cary Institute), Using ELA Common Core to Teach Controversy (Lewisboro Elementary School teachers), and Irrepressible Conflict: The Empire State and the Civil War, (New York State Museum).

On day 2 of the institute participants will choose one of six in-depth field experiences:

- Civil Disturbance to Civil War with archaeologists Doug Mackey, Bill Sandy, and Rich Goring, and history professors Walter Powell (Shippensburg University) and Sam Watson and Steve Waddell (U. S. Military Academy, West Point) all at Fishkill Supply Depot. Co-hosted by the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College.

- Local Stories, National Resonance: Perspectives on the Civil War featuring museum educator Ashley Hopkins-Benton, curator Diane Shewchuk, and Starlyn D’Angelo,
executive director, Shaker Heritage Society, at the Columbia County Museum and Vanderpoel House of History in Kinderhook.

- **A New Deal for Youth** with special tours of the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site and FDR Presidential Library including presentations by both site’s education specialists, Susanne Norris and Jeff Urbin, plus artist and art educator Lucy Barbera, and NYSUT’s Elizabeth Sheffer.


- **The Unknown Palisades**, a visit to key sites on both sides of the Hudson River with history, classroom connections, and more presented by Eric Nelsen and Peter Cutul of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission and Margie Turrin of Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory.

- **When Conflict Creates a Movement: Connections between Art, Science, and Civics** at the Katherine W. Davis River Walk Center in Sleepy Hollow with educators Vicky Garufi (Beczak Environmental Education Center), Susan Hereth (Scenic Hudson), and Phyllis Bock (Teatown Lake Reservation).

“THV’s mission is to make the Valley’s places and communities laboratories for learning,” said Sarah Olson, superintendent of the National Park Service's Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites. “The institute is a catalyst for that – a fun and stimulating opportunity to share new information, new ideas, and new contacts. An independent evaluator, PEER Associates, recently described the institute as ‘the heart of THV.’ I couldn’t agree more.”

While the institute program is developed with K-12 teachers and site educators in mind, anyone interested in Hudson Valley culture, ecosystems, or history is welcome. Affordable registration is now open at http://conta.cc/KTKBpC. For a detailed schedule, visit http://bit.ly/Ka75JB.

**About us.**

Launched in 2003, Teaching the Hudson Valley (THV) helps educators discover, appreciate, and share the region’s natural, historic and cultural treasures with children and youth. THV fosters collaboration among schools, museums, parks, historic sites, and similar groups.

THV’s growing collection of free K-12 lesson plans uses significant Valley sites to teach virtually all subjects. Our grant programs make it easier for teachers to get students out of the classroom and into the community. In addition, our summer institute and other programming offer rare opportunities for school and informal educators to meet and exchange ideas.

THV is a program of the National Park Service/Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, and the Hudson River Valley Institute at Marist College.