ATTENTION MEMBERS: YOUR GENEROUS HELP IS REQUESTED...

As you're certainly aware, one of our most popular Lincoln Group of New York meeting events is the book raffle. What you might not know is that our members donate all of the books. That's where your help is needed.

To keep this raffle going with high quality Lincoln publications, we respectfully request that if you have any books that you can spare for the raffle, simply bring them to the meeting and see one of our Executive Committee members to ensure that they're included in that night's raffle.

Thank you, in advance, for anything you can contribute.

President
Henry F. Ballone

Vice-President
Steven R. Koppelman

Secretary
Fran Berman

Treasurer
Diana L. Garrera

Executive Committee
Paul Ellis-Graham
Joseph E. Garrera
Michael Gray, Ph.D
Harold Holzer
Robert G. Langford
Stuart Schneider
Richard Sloan
Joseph A. Truglio

Award Committee: A special thanks to our dedicated members that served on the 2012 award committee.

Stuart Schneider, Chair • Paul Ellis-Graham • Joseph E. Garrera

THE WIDE AWAKE is a publication of The Lincoln Group of New York. We welcome your feedback, letters and comments, as well as news of your Lincoln related activities. Please direct your correspondence to:

Steven R. Koppelman, Editor • The Wide Awake • 5 Leigh Court • Randolph, NJ 07869

Lincoln & Civil War event photos can be viewed at: civilwarnut.com

The Lincoln Group of New York's 2012 Award of Achievement for the work that does the "most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln" goes to the Steven Spielberg film, Lincoln. The film, which has received outstanding reviews across the nation and twelve academy award nominations, was cited by the award committee as a new landmark for a commercially produced film, capturing Lincoln's strength as a president and an individual. Paul Ellis-Graham concluded that the movie "renews and restores interest in Abraham Lincoln" and "goes to the Steven Spielberg film, Lincoln, captures his strength as a president and a human being, possessing his ancestor's Civil War diary. That ancestor, George E. Dixon, was a Sergeant in the 14th Regiment Veterans Corp, assigned to guard the Lincoln assassination conspirators and eventually take part in their executions. You too may be surprised at what you learn from a member that you introduce yourself to.

When Lincoln died, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton reportedly said, "Now he belongs to the ages." The film Lincoln is reviving Stanton's prediction. Steven Spielberg's movie is promoting widespread discussion among moviegoers who are not students of Abraham Lincoln and will continue to do so for many years. It has given many of them an interest in our sixteenth president. We can help peak that interest by suggesting Lincoln books that may answer their questions or broaden their knowledge, and of course, we can invite them to join The Lincoln Group of New York.

As we announced at the November meeting, our 2012 Award of Achievement will go to the aforementioned movie, Lincoln. Please plan to attend and bring a guest to our February meeting when screenwriter Tony Kushner will accept the award.

My special thanks to our past presidents, Paul Ellis-Graham and Joe Garrera and to our vice-president, Steve Koppelman, for their advice and assistance this past year. If you have any suggestions for improving The Lincoln Group of New York, please email me at: nylincoln@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Henry F. Ballone
President
2012 Meetings Review

February 15, 2012: The evening began as The Lincoln Group of New York President, Paul Ellis-Graham, announced the new slate of officers for 2012 and 2013. Henry F. Ballone will take over as president, and Steven R. Koppelman will be the new vice-president. Frank Berman and Diana Garrera will continue in their respective roles of secretary and treasurer. In addition, Paul announced that he would be the new member of the Award of Achievement committee, replacing Joseph Truglio. The committee also includes Stuart Schneider as chair and Joseph Garrera.

With the organization’s business now addressed, Richard Sloan eulogized charter member Father Alfred Isaccson who passed away on September 6, 2011. Richard pointed out and emphasized Father Isaccson’s affinity for, and research on, John Surratt and the events surrounding his involvement with the Lincoln assassination and conspiracy.

Paul Ellis-Graham then eulogized founding member and long-time Executive Committee member Hal Gross who passed away on August 3, 2011. Paul stated that Hal “served with dedication, distinction, and love.” Hal’s granddaughter, Devon Portney along with her fiancé Jason Fernald, was in attendance to hear Paul’s most eloquent words.

April 25, 2012: New president, Henry F. Ballone introduced the chair of the Award of Achievement committee for 2011, Joseph Garrera, who then presented the 2011 award to Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr. for his book, Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation: Constitutional Conflict in the American Civil War. Garrera referred to Professor Neely as “the greatest living Lincoln scholar,” praising his scholarship and explaining how Dr. Neely described the constitution as a virtual tool of war. He stated that “the beauty of this book is that it’s not eulogistic—and that’s very important.”

Harold Holzer then formally introduced Dr. Neely, the guest speaker for the evening, pointing out that Neely was also the speaker at the first ever meeting of The Lincoln Group of New York, 34 years ago (see sign-in sheet from that meeting on page 7). Harold stated that Dr. Neely’s “resourcefulness, insights and originality are beyond compare.”

Dr. Neely then wove together an enthralling lecture combining his work in the award winning book he was honored for tonight as well as the new book that he’s working on about the New York City Draft Riots and the Democratic Party during the Civil War.

Professor Neely pointed out that Lincoln never directly mentioned the issue of conscription as a constitutional issue in any of his writings. However, Chief Justice Taney thought otherwise as he issued a 22-page decision declaring the Conscription Act unconstitutional. Lincoln’s views were very simple on this—how can one question the power of congress to do a thing that the Constitution explicitly says it can do—it’s in the actual document. As Neely joked, “instead of read my lips, it’s read my document.” Dr. Neely also stressed that the effect of the Draft Riots was that they made the actual system of mobilization work, and that the Democratic opposition to conscription is largely a myth—they were a “loyal opposition.”

This was certainly a most memorable evening for those fortunate enough to attend!
The New-York Historical Society has appointed Lincoln and Civil War scholar (and The Lincoln Group of New York Executive Committee member) Harold Holzer as its new Roger Hertog Fellow. The fellowship is named in honor of Hertog, chairman of the board of trustees. Mr. Holzer’s two-year residency, created to further the work of an eminent scholar through research at the Society, begins January 2013. Holzer—who previously served as chief historian of the winning Lincoln Bicentennial exhibit at the New-York Historical Society, Lincoln and New York, recently commented that he is looking forward to “revealing in discovery in the collections...and expecting the inspiration that this residency makes possible.” The New-York Historical Society holds one of the world’s greatest collections of historical artifacts, works of American art and other materials documenting both New York and United States history.~

My Almost Night with the Lincolns

By Bob Langford

Over the years, I made many business trips to Chicago which included a number of non-business related visits to the Chicago Historical Society as well as the Abraham Lincoln Book Store. Unfortunately, I had never been to Springfield up to that point when I thought about it often. I thought about taking advantage of one of these business trips by flying out several days early, renting a car and driving downstate to Springfield (not realizing it was almost a four-hour drive). Late one September 1990s Saturday, I finally did it.

I got to O’Hare Airport early in the afternoon, rented a car and took off for Springfield. When I finally reached the outskirts of Springfield on I-55, it was late afternoon and the sun was beginning to set. I was so excited to be there I wanted to go right out to the tomb and stand there up against the wall but immediately moved off of it when I realized it was transfixed for a number of minutes. To get a better perspective, I backed to the front of the red marble monument in the semi-circle absolutely entranced outside and not inside! Thank you, Pat!

The next day I did go back out to the tomb during broad daylight and spent several hours walking with the staff. During the conversations, I found out that they had been unable to replace their missing copy of the February 1962 issue of LIFE magazine with the cover story on Lincoln’s final burial in 1961. Back at work in New York City several months later, I happened to walk past a sidewalk table selling old LIFE Magazines and asked the guy if he had a copy of that issue. Reaching under the stack, he pulled one out and I immediately bought it. I called the tomb office at Oak Ridge to tell them I had one for them if they still needed it. They did. In return, they sent me a lot of information not normally given to the public from their files on the history and construction of the tomb which I still have today (see sample below). It’s a wonderful reminder of “my almost night with the Lincolns!”

Holzer Named First Hertog Fellow at New-York Historical Society

Harold Holzer

November 29, 2012: Postponed by three weeks due to the ramifications of Hurricane Sandy, attendees on this evening thus braved the holiday crowds thronging into New York City to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree so that they could enjoy a very different aspect of the Lincoln story. They came to hear the story of Stealing Lincoln’s Body presented by author Thomas J. Craughwell. But before Mr. Craughwell engaged the audience, President’s Hymn for the group. In 1865, this song was composed by William Augustus Muhlenberg and Joseph W. Turner to honor the new holiday, Thanksgiving, established by President Abraham Lincoln. Finally, Award Committee member Paul Ellis-Graham announced that the new Steven Spielberg film, Lincoln, would be the recipient of the group’s Award of Achievement for 2012.

N ow, Mr. Craughwell took to the podium and in a most engaging, informative, and humorous way, presented the story of the 1876 plot by a gang of counterfeiters to steal the body of Abraham Lincoln and hold it for ransom. We viewed photos of each of the key participants as well as a blue print of Lincoln’s Tomb/ Monument. We learned of the “Lincoln Guard of Honor” and the role they played in protecting Lincoln’s body (and earning the respect and gratitude of Robert Todd Lincoln) as well as the story of 13-year-old Fleetwood Lindley, who was the last living person (having passed away in 1963) to have seen the face of Abraham Lincoln. The question and answer session that followed allowed for further elaboration of the elements of the plot. Perhaps most enjoyably, we learned that there is no record of whether or not Mary Todd Lincoln was ever aware of the plot (as Robert was) and if so, what her reaction was—there is no extant record—one can only imagine. As a high school history teacher in New York State, I make references to the Mexican War and the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the Election of 1860, the dilemma that faced an important group, the Emancipation Proclamation, this all by the hickory and his assassination.

The evolution of the internet and the access to information about Abraham Lincoln’s life makes student opportunities for research greater. The continuing representations of Lincoln in both documentaries and feature films provide even more ways for students to learn about him.

I know that there are many serious scholars and older students of Lincoln who might turn themselves off to such films as, for example, Abraham Lincoln, Vampire Hunter. While it is obviously neither a true nor serious representation of Lincoln’s life, it does draw students to the story. So if this film is one of the ways that I can help segue into helping students find out more about the real president then I will use that connection. My greatest overall concern for interesting more students in Lincoln’s life is the lack of importance that schools are giving to history. If, as some states are doing, they weaken the requirement for studying history in favor of, for example, more math and science, then we are all in trouble. The only way we can prepare students to deal with critical issues, both past and present is to strengthen the study of history in schools and train more social studies teachers as history majors in college.

I hope and pray that there will always be an interest in the life of Abraham Lincoln. But, as adults, we must do our utmost to see to it that all schools across the country require students of all levels to learn and study history.~

Teaching Lincoln in the Twenty-First Century

By Paul Ellis-Graham

The need to teach students about Abraham Lincoln is as relevant as it has ever been. The success of the recent film, Lincoln, by Steven Spielberg proves that if one can tell a story well, students will be educated and engaged. The question “what does it mean to be American?” can be discussed by students by bringing together the story of all Americans—black Americans, Native Americans, immigrants of every sort, and those whose roots lay with those who built the nation. The Lincoln-Douglas Debates, the Election of 1860, the dilemma that faced an important group, the Emancipation Proclamation, this all by the hickory and his assassination. But before Mr. Craughwell engaged the audience, President’s Hymn for the group. In 1865, this song was composed by William Augustus Muhlenberg and Joseph W. Turner to honor the new holiday, Thanksgiving, established by President Abraham Lincoln. Finally, Award Committee member Paul Ellis-Graham announced that the new Steven Spielberg film, Lincoln, would be the recipient of the group’s Award of Achievement for 2012.

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Ambrotype, The National Portrait Gallery

By Stuart Schneider

Photograph collecting has been gaining new devotees in pace with the past year’s stock market climb. While some investors are taking their stock profits, many are not taking them to the bank. Instead, they are buying historic and art photographs. At the same time, photographers are finding that their collections are now worth sizable sums, but most are looking beyond the profit motive. They are inspired by certain people or occurrences and want photographs of contemporary interest.

Collections are moving into the workplace. Workers are not content to stare at empty walls or walk by a designer’s choice of the “right” picture. They want something on their walls to make them think, to fascinate them and to make ambrotype Lincoln a popular subject because, among other things, he has an intriguing and ever changing face. Early beardless photos show a young man at the beginning of his political career. His presidential photos show him becoming the leader of a country at war, but also a husband and father. His late photos show a man aged and worn down by the country’s turmoil and Civil War. Every photo looks different but father. His late photos show a man aged and worn down by the beginning of his political career. His presidential photos show him ending slavery, and being the first President assassinated in office. As Lincoln’s popularity continues to grow (about 90 million people saw the new movie Lincoln in the first few weeks of its release) and his image is now to every American, a market for these photos is evident. Lincoln lived during a period where more than five types of photography were used and his portrait can be found on Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes, Salt Prints, Albumen, Silver and Platinum Prints.

In the Daguerreotype process, 1839 to about 1855, the photo was printed on a mirror-like metal plate. Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, Tintypes, Salt Prints, Albumen, Silver and Platinum Prints. Lincoln’s image was printed on stereo cards while he was from life (as opposed to the many copy photos usual rather small. The coating on the surface as with an albumen print. By 1850, the albumen print took over. The coating on the paper was made from an egg white base (albumen) and the photo was printed on the albumen surface of the paper. Mathew Brady’s and Alexander Gardner’s photos of Lincoln and the Civil War were made this way. Albumen prints were richer and glossier than salt prints, but over time, many have faded, giving a much softer image that can be confused with a salt print. Most CDVs - Cartes de Visite (a photo 2.25 x 3.75 inches on a card 2.5 x 4 inches (7 x 10 cm) were albumen prints. The CDV made its appearance in the United States about 1860. It is said that over 100,000 CDVs of Lincoln were made for his 1860 presidential campaign. CDVs were produced from 1860 to 1885. Those bearing tax stamps on the back are from the period September 1, 1864 to August 1, 1866. Most Lincoln photographs are found in the CDV format and offer the greatest variety of photographer imprints. Photographs of lithographs and prints were also very popular. Lithographs and engravings, mechanical printing processes, were made in the CDV size. Look at the photo under a magnifying glass to see if there are engraving lines in the clothing or shaded areas. There should be no hallowed dots in any Civil War period print or photo. The halothing process came about after the war. These lithos and photos of lithos are most commonly found today and usually sell for $15 to $40. Photographs were also made in larger sizes, many after Lincoln’s death. Cabinet Cards (which refers to a photo 3.75 x 5.5 inches on a card that is 4.25 x 6.5 inches) were introduced in 1867 and made until just after the turn of the century. In the late 1880s, Silver and Platinum prints began to appear, changing the detail and tonal range of the photographs. A platinum print produces a rich photograph. Some of the finest of these later photos are “Ayres Lincoln”. Photographer, Alexander Hesler, took several pictures of a beardless Lincoln in 1858 and 1860. The photos were used in the campaign for president. Once Lincoln became President and grew a beard, no one wanted the beardless photographs. The public wanted to see the new president with a beard. Hesler sold his studio and supplies to photographer, George Ayres. While digging among such as purple, pink, or green. After 1867, the cards were made in rounded corners. Larger cards were made in the late 1870s and after. Hesler’s negatives, Ayres came upon several glass negatives of a beardless Lincoln. Hesler corrected the negatives in one that was used as the frontispiece for a special history book of Lincoln. In 1893, with the countrywide interest in Lincoln revived, Ayres began to reprint and sell the photographs from the original negatives. He made prints in three forms - a silver print, where the tones are similar to a modern black and white photo, an albumen print where the tones are medium brown, and a platinum print where the tones are dark, rich brown. The silver prints are not very popular, albumen prints are usually sought, and platinum prints are the most wonderful of the Lincoln prints. The detail and tonal range is also rich and full. Ayres made the prints in several sizes, 6 x 8 inches or larger, and usually signed his prints on the front or back, though he did not sign them all.

Collector's Notes

Collecting Lincoln Photographs

Stuart Schneider, a member of The Lincoln Group of New York’s Executive Committee, is a collector of Lincoln photographs and the author of the book, “Gelatin Silver High Quality Reproduction Photographs.” The book contains information for collectors, tips for telling original and modern reproductions, and information for dealers that will guarantee the authenticity of your purchase for life. 
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Collecting is moving into the workplace. Workers are not content to stare at empty walls or walls with a designer's choice of the 'right' picture. They want something on their walls to make them think, to fascinate and to be a part of the work environment.

As Lincoln's popularity continues to grow (about 90 million people saw the new movie Lincoln in the first few weeks of its release) and as the price of gold continues to reach new highs, many people see the new movie Lincoln's face is easily recognized. By 1860, the albumen print took over. The coating on the paper was made from an egg white base. The photos were printed on the albumen surface of the paper, Mathew Brady's and Alexander Gardner's photos of Lincoln and the Civil War were made this way. Albumen prints were richer and glossier than salt prints, but over time, many have faded, giving a much softer image that can be confused with a salt print.

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CDV cameras often had four lenses which were sequentially uncapped and then copped to give four images on one plate. If two, side by side, were uncapped together, they yielded a stereo photograph. These stereo views were twin photos mounted on a card. The slightly different perspective of each lens gives the stereo card a three dimensional effect when viewed through a stereoscope.

Lincoln's portrait in an albumen print was on stereo cards while he was living and after his death. Earlier cards are usually worth more than later cards. For dating purposes, the early cards were square (becoming rectangular over time) and usually white, ivory or gray with a high luster. From 1862 to 1872 the cards were mostly yellow with earlier cards being a lighter yellow and later cards a deeper chrome yellow. Starting in 1866, a few were made in colors such as purple, pink, or green. After 1867, the cards were made with rounded corners. Larger cards were made in the late 1870s and after.

Some are taken on glass for the ambrotype and black enameled tin for the tintype. Collectors are finding that their collections are now worth sizable sums, but most are looking beyond the profit motive. They are inspired by certain people or occurrences and want photographs contemporary with that person or event.

Ambrotype, The National Portrait Gallery

By the 1850s and using a new technique, photographers perfected making negatives on glass. Positives were then printed on paper that was treated to an albumen surface. These are called Salt Prints. Multiple prints could be made and some of the bearers of paper photographs of Lincoln are salt prints. Salt prints have a light brown or tan softness to them and lack lustre or gloss. The photo is deeper into the paper rather than on the surface as with an albumen print.

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My Almost Night with the Lincolns

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I got to O’Hare Airport early in the afternoon, rented a car and took off for Springfield. When I finally reached the outskirts of Springfield on I-55, it was late afternoon and the sun was beginning to set. I was so excited to be there I wanted to go straight to the tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Unfortunately, I wasted some time by first ending up in the wrong cemetery before I realized it. I exited that cemetery now with the idea of going to the motel and coming back out the next morning. A few blocks away I spotted a sign nailed to a telephone pole saying “Lincoln’s Tomb” with a pointing arrow. I made a quick turn, found the entrance to Oak Ridge Cemetery, turned in, and as all members of The Lincoln Group of New York who have been there would know, I immediately spotted the 117 ft. spire on top of the tomb!!! Minutes later I was in the parking lot and out of my car walking over to the front of the tomb. As everyone else seemingly does, I rubbed the nose of the large Lincoln bust out in front of the tomb for good luck and went in the front door.

Inside the front large rotunda room, I looked around, gathered up some brochures, and then five minutes talking with the Irish lady docent named Pat, who was on duty there. After a while she said she was sure I was there to see the burial chamber in the back and gently urged that I might like to travel on back. I went through the archway to the front of the tomb and came around the corner and saw they were getting ready to close the tomb for the night. We walked back to the front and then out the door. She closed and locked it with me standing outside and not inside! Thank you, Pat!

The next day I did go back out to the tomb during broad daylight and spent several hours talking with the staff. During the conversations, I found out that they had been unable to replace their missing copy of the February 1962 issue of LIFE magazine with the cover story on Lincoln’s final burial in 1901. Back at work in New York City several months later, I happened to walk past a sidewalk table selling old LIFE Magazines and asked the guy if he had a copy of that particular issue of the magazine. He had one, and I immediately bought it. I called the tomb office at Oak Ridge to tell them I had one for them if they still needed it. They did. In return, they sent me a lot of information not normally given to the public from their files on the history and construction of the tomb which I still have today (see sample below). It’s a wonderful reminder of “my almost night with the Lincolns!”

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As Mr. Craughwell presented the plot, he shared many audience members had put in writing about the plot to a correspondent (if indeed anything) would have been destroyed by Robert as being personal in nature. –

Lincoln Group of New York photos & many more Lincoln & Civil War photos can be seen on Henry F. Balkon’s web site at civilwarnut.com

Jeanne de Grillle, magnificent detail of the Lincoln medallion

The tomb for Abraham Lincoln

Chicago School of Fine Arts, State Historic District

19th-century cast iron memorial to Abraham Lincoln in Oak Ridge Cemetery

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2012 was another standout year of meetings and guest speakers as attendees experienced many different aspects of the life and times of Abraham Lincoln...

February 15, 2012: The evening began as The Lincoln Group of New York President, Paul Ellis-Graham, announced the new slate of officers for 2012 and 2013. Henry F. Ballone will take over as president, and Steven R. Koppelman will be the new vice-president. Fran Berman and Diana Garrera will continue in their respective roles of secretary and treasurer. In addition, Paul announced that he would be the new member of the Award of Achievement committee, replacing Joseph Truglio. The committee also includes Stuart Schneider as chair and Joseph Garrera.

With the organization’s business now addressed, Richard Sloan eulogized charter member Father Alfred Isaccson who passed away on September 6, 2011. Richard pointed out and emphasized Father Isaccson’s affinity for, Isaccson who passed away on September 6, 2011. Richard announced that he would be the new member of the Award of Achievement committee, replacing Joseph Truglio. The committee also includes Stuart Schneider as chair and Joseph Garrera.

Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Joseph Garrera, & Stuart Schneider

April 25, 2012: New president, Henry F. Ballone introduced the chair of the Award of Achievement committee for 2011, Joseph Garrera, who then presented the 2011 award to Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr. for his book, Lincoln and the Triumph of the Nation: Constitutional Conflict in the American Civil War. Garrera referred to Professor Neely as “the greatest living Lincoln scholar,” praising his scholarship and explaining how Dr. Neely described the constitution as a virtual tool of war. He stated that “the beauty of this book is that it’s not eulogistic—and that’s very important.”

Harold Holzer then formally introduced Dr. Neely, the guest speaker for the evening, pointing out that Neely was also the speaker at the first ever meeting of The Lincoln Group of New York, 34 years ago (see sign-in sheet from that meeting on page 7). Harold stated that Dr. Neely’s “resourcefulness, insights and originality are beyond compare.”

Dr. Neely then wove together an enthralling lecture combining his work in the award winning book he was honored for tonight as well as the new book that he’s working on about the New York City Draft Riots and the Democratic Party during the Civil War:

Professor Neely pointed out that Lincoln never directly mentioned the issue of conscription as a constitutional issue in any of his writings. However, Chief Justice Taney thought otherwise as he issued a 22-page decision declaring the Conscription Act unconstitutional. Lincoln’s views were very simple on this—how can one question the power of congress to do a thing that the Constitution explicitly says it can do—it’s in the actual document. As Neely joked, “instead of read my lips, it’s read my document.” Dr. Neely also stressed that the effect of the Draft Riots was that they made the actual system of mobilization work, and that the Democratic opposition to conscription is largely a myth—they were a “loyal opposition.”

This was certainly a most memorable evening for those fortunate enough to attend!
ATTENTION MEMBERS: YOUR GENEROUS HELP IS REQUESTED...

As you’re certainly aware, one of our most popular Lincoln Group of New York meeting events is the book raffle. What you might not know is that our members donate all of the books. That’s where your help is needed. To keep this raffle going with high quality Lincoln publications, we respectfully request that if you have any books that you can spare for the raffle, simply bring them to the meeting and see one of our Executive Committee members to ensure that they’re included in that night’s raffle. Thank you, in advance, for anything you can contribute.

A great opportunity to learn about your fellow members of The Lincoln Group of New York is at the cocktail hour during our dinner meeting. For example, at our last meeting, I learned that one of our members possesses his ancestor’s Civil War diary. That ancestor, George E. Dixon, was a Sergeant in the 14th Regiment Veterans Corp, assigned to guard the Lincoln assassination conspirators and eventually take part in their executions. You too may be surprised at what you learn from a member that you introduce yourself to.

When Lincoln died, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton reportedly said, “Now he belongs to the ages.” The film Lincoln is reviving Stanton’s prediction. Steven Spielberg’s movie is promoting widespread discussion among moviegoers who are not students of Abraham Lincoln and will continue to do so for many years. It has given many of them an interest in our sixteenth president. We can help peak that interest by suggesting Lincoln books that may answer their questions or broaden their knowledge, and of course, we can invite them to join The Lincoln Group of New York.

As we announced at the November meeting, our 2012 Award of Achievement will go to the aforementioned movie, Lincoln. Please plan to attend and bring a guest to our February meeting when screenwriter Tony Kushner will accept the award. My special thanks to our past presidents, Paul Ellis-Graham and Joe Garrera and to our vice-president, Steve Koppelman, for their advice and assistance this past year. If you have any suggestions for improving The Lincoln Group of New York, please email me at nylincoln@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Henry F. Ballone
President