



# Americans for Madison.org

March 2009--Hadley Nagel, Editor/ Publisher--To join us or for more information, visit our website at <http://www.americansformadison.org>-- ©Americans For Madison, 2009

## MADISON AND EDUCATION IN AMERICA

*New York, NY*—When **William J. Bennett** served the Nation as its Secretary of Education, he endeavored to enhance secondary school curriculums by proposing one that he thought most appropriate. Interestingly, he chose to name it (See [http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content\\_storage\\_01/0000019b/80/1c/0d/37.pdf](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICDocs/data/ericdocs2sql/content_storage_01/0000019b/80/1c/0d/37.pdf)) in honor of Madison. It is no accident that across the Nation, many communities make a similar tribute by naming their schools for Madison since, among all the Founding Fathers, he was among the first to acknowledge that an educated public would be a key to the success of the Nation's government.

Visiting the AFM website one can quickly find links to many of the high schools across the Nation that are named for Madison. Although the act of naming a school reflects a particular set of values of those managing such schools, it is interesting to observe the apparent fall-out. Even the school named for Madison in this city's borough of Brooklyn has an inordinate number of graduates who have chosen to use their education on behalf of the Nation including two current U.S. Senators (**Bernard Sanders** and **Charles Schumer**) and one U.S. Supreme Court Justice (**Ruth Joan Bader Ginsburg**).

## OBAMA TO HONOR MADISON WITH MARINE CORPS SALUTE ON MARCH 16th

*Orange County, VA*—President Barack Obama is scheduled to honor James Madison at noon during the 258<sup>th</sup> celebration of his birth by sending the U.S. Marine Corps to deliver a special Presidential salute to the fourth President at his tomb located here on his 2,650-acre estate--Montpelier.

Following a tradition that has grown with the recent revitalization of its Great House, the salute kick's off the estate's Spring calendar of activities. AFM Advisory Board Member **Michael C. Quinn** serves as president of the Montpelier Foundation that oversees the historic site. See: <http://www.americansformadison.org/calendar.html>

## AFM FOUNDER HADLEY NAGEL FEATURED IN "Blue Doors" ALUMNI MAGAZINE

*New York, NY*—This city's leading private girls' school, The Nightingale-Bamford School, has just published in the current issue of its Alumni Magazine—*The Blue Doors*—a feature article by Fortune Magazine's **Jessica Shambora** on AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel**.

Utilized to communicate with the school's ever-growing constituency of alumni, friends and parents, the magazine focuses on her role on behalf of the James Madison Bi-Centennial to illustrate how Nagel—a member of that school's Class of 2009—has already started to impact the world beyond the school's famous blue doors.

Quoting AFB's Advisory Board Member **Joseph Ellis**, Nagel is described as Madison's "best advocate since Dolley." A long time faculty member of Nightingale-Bamford is quoted as saying "she could be running the world some day" since there has never been another student who followed up so persistently and successfully on her interests. To see a complete copy of the article, visit the *In the News* Section of AFM's website at:

<http://www.americansformadison.org/news.html>

## PBS BROADCASTS AFM SYMPOSIUM

*Arlington, VA*—PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service, has now added Americans for Madison's Oct.2 symposium to its programming that is broadcast through its 354 member TV stations across the United States. The program features AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel**, NYHS's **Louise Mirrer**, **Benno Schmidt**, **Joseph Ellis** and **Sean Wilentz** discussing Madison at the start of the Bi-Centennial of his Presidency:

<http://video.thirteen.org/epi/sode/show/1524>



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: WITH 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, MADISON BICENTENNIAL GAINS NEW MOMENTUM

*Washington, D.C.*—Once the intricacies of certain key economic legislation are resolved, **Representatives Baron Hill (D, IN-9<sup>th</sup>)** is expected to introduce legislation before the new 111<sup>th</sup> Congress that seeks to salute Madison and the Bi-Centennial of his Presidency. Alert your D.C. representatives of your interest in saluting the Bi-Centennial of Madison's Presidency. Visit our site to transmit emails to Congress—

<http://www.rallycongress.com/americansformadison>

## GILDER-LEHRMAN TEAMING WITH AFM FOUNDER NAGEL ON NEW MADISON BOOK

*New York, NY*—Development continues on a new book with the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History on James Madison by AFM Founder **Hadley Nagel** for use by educational institutions on Constitution Day. Focusing on Madison's key role in developing the Constitution, the book seeks to become the primary tool for educational institutions to comply with Federally mandated law that requires student training on the Constitution every year on Constitution Day.

## A CALL TO ACTION: Shifts in Attitudes and Passage of Years Impacting Madison's Historic Standings per Recent Poll

*Washington, D.C.*—In conjunction with the recent transition to Barack Obama from George W. Bush, following a practice that dates back to at least 1948 when Harvard historian **Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr.** conducted a similar analysis, CSPAN has released a new poll ranking the success of individuals who have been President.

In their most serious forms, these polls have sought to elicit a greater understanding of Presidents by endeavoring to weigh their achievements and leadership against their failures and faults to obtain a comparative consensus. To the *cognoscenti* and the *partisan*, Madison—of course—ought to stand among the greatest and historically he has actually always achieved a strong showing in such polls despite their tendency to quickly deteriorate into something of a popularity contest.

Out of sight and out of mind quickly lead to aberrations in results just as the opposite tends to elevate one's rating.

*Eighth now 20th?*

Madison has traditionally ranked among the top 10 but over the past 60 years has increasingly faced contention for his spot from heightened publicity for the Adams family and recent Presidents who are more easily known by survey participants. Recent Presidents who have caused Madison to shift from his top ten spot include Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Reagan and Clinton. If a Bush "Chronicle" appears, Madison could face a further shift.



*Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. and AFM's Founder Hadley Nagel are shown discussing Madison at Montpelier on Constitution Day in a picture that accompanies *The Blue Doors*' recent coverage.*

