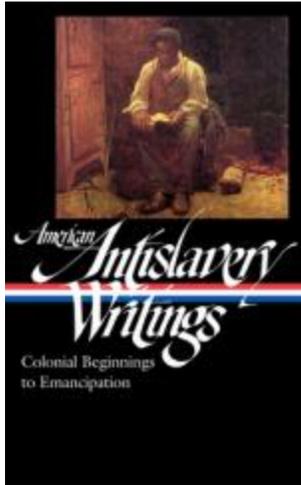


Professor James Basker on his Book, American Antislavery Writings

Thursday, May 9, 2013 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



James Basker speaks about the newest book he edited, *American Antislavery Writings: Colonial Beginnings to Emancipation*. Distinguished by passionate eloquence, moral fervor, and joyful solidarity, and, extraordinarily for its time, embracing writers male and female, black and white, antislavery literature encompassed a dazzling variety of genres: autobiography, fiction, children's literature, poetry, oratory, and song. In telling one of the most important stories in American history, *American Antislavery Writings* offers a survey of unprecedented range and depth, reclaiming many forgotten voices and casting the works of some of the greatest American writers—Franklin, Emerson, Thoreau, Alcott, Melville, Dickinson—in a new light.

Read more about the presentation and see a video clip at [the Westport Library's event calendar](#).

Basker is President of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History at Barnard College, Columbia University. He was educated at Harvard, Cambridge, and as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford. He has published several books, including *Amazing Grace: An Anthology of Poems about Slavery 1660-1810*, *Early American Abolitionists: A Collection of Anti-Slavery Writings 1760-1820*, and *American Antislavery Writings: Colonial Beginnings to Emancipation*. As President of Gilder Lehrman since 1997, Basker has overseen the development of history education initiatives nationwide, including history high schools, teacher seminars, traveling exhibitions, digital archives, and the national history teacher of the year award program. Professor Basker is also the founder and President of OxBridge Academic Programs, which for the past twenty-five years has sponsored academic summer programs and teacher seminars in Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Barcelona, and New York.

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