FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM PRESENTS LINCOLN
SCULPTOR DON SOTTILE, JUNE 7
-A Bicentennial Committee presentation by sculptor for Daniel Penfield statue -

PENFIELD, N.Y., MAY 20, 2009 – In celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday, the Penfield Local History Room and Bicentennial Committee will host a special presentation featuring renowned Lincoln sculptor Don Sottile on Sunday, June 7, 2:30-4:30 PM at the Local History Room in the Penfield Library, 1985 Baird Road. Registration is not required.

The Penfield Bicentennial Committee has commissioned Sottile to create a statue of the town’s founder, Daniel Penfield, as part of the 2010 Bicentennial Celebration. A variety of fundraisers will be held to finance the bronze sculpture including a brick sponsorship that will create a path leading to the sculpture. There will be an opportunity to reserve a brick at this presentation.

Don Sottile has created many public sculptures including two of Abraham Lincoln. One is part of the Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk at Riverfront in Hartford, CT, a permanent installation of 15 pieces that reflect Abraham Lincoln’s legacy. Sottile’s “A Welcome Conversation” depicts a young story-telling Lincoln sitting on a rock gesturing to passers-by to join him. A second rock awaits visitors who want to sit for a photo.

Sottile’s second Lincoln project in Westfield, NY is a well-known sculpture depicting the historic meeting between President-Elect Abraham Lincoln and Westfield resident Grace Bedell, the little girl who became famous for suggesting Lincoln grow a beard during his campaign. Sottile will talk about his Lincoln sculptures at the presentation.
Don Sottile lives and works in Penn Yan, New York. He was formally educated as an art teacher at State University College at Buffalo, with majors in sculpture and painting and advanced studies in Italy at the University of Siena and the Scuola Dell’Arte, Italy. He left teaching to pursue a career in custom furniture design and manufacture and in 1977 took a position with Wendell Castle that lasted twenty three years.

Commission work in recent years includes life-size and larger portrait works in bronze, among which were complete child figures of eleven grandchildren playing in the garden, portraits of Kate Gleason (RIT College of Engineering) and James Gleason (Gleason Manufacturing). Sottile is represented locally by the Oxford Gallery in Rochester, New York.

To learn more contact Town Historian Kathy Kanauer at 340-8740 or historian@penfield.org. Office hours are Monday noon-5 pm and 7-9 pm; Tuesday 10 am-Noon and 12:30-4:30 pm; and Wednesday 10 am-1 pm.

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