



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** [Alexandra K. Mann](#), Publicity & Marketing Coordinator, Poets House  
(212) 431-7920, ext. 2818, [alex@poetshouse.org](mailto:alex@poetshouse.org)

[Jane Ahern](#), Chief of Communications, Statue of Liberty National Monument and  
Ellis Island, 212-363-3206 x106, [jane\\_ahern@nps.org](mailto:jane_ahern@nps.org)

**Poets House and Statue of Liberty Join Together in Project  
to Create Poetry Through Twitter**

*New Use of Social Media Will Help Celebrate Poets House's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Statue of Liberty's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

**New York, NY, October 4, 2011** — The poet Emma Lazarus may not have been able to envision such a thing as Twitter when she wrote the sonnet that graces the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor but it is that sonnet, *The New Colossus*, written in 1883, that has brought Poets House – celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year – and the Statue of Liberty – celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> – together in a new project to inspire people to use Twitter to participate in a community poetry project.

Beginning today, anyone with a Twitter account who is a Poets House follower (@PoetsHouse) can tweet a single line of poetry answering the question “what does the Statue of Liberty mean to you?” Each day, Poets House will tweet a “writing prompt” such as an idea, keyword or description to help followers along and guide them in their writing process. Followers should tweet back their poetic response with the hashtag “#statuepoem.”

Poets House will collect the lines of poetry and, during the course of the subsequent two weeks, will create from them a new sonnet inspired by the statue. The new poem will be published on both the National Park Service and Poets House websites and links will be both tweeted and posted on Facebook. Poets House's Twitter address is @poetshouse. The Statue of Liberty's Twitter address is @StatueLibertyNPS. More information will also be available at each of the organizations' Facebook pages and their websites.

Emma Lazarus's poem reads as follows:

**The New Colossus**

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

— Emma Lazarus, 1883

**Statue of Liberty National Monument:** A gift from France, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886, designated as a national monument in 1924, inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1984 and restored for her centennial on July 4, 1986. The 125th Anniversary celebration will take place on October 28, 2011. The theme for the 125th anniversary events is 'Honor History, Envision the Future.' The park intends to re-create, to the greatest extent possible, the actual program that guided that day's events 125 years ago. Special events will take place throughout the day and include a naturalization ceremony, musical performances, a 21-gun salute and flotilla. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information about the park and the anniversary events, visit [www.nps.gov/stli](http://www.nps.gov/stli) and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**Poets House** is a national poetry library and literary center that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Through its poetry resources and literary events Poets House documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. In the summer of 2009, Poets House moved to its permanent home at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City and opened to the public on September 25, 2009. Now in its new home on the banks of the Hudson River, Poets House is brimming with readers, writers, children's class trips and program audiences. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit [www.poetshouse.org](http://www.poetshouse.org), and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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