The Center for the Liberal Arts and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations are pleased to present a Free Classics Workshop for Teachers

Julius Caesar: The Man, the Writer, the Legend
Saturday, March 24, 2012
10 am to 3 pm
Zehmer Hall, University of Virginia

Gaius Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) is an iconic figure in the history of western civilization. An accomplished general who conquered Gaul for the Roman state, he turned his armies to personal advantage in a civil war from which he emerged victorious. An innovative, if controversial, ruler, he was also a distinguished orator, a respected writer of military memoirs, and made an important contribution to culture by introducing the Julian calendar. Legends of Caesar began with Caesar himself but thereafter enjoyed a long and varied life both within classical antiquity and continuing until today. Caesar's conquest of Gaul, crossing of the Rubicon, liaison with Cleopatra, and his assassination by Brutus and the other conspirators are all the stuff of legend, which one can see played out from Plutarch and Suetonius to Machiavelli and Shakespeare to John Wilkes Booth, Caesar's Palace, and HBO's Rome (among others).

This workshop offers several different perspectives on Julius Caesar and his legend. The speakers will focus on Caesar as general and statesman, the accomplishment of Caesar as a writer in his Gallic Wars, and Shakespeare's play, Julius Caesar. There will be ample time for discussion of all these topics and of teaching Caesar in the high school classroom. The workshop is aimed at teachers across the high school curriculum, whether of English, Latin, Social Studies, or other subjects.

Participants are asked to read book 1 of Caesar's Gallic Wars and Shakespeare's Julius Caesar.

The presentations will be by three UVa professors: Jon E. Lendon, Professor of History; Jane W. Crawford, Professor of Classics; and Gordon Braden, Linden Kent Memorial Professor of English. Organizer: John F. Miller, Professor of Classics.