



Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538 www.fdrlibrary.org 1 (800) FDR-VISIT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
to present author talks**

**-- in commemoration of the 75th anniversary
of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor --**

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

3:00 p.m.: Julia C. Tobey editor of CAPTAIN MCCREA'S WAR

7:00 p.m.: Matthew Dallek author of DEFENSELESS UNDER THE NIGHT

**Henry A. Wallace Center at the
FDR Presidential Library and Home**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will present author talks -- **in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor** -- on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. **Julia C. Tobey, editor of CAPTAIN MCCREA'S WAR: THE WORLD WAR II MEMOIR OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S NAVAL AIDE AND USS IOWA'S FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER**, will speak at 3:00 p.m; and **Matthew Dallek, author of DEFENSELESS UNDER THE NIGHT: THE ROOSEVELT YEARS AND THE ORIGINS OF HOMELAND SECURITY**, will speak at 7:00 p.m. Each author talk will be followed by a book signing in New Deal Store. These free, public events are part of the Library's WORDS OF WAR partnership program with the Poughkeepsie Public Library District and coincide with the Library's special exhibition: DAY OF INFAMY: 24 HOURS THAT CHANGED HISTORY.

3:00 p.m.: Julia C. Tobey editor of CAPTAIN MCCREA'S WAR

Synopsis: When Julia C. Tobey first met Vice Admiral John L. McCrea, she never dreamed she would one day edit his memoirs. All she knew was that the Admiral, her stepfather,

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was a gifted storyteller. His tales about his experiences were rich with firsthand accounts of famous people, epic events, two world wars, the sea, and humor. She found the stories fascinating. Starting in his early 1980s, the Admiral dictated a lengthy memoir for his family, producing 48 cassette tapes of material. After the Admiral's death, Judy began to read the tape transcripts as a way to catch up on the stories she had missed. What she discovered was historical pay dirt and the chance to know her stepfather much more deeply than she had during his lifetime. Over the next 15 years, she corrected the transcripts, and then organized, edited, and fact-checked the material. The result was *A NAVAL LIFE*, an 800-page unpublished memoir completed in 2012. **CAPTAIN MCCREA'S WAR**, about the Admiral's experiences during World War II, was taken from the longer memoir.

Julia C. Tobey received a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law - Newark, and a B.A. in zoology from Barnard College. Before entering the field of law, she taught school, worked in New York City government, and spent two years as a researcher, writer and editor for college level textbooks. Upon obtaining her law degree, she held a federal district court clerkship in the district of New Jersey and worked as a litigator and trusts and estates attorney at the NYS Attorney General's Office and in private practice in New York City. Upon retiring from the law, she pursued her interests in gardening and the cello while working on the McCrea memoirs. Amongst other projects, she helped set up an educational garden for the Booker T. Washington Learning Center in East Harlem and gave a solo cello recital at New York's CAMI Hall. She continues to perform chamber, orchestral and operatic literature in the New York area.

7:00 p.m.: Matthew Dallek author of DEFENSELESS UNDER THE NIGHT

Synopsis: In his 1933 inaugural address, Franklin D. Roosevelt declared that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Yet even before Pearl Harbor, Americans feared

foreign invasions, air attacks, biological weapons, and, conversely, the prospect of a dictatorship being established in the United States. To protect Americans from foreign and domestic threats, Roosevelt warned Americans that "the world has grown so small" and eventually established the precursor to the Department of Homeland Security - an Office of Civilian Defense (OCD). At its head, Roosevelt appointed New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia; First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt became assistant director. Yet within a year, amid competing visions and clashing ideologies of wartime liberalism, a frustrated FDR pressured both to resign.

In **DEFENSELESS UNDER THE NIGHT**, Matthew Dallek reveals the dramatic history behind America's first federal office of homeland security, tracing the debate about the origins of national vulnerability to the rise of fascist threats during the Roosevelt years. While La Guardia focused on preparing the country against foreign attack and militarizing the civilian population, Eleanor Roosevelt insisted that the OCD should primarily focus on establishing a wartime New Deal, what she and her allies called "social defense." Unable to reconcile their visions, both were forced to leave the OCD in 1942. Their replacement, James Landis, would go on to recruit over ten million civil defense volunteers -- the largest volunteer program in World War II America.

Through the history of the OCD, Dallek examines constitutional questions about civil liberties, the role and power of government propaganda, the depth of militarization of civilian life, the quest for a wartime New Deal, and competing liberal visions for American national defense - questions that are still relevant today.

Matthew Dallek is Assistant Professor of Political Management at George Washington University. He is also the author of **THE RIGHT MOMENT: RONALD REAGAN'S FIRST VICTORY AND THE DECISIVE TURNING POINT IN AMERICAN POLITICS**.

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Copies of the books will be available for sale after the talk. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about these events.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Designed by Franklin Roosevelt and dedicated on June 30, 1941, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is the nation's first presidential library and the only one used by a sitting president. Every president since FDR has followed his example and established a presidential library administered by the National Archives and Records Administration to preserve and make accessible to the American people the records of their presidencies. The Roosevelt Library's mission is to foster a deeper understanding of the lives and times of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their continuing impact on contemporary life. This work is carried out through the Library's archives and research room, museum collections and exhibitions, innovative educational programs, and engaging public programming. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.org.

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