

Rendezvous

News and Notes from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Spring 2008

With Support by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

New Special Exhibition Highlights the Beginning of the New Deal “ACTION, AND ACTION NOW” FDR’s First 100 Days

A New Deal Exhibition

On Saturday March 4, 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated President of the United States. The majority of Americans had every reason to be afraid. Nearly 13 million people—one in four—was jobless. Nineteen million people depended upon meager relief payments to survive. Workers lucky enough to have jobs earned, on average, only two-thirds what they made at the start of the Depression in 1929. Many of those who had money lost it: four thousand banks collapsed in the first two months of 1933.

“Action, and Action Now” FDR’s First 100 Days—a special exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt’s first inauguration and the beginning of the New Deal—is now on view at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. It is an immersive experience, designed to evoke the desperation of the people in the midst of the Great Depression, followed by hope and energy as the nation rebuilds. The exhibit uses dramatic and historic audio-visuals, as well as rarely-seen documents, photographs, artifacts, and posters drawn from the archives of the Roosevelt Library.

President Roosevelt took command of a country that was incapacitated by economic collapse. Perhaps only a man who had experienced polio and struggled to restore his own hope for the future could empathize with the national condition. Infusing people with his conviction that they had “nothing to fear but fear itself,” the First 100 Days became a turning point for a nearly beaten population.



Photo by Bill Boxer

Action, and Action Now features large displays of scaffolding and exhibit panels exploring the “construction” of FDR’s early New Deal policies.

So great was the emergency, some urged dictatorial powers, but FDR rejected the suspension of constitutional government. Instead he set forth in his first inaugural address a determination to take “action, and action now.” The speed and scope of Roosevelt’s actions were unprecedented. Many later presidents have used the “First 100 Days” as a measure against which to mobilize their own administrations. But none has succeeded in achieving FDR’s legislative agenda. In less than four months the economy was transformed, homes and farms were saved from foreclosure, and massive relief and work programs addressed the dire needs of the people. Most important, the First 100 Days restored hope and, in the process, preserved democratic government in the United States.

“Action, and Action Now” is on view in the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery at the Roosevelt Library through December 31, 2008. It is funded by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.



Photo by Bill Boxer

Film and television actor Edward Herrmann delivers a dramatic reading of FDR’s first inaugural address as part of the exhibition preview event on March 1, 2008.

Exhibition Preview

On March 1, 2008, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the Roosevelt Library presented a special celebration and exhibition preview to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the First 100 Days.

Over 120 guests enjoyed a special dramatic reading of FDR’s first inaugural address by film and television actor Edward Herrmann, who is best known for his Emmy award-winning portrayals of President Roosevelt. Historical commentary was provided by Jonathan Alter, senior *Newsweek* editor and author of *The Defining Moment: FDR’s First Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*.

Following the presentation attendees were able to preview the “Action, and Action Now” exhibition and meet with the Roosevelt Library’s curatorial staff.

A MESSAGE FROM CURTIS ROOSEVELT

My family should be very proud on the occasion of the opening of this exhibit on The First Hundred Days. Perhaps nothing has been more written about and argued about by historians and political scientists than FDR’s First Hundred Days in the White House, from March to June in 1933. And every president since then has been measured (quite unreasonably so) by this yardstick.

I feel that most of the academicians have missed the point. This was the beginning, the laying of a foundation, of Franklin Roosevelt’s very special relationship with the American people. At the heart of that relationship was FDR caring, and he was able to communicate this, particularly with those Americans who suffered most from the Great Depression. It was not his legislative brilliance. It was his attitude that caught the American public. Their

president really cared. Most Americans never understood the “alphabet soup” of all those new agencies any more than a college student does today. But they could feel a rapport with their president.

They responded to FDR, giving him a resounding victory when he ran again for office in 1936. Roosevelt never achieved quite the same plurality in the 1940 and 1944 elections, but one could see and hear plainly how Americans felt about Franklin Roosevelt when he died in April of 1945. We grieved and openly so. We felt his passing as a personal loss.

It all began with those First Hundred Days. And here it is—on exhibit at the Roosevelt Library.

Curtis Roosevelt is the grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. His mother was their only daughter, Anna.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 75th Anniversary of the New Deal

On the first anniversary of the President’s death, Archibald MacLeish wrote:

“Mr. Roosevelt approached the culture of Americans as he approached their political life and their economic and social institutions, as an historian or, rather, as a political leader whose intellectual preoccupation was history. . . . The sense of history in a political leader is a sense of the past as the past has meaning for the future.”

Or, as FDR himself said in dedicating this Library, “. . . a nation . . . must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.”



FDR Presidential Library

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes administers the oath of office to FDR on the east portico of the United States Capitol, March 4, 1933.

Beginning on March 4, 2008 the nation began to observe the 75th anniversary of the New Deal. And, as we look back on those bleak days of 1933, it is important that we do so with a sense of history—as Roosevelt would—that takes into account its meaning for the present and for the future.

The New Deal and the First Hundred Days stand in American history as singular achievements; as a time when an inspired and inspirational leader communicated with and to the people, with astounding effect. A nation paralyzed by fear dared to hope. And before Franklin Roosevelt’s presidency would conclude a dozen years later, the United States emerged as the most powerful nation on earth, a strength founded on the combined and united efforts of a democratic people.

This trajectory is not unlike FDR’s personal life story of overcoming the debilitating effects of the polio that left him paralyzed just a dozen years before he took the oath of office for the presidency.

I hope that when you view our new exhibition, “Action, and Action Now”: FDR’s First 100 Days, you will recall how

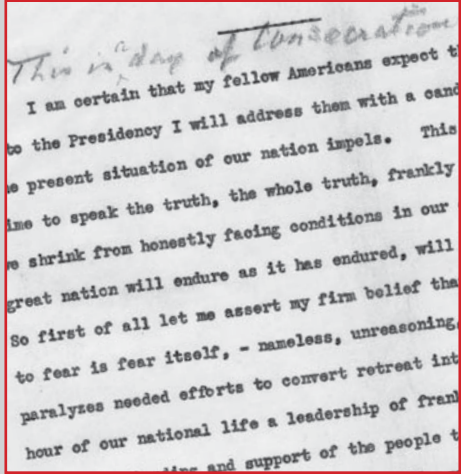
(continued on page 2)

FDR Presidential Library and Museum Exhibits Go on the Road

(continued from page 1)

Roosevelt wanted all of us to take lessons relevant to our lives from the records that he assembled in this great Library.

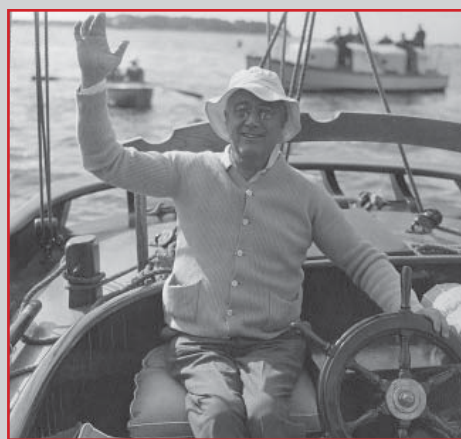
Our own staff educator, Jeffrey Urbin, has shared with me his secrets to being a great teacher: “plant seeds,” “establish points of departure,” and help people make “connections between their lives and those of people living in the Roosevelt era.”



FDR's reading copy of his first inaugural address delivered on March 4, 1933. Roosevelt penciled in the new opening sentence while waiting for the ceremony to begin.

We hope the seeds of curiosity planted by this exhibit will encourage people to go out and learn more about the New Deal and the First Hundred Days. We hope the points of departure will be the reminder that many of the protections that we take for granted today have their origin in the New Deal: Social Security, the FDIC, the SEC, loan guarantees for home and farm mortgages, to name just a few. But most of all, we hope to build a sense of connectedness between the people of the 1930s and those of us alive today—and those who will be alive generations from now.

These connections are founded in our shared humanity, which is so evocatively demonstrated in the new exhibit's film of windswept prairies, bread lines, the careworn, anxious faces of men and women and the dirty faces of their hungry children. But the connections are also there in the scaffolding upon which are hung the fifteen major pieces of legislation that began to turn the tide, to put people to work, to provide relief, and to begin the long process of reform of the social and economic institutions that renewed the nation and put it back on its feet.



FDR at the wheel of the Amberjack II during his June 1933 sailing trip to Campobello. The journey to Campobello—immediately following the “First 100 Days”—was the FDR's first vacation as president and a highly publicized event.

In this presidential election year I hope all of you will come and experience “*Action, and Action Now*”: *FDR's First 100 Days*. Help us fulfill FDR's dream that we use his Library to frame answers to current questions about the relevance of the past to the creation of the future.

Cynthia M. Koch
April 2008

Two traveling exhibitions created by the Roosevelt Library are touring the nation.

“*This Great Nation Will Endure*”: *Photographs of the Great Depression* is a traveling version of a major exhibit that originally appeared in the Library's William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery from September 2004 through July 2005. It features over 150 photographs of America taken between 1935 and 1942 by the legendary photographic unit of the New Deal's Farm Security Administration (FSA). During the 1930s and early 1940s, the FSA employed a remarkable group of photographers—including Dorothea Lange, Gordon Parks, Ben Shahn, and Walker Evans—to document the lives and struggles of Americans enduring the Great Depression. Their work includes some of the most familiar—and powerful—images of the nation to emerge from those difficult years. Many have reached iconic status in American culture.

“*This Great Nation Will Endure*” presents FSA images from every region of the nation. The exhibit also includes several audiovisual programs, including a specially commissioned short documentary film that explores the work of four of the most prominent FSA photographers and a soundtrack of folk music sung by migrant workers that was recorded in FSA migrant worker camps in California in 1940-1941.

President Roosevelt's Book Collection Revisited

When asked at a press conference in 1938 how many books he had, the President estimated about seven thousand at the White House, seven thousand at Hyde Park and another thousand at the New York house. In all, fifteen thousand books with “two rather specialized collections . . . of some definite historic value”: books relating to the American Navy and a smaller collection relating to the Hudson River, especially Dutchess County and Hyde Park. This formed, in the President's words, “the nucleus of a library relating to the period which would be available to students in the future” in the new presidential library at Hyde Park. Today, the Roosevelt Library's book collection totals about 51,000 volumes, and new books about the Roosevelt era are added to the collection regularly.

But when the Library was initially being filled with the President's materials, an early decision was made by the librarians to only keep the President's two specialized collections intact, along with his childhood and school books, and to interfile and inter-catalog the rest of his collection with the current scholarship purchased by the Library annually or received by donations. This resulted in the Library having no real concrete notion of the scope and magnitude of the President's original book collection. In 2005, Director Cynthia Koch decided that it would be of great value to researchers, as well as to the security of the collection, to reconstruct the President's original gift to the Library.

The traveling version of “*This Great Nation Will Endure*” is a joint effort of the FDR Library and Museum, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and the National Archives' Regional Archives system. In the spring of 2007, NARA's Southwest Regional Archive brought the exhibit to Fort



FDR Presidential Library
In Spring 2007 the *FDR@125* exhibition traveled to the White House Visitor Center.

Worth, Texas. From there, it moved on to NARA's Southeast Regional Archive in Morrow, Georgia, where it has been on display since mid-summer. Additional venues are in the planning stages. They include potential appearances sponsored by NARA regional archives in Massachusetts, Illinois, Missouri, and

Alaska. The Library has also received inquiries about the exhibit from private and public museums in Georgia, Texas, and other states.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of FDR's birth in 2007, the Museum created a colorful banner exhibit, titled *FDR@125: His Vision, Our Freedoms, Still Alive*. It features reproductions of historic photographs, documents, cartoons, and posters from the Library's vast collections that illustrate President Roosevelt's achievements during the New Deal and World War II. After an initial appearance at Hyde Park in the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center, the popular exhibit went on the road. It has been displayed at the White House Visitor Center and the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington D.C.; the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York; and the Kansas City Public Library in Kansas City, Missouri.

A modified version of the *FDR@125* exhibit—adapted to mark the New Deal's 75th anniversary in 2008—continues to travel this year. It is currently on view at Roosevelt University in Chicago and will soon make an appearance in Washington D.C. In September it will be featured at the annual convention of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Orlando, Florida.

RECENT BOOKS BASED ON RESEARCH AT THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

The Day of Battle; The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944
(Henry Holt, 2007)
by Rick Atkinson

The Origins of FBI Counterintelligence
(University Press of Kansas, 2007)
by Raymond J. Batvinis

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers: Vol 1, The Human Rights Years, 1945-48
(Thomson Gale, 2007)
Edited by Allida Black

The Making of FDR: The Story of Stephen T. Early, America's First Modern Press Secretary
(Prometheus, 2008)
by Linda Levin

Safehaven: The Allied Pursuit of Nazi Assets Abroad
(University of Missouri Press, 2007)
by Martin Lorenz-Meyer

Franklin and Lucy: President Roosevelt, Mrs. Rutherford, and the Other Remarkable Women in His Life
(Random House, 2008)
by Joseph E. Persico

Summits: Six Meetings that Shaped the Twentieth Century
(Basic Books, 2007)
by David Reynolds

The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression
(HarperCollins, 2007)
by Amity Schlaes

Warm Springs: Traces of a Childhood at FDR's Polio Haven
(Houghton Mifflin Co., 2007)
by Susan Richards Shreve

The Pearl Harbor Myth: Rethinking the Unthinkable
(Potomac Books, 2007)
by George Victor

Fifth Annual Roosevelt Reading Festival

Saturday, June 21, 2008

On Saturday, June 21, the FDR Presidential Library will host its fifth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival featuring a keynote address by historical geographer and author **Gray Brechin**.

In six concurrent sessions taking place throughout the day, twelve authors of recently published works that draw upon the Roosevelt Library archives, or focus on the Roosevelt era, will present

author talks followed by book signings and question-and-answer sessions. This year's authors include Anthony Badger, Stacey Cordery, Kathryn Flynn, Harry Goldsmith, Linda Levin, Joseph Persico, Amity Schlaes, Andrew Schlesinger, Robert Schlesinger, Will Swift, Nick Taylor, and Steve Vogel.

For information call (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov.

Roosevelt Library is Premier Research Center for New Deal Studies

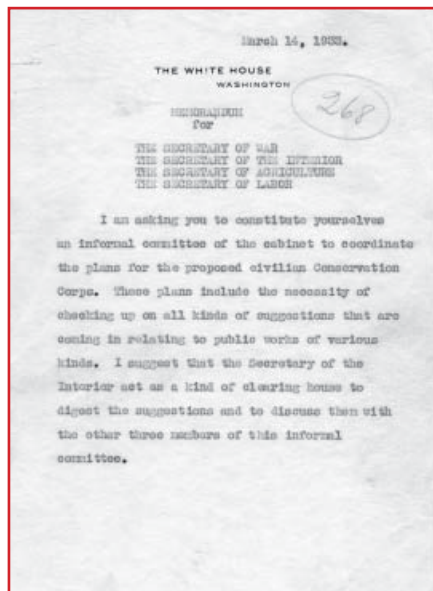
When President Roosevelt first announced plans for his presidential library in December 1938, World War II had not begun and FDR had not declared his intentions for a third term. So the Library originally was intended to be a resource primarily for studying the Great Depression and the New Deal. Today, the Roosevelt Library remains the premier research center for studying this important period in our history.

Not surprisingly, many scholars focus their research on the heart of our collections: Roosevelt's Presidential Papers, where you can find files on the creation and functioning of the CCC, NRA, WPA, TVA and other New Deal agencies. You also can review drafts of important speeches and messages to Congress and Roosevelt's press conference transcripts as well as letters from the American people responding to Roosevelt's various policy initiatives and to the Fireside Chats.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers contain thousands of letters from average Americans asking for clothing, money, help finding jobs, or just her sympathy. And ER's correspondence with government officials shows her as a woman of action, never hesitating to recommend policy initiatives or to advocate on behalf of individuals who had asked for her assistance.

The collections of administration officials contain substantial New Deal resources, particularly the papers of Louis McHenry Howe, FDR's political secretary; Harry L. Hopkins, head of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and then the

WPA; Adolf A. Berle, Jr. and Rexford Guy Tugwell, two of the original Brains Trusters; Samuel Rosenman, FDR's counsel and primary speechwriter; and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., FDR's Treasury Secretary.



FDR Presidential Library

Just ten days after becoming President, FDR personally instructed four of his cabinet secretaries to form a committee to plan the proposed Civilian Conservation Corp.

But there are lesser-known collections relating to the New Deal. For example, the papers of Morris L. Cooke and Leland Olds are invaluable to the study of the development of public power and utilities regulation. John Ihlder's papers document this urban planning expert's work on public housing issues. John H. Fahey served as chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and then the Home Owners Loan Corporation. Leon Henderson and Charles Fahy were officials within the

National Recovery Administration. Aubrey Williams was head of the National Youth Administration, and Gardner Jackson was an attorney in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. The Pare Lorentz Papers document the life and work of "FDR's Filmmaker."

While newspaper correspondent Lorena Hickok is primarily known as a close friend and confidante of Mrs. Roosevelt, she also worked as a roving investigator for Harry Hopkins' FERA, traveling around the country by car and reporting on the effectiveness of local relief administrations and the physical and mental conditions of those receiving relief. Copies of these detailed and insightful reports are available in her papers.

The Olin Dows Papers document this Hudson Valley native's experience on the other side of the New Deal: as an artist employed to paint murals in the Hyde Park and Rhinebeck post offices. Dows' papers are complemented by drawings and studies for the murals in the Library's Museum collections. These include hundreds of artworks, ranging from initial pencil sketches to fully completed watercolor paintings. The Museum's Dows holdings also include a series of original wash drawings and watercolors the artist created for his 1949 book, *FDR at Hyde Park*.

Finally, the audio-visual collections contain photographs, audio recordings, and film documenting conditions in the country during the Depression, various New Deal projects, and the activities of the Roosevelts and their associates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing through Wednesday, December 31
Museum Exhibition:
"Action, and Action Now"
FDR's First 100 Days
FDR Presidential Library
William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery



Friday, May 23
USO Show
Wallace Center; 7 PM



Saturday, May 24
Sunday, May 25
Bivouac - Living History
9 AM to 4 PM
FDR Library Lawn



Saturday, June 21
Roosevelt Reading Festival
10 AM to 4 PM
Wallace Center



Saturday, September 27
New Deal Film Festival
1 to 6 PM
Henry A. Wallace Center



**SUBSCRIBE TO THE
EMAIL BULLETIN**

To learn about programs of the Roosevelt Library sign up for our **Email Bulletin** by sending an email to clifford.laube@nara.gov and typing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

Online Store - New Deal and Political Items

In honor of the Roosevelt Library's new exhibition "Action and Action Now": *FDR's First 100 Days* the New Deal Store offers a selection of new items.

Several of our unique items are reproduced from museum objects in the FDR Library's collection. One of our best sellers is a drinking glass based on an original in the Museum collection. Imprinted in white are the images of a "G.O.P." elephant and a "D.E.M." donkey facing off with their front legs resting on a barrel labeled "BEER." Above them are the words "AT LAST!" and between them "1933."

Prohibition was a major issue during the 1932 campaign, with the Republicans



supporting it and the Democrats trying to repeal it. In 1933, while the Twenty-First Amendment (designed to end Prohibition) was making its way through the states, FDR amended the Volstead Act to allow the sale of low alcohol beer and wine.

In addition to exhibition-related items, new political items ranging from stuffed donkeys and elephants, FDR campaign buttons, and a tie featuring FDR campaign memorabilia are also for sale.

Visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu and type "Rendezvous" in the code box for your 10% Rendezvous Reader discount. Offer is valid until November 4, 2008.



New Museum Acquisition

In 1910 Sara Delano Roosevelt gave her son a set of cufflinks and shirt studs in celebration of the fifth anniversary of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. We are grateful to William Lehman Bernhard, who presented it to the Museum in memory of his mother, Dorothy L. Bernhard, who was a friend of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Purchased at Tiffany & Co., the mother-of-pearl and gold set still resides in its original box, inscribed with the date March 17, 1910. We are most grateful to Mr. Bernhard for his generosity.



LENDING LIBRARY FOR TEACHERS

The Lending Library of the Pare Lorentz Film Center makes audiovisual resources on the Roosevelt era available to educators at no charge. Holdings include archival film footage from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library's holdings, documentaries on the Roosevelts and related topics, newsreels of the 1930s - 40s, government

**NOW
AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

film productions, and Hollywood feature films of the period. The Film Center's own educational productions, as well as the films of Pare Lorentz and audio recordings, are also available. Most films are available in DVD format and may be borrowed for classroom use for up to three weeks. Visit the lending library online at www.parelentzfilmcenter.org.

The Pare Lorentz Film Center is funded by the New York Community Trust through a grant to the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

New Film-based Student Workshops Offered

Using the unique resources of the Pare Lorentz Film Center, the Roosevelt Library is pleased to announce the "Test of Our Progress" Workshop Series. Two day-long student workshops will be offered: "Poverty in the Roosevelt Era" and "Race Relations in the Roosevelt Era."

While most middle and high school curricula are based on traditional documents—letters, reports, maps and photographs—these workshops take the use of primary sources one step further and incorporate historic film footage as it is presented in two original educational films produced by the Pare Lorentz Film Center: *Red-Tailed Angels: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen* and *Sights and Sounds of the FSA*, which tells the story of the Dust Bowl and the work of the New Deal's Farm Security Administration.

Because today's students are accustomed to experiencing the world visually through television, the Internet, and movies, these film-based workshops promise to engage them in ways that traditional document-based programs cannot.

Students from inner-city schools in Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties have been invited to participate in the workshops at no cost to the school



FDR Presidential Library

Day-long student workshops are available for middle and high school students.

districts. Each session is led by a team of three educators: the Library's Education Specialist Jeffrey Urbin; the former Executive Director of the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill Cathy Collins; and retired teacher and Youth Leadership Coach Gwendolyn Higgins.

"Test of Our Progress" is taken from FDR's second inaugural address, January 20, 1937. The workshop series is funded by the New York Community Trust through a grant to the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

For information on any of the educational programs of the Roosevelt Library and the Pare Lorentz Film Center please call Jeffrey Urbin at (845) 486-7761.

Rendezvous

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With Support by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute

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JOIN THE WORLD OF THE ROOSEVELTS

Become a member of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. Enjoy the benefits—and the knowledge that you are providing vital support to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum.

Membership Benefits

- Individual \$35**
- ❖ Unlimited free admission for one adult to the Roosevelt Library and Museum for one year. *Children 15 and under admitted free;*
 - ❖ 10% discount at the New Deal Museum Store;
 - ❖ Subscriptions to *The View from Hyde Park*, the FERI newsletter, and *Rendezvous*, the Roosevelt Library newsletter;
 - ❖ Discounts for conferences, lectures, and seminars sponsored by FERI and the Roosevelt Library;
 - ❖ Free admission to all Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. www.archives.gov
- Family \$60**
- Includes all of the benefits of Individual membership *plus* unlimited free admission for two adults.
- New Dealer \$100**
- Includes the benefits of Family membership *plus* unlimited free admission for four adults and a subscription to *Prologue*, the quarterly magazine of the National Archives.
- Cuff Links Club \$250**
- Includes the benefits of New Dealer membership *plus* free admission to all Roosevelt Library and FERI seminars, conferences or lectures, where a fee is required.
- Brains Trust \$500**
- Includes the benefits of Cuff Links Club membership *plus* a behind-the-scenes tour for up to four people of the Roosevelt Library archives.
- Student (age 17-22) \$15**
- Free admission for one to the Roosevelt Library; free admission to all seminars, conferences and lectures; free admission to all presidential libraries of the National Archives; and subscriptions to the FERI and the Roosevelt Library newsletters.
Current student ID required.

Membership Form

To become a member, please fill out and return the form below, or join online at www.feri.org. Call (845) 486-7769 for information.

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|-------------------------------------|------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> New Dealer | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuff Links Club | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Trust | \$500 |

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Checks should be made out to FERI and mailed to:

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Please charge \$ _____ to my ___ Mastercard ___ Visa

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name (as printed on card) _____

Signature _____

New Membership

Renewal Membership

My company matches my charitable contributions. I will contact my corporate giving office to have a form for matching gifts sent to FERI.

I wish to give but not become a member.

Please send a Gift Membership to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Membership Category _____