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 personal relationship 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
FDR Presidential Library and Museum Exhibits Go on the Road

FDR’s reading copy of his first inaugural address delivered on March 4, 1933. Roosevelt penciled in “connections between their lives and those of us who live today,” and help people make connections between their lives and those of people living in the Roosevelt era.

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 FIDC, 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 faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of windswept prairies, bread lines, the faces of 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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 Eleanor’s correspondence with government officials showed us how she was 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 Reford Guy Tugwell, two of the original Brain Trusters; Samuel Rosenman, FDR’s counsel and primary speechwriter; and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., FDR’s Treasury Secretary.

National Recovery Administration. Audrey William 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 Lorona Hickok is primarily known as a close friend and confidante of Mrs. Roosevelt, she also worked as a roving investigator for Harry Hopkins’ FECHA, 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 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 documentation of events in the country during the Depression, various New Deal projects, and the activities of the Roosevelts and their associates.

Subscriptions are also available in DVD format and may be borrowed for classroom use for up to three weeks. Visit the lending library online at www.parelorentzfilmcenter.org.

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 historical 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 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.

Lending Library for Teachers

Available Online

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 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 archival 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.parelorentzfilmcenter.org.

Upcoming Events

Ongoing through Wednesday, December 31

“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 Bivouac - Living History 9 AM to 4 PM Wallace Center

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

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 B. Bernhard, who was a close 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.
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**

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<td>Student (age 17-22)</td>
<td>• 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 <em>The View from Hyde Park</em>, the FERI newsletter, and <em>Rendezvous</em>, 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. <a href="http://www.archives.gov">www.archives.gov</a></td>
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To become a member, please fill out and return the form below, or join online at [www.feri.org](http://www.feri.org). Call (845) 486-7769 for information.

**Membership Form**

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Please charge $____________________ to my __ Mastercard __ Visa
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__ 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:

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