



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIFTH ANNUAL ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

with Eleven Authors of Recently Published Books and

GRAY BRECHIN of the CALIFORNIA LIVING NEW DEAL PROJECT

HYDE PARK, NY -- On Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host its fifth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival. This year's featured authors include Anthony J. Badger, Joseph E. Persico, Robert Schlesinger, and Nick Taylor -- with a keynote address by California Living New Deal Project founder, Gray Brechin. A special dedication ceremony will take place at 12:45 p.m. in the Roosevelt Library's newly refurbished Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Research Room. The Reading Festival will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. All Roosevelt Reading Festival activities are open to the public free of charge.

In six concurrent sessions taking place throughout the day, eleven authors of recently published works that draw upon the Roosevelt Library archives, or focus on the Roosevelt era, will present author talks followed by question-and-answer sessions and book signings. Copies of all of the authors' books will be available for sale in the New Deal Store located in the Wallace Center. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. with welcoming remarks, coffee and doughnuts in the lobby of the Wallace Center.

The 12:45 p.m. dedication ceremony in the Roosevelt Library's newly refurbished Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Research Room is open to the public. The renovation was made possible through the generosity of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute Founder and Chair Emeritus William J. vanden Heuvel who sought a way to remember Schlesinger's lasting contribution to the study of history at the Roosevelt Library. The modernized research room will help researchers at the Roosevelt Library remember Professor Schlesinger as they work in space that is brighter and more conducive to the important work they do.

The afternoon keynote address will be presented by Gray Brechin, founder of the California Living New Deal Project and author of *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* and *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream*. The California Living New Deal Project is a growing collaborative effort to identify, map, interpret, and commemorate the vast public works legacy of FDR's New Deal on its 75th anniversary. For more information about Dr. Brechin and his work visit www.graybrechin.net.

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Keynote Address:

Gray Brechin

The California Living New Deal Project

Anthony J. Badger

FDR: The First Hundred Days

Hill & Wang, 2008

Kathryn A. Flynn

The New Deal: A 75th Anniversary Celebration

Gibbs Smith, 2008

Harry Goldsmith

A Conspiracy of Silence: The Health and Death of Franklin D. Roosevelt

iUniverse, 2007

Linda L. Levin

*The Making of FDR: The Story of Stephen T. Early,
America's First Modern Press Secretary*
Prometheus Books, 2008

Joseph E. Persico

*Franklin and Lucy: President Roosevelt, Mrs. Rutherford,
and the Other Remarkable Women in His Life*
Random House, 2008

Amity Shlaes

The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression
HarperCollins, 2007

Andrew Schlesinger

Journals: 1952-2000, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
The Penguin Press, 2007

Robert Schlesinger

White House Ghosts: Presidents and their Speechwriters
Simon & Schuster, 2008

Will Swift

*The Kennedys Amidst the Gathering Storm:
A Thousand Days in London, 1938-1940*
Smithsonian Books, 2008

Nick Taylor

*American-Made:
The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work*
Random House, 2008

Steve Vogel

*The Pentagon: The Untold Story of the Wartime Race
to Build the Pentagon -- and to Restore it Sixty Years Later*
Random House, 2008

The event is free and open to the public. Author book signings will be conducted throughout the day and books will be available for purchase in the New Deal Store. The full schedule for the day is posted online at www.HistoricHydePark.org. Regular admission will be charged for the Presidential Library and National Park Service sites. If

you need additional information about this event please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

FDR AND HIS BOOK COLLECTION

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was an avid collector of books. His love of reading was reflected in the enormity of his collection which numbered over 15,000 books at the time of his death in April 1945.

Roosevelt always enjoyed reading. However, it was during his years at Harvard that he became a serious book collector, during his service as the librarian for the Hasty Pudding and Fly Clubs. After college, FDR continued his collecting, stopping at bookshops on his honeymoon in Europe, and later forming relationships with several dealers around the Eastern United States. Nearly all of his books were for the purpose of entertainment, his

favorite topics included naval history, nature, sea exploration, and of course, the beautiful area of Dutchess County and the Hudson River which he called home.

FDR read books almost purely for entertainment and therefore collected many that related to his other hobbies such as ornithology, local history, naval history, and marine architecture. He also collected children's books. While reading was one of his pastimes, it was often the physical appeal of a book that attracted FDR. He admired attractive bindings, cover designs, typeface, and paper. Not surprisingly, then, each new addition to his personal library was given its own specially designed book plate, and the more valuable books were kept in protective slipcovers.

While Roosevelt valued his books greatly, in addition to his name, he often jotted small notes in them, either describing something about the nature of the book, or its relevance in his personal life. In the flyleaf of an 1869 edition of Sir Samuel White's *Cast Up by the Sea*, Roosevelt wrote, "one of my favorite boyhood books -- read it three times." More often, he would write simpler indications such as "interesting" or "rare." FDR wrote more significant comments in a smaller number of his books, such as in William Trufant Foster's, *The Road to Plenty*, Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, Raymond Leslie Bull's *Isolated America*, Alexander Kiralfy's *Victory in the Pacific*, and Charles A. Beard's *A Foreign Policy for America*, which criticized Roosevelt.

By the 1930's, Roosevelt had run out of space for his collection and began holding auctions to get rid of duplicate copies and less desirable volumes. At this time he also began planning a permanent library on his Hyde Park estate. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, which opened to the public in 1941, is the repository for FDR's beloved personal library of more than 15,000 volumes.