



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538-1917

www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu 1-800-FDR-VISIT

August 15, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum to Host National Issues Forums Series This Fall

HYDE PARK, NY -- In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host a series of discussions on public policy issues between Labor Day and Election Day this fall. All forums are free and open to the public but registration is required as space is limited. **Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 to register.**

Forums to be held:

Saturday, September 13 at 2:00 p.m.

**“Coping with the Cost of Health Care:
How Do We Pay for What We Need?”**

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

Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.

**“Making Ends Meet:
Is There a Way to Help Working Americans?”**

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

All twelve Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration, in communities all across the country, are participating in this initiative. The libraries will each host a forum on health care and other forums will be on a range of topics including

immigration, federal debt, education, and energy. The forums will reflect the interests and enthusiasm of the community that supports the Libraries. As a result, the forums will be held in a variety of locations including the Presidential Libraries, local community centers, public libraries and university campuses.

“Hosting National Issues Forums at the Presidential Libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education,” Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, said. “Presidential Libraries are public places and it is appropriate for citizens to engage in intense discussions of major public policy issues in the midst of a presidential campaign. However, the goal should be hosting discussions which are balanced, civil in tone and fair-minded.”

“Participants in a forum,” NIFI Chairman William Winter, said, “deliberate with one another -- eye-to-eye, face to-face, exploring options, weighing others’ views, considering the costs and consequences of public policy decisions. In a democracy, citizens have a responsibility to make choices about how to solve problems and forums help enrich participants’ thinking on public issues. By offering citizens a framework for deliberative forums, NIFI helps the public take an active role in acting on public issues.”

The Presidential Libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration are not libraries in the usual sense. They are archives and museums, bringing together in one place the documents and artifacts of a President and his administration and presenting them to the public for study and discussion without regard for political considerations or affiliations. Presidential Libraries and Museums, like their holdings, belong to the American people. They promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience, preserving and providing access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

NIFI is a 25-year-old nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored forums for the consideration of public policy issues. Forums are rooted in the simple notion that

citizens need to come together to reason and talk -- to deliberate about common problems.

Sponsored by the National Issues Forums Institute, the fall forums hosted by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum are presented in collaboration with Hofstra University Center for Civic Engagement and Dutchess Community College Department of History, Government and Economics.

There is no charge for these programs but registration is required as space is limited.

Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 to register.

For information about the Presidential Libraries visit www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/.

For information about NIFI, contact Bob Daley at (937) 434-7300 or email at daley@kettering.org. Or, you could visit the National Issues Forums Institute web site at www.nifi.org.

XXX