



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL
with Fourteen Authors of Recently Published Books and
Roosevelt Grandson CURTIS ROOSEVELT

HYDE PARK, NY -- On Saturday, June 20, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host its sixth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival. This year's authors include *New York Times* editorial board member **Adam Cohen**, author of *Nothing to Fear: FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America* and *Washington Post* staff writer **Kirsten Downey**, author of *The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience*. Roosevelt grandson **Curtis Roosevelt**, author of *Too Close To the Sun: Growing Up in the Shadow of My Grandparents, Franklin and Eleanor*, will deliver the afternoon keynote address. 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, fourteen 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.

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Keynote Address:

Curtis Roosevelt

Too Close to the Sun:

Growing Up in the Shadow of My Grandparents, Franklin and Eleanor
(Public Affairs, 2008)

Adam Cohen

Nothing to Fear:

FDR's Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America
(The Penguin Press, 2009)

Kirsten Downey

The Woman Behind the New Deal:

The Life of Frances Perkins, FDR's Secretary of Labor and His Moral Conscience
(Random House, 2009)

Frances F. Dunwell

The Hudson: America's River

(Columbia University Press, 2008)

James C. Humes

The Wit and Wisdom of FDR

(Harper, 2008)

Robert F. Jefferson

Fighting For Hope: African American Troops of the

93rd Infantry Division in World War II and Postwar America
(Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008)

Christopher D. O'Sullivan

Sumner Welles, Postwar Planning, and the Quest for a New World Order, 1937-1943

(Columbia U. Press, 2008)

Roxane Orgill

Dream Lucky: When FDR was in the White House,

Count Basie was on the Radio, and Everyone Wore a Hat

(Smithsonian Books/Harper-Collins, 2008)

John W. Sloan

FDR and Reagan; Transformative Presidents with Clashing Visions

(University Press of Kansas, 2008)

Burt Solomon

FDR v. the Constitution
(Walker & Co., 2009)

David Taylor

Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America
(Wiley, 2009)

Nick Taylor

American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work
(Bantam, 2008)

Pat Willard

America Eats! On the Road with the WPA
(Bloomsbury, 2008)

David B. Woolner

FDR's World: War, Peace and Legacies
(Macmillan, 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.

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