



# PRESS RELEASE

## The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing:  
Julie M. Fenster author of  
FDR'S SHADOW: LOUIS HOWE, THE FORCE  
THAT SHAPED FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT  
October 18, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that **Julie M. Fenster**, author of **FDR'S SHADOW: LOUIS HOWE, THE FORCE THAT SHAPED FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**, will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Following the talk, Ms. Fenster will be available to sign copies of her book. This event is free and open to the public.

When he first met FDR in 1911, Louis Howe was a newspaper reporter in upstate New York with a burgeoning interest in Democratic politics. Dazzled by Roosevelt's youth, integrity and his brazen first run in the New York State Senate, Howe soon became a major player in FDR's career, even running the campaign that ensured Roosevelt's reelection to the State Senate in 1912. In **FDR'S SHADOW**, Fenster follows Howe's influence from Roosevelt's days as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, to his failed run for the vice presidency in 1920. The dynamic between Howe, FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt morphs before the reader's eyes as the future first lady eventually warms to her husband's ever-present consultant. Fenster takes us inside the train rides on that 1920 campaign tour that allowed Howe to finally break through to Eleanor, planting the seeds of a companionship that would awaken the awe-inspiring public figure we all know her to be.

When FDR fell ill and became paralyzed in 1921, it was Howe who took on the tireless job of breathing life back into FDR's career. While sharing sickroom duties with Eleanor, Howe became FDR's bridge to the political world while he recovered. With the keen sense that FDR still had plenty of fight left in him, Howe enlisted Eleanor to keep the Roosevelt political machine running until the man of the hour was ready to claim the spotlight once again. Fenster details Howe's efforts to prepare FDR for his famous "happy warrior" speech, and the way in which that shining moment led to FDR's reentry into the political sphere and his eventual election to the presidency.

As *Time* magazine reported of Roosevelt the week of Howe's death, "Admirers he had by the millions, acquaintances by the thousands, advisers by the hundreds, friends by the score, but of intimates such as Louis Howe he had only one." It is rare indeed for any individual to have such profound, genuine influence on one of the world's greatest leaders and this exceptional story is revealed in full detail in **FDR'S SHADOW**.

Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* said, "Once again Julie Fenster delivers the goods. *FDR's Shadow* is a brilliant look at how the indomitable and enlightened Louis Howe became the mega-advisor of the Roosevelt Clan. A must read for anybody interested in U.S. political history. Every page sings."

**Julie M. Fenster** is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Case of Abraham Lincoln* and co-author with Douglas Brinkley of *The New York Times* bestseller *Parish Priest*. Her books include the award-winning *Ether Day* and *Race of the Century*. A regular contributor to *American Heritage*, Fenster has also written for *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*. She has appeared on NPR and C-Span, among others. She lives in Syracuse, New York.

Copies of Ms. Fenster's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email [clifford.laube@nara.gov](mailto:clifford.laube@nara.gov) with questions about the event.

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 thirteen 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](http://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](http://www.HistoricHydePark.org).

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