



PRESS RELEASE

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FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY PRESENTS

ROBERT L. BEIR

***ROOSEVELT AND THE HOLOCAUST: A ROOSEVELTIAN EXAMINES
THE POLICIES AND REMEMBERS THE TIMES***

FOR AN AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING

JUNE 4, 2006 2:00 p.m.

HYDE PARK, NY—The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that Robert L. Beir, author of *Roosevelt and the Holocaust: A Rooseveltian Examines the Policies and Remembers the Times*, will give a book talk at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Sunday, June 4, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. Following the talk, Mr. Beir will be available to sign copies of his book.

Roosevelt and the Holocaust is both a personal memoir and a scholar's quest for the truth. Beir addresses the question; why didn't Roosevelt do more to help the Jews of Europe?

Robert L. Beir was born in New York City in 1918, the year World War I ended. His parents were both born and raised in the U.S., but continued to retain pride in their German Jewish heritage. Beir encountered anti-Semitism for the first time at private school when he was fourteen years old. It left a deep impression, and was the beginning of the anti-Semitism that would haunt him throughout his education at Taft Prep School, Brown University and Harvard Business School.

Beir confesses to having two lifelong heroes, his father and Franklin Roosevelt. One can only imagine the heart-wrenching conflict Beir faced at age eighty-five, when this self-proclaimed "Rooseveltian," began to hear new evidence that implied Roosevelt had been indifferent to Europe's Jews during the Holocaust. Driven to uncover the facts for himself, Bob Beir researched and wrote *Roosevelt and the Holocaust*.

Robert Beir is uniquely qualified to write this book. In 1970 he joined the renowned Calhoun School in NYC, as Chairman of the Board. He began teaching classes on Roosevelt to high school students there, and at Marymount College. Beir started amassing an impressive private Roosevelt library, became a dedicated Roosevelt scholar, and subsequently a Holocaust scholar.

It is no surprise that in 1984, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Jr. and Schuyler Chapin asked Beir to join the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute Board of Directors. Ambassador William vanden Heuvel (then President of the Board) convinced him to accept. Beir has served on the board ever since. He lives with his wife Joan in New York City.

Renowned historian Doris Kearns Goodwin praised Mr. Beir's recent work stating, "Among the many books on FDR and the Holocaust, this one occupies a uniquely powerful position. Having long considered Roosevelt his personal hero, Beir found it painful to confront the question of whether Roosevelt was indifferent to the plight of the Jews. Yet, in this moving story which is both a personal memoir and a scholar's quest, he provides an honest look at his hero, his country and himself."

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. said, "Robert Beir has written a memoir of growing up in an America where anti-Semitism was tragically in vogue. His successful career is a testament to his character and strength in working to change that environment. His book reflects further on the history of America's response to the Holocaust. I disagree with many of his conclusions but they deserve to be read as the work of a serious student of those anguished times."

Copies of Mr. Beir'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 with any 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 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.