



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
PRESENTS THE
ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL III
FEATURING *NEWSWEEK*'S JONATHAN ALTER
& YOUNG PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN NOAH McCULLOUGH**

HYDE PARK, NY—On Saturday, June 24, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host the Roosevelt Reading Festival III. This year's general session speakers are *NEWSWEEK*'s **Jonathan Alter**, author of the widely acclaimed new book, *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*, and ten year old presidential historian, **Noah McCullough**. This annual event 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, nine authors of recently published works that draw upon the Roosevelt Library archives will present author talks followed by book signings and question and answer sessions. Copies of all of the authors' books will be available for sale in the New Deal Store located in the Wallace Center. Coffee will be served in the lobby of the Wallace Center at 9:30 a.m., and the first group of author talks will begin at 10:00 a.m.

In addition to the concurrent author talks, three general sessions will be held during the day. The first will feature child author Noah McCullough who will discuss his book, *The Essential Book of Presidential Trivia*, at 11:00 a.m. McCullough, at ten years old, has appeared on THE TONIGHT SHOW with Jay Leno five times as a political expert and correspondent. His wit and knowledge of U.S. history has been a hit with viewers. He has appeared on the TODAY SHOW with Katy Couric, FOX NEWS, MSNBC, and the OPRAH WINFREY SHOW. Noah was a SCHOLASTIC Kids Press Election reporter.

NEWSWEEK Senior Editor Jonathan Alter will be the 3:00 p.m. general session speaker. In his latest book, *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*, Alter looks back at Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first days as President, how it influenced decades of American life, some still enduring today, and why it redefined the American presidency. Alter has written the widely acclaimed "Between The Lines" NEWSWEEK column, which examines politics, media and society at large. Alter has covered the past four presidential campaigns for NEWSWEEK and has frequently interviewed President Clinton and other world leaders. Since 1996, Alter has also been a contributing correspondent for NBC NEWS, where he appears regularly on all NBC broadcasts including TODAY, NBC NIGHTLY NEWS, NBC NEWS specials and MSNBC. In spring 1997 Alter was the Ferris Visiting Professor of Press and Politics at Princeton University.

At 4:00 p.m., participants are invited to attend a special conversation with Ruth Shipman Mueller in honor of the 65th anniversary of the dedication of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, in June of 1941. Ms. Mueller, the daughter of Fred Shipman, the first director of the Roosevelt Library, will speak with Cynthia Koch, current Library director, about her father and her memories of the early days of America's first presidential library. A wine and cheese reception will follow this final session.

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Alter, Jonathan

The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope
Simon & Schuster, 2006

Angelo, Bonnie

First Families: The Impact of The White House on Their Lives
William Morrow, 2005

Ghee, Joyce and Spence, Joan

Eleanor Roosevelt: A Hudson Valley Remembrance
Arcadia, 2005

McCullough, Noah

The Essential Book of Presidential Trivia
Random House, 2006

Peters, Charles

Five Days in Philadelphia: The Amazing "We Want Willkie!" Convention of 1940 and How It Freed FDR to Save the Western World
Public Affairs, 2005

Rosen, Eliot A.

Roosevelt, the Great Depression, and the Economics of Recovery
University of Virginia Press, 2005

Rosen, Robert N.

Saving the Jews: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Holocaust
Avalon, 2006

Urbin, Franceska M.

"Gentleman Farmer, 'Hick from Dutchess County.'"
FDR at Home: A Collection of Essays edited by Nancy Fogel
DCHS, 2005

Willis, Resa

FDR and Lucy: Lovers and Friends
Routledge, 2004

The event is free and open to the public. The full schedule for the day is posted online at www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/events.html. 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.