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January 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library,
Catharine Street Community Center and the Roosevelt Institute**

**Present the Second Annual *Eleanor Roosevelt "We Make Our Own History"* Forums
Benefiting the Catharine Street Community Center**

**2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2011 and March 27, 2011
Pre-registration required**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The FDR Presidential Library, the Catharine Street Community Center and the Roosevelt Institute will host the second annual Eleanor Roosevelt "We Make Our Own History" Forums this February and March. The first forum, featuring Paula J. Giddings, author of *IDA: A SWORD AMONG LIONS: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching*, is on February 13, 2011 in commemoration of African American History Month. The second forum, featuring Maurine H. Beasley, author of *ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: Transformative First Lady*, will be held on March 27, 2011 in honor of Women's History Month. Both forums will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home and will include a book talk, signing and reception. Proceeds benefit the Catharine Street Community Center in Poughkeepsie, New York and the education programs of Roosevelt Library.

Pre-registration and an admission fee is required for both events (February 13 only, \$25; March 27 only, \$25; or both programs, \$40). Call (845) 486-7745 for registration information. To download the registration form visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/publicprograms/pdfs/erforums.pdf.

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On February 13, 2011, beginning at 2:00 p.m., Paula J. Giddings will discuss her recent book ***IDA: A SWORD AMONG LIONS: Ida B. Wells and the Campaign Against Lynching***. Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist Toni Morrison said of *IDA*, “*A Sword Among Lions* is more than brilliant; it is necessary. I can’t think of a biography that throws more light on the history of gender, race, and class discord in the United States. Six decades of Ida B. Wells’ life constitute a riveting, definitive narrative on a dark and bruising history. In Paula Giddings, this vibrant woman has found a biographer equal to her prowess.” Paula J. Giddings is the Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor in Afro-American Studies at Smith College, where she also serves as editor of the scholarly journal, *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*. She is the author of four books on the social and political history of African-Americans, and is a sought after speaker at universities, historical societies, and churches.

On March 27, 2011, beginning at 2:00 p.m., Maurine H. Beasley will discuss her new book ***ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: Transformative First Lady***. Historian and author Donald A. Ritchie applauded Beasley’s latest work saying, “Eleanor Roosevelt refused to be confined by tradition. This shrewd and succinct biography examines how she overcame her own insecurities to become America’s most independent first lady and worldwide human rights activist.” Maurine H. Beasley, Professor Emerita of Journalism at the University of Maryland, has been an education editor for the *Kansas City Star* and staff writer for the *Washington Post*. She is the author of *First Ladies and the Press* and coeditor of the *Eleanor Roosevelt Encyclopedia*.

Catharine Street Community Center, in Poughkeepsie, New York, promotes and coordinates educational, health, and cultural programming that enriches and enhances the lives of individuals, children, and families. Visit www.catharinecenter.org.

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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.

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