

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY *and* MUSEUM

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June 2, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information call: Clifford Laube at (845) 486-7745

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
8th Annual ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL
with Eleven Authors of Recently Published Books and
“James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings”
with James MacGregor Burns and Michael Beschloss**

HYDE PARK, NY -- On Saturday, June 18, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host its eighth annual Roosevelt Reading Festival highlighting the recently published work of eleven authors and a special afternoon presentation, **“James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings”** with renowned historians **James MacGregor Burns** and **Michael Beschloss**. The Reading Festival will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. All Reading Festival activities are open to the public free of charge.

In six concurrent sessions taking place throughout the day, eleven authors of 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 coffee and doughnuts.

The festival will culminate in a special program at 4:00 p.m., **“James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings”** featuring a conversation with renowned Pulitzer Prize-winning Roosevelt scholar James MacGregor Burns and his former student at Williams College, presidential historian and NBC News commentator Michael Beschloss. The discussion will center on Burns's life and work studying the Roosevelt Era and the special relationship that developed between these two prominent American historians.

This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Special Afternoon Presentation:

"James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings"
with **James MacGregor Burns** and **Michael Beschloss**

Altschuler, Bruce E.

Acting Presidents: 100 Years of Plays about the Presidency
Palgrave Macmillan, 2010

Beasley, Maurine H.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Transformative First Lady
University Press of Kansas, 2010

Dinunzio, Mario R.

Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Third American Revolution
Praeger Publishers, 2011

Dunn, Susan

Roosevelt's Purge: How FDR Fought to Change the Democratic Party
Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010

Moye, J. Todd

Freedom Flyer: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II
Oxford University Press, 2010

Robinson, Greg

A Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America
Columbia University Press, 2009

Snow, Richard

*A Measureless Peril:
America in the Fight for the Atlantic, the Longest Battle of World War II*
Scribner, 2010

Terzian, Philip

Architects of Power: Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and the American Century
Brief Encounters, 2010

Waller, Douglas

Wild Bill Donovan: The Spymaster Who Created the OSS and Modern American Espionage
Free Press, 2011

Walsh, Kenneth T.

Family of Freedom: Presidents and African Americans in the White House
Paradigm Publishers, 2011

Wynn, Neil A.

The African American Experience during World War II
Rowman and Littlefield, 2010

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.fdrlibrary.marist.edu. Regular admission will be charged for the Roosevelt Library and National Park Service sites. For additional information about this event please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

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 21,000 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, Dutchess County history and the Hudson River.

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 21,000 volumes.

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.

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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