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October 25, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Pare Lorentz Center at the FDR Presidential Library presents
a Film Screening and Discussion of
Soul of a People: Writing America's Story
with Lead Writer and Co-producer David A. Taylor
Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Pare Lorentz Center at the FDR Presidential Library will host a film screening and discussion of *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story* -- with lead writer and co-producer **David A. Taylor** -- at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 6, 2011. The program will be held in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. This event is free and open to the public.

Soul of a People is an award-winning Smithsonian documentary film about a diverse group of men and women who found relief from the Great Depression on the WPA Writers' Project. A few of them would become famous -- including Zora Neale Hurston, Richard Wright, pulp writer Jim Thompson, John Cheever, and Studs Terkel -- while others are less known today. To survive, they reported on local history and life for state guidebooks and gathered oral histories. In the end, they produced an epic and provocative self-portrait of America, with effects that reverberated in the culture for decades. FDR said, "One hundred years from now, my administration will be known for its art, not its relief." *Soul of a People* offers a fresh look at the WPA writers, their lives and their legacy.

David A. Taylor is author of *Soul of a People: The WPA Writers' Project Uncovers Depression America* (Wiley, 2009). The book was a finalist in the 2010 Library of Virginia

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Literary Awards and ranked among Best Books of 2009 by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. He is also author of the award-winning history *Ginseng, the Divine Root* (Algonquin, 2006) as well as a fiction collection, *Success: Stories* (WWPH, 2008). He has written scripts for documentary films for PBS, National Geographic, and the Smithsonian Channel. Taylor is lead writer and co-producer of *Soul of a People: Writing America's Story*, which premiered on the Smithsonian Channel in 2009. Taylor's articles have appeared in *Smithsonian*, *The Washington Post*, *The American Scholar*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, among others, and can be found at www.davidataylor.com. He lives in Washington, DC and teaches writing at The Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email 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.

The Pare Lorentz Center's mission is *to apply the audiovisual techniques pioneered by Pare Lorentz to teach history and social studies, and to perpetuate Lorentz's use of the documentary format in inspiring social and political messages*. Located at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the center is funded through a generous grant from the New York Community Trust to the Roosevelt Institute. Pare Lorentz created groundbreaking documentary films -- a powerful synthesis of stunning imagery, poetic narration, and evocative music -- for New Deal agencies of the Roosevelt Administration. The Pare Lorentz Center creates and disseminates educational

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documentary materials and films to teach the history of the Age of Roosevelt and illustrate the enduring social issues (poverty, social equality and conservation) that President Roosevelt and Pare Lorentz cared so much about. Visit www.parelorentzcenter.org for more information.

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 Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

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