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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum,
Marist College and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District
in partnership with The Big Read present
a panel discussion
"Dangerous Expressions: FAHRENHEIT 451 and the Fear of Ideas"
October 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Henry A. Wallace Center at the
FDR Presidential Library and Home**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Marist College and the Poughkeepsie Public Library District -- in partnership with The Big Read -- will present a panel discussion titled, "**Dangerous Expressions: FAHRENHEIT 451 and the Fear of Ideas**" on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. Marist College professors and FDR Library staff will discuss the history of censorship in the arts and society. The program will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home.

The conversation will be led by Roosevelt Library Education Specialist **Jeffrey Urbin**. Panelists, speaking on their areas of expertise, will include: Professor **Michael O'Sullivan** (Nazi Germany and Censorship); Professor **Nicholas Marshall** (The Abolitionists and 'Incendiary' Literature in the South); Professor **Steven Garabedian** (Music and Censorship in the Age of Containment); and Professor **Sally Dwyer-McNulty** (The Politics of Books and American Catholicism).

For more information about the program please call Jeffrey Urbin at (845) 486-7761.

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About The Big Read

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with Arts Midwest.

The Big Read answers a big need. *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, a 2004 report by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that not only is literary reading in America declining rapidly among all groups, but that the rate of decline has accelerated, especially among the young. The concerned citizen in search of good news about American literary culture would study the pages of this report in vain.

The Big Read aims to address this crisis squarely and effectively. It provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The Big Read supports organizations across the country in developing community-wide reading programs, which encourage reading and participation by diverse audiences.

Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, and educational and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement.

Each community event lasts approximately one month and includes a kick-off event to launch the program locally, ideally attended by the mayor and other local luminaries; major events devoted specifically to the book (panel discussions, author reading, and the like); events using the book as a point of departure (film screenings, theatrical readings, and so forth); and book discussions in diverse locations and aimed at a wide range of audiences.

The NEA inaugurated The Big Read as a pilot project in 2006 with 10 communities featuring four books. The Big Read continues to expand to include more communities and additional books. To date, more than 1,000 grants have been awarded to communities in the United States to host Big Reads since the program's 2007 national launch.

About Marist College

Marist College was founded in 1929 and is located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, midway between New York City and Albany, the state capital. The school has been recognized for excellence by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Time*, *The Princeton Review*. Additionally, *Barron's Best Buys in College Education*, has noted Marist College for its leadership in the use of technology to enhance the teaching and learning process. Marist reflects the ideals of the founder of the Marist Brothers, St. Marcellin Champagnat: commitment to excellence in education, a pursuit of higher human values, and dedication to the principle of service.

The Poughkeepsie Public Library District offers the greater Poughkeepsie community diverse services and programs resulting in an informed and educated public, and will promote lifelong learning, literacy, and reading. Visit www.poklib.org.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

As generations of Americans that have no personal memory of the Roosevelt Era emerge, it is more critical than ever that the lives and legacies of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt be preserved and presented to new generations. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum stands ready to serve as a visible and valuable resource for children and families, educators and students, and an international

audience seeking to understand the past to make a better tomorrow. With a newly renovated building and new permanent museum exhibits the Library seeks to honor President Roosevelt's vision in dedicating his Library to the American people. The Roosevelt Library is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For more information about the Library or its programs call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

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