



October 23, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
presents an author talk and book signing with
KAREN CHASE author of
POLIO BOULEVARD: A MEMOIR
Thursday, November 6, 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 is pleased to present an author talk and book signing **KAREN CHASE** author of **POLIO BOULEVARD: A MEMOIR**. The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2014 in the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home. Following the presentation, Chase will be available to sign copies of her book. This event is free and open to the public.

In 1954, Karen Chase was a ten-year-old girl playing Monopoly in the polio ward when the radio blared out the news that Dr. Jonas Salk had developed the polio vaccine. The discovery came too late for her, and **POLIO BOULEVARD** is Chase's unique chronicle of her childhood while fighting polio. From her sickbed she experiences puppy love, applies to the Barbizon School of Modeling, and dreams of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a polio patient who became President of the United States.

Chase, now an accomplished poet who survived her illness, tells a story that flows backward and forward in time from childhood to adulthood. Her imagination soars in this narrative of illness and recovery, a stunning blend of provocative reflection, humor, and pluck.

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Academy-award winning actor Olympia Dukakis said of POLIO BOULEVARD, "In the early 50s during the polio epidemic I worked as a physical therapist. I saw first-hand the crushing suffering children and their families endured. I also saw their bravery and love for each other. Karen's memoir is a truly remarkable piece of history."

Karen Chase lives in The Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts. Her poems, stories and essays have appeared in many magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, and *The Gettysburg Review*. She is the author of two collections of poems, KAZIMIERZ SQUARE and BEAR, as well as JAMALI-KAMALI, a book-length poem which takes place in Mughal India. She is the author two books: POLIO BOULEVARD, a memoir; and LAND OF STONE, the story of her work with a silent young man in a psychiatric hospital where she was the Hospital Poet.

For over a decade, Chase was the Poet-in-Residence at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, teaching poetry writing to severely disturbed psychiatric patients. She then founded and ran the Camel River Writing Center and has twice served on the resident faculty of The Robert Frost Place. Currently, she is a trustee of The Amy Clampitt Fund, whose mission is to benefit poetry and the literary arts. Chase lives in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts.

Copies of Chase's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

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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