



## PRESS RELEASE

### The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

### Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

## ROOSEVELT READING FESTIVAL

with Eighteen Authors of Recently Published Books and

**Alan Brinkley**, author of *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

**HYDE PARK, NY** -- On Saturday, June 19, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will host its seventh annual Roosevelt Reading Festival. New Deal scholar and Allan Nevins Professor of History at Columbia University **Alan Brinkley** will deliver the keynote address about his newly released FDR biography, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (Oxford University Press, 2009). This year's authors include **Hannah Pakula**, author of The Last Empress: Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the Birth of Modern China (Simon & Schuster, 2009) and **Andrew Roberts**, author of Masters and Commanders: How Four Titans Won the War in the West, 1941-1945 (HarperCollins, 2010). 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, eighteen authors of recently published 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 welcoming remarks, coffee and doughnuts in the lobby of the Wallace Center.

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This year's Roosevelt Reading Festival authors include:

Keynote Address:

**Alan Brinkley**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Oxford University Press, 2009

**Glenn Altschuler and Stuart Blumin**

The GI Bill: The New Deal for Veterans

Oxford University Press, 2009

**Raymond Arsenault**

The Sound of Freedom: Marian Anderson, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Concert That Awakened America

Bloomsbury Press, 2009

**Tonya Bolden**

FDR's Alphabet Soup: New Deal America 1932-1939

Alfred A. Knopf, 2010

**Richard Breitman**

Refugees and Rescue: The Diaries and Papers of James G. McDonald, 1935-1945

Indiana University Press, 2009

**Michael G. Carew**

Becoming the Arsenal: The American Industrial Mobilization for World War II, 1938-1942

University Press of America, 2009

**Debórah Dwork**

Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933-1946

W.W. Norton, 2009

**Julie M. Fenster**

FDR's Shadow: Louis Howe, The Force That Shaped Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt

Palgrave Macmillan, 2009

**Terry Golway**

Together We Cannot Fail: FDR and the American Presidency in the Years of Crisis

Sourcebooks MediaFusion, 2009

**Steven Lomazow, M.D. and Eric Fettmann**

FDR's Deadly Secret

PublicAffairs, 2009

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**Neil M. Maher**

Nature's New Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Roots of the American Environmental Movement

Oxford University Press, 2007

**Kristie Miller and Robert H. McGinnis**

A Volume of Friendship: The Letters of Eleanor Roosevelt and Isabella Greenway, 1904-1953

Arizona Historical Society, 2009

**Stephen R. Ortiz**

Beyond the Bonus March and GI Bill: How Veteran Politics Shaped the New Deal Era

New York University Press, 2010

**Hannah Pakula**

The Last Empress: Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the Birth of Modern China

Simon & Schuster, 2009

**Thomas Parrish**

To Keep the British Isles Afloat: FDR's Men in Churchill's London, 1941

Smithsonian Books, 2009

**Andrew Roberts**

Masters and Commanders: How Four Titans Won the War in the West, 1941-1945

HarperCollins, 2010

**Lauren R. Sklaroff**

Black Culture and the New Deal: The Quest for Civil Rights in the Roosevelt Era

University of North Carolina Press, 2009

**John Wukovits**

American Commando: Evans Carlson, His World War II Marine Raiders, and America's First Special Forces Mission

New American Library, 2009

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](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu). Regular admission will be charged for the Presidential Library and National Park Service sites. If you need additional information about this event please call Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745.

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## **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 Kiralfry'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 15,000 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](http://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](http://www.HistoricHydePark.org).

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