



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

4079 Albany Post Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538-1917

www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu 1-800-FDR-VISIT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing
in honor of the 65th anniversary of FDR's death:**

**Robert Klara author of
FDR'S FUNERAL TRAIN:
A BETRAYED WIDOW, A SOVIET SPY,
AND A PRESIDENCY IN THE BALANCE
April 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will honor the 65th anniversary of FDR's death with a special author talk and book signing featuring Robert Klara, author of **FDR'S FUNERAL TRAIN: A BETRAYED WIDOW, A SOVIET SPY, AND A PRESIDENCY IN THE BALANCE**. Mr. Klara will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Following the talk, the author will be available to sign copies of his book. This event is free and open to the public.

In April 1945, the funeral train carrying the body of Franklin D. Roosevelt embarked on a three-day, thousand-mile odyssey through nine states before reaching the president's home in Hyde Park, New York where he was buried. Many who would recall the journey later would agree it was a foolhardy idea to start with -- putting every important elected figure in Washington on a single train during the biggest war in history.

For the American people, of course, the funeral train was just that -- the train bearing the body of deceased FDR. It passed with darkened windows; few gave thought to what might be happening aboard. A closer look inside the train, however, would reveal a Soviet spy about to leak a state secret, a newly widowed Eleanor Roosevelt, who just found out that her husband's mistress was in the room when he died, and the entire family of incoming president Harry S. Truman. The

thrilling story of what took place behind the Pullman shades, where women whispered and men tossed back highballs, has never been told. On the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of FDR's death, Klara chronicles the action-packed three-day train ride during which, among other things, Truman hammered out the policies that would galvanize a country in mourning and win the Second World War.

Douglas Brinkley, the award-winning American author and professor of history at Rice University said, “Robert Klara’s **FDR’S FUNERAL TRAIN** is a well-written and vivid account of America’s greatest national mourning since Abraham Lincoln was shot. Every page here is illuminating. At times Klara practically transports the reader back to 1945. A major new contribution to U.S. history.”

ROBERT KLARA is an editor and writer. His work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Daily News*, *American Heritage*, *New Jersey Monthly*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. Klara has been a staff editor for numerous magazines, including *Town & Country* and *Architecture*, and has also worked as a researcher for legendary author Gay Talese. He lives in New York City.

Copies of Mr. Klara’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.

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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