

# On Our Way

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

*with support from the Roosevelt Institute*

## Fall Forums to Highlight “FDR’s Inner Circle”



FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

President Franklin D. Roosevelt stops for lunch while visiting a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, Co. 350, at Big Meadows, Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, August 12, 1933. *Left to right:* General Paul Malone, Louis Howe, Harold Ickes, Robert Fechner, President Roosevelt, Henry A. Wallace, and Rexford Tugwell.

It is widely accepted that Franklin D. Roosevelt was one of the greatest leaders in American history. While much scholarship and attention has focused on the role FDR played as the leading actor in the drama of the Great Depression and World War II, there is growing interest in the supporting players around FDR—a circle of close advisers, secretaries, friends, and, of course, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt—who provided the official and personal support necessary for the President to achieve great things.

To gain greater understanding of those important behind-the-scenes figures so integral to the Roosevelt story, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute are proud to present “FDR’s Inner Circle,” two free public forums this fall.

The first program will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in the Henry A. Wallace Center. The panel will examine the historical impact that the Inner Circle had on Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, and discuss the contributions of such important historical figures as Eleanor Roosevelt, Frances Perkins, Harry Hopkins, Raymond Moley, Henry Wallace, Missy LeHand, and Steve Early. This program will also examine to what extent modern presidents can and do rely on close confidants in an era of expanded government and more complex society.

The second program, also in the Wallace Center, will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. This program will examine those figures—both official and personal—who were critical to the success of

FDR’s military and foreign policy including John Gilbert Winant, “Wild Bill” Donovan, Averell Harriman, Harry Hopkins, and George C. Marshall. The discussion will conclude with an examination of how modern presidents cope with international crises and who they rely on more—military and diplomatic figures or close personal and/or political confidants.



*Seating is limited and registration is required to attend these free, public events. To register, call (845) 486-7745.*

### ONLINE RESOURCES

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*Program Description and Panelist List*

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# Roosevelt Historian Burns Returns to Library

James MacGregor Burns rightly can be called the Dean of Roosevelt Biographers. His first volume on Franklin Roosevelt, *Roosevelt: The Lion and the Fox* (1956), was barely edged out of the 1957 Pulitzer Prize for biography by John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage*. Its companion volume, *Roosevelt: The Soldier of Freedom* (1970), won the 1971 Pulitzer for history and the National Book Award. The two volumes together serve as the first complete political biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

His study of FDR led Burns to explore more fully the nature of leadership, and his 1978 book *Leadership* is still considered the seminal work in the field of leadership studies. His theory of transactional and transformational leadership has been the basis for more than 400 doctoral dissertations. He received his B.A. from Williams College, his PhD in political science from Harvard, and attended the London School of Economics. He is currently the Woodrow Wilson Professor of Government Emeritus at Williams College.



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The 8th Annual Roosevelt Reading Festival in mid-June concluded with a special afternoon presentation, “James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings” with Michael Beschloss, James MacGregor Burns and Susan Dunn, June 18, 2011.

Burns first registered as a researcher at the Roosevelt Library on August 7, 1952, and he was issued card #392. As one of the Library's early researchers, he had the privilege of working in the same research room with other highly respected scholars of the Roosevelt era, including Frank Freidel, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and William Leuchtenburg. This group

fulfilled one of FDR's visions for his library—that it serve as a place for scholars to come, study, and interpret the Roosevelt era.

James MacGregor Burns has influenced generations of historians and political scientists, among them historians Michael Beschloss and Susan Dunn. Burns, Beschloss and Dunn appeared on stage together at the Roosevelt Library's 8th annual Roosevelt Reading Festival on June 18, 2011, for a special afternoon program, “James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings.”

Now 92, James MacGregor Burns has stated that his appearance at the Roosevelt Reading Festival was his last public appearance. The Roosevelt Library is honored that Burns began his exemplary career here in 1952 as researcher #392 and that he chose the 2011 Roosevelt Reading Festival for his valedictory appearance nearly 60 years later.



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James MacGregor Burns poses beside the statue of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in the courtyard of the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home, June 18, 2011.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

[2011 Reading Festival Press Release](#)

[C-SPAN video of “James MacGregor Burns: A Conversation and Readings”](#)

[Event Archives - Audio, Video, and Photographs](#)

# New Museum Acquisitions

## CCC Camp Sign

In April, the Roosevelt Library and Museum received an unusual object connected to the local history of a popular New Deal agency—the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).



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FDR personally devised the idea for the CCC, which put unemployed young men aged 17-24—many from urban areas—to work on conservation projects in rural America during the Depression. During its 9-year history, the CCC employed nearly 3 million men who were assigned to camps around the nation.

The new acquisition is a large metal sign that once stood at the entrance to the CCC camp established in nearby Staatsburg, New York. When the camp closed, a local farmer found a new use for the sign—as flooring for his chicken coop! Decades later, the sign was acquired by the Town of Hyde Park Historical Society who then donated this historic piece of CCC history to the Museum.

## “Cuff Links Gang” Cufflinks

When Franklin Roosevelt ran as the Democratic Party’s candidate for Vice President of the United States in 1920, he assembled a seven-man campaign staff to assist him. Though Roosevelt and his running mate James Cox were defeated in that election, FDR maintained close ties to his staff. That Christmas, he presented each staffer with a set of gold Tiffany cufflinks engraved with the man’s initials on one button and FDR’s initials on the other. The members of the group came

to be known as the “Cuff Links Gang” and they subsequently gathered for a reunion every year on FDR’s birthday—January 30th.



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In June, the Museum acquired the Tiffany cufflinks FDR gave to original “Cuff Links Gang” member Charles H. McCarthy. They are a gift from McCarthy’s grandchildren, Candace Buckholz, Christine M. Conti, Donna M. Lord, and Brian McCarthy. The grandchildren donated the cufflinks to the Library in memory of their father, Charles H. McCarthy, Jr.

## Secretary-desk from the President’s Study Returns

When President Roosevelt created his Library in 1941, he made sure that it included a Study for his personal use. There he met with world leaders, including Winston Churchill, and made several wartime radio addresses.

The Study has been preserved almost exactly as it was the last time Roosevelt visited it in March 1945. One major item long absent from the Study is the large secretary-desk that once stood along its north wall. An excellent example of late Federal or “Classical” furniture, the desk was made in New York in the early nineteenth century. After FDR’s death in April 1945, his son, James, inherited the



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desk. It was later acquired by Donald W. Stern, an antiques dealer. Several years ago, Museum Collections Manager Michelle Frauenberger discovered some 1980s correspondence

between Mr. Stern and then-Library Director William Emerson. This set in motion a series of discussions with Library administrators, the National Archives, and the Roosevelt Institute. In April, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Stern, the Roosevelt Institute and William J. vanden Heuvel, the desk was donated to the Roosevelt Library and Museum.

The desk will be installed in the Study when the Library’s current building renovation project is completed in 2013. This exciting acquisition will make it possible to present a complete picture of the interior of the President’s Study exactly as it was when he spent time there.



# Staff Profile: Matt Hanson, Archivist

I first began working for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library during the summer of 2004 when I spent ten weeks working as a public programs intern. After graduating from St. John Fisher College with a B.A. in history in 2005, I was hired by the Library as an Archives Technician. I earned an Advanced Certificate in Archives and Records Management from Queens College in 2010, and was promoted to an Archives Specialist that same year. In June 2011 I became a full-fledged Archivist. My responsibilities include answering research queries submitted to the Roosevelt Library by researchers unable to make a personal visit, supervising researchers working in the research room, photograph and audiovisual reproduction orders, and leading a team working to create a database of projects around the country built by the New Deal agencies.

The reasons why I love working at the Roosevelt Library are many. First, answering research queries provides me with the opportunity to



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research a wide variety of topics. In a single day I might get to search through records on Allied aircraft production during World War II, read letters to the Roosevelts from people rescued from destitution by the New Deal relief agencies, and watch film footage of the shenanigans on board a Navy ship during a “crossing the line” ceremony.

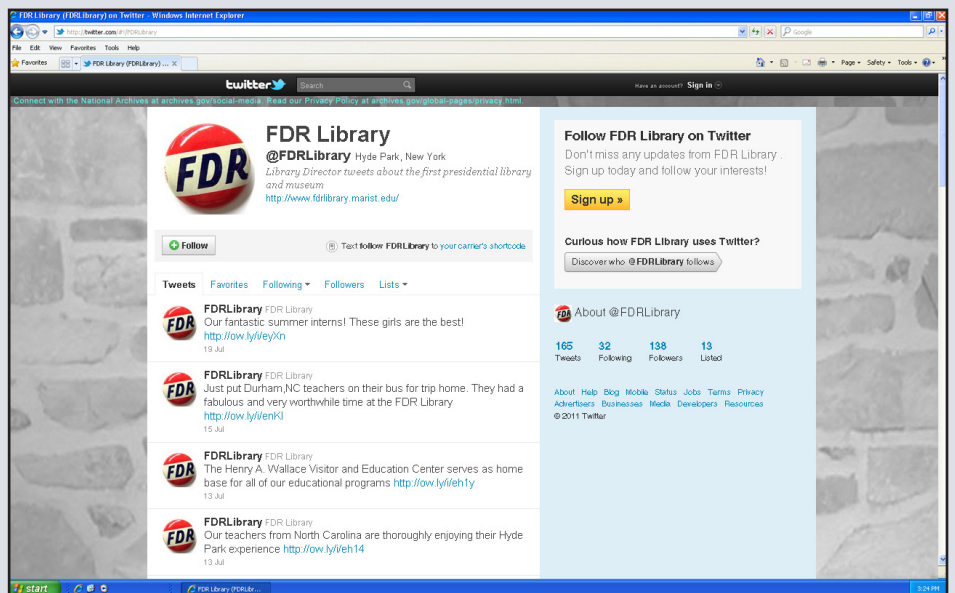
Another reason I love working at the Roosevelt Library is that the materials in our collections are evidence of some of the most significant events in the history of the United States, and even the world. The Einstein Letter, for example, led to the creation of the Manhattan Project and the birth of the Atomic Age. The promise of nuclear energy and the threat of nuclear war both exist in the world today because of that letter.

Finally, I love working at the Roosevelt Library because of the people here with whom I have the pleasure and privilege to interact on a daily basis. The Library staff is helpful and supportive, and has embraced me as one of their own. The researchers are enthusiastic about their topics, and I learn as much from them as they do from me. Some are devoted admirers of the Roosevelts, others are fierce critics, but all appreciate the impact that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt had on the world around them.

## Follow the Roosevelt Library Director on Twitter!

We are proud to announce that the FDR Presidential Library tweets! Please follow us on Twitter as Acting Director Lynn Bassanese tweets about working at America's first presidential library and brags a bit about its treasures.

Follow us and be a part of the conversation. When our fans, friends, and followers are engaged, they share our news and interesting facts with their own social networks. We invite you to be our friend on **Facebook**, follow us on **Twitter**, **YouTube** and **Flickr**. Be sure to read our **blog** and visit our **website**.



# Calendar of Featured Programs and Events

Sunday, August 14, 2011

## **Talk and Book Signing:**

**Christopher Breiseth**

*A Promise to All Generations:*

*Stories & Essays about*

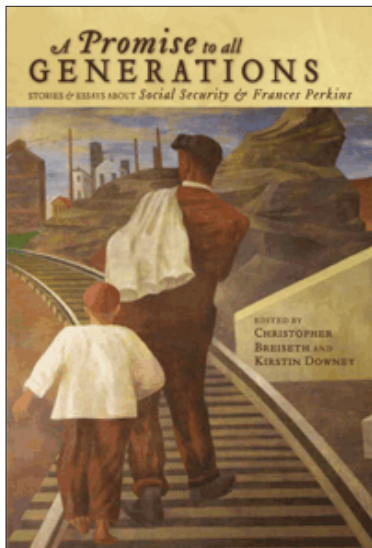
*Social Security and Frances Perkins*

Henry A. Wallace Center

2:00 p.m.

The FDR Presidential Library will host an author talk and book signing at 2:00 p.m. on August 14, 2011 with Christopher Breiseth editor of *A Promise to All Generations: Stories & Essays about Social Security and Frances Perkins*.

**Free public event.**



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Sunday, September 11  
through Saturday, September 17, 2011

## **Constitution Week**

Display in Henry A. Wallace Center

The FDR Presidential Library will commemorate Constitution Day (September 17) with a week-long display in the Wallace Center. From Sunday, September 11 through Saturday, September 17, 2011 a copy of the U.S. Constitution will be on display for the general public, and citizens can publicly acknowledge their dedication to the ideals of our governing document, which has formed the basis of the oldest constitutional government in the world.

**Free public event.**

Sunday, September 25, 2011

## **Fall Forums:**

**FDR's Inner Circle: Domestic Affairs**

Henry A. Wallace Center

2:00 p.m.

*Pre-registration required*

To gain greater understanding of those important behind-the-scenes figures so integral to the Roosevelt story, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Roosevelt Institute present "FDR's Inner Circle," two free public forums in the fall of 2011. This program will examine the historical impact that the Inner Circle had on Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal, as well as to what extent modern presidents can and do rely on close confidants in an era of expanded government and more complex society. **To register call (845) 486-7745.**

Sunday, October 2, 2011

## **Multimedia Presentation:**

**with Edna Gurewitsch**

Henry A. Wallace Center

2:00 p.m.

The Roosevelt Library will host a multimedia presentation with Edna Gurewitsch, author of *Kindred Souls: The Friendship of Eleanor Roosevelt and David Gurewitsch* at 2:00 p.m. on October 2, 2011. Mrs. Gurewitsch will share her unique and intimate knowledge of Eleanor Roosevelt and the amazing photographs taken by her husband—and Mrs. Roosevelt's personal physician—David Gurewitsch.

**Free public event.**



*Subscribe to our email bulletin to receive press releases and up-to-date information about our upcoming public programs and events.*

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

## **Rose Garden Ceremony:**

**Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday**

Rose Garden and Henry A. Wallace Center

3:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. the National Park Service will hold a Rose Garden ceremony to commemorate Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday. Following the ceremony, the FDR Presidential Library and Museum will invite visitors to the Wallace Center for birthday cake and refreshments. **Free public event.**



Sunday, October 23, 2011

## **Fall Forums:**

**FDR's Inner Circle: Foreign Affairs**

Henry A. Wallace Center

2:00 p.m.

*Pre-registration required*

To gain greater understanding of those important behind-the-scenes figures so integral to the Roosevelt story, the Library and the Roosevelt Institute present "FDR's Inner Circle," two free public forums in the fall of 2011. This program will examine those figures—both official and personal—who were critical to the success of FDR's military and foreign policy. The discussion will conclude with an examination of how modern presidents cope with international crises and who they rely on more—military and diplomatic figures or close personal and/or political confidants.

**To register call (845) 486-7745.**



# Our Partner: The Roosevelt Institute

The Roosevelt Institute is devoted to carrying forward the legacy and values of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt by developing progressive ideas and bold leadership. In partnership with the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York, the Institute seeks to promote the legacy of the Roosevelts and attract new audiences to their ideas and values by supporting Roosevelt Library education programs, public programs and exhibitions.

In addition to serving as the non-profit partner of the Roosevelt Library, the Institute also seeks to reanimate progressive thought in two other ways: advancing compelling new ideas and bold visions and developing the next generation of progressive leadership. The Roosevelt Institute is working on a diverse array of projects that further these goals and complement the legacy of the Roosevelts.

The Roosevelt Institute Campus Network is a forum of 10,000 politically engaged young people at 110 active chapters who discuss, promote, and implement progressive ideas and policies. The Campus Network has had a successful Summer Academy, a highly selective nine-week program with 34 student fellows, which will culminate in a retreat at the FDR Library. It also launched Roosevelt Institute | Pipeline, a new project focused on connecting young professionals to the progressive movement through professional development, media training, local engagement, and a fellowship program.



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The Roosevelt Institute Campus Network is a student policy organization that engages new generations in a unique form of progressive activism that empowers young people as leaders and promotes their ideas for change.



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Nobel Prize-winning economist and Columbia University professor Joseph Stiglitz is a Senior Fellow and Chief Economist at the Roosevelt Institute.

The Four Freedoms Center is a think tank—convening prominent and emerging thinkers who espouse Rooseveltian values—that seeks to foster a rigorous debate about progressive

policies and values and to deploy their strongest proponents in the public sphere.

On July 16 and 17, the Institute co-hosted the Hamptons Institute with Guild Hall of East Hampton, a forum for debate and discussion of today's biggest issues. The Institute's Four Freedoms awards will be held in Hyde Park this September to honor those who most exemplify President Roosevelt's vision of the Four Freedoms. Moving forward, the Four Freedoms Center Fellows will be developing programming and projects on topics including money and politics, progressive values, and the middle class.

**Please visit [www.rooseveltinstitute.org](http://www.rooseveltinstitute.org).**

## FOLLOW US



*On Our Way is designed for both online viewing and easy printing from a home computer. When viewing this PDF newsletter online, readers can link directly to additional internet resources about the Roosevelts, the era in which they lived, and the FDR Presidential Library and its offerings. The title On Our Way is borrowed from a 1934 book—of the same name—written by President Roosevelt himself giving his personal account of the first year of his administration and describing the basic ideas for the New Deal.*

