

Rendezvous

News and Notes from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Institute

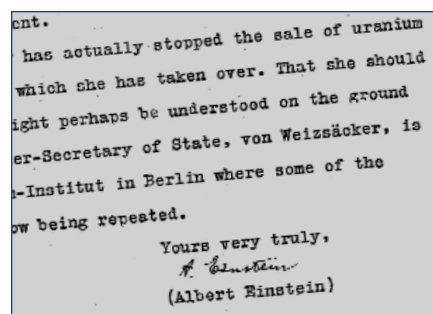
Summer 2005

FDR Presidential Library Announces New Museum Exhibition **FREEDOM FROM FEAR: FDR COMMANDER IN CHIEF**

On September 2, 2005—the 60th anniversary of the formal end of World War II—the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will open a major new exhibition that gives visitors an extraordinary insider's view into FDR's years as a wartime leader.

The exhibit will be organized around a fascinating collection of revealing—and often top secret—documents and manuscripts from the FDR Library's vast archive of World War II records. These will include many items that have never been displayed in public, including secret military documents from the President's "Map Room"; communications between key military, diplomatic and political leaders; planning documents; reports from the war fronts; and personal memos and correspondence.

Famous documents like Albert Einstein's letter to FDR outlining the feasibility of an atomic bomb will be included. But many other equally dramatic—but lesser known—letters and documents will appear as well.



FDR Presidential Library
Albert Einstein's 1939 letter to FDR discussing the feasibility of an atomic bomb.

Freedom From Fear will offer visitors an insider's view of presidential decision-making and life in Roosevelt's wartime White House. Of special interest will be his correspondence with his sons—all of whom served in America's military. Mrs. Roosevelt's telegram to their sons after the President's death is but one example of the type of little known, but powerful, documentary material that will appear in the exhibition.

Weekend of Special Events Opens *Freedom from Fear* Exhibit

A spectacular series of events will complement the opening of *Freedom from Fear: FDR Commander in Chief*.

i On Friday, September 2, an opening reception and dinner will be held with a keynote address by David Eisenhower, grandson of Allied Supreme Commander (Europe) and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Tickets for the event are \$125, supporting the endowment for future exhibitions in the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery.

i A World War II bivouac will be held on the front lawn of the Roosevelt Library on Saturday and Sunday, September 3 - 4. Period military vehicles of all sizes and soldiers in battle dress will be on hand to share their love of history with World War II enthusiasts, families, teachers,



FDR Presidential Library
FDR reviewing the fleet from aboard the USS HOUSTON, San Francisco, CA, July 14, 1938.

Carefully selected gems from the Library's collection will be presented in a variety of different settings. Archival film footage, historic photographs, and artifacts drawn from the Library's museum holdings (along with important items from other museums and libraries in the United States) will help set the documents into context and sweep visitors up into the broader narrative of America's participation in World War II.

Special displays will give visitors the chance to contrast the "insider's" view of the war—as reflected in FDR's private correspondence and top secret documents—with the "public" view presented by the President in radio addresses, newsreels, and speeches to Congress and other organizations.

The exhibit will conclude with an exploration of America's emotional reaction when the nation's wartime leader died on the eve of victory. Roosevelt's unfinished draft of the Jefferson Day speech in which he expressed his hopes for a peaceful post-war world draws the exhibit to a poignant close. This dream, of course, was his vision for the United Nations.

The exhibit, in the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, will run until November 5, 2006. *Freedom from Fear* is sponsored by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute with major funding provided by the Anna-Marie and Stephen Kellen Foundation, and additional funding by The Henry Luce Foundation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Regional News Network, Morgan Stanley, Alan Jones and Ashley Garrett, John C. Whitehead, Forrest Church and Carolyn Buck-Luce, and the JKW Foundation.



FDR Presidential Library
Photos of FDR's sons as displayed on his Oval Office Desk.



US Military Academy
A member of the West Point Parachute Team, performing a jump.

i A public forum, *Leadership at Home and Abroad: Roosevelt, Roosevelt, and Churchill*, will be held in the Wallace Center on Saturday, September 3, at 2 PM. Panel presentations by historians Allida Black, Jon Meacham, and Joseph Persico will focus on Eleanor Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and FDR himself, during the war years.

i On Saturday, September 3 at 7 PM, the 19-piece *Big Blue Band* will be appearing at the Wallace Center playing WWII-era favorites. The Band's unique blend of period music and showmanship has delighted audiences in the Hudson Valley for more than 16 years.

These events—and the new exhibit—promise to provide a unique learning experience for people of all ages.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, as President Roosevelt lunched with Harry Hopkins in his Oval Study, Navy Secretary Frank Knox telephoned and delivered the shocking news: Pearl Harbor was under attack by the Japanese. Considerable loss of life. The fleet virtually destroyed.

Late that afternoon—after the initial flurry of meetings with advisers—FDR began preparing what would become his most famous speech. Delivered before a Joint Session of Congress and broadcast to the nation on December 8, the President's Day of Infamy speech galvanized the country and defined Roosevelt as America's wartime leader.

In *Freedom from Fear: FDR Commander in Chief* opening September 2 in our William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery, the Library explores Roosevelt's war-time leadership. It is an exhibit rich in artifacts and never-before-displayed documents from our archives.

Visitors will encounter FDR as Commander in Chief on that Day of Infamy—viewing his original draft of the war message as well as a piece of the actual USS ARIZONA, a recent gift to the Roosevelt Library from the U.S. Navy and the National Park Service Pearl Harbor National Historic Site.



FDR Presidential Library
The USS Arizona as it sinks at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

The exhibit then takes visitors back in time to the early 1930s, examining the rise of Nazism and Japanese imperialism and the politics of neutrality. The "Bedside Note" that FDR wrote in the early morning hours of September 1, 1939 when he received word of the start of the war and some of the 2,000 messages exchanged by FDR and Winston Churchill are among the archival materials on display.

In an "object theater" designed to immerse visitors in a Depression-era living room, recordings of FDR's radio addresses enliven the issues and events leading up to American involvement in the War.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Einstein's famous letter leading to the development of the atomic bomb, the massive globe given to FDR by George Marshall in 1942; FDR's pencil sketch of his vision for the United Nations made at Teheran in 1943; dispatches received by the White House in the hours before, during and after the D-Day landings; and the naval cape worn by the President at Yalta in 1945—these are just a few of the treasures that document FDR's role as Commander in Chief.



FDR Presidential Library

FDR looks at the globe presented to him by the US Army in 1942.

The wartime conferences with Churchill and Stalin, the opening of the second front on D-Day, development of the atomic bomb, the Home Front, Eleanor Roosevelt's role during the war, and the creation of the United Nations are among the topics brought vividly to life through documents and rare artifacts.

The exhibit opens on September 2, the sixtieth anniversary of the Japanese surrender with an opening reception and dinner featuring a keynote address by David Eisenhower. Tickets are \$125 with proceeds benefiting the endowment for future exhibitions in the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery.

The following day public festivities begin with a World War II bivouac on the Library lawn, panel presentations by historians Allida Black, Jon Meacham, and Joseph Persico, and a Big Band Concert in the evening.

We are grateful to the Roosevelt Institute for sponsoring this important exhibition at this significant historical anniversary. Ten years ago, on the fiftieth anniversary of World War II, an exhibition traveled to all of the other presidential libraries. All except the Roosevelt, that is, because we lacked a gallery to host special exhibitions. We are proud to be able to mount *Freedom from Fear* at this time—and grateful to the Roosevelt Institute for making it possible. In addition to funding from the vanden Heuvel Gallery endowment, major funding was provided by the Anna-Marie and Stephen Kellen Foundation, with additional funding by The Henry Luce Foundation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Regional News Network, Morgan Stanley, Alan Jones and Ashley Garrett, John C. Whitehead, Forrest Church and Carolyn Buck-Luce, and the JKW Foundation.

The Institute has organized a major conference in honor of this exhibition, *In the Shadow of FDR, How Franklin Roosevelt Shaped the Post-War World*. It will be held September 22-25 and features an international roster of scholars including Warren Kimball and David Reynolds. Other programs accompanying the exhibit include a DVD and teacher's guide now under development and in the spring of 2006, a student essay contest.

I do hope you will make it a point to come and visit this new special exhibit. It promises a rare glimpse of FDR, one that is so-often overlooked today.

Cynthia M. Koch
August 2005

Guarding a National Treasure

A brief reminiscence by a recent visitor to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum

By William Johnson, Jr.

The bell on the teletype machine rang to let us know there was a message coming. It was a terse note to let us know that flight 1165 was going to be one hour and a half late because of mechanical problems in Charlotte.

"Darn it! It was supposed to arrive at 11:25 PM. and that means I will not get out of here until around one o'clock." Checking the manifest for the flight showed only one passenger, "Roosevelt" with no contact. There was nothing to do but wait.

I had just graduated from college in 1949 and this was my first job. I was reservation sales agent, in Baltimore, for Eastern Airlines. It was an interesting job because of the people I met. The pay was \$175 a month. I talked to the passengers over the phone when I made their reservations and met them when they arrived at the ticket counter. Sometimes I had to help load their luggage on the plane. Whatever was needed, my job was to do it.

I met and talked to Adm. "Bull" Halsey, the commander of the Pacific Fleet during WWII. Lex Barker, of the Tarzan movies, came in one day. One customer that I "went a few rounds with" was Max Baer, the heavyweight, ex-champion boxer. These were all interesting people, but they did not prepare me for what happened on that October evening in 1949.



FDR Presidential Library

Eleanor Roosevelt at LaGuardia Airport, NY, 1960.

In 1949 the Baltimore airport bore no resemblance to the Baltimore airport of today. It was a tiny, round building with a total square footage about the same as a modern drug store. There were four airlines: American, National, United and Eastern. When your last flight left

and you teletyped headquarters that it had become airborne, you closed up shop for the night. By ten o'clock all the rest of the airlines had turned out their lights and gone home, leaving only Eastern with a lighted counter. By eleven o'clock there were only three people in the entire airport, two men in the operations area and me.

Shortly after eleven o'clock the front door opened and two well-dressed couples and a lady dressed in a long black coat came into the terminal. Although I was on the other side of the terminal I immediately recognized Eleanor Roosevelt. The group walked directly toward the Eastern counter. When they arrived I spoke up. "I'm sorry, Mrs. Roosevelt but your flight is an hour and a half late because of mechanical problems." Her face showed obvious disappointment and she said, "I have a very important meeting in the morning in New York, so I have no alternative but to wait." Her escorts immediately said they would wait with her.

Eleanor looked them straight in the eye and with a very firm voice said, "Your place is with your family and I want you to go home. I will be fine; this young man will take care of me." She left no room for discussion or hesitation. They sputtered and stammered but in the end they said good-byes and headed for the door. Four adult citizens who were given the responsibility of escorting the most famous woman in the world were leaving her in the charge of some kid they had never met. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of our president, author of many books, a syndicated columnist; and now, in her later years, the Ambassador to the United Nations was being left in a deserted airport in the care of a ticket agent. I was dumfounded. The first thing I thought was, "What if the flight was to be canceled, what would I do?"

She put her elbows on the high counter and started to talk to me. Instead of talking about herself, she talked about me. She told me how important my job was in helping people to their destination and how I calmed their fear of flying. I had a very important job. This was coming from a lady who was Ambassador to the United Nations telling me how important my job was.

After she had pumped up my ego she said, in a very humble manner, "Young

man, if I were to take a nap in one of those chairs, would you be sure to wake me in time to catch my plane?" I said I would. She found an overstuffed leather chair, facing in the opposite direction from the light over our counter, sat down and immediately fell asleep. I never took my eyes off her.



FDR Presidential Library

Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations, NY, 1947.

After about fifteen minutes, I left the counter and went around in front of her so I could get a better look. What I saw would have made the pages of *Life Magazine*. I wish I had a camera and knew how to use it. I was looking at a tired, old lady who had given her life to public service. She was sitting in a darkened, deserted airport, alone, fast asleep with her head tilted to one side, enjoying her dreams. We owe her so much and gave her so little. I was guarding a National Treasure. I was her bodyguard. I was so proud.

The young readers of this article will ask. "Where were her Secret Service bodyguards?" It was another era. She didn't have any. I was it.

William (Bill) Johnson, Jr. was born in Pawtucket, RI, in 1925. He joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served in the South Pacific—including the invasions of Saipan and Tinian—and left Tinian just before the Enola Gay set out for Hiroshima. He graduated from Bryant College in Providence, R.I. Johnson worked for Eastern Airlines in Baltimore, MD, and forty years with Westinghouse/Philips as a lighting engineer. He retired as Regional Vice President of the Illuminating Engineering Society, and lives in Chattanooga, Tennessee, with his wife, Margaret.

First Day of Issue Event - Presidential Libraries Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service celebrated Presidential Libraries with a special postage stamp coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. A series of First-Day-of-Issue ceremonies took place on August 4 at all of the nation's twelve presidential libraries. The new stamp recognizes the libraries' role in preserving and extending access to Presidential materials and recounting the lives and times of our nation's Presidents.

The First-Day-of-Issue ceremony held at the FDR Presidential Library drew more than 400 attendees from across the Northeast. Special guests included Roosevelt grandson, David B. Roosevelt; David Solomon, Vice President of Area Operations, New York Metro Area, USPS; and Nicholas Barranca, Vice President of Product Development, USPS; and Congressman John E. Sweeney. Elizabeth David, Distributions Supervisor, USPS, sang the national



US Postal Service

The Presidential Libraries stamp, designed by Howard E. Paine, bears an image of the Presidential seal with hand calligraphy by Julian Waters.

anthem and the colors were presented by the 514th Air Mobility Wing Honor Guard, McGuire Air Force Base.

The stamp, designed by Howard E. Paine, bears an image of the Presidential seal reproduced in blue against a crème colored background. The type, produced in hand calligraphy by Julian Waters, reads: "Presidential Libraries Fifty Years 37 USA."

The nation's twelve presidential libraries house materials generated during the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

To learn more about the Presidential Libraries stamp visit the Collector's Corner at www.usps.com.

Roosevelt Marketing Project - Dyson Foundation Grant



A new "splash page" will steer web visitors to partner websites: www.HistoricHydePark.org.

The Dyson Foundation has awarded \$140,000 jointly to the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) and the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill (ERVK) for a marketing campaign that will benefit all four Roosevelt organizations in Hyde Park: the Home of FDR National Historic Site, including Top Cottage and Val-Kill; the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, as well as the programs of FERI and ERVK.

The campaign includes internet marketing, media advertising, public relations and tourism promotion. Its goal is to determine which marketing efforts are most effective at reaching a target audience. All promotional elements will draw visitors to a "Splash Page" on the Internet under the domain name www.HistoricHydePark.org.

The Roosevelt sites are the second largest tourist draw in the Hudson Valley, second only to West Point. The

Roosevelt Marketing Project members believe the sites have the potential to attract greater interest as a tourist destination through the national and international significance of the Roosevelt legacy, the stunning natural scenery and grounds, and the proximity to NYC metro area.

Cynthia Koch, Director of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum, commented that "better public



understanding of the Roosevelt organizations in Hyde Park will enhance our ability to convey to current generations the continuing relevance of lessons learned from the life and work of President and Mrs. Roosevelt." Sarah Olson, National Park Service Superintendent, stated that an integral objective of the campaign is "to increase both paid and unpaid use of the historic sites and provide a boost to

the local economy through additional visitors' spending."

The Dyson Foundation is a private, family-directed grant making foundation established in 1957. The Foundation is led by Robert R. Dyson who has served as its President since 2000. Headquartered in Millbrook, Dutchess County, New York, the Foundation awards grants in two main funding areas: a diverse regional funding program in the Dyson family's home community of the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York State, and a national training initiative in community pediatrics, known as the Anne E. Dyson Community Pediatrics Training Initiative. The Anne E. Dyson Conference Room in the Wallace Center memorializes Ms. Dyson and her work.

We are very grateful to The Dyson Foundation for its consistent strong support of the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.



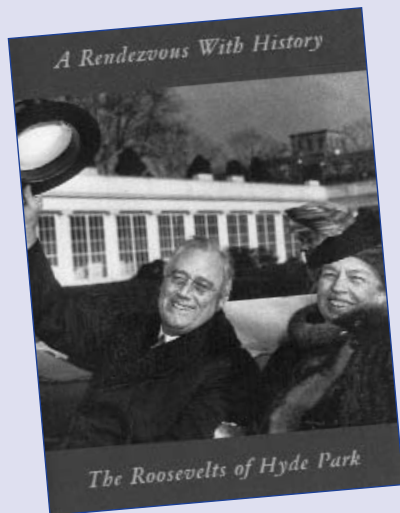
NPS, W. D. Urbin
The statue of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt in the courtyard of the Wallace Center.

A Rendezvous With History - Now on DVD

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Roosevelt Institute, is proud to announce the DVD release of the orientation film that is shown daily to visitors. *A Rendezvous With History: The Roosevelts of Hyde Park* is a dramatic new production—the first orientation film ever produced for visitors to the Roosevelt Home and Presidential Library. The film was written and produced by Tom Spain Productions specifically for the Wallace Center's 140-seat theater.

A powerful 22-minute experience, *A Rendezvous With History* weaves historic footage and period music together with personal reflections on the lives of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt by grandchildren Curtis Roosevelt and Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.

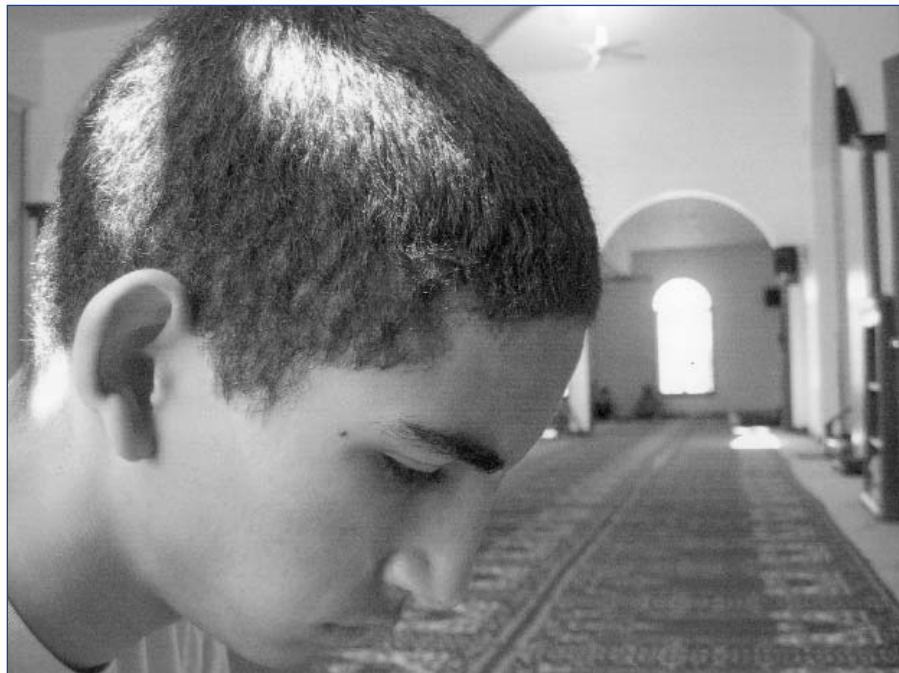
A Rendezvous With History: The Roosevelts of Hyde Park is available for \$12.95 (plus postage) from the New Deal Museum Store. Call 1-800-FDR-VISIT to order a copy of your own.



Through the Eyes of Youth - FSA Student Photography Contest Winners

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the *Poughkeepsie Journal* offered a student photography contest this spring in conjunction with the Library's exhibit, "This Great Nation Will Endure": *Photographs of the Great Depression*. Area student photographers were invited to document their communities based on

"shooting scripts" supplied to the photographers of the New Deal Farm Security Administration. Selected photographs were published in a special section of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and exhibited in the Henry A. Wallace Center. All of the winning photographs can be viewed on the web by visiting www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.



Clockwise from left:

Shahzad Ahsan, *Spiritual Depth of Focus*

Nalani Waddell, *Playdate*.

Carly Ackerman, *Sunday Stroll*

Arielle Kramer, *The Children Will Not Be Silent*

Emily Bogle, *Nuts 4 Nuts*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 2
Exhibition Opening
"Freedom from Fear":
FDR Commander in Chief
FDR Presidential Library
William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery

Opening Reception and Dinner
6:30 PM
Keynote address by
David Eisenhower
\$125. per person
FDR Presidential Library

Saturday, September 3
Bivouac - Living History
9 AM to 4 PM
1 PM West Point Parachute Jump
FDR Library Lawn

Public Forum on
World War II
Wallace Center; 2 PM
Allida Black
Jon Meacham
Joseph Persico

WWII Music Concert
Wallace Center; 7 PM
Big Blue Band

Sunday, September 4
Bivouac - Living History
9 AM to 3 PM
FDR Library Lawn

Thursday, September 22 to
Sunday, September 25
World War II Conference:
In the Shadow of FDR
Franklin and Eleanor
Roosevelt Institute
Wallace Center

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EMAIL BULLETIN

To learn about programs and events at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center sign up for our Email Bulletin by sending an email to clifford.laube@nara.gov and typing "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

Rendezvous

News and Notes from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Institute

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Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
4079 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Presidential Library and Museum

Cynthia M. Koch
Director

Phone: (800) 337-8474

Fax: (845) 486-1147

Email: roosevelt.library@nara.gov

Web Site: www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu



Franklin and Eleanor
Roosevelt Institute

Christopher N. Breiseth
President & CEO

David Woolner
Executive Director

Phone: (845) 486-1150

Fax: (845) 486-1151

Web Site: www.feri.org



JOIN THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt communicated by word and deed a vision of a just and caring society. The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute invites you to become a member of the Institute that bears their name and works to preserve their far-sighted vision of a free, more compassionate world.

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- i Free admission to the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum and all other Presidential Libraries in the National Archives system
- i A one year subscription to The View From Hyde Park, the news magazine of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute
- i Added to the mailing list for Rendezvous with History, the newsletter of the Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum
- i 10% discount at the New Deal Museum Store in the Wallace Center of the Roosevelt Library and Home of FDR, National Historic Site.
- i Invitations to all events sponsored by the Library and Institute

Membership in the Roosevelt Institute directly benefits the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. Your membership gift provides vital support for the programs and resources of the nation's first presidential library. For information on joining FERI visit www.feri.org or call (845) 486-7769.

Conference Announcement *In the Shadow of FDR*

How Franklin Roosevelt Shaped the Post-War World

This major retrospective reassessment of FDR's leadership and its consequences will bring together leading scholars from both sides of the Atlantic. Held in conjunction with an exhibit at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library entitled *Freedom From Fear: FDR Commander in Chief*.

Thursday, September 22, 2005 - Sunday, September 25, 2005

Featuring:

David Reynolds

Professor of International History, Cambridge University

Warren Kimball

Professor of History, Rutgers University

Walter LaFeber

Professor of American History, Cornell University

Visit www.feri.org for more information and registration.

Join the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute:

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Renewal

My company matches my charitable contributions.
I will contact my corporate giving office to have a form for
matching gifts sent to the Roosevelt Institute.

I wish to give but not become a member.