FOR THE
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

America's First Presidential Library, fostering research and education on the life, times, and incredible, enduring legacy of Franklin and Eleanor.
A Message from the Roosevelt Library and Museum
Trustee Chair Nancy Roosevelt Ireland

It is a pleasure to share with you the FDR Library and Museum’s Annual Report for 2018. I am always impressed again when I come to the site where FDR grew up and then established the first Presidential Library. His inclusion of Eleanor’s papers and letters reflects his respect and admiration for my grandmother’s influence, leadership, and position as First Lady of the World. Whether you’ve visited Hyde Park once or a dozen times, when you go again you will be as struck by FDR and Eleanor’s partnership as I am.

This last year has been an incredible one for the Library, as we’ve brought Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s message of hope and determination to hundreds of thousands through groundbreaking exhibits, dozens of public events, and a growing civic education program for K-12 students.

What stood out most to me was our December 7 commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was Eleanor Roosevelt’s greatest achievement and her legacy. When she submitted the UDHR to the United Nations General Assembly she said, “We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This declaration may well become the international Magna Carta for all men everywhere.”

On behalf of the Trustees of the FDR Library, thank you for your support. We could not continue to have such a rich, relevant program without you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Roosevelt Ireland
2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

155,330 Visitors

24,277 Student visitors from 8 states and as far away as France, China, and Mexico

54 Public programs with...

13,624 Attendees

- Conversation with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin
- Conversation with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz
- Annual Family Fun Festival
- 15th annual Roosevelt Reading Festival
- Inaugural Holocaust Remembrance Day Morgenthau Lecture with Richard Breitman

This place is an inspirational reminder of the power of hope and the strength of optimism—against all odds. Thank you for distilling such a great man and woman clearly and engagingly and, most important, compellingly.

MUSEUM VISITOR COMMENT BOOK

SUPPORTING RESEARCH ON THE ROOSEVELT LEGACY:

882 In-person research visits and...

1,688 Remote reference inquiries

8 Scholars awarded financial support to research the Roosevelts at the FDR Library through our Grant-in-Aid program
The Second World War required an unprecedented mobilization of American military and civilian resources: 12 million joined the armed forces and tens of millions more served on the “Home Front.” To inspire such massive public engagement, the government turned to advertisements, radio programs, pamphlets, and films. But the most sharply focused messages came in colorful posters created by some of the nation’s finest artists. Produced by the millions, these posters blanketed the country with warnings, advice, and calls to action.

For The Art of War, the FDR Library featured over 150 posters from our extensive collection, including works from Norman Rockwell, Dr. Seuss, and Walt Disney.

Ultimately, the war touched nearly every aspect of life in the United States—work, housing, rationing, and conservation—and began shifting gender and race relations in the military and workplace. These changes were reflected in wartime poster art, too—creating a tapestry at once historical, patriotic, and personal.
CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT


*Become A Nurse*, 1942. Seventeen-year-old Weslee Wootten was a pre-med freshman at Barnard College when she posed for the photograph on this poster.

*Starve The Squander Bug*, 1943. Theodore Geisel—best known as “Dr. Seuss”—designed posters for the Treasury Department and the War Production Board before joining the army in 1943 where he made animated training films.
Reaching the Next Generation

Each year, students of all ages participate in FDR Library programs—from field trips at the Museum to engaging on Twitter to learning from the Library’s ever-growing online database of digitized photos and documents from the Roosevelt era.

23
Teacher workshops

1,203
Teachers

We would like to thank you for making our visit a memorable and educational experience! You have helped us to not only gain greater insight into our topic but also to be more appreciative of it.

VISITING HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, SPRING 2018

82
Hours of distance learning presentations

1,306
Participants

390
School field trips

317
Requests from students and teachers seeking to learn more

CIVICS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Launched in 2017 by the Goodman Initiative for American Youth, our civics education program teaches students the importance of democracy and what it means to be effective citizen participants. In 2018, 600 students from 8 Hudson Valley school districts participated. To bring the program to even more students, in 2019 we’ll serve as an example for a national iCivics campaign for Presidential Libraries nationwide.

600
Students

8
Hudson Valley school districts

16
Teachers
What’s Ahead: Message from FDR Library
Director Paul Sparrow

Each day that I come to the FDR Library and Museum is an honor. It’s such an inspirational place and I know that by keeping the Roosevelt legacy alive, we are creating positive change. Looking ahead, the Library is focusing on several key projects that I know will make an incredible impact.

Our main archival effort is the Morgenthau Holocaust Collections Project, which is harnessing the potential for digital curation to share thousands of pages of original documents about the Holocaust and the U.S. response. Drawing on unique resources—such as then-Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr.’s diaries—the project will reach students, researchers, and others across the globe.

In fall 2019, we’ll be celebrating the Four Freedoms Awards with the Roosevelt Institute. The Awards recognize visionary and inspiring leaders who embody FDR’s four freedoms.

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“In D-Day: FDR & Churchill’s Mighty Endeavor” will be a blockbuster special exhibit exploring the unique and complicated relationship between two titans. Using secret communications and a range of artifacts, the exhibit brings to light the behind-the-scenes battles between the Americans and the British and the genesis of the modern Western alliance which has kept the peace for nearly 75 years.

Looking further ahead, we are developing a new Eleanor Roosevelt Initiative that includes curating a potential major exhibit in 2023 and digitizing Eleanor’s papers to make them accessible to a new generation.
Financial Overview: The Roosevelt Institute and the FDR Library

As the FDR Library’s nonprofit partner, the Roosevelt Institute raises and spends funds to support activities that the National Archives cannot. This includes community events, membership programming, school group transportation and educational staff for school field trips, civics education programming, special exhibits and improvements for existing collections, and digitization efforts to make our programs accessible to the nearly 700,000 annual visitors to our website.

2018 Budget for the Roosevelt Institute’s FDR Library programming: approximately $600,000

Get Involved

- Become a Library member: fdrlibrary.org/membership
- Join the Eleanor Roosevelt Club
- Support our initiatives
- Become a Trustee

FDR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The Library Trustees were originally created in December 1938, at the very birth of the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. Today, the Trustees serve as champions of the Roosevelt legacy: providing financial support to the library and bringing the Roosevelts’ message to a new generation.

Trustees for 2018

Nancy Roosevelt Ireland (Chair)
Lynn Bassanese
Allida Black
Aprill Springfield Blanco
Dan Boyd
Douglas Brinkley
Clay Doherty
Tony Downer
Fredrica Goodman
Shirley M. Handel
Philip Johnston
Elizabeth Kelly
William E. Leuchtenburg
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Dennis Murray
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Eileen Simmons
Gillian Steel
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Geoffrey Ward