

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.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

A Message from the Roosevelt Library and Museum Trustee Chair Nancy Roosevelt Ireland

Annual Reports are a look back at the year that just happened. 2020 has been a year of fear, isolation, and deep loss for so many. But as we have moved into 2021, I am struck by the moments of hope emerging. When FDR entered the White House in 1932, the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression. FDR provided guidance and calmed the nation, enacting sweeping change. At the same time, Eleanor began carving out a new role for First Ladies, ultimately becoming a global leader and advocate for human rights. This January, witnessing the historic inauguration of the first Black and Asian American woman Vice President, I felt that same hope for the future that so many must have experienced in 1932. I also reflected on how happy Eleanor would be to see this historic moment.

Like many other museums and institutions, the FDR Library and Museum experienced challenges and transformations this past year. Our doors have been closed to in-person visitors since March 2020. Yet, as we struggled through this past year as a nation, it became clear that the spirit of the Roosevelt's vision for an equitable society is more vital than ever.

To keep this vision alive, the Library adapted and grew our programming. We aggressively moved online and created a platform to serve our dedicated fans and bring programming to audiences that could not access us before.

We produced exceptional events on Facebook LIVE seen by thousands of people and distributed a wonderful new e-Newsletter called "At Home with the Roosevelts." We connected with supporters to learn of their favorite things about the Library and the Roosevelts. We also continued expanding our work on the Holocaust, producing a powerful series of short, accessible videos derived from the documentary film, *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today*.

These are just a few of the innovative ways we kept our constituencies informed and connected to the Library and Museum. I am proud of the exceptional work done by the Library staff during a very trying time. We often heard from people that we provided a hopeful and welcome escape from the current reality and our work has been lauded by David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States. Quite a vote of confidence.

On behalf of the Trustees of the FDR Library, thank you for your support. We could not continue to have such rich, relevant programs without you. We look forward to better years to come.

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

29

In-person and virtual public programs with

36,994

Attendees/views

CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD:

 68,119


YouTube views

 50,675

Tumblr followers

 36,060

Twitter followers

 24,925

Facebook likes

 895,116

Annual visitors to fdrlibrary.org

As someone who has worked first-hand in presidential libraries as a Ph.D. candidate, and visited Hyde Park for well over a decade with my students as an educator, I have come to know both the multifaceted importance of presidential libraries in our society generally and the remarkably special place that the FDR Library is in particular. ”

ADAM WEISLER, FDR LIBRARY TRUSTEE

SUPPORTING RESEARCH ON THE ROOSEVELT LEGACY:

1,742

Remote reference inquiries

3,000

Pages of digital reproductions made on demand for researchers

PUBLIC PROGRAMS



At Home with the Roosevelts — Conversations

As part of the Library's **At Home with the Roosevelts** virtual programming in 2020, Library Director Paul Sparrow hosted a popular series of "**Conversations**" with fellow presidential library directors including the Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, LBJ and JFK directors.

The Museum Collection at Home

Supervisory Museum Curator Herman Eberhardt hosted a series of virtual programs entitled "**The Museum Collection at Home**" featuring objects from the Library's extraordinary museum collection, with behind-the-scenes virtual access to the holdings shot from the Museum Processing Room. Objects featured included the Oval Office desk, the sphinx sculpture, Eleanor Roosevelt's Red Cross uniform, Fala-related objects, FDR's Yalta cloak, campaign items, and gifts from veterans.



To view these and other programs visit the FDR Library's YouTube page at youtube.com/user/FDRLibrary

We have to admit that one of our favorite places to find ourselves is at the Wallace Center for the programs and events. They present extraordinary opportunities to learn the stories of our nation and its people through times of struggle and triumph.

ROBERT AND JOHANNA TITUS

The WAR! section is one of my favorite places in the museum...you can see the hard decisions being made, the challenges being faced one after the other, and the wearing down of a man. I always walk away thinking, thank goodness, this man was president...

MERRILEE OSTERHOUDT

...as I grew older, I actually came to envy [my parents] for living in a time when a President, who was loved and trusted and respected by so many, united America in common purpose.

ERIC MILLER

That's what I love about the Library, it allows you to touch history. That to me is the best part of history, when you can feel it.

MARCY PELLENBERG

MY FAVORITE THINGS: ROOSEVELT EDITION

See the Roosevelts' impact through the eyes of the Library's avid supporters.

Since the early days of the pandemic when we had to close the Library's doors, we began thinking about how we could all stay connected to one another and to the Roosevelts during this time. The Roosevelts have always provided such a sense of inspiration and hope, and we certainly needed that in 2020. In an effort to capture that and share it amongst our community we started an e-series in which Library supporters told us about their favorite parts of the Library and the Roosevelt legacy. Here are some highlights. To read more visit rooseveltinstitute.org/fdr-library/my-favorite-things-roosevelt-edition/.

For me, Hyde Park is a magical place, and I adore going back there. I feel like I'm coming home.

SUSAN DUNN

...the main entrance to the Library & Museum is my favorite spot. Reading the letters from children and housewives and farmers and businessmen is so compelling. The glimpse into the lives of the American people at that time is a priceless treasure...

MELAINÉ ROTTKAMP

My very favorite photo in the whole museum is the one of Eleanor Roosevelt in a tiny airplane with an African American Tuskegee Airmen pilot. You can see her joy! Fantastic.

ANNE SUMERS

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION

Students of all ages participate in FDR Library in-person and virtual programs—from field trips at the Museum in the early part of 2020 to engaging on social media to learning from the Library’s ever-growing online database of digitized photos and documents from the Roosevelt era.

87,454

Total in-person and virtual **learners served**

130

Hours of distance learning presentations

616

Requests from students and teachers seeking to learn more

1,704

Students took part in our innovative civics education programming

NEW IN 2020!

31

Facebook LIVE presentations produced and presented as part of our *At Home With the Roosevelts* series

32

Online classroom activities created for teachers and students

3,486

views of online film-based Holocaust Curriculum Guide

21

Online summer activities created for students and families



A VISIT FROM THE THE DALLAS CHAPTER OF THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT CLUB

“The Eleanor Roosevelt Club (The ER Club) was established in Dallas in 2019 as a mother/daughter chapter designed to engage young women of high school age in a year-long dialogue about leadership, using Eleanor Roosevelt as an example. The ER Club honored everything about Eleanor Roosevelt, modeling its activities and discussions on her passions and accomplishments. The ER Club met monthly through early 2020 focusing each time on a specific leadership skill of Eleanor Roosevelt’s and incorporating this focus into discussions on local government, our role in democracy, making a difference in our communities, communication, and human rights. We had several guest speakers and field trips throughout the club’s 1 year run, culminating with a visit in February to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and Val-Kill in Hyde Park and a special presentation in the archives by Library Director, Paul Sparrow. In addition to our monthly discussions, high schoolers were given copies of several of Eleanor Roosevelt’s books and “My Day” columns, as well as having access to a roaming library of books written about her. Eleanor Roosevelt is my great grandmother and has always been such an inspiration to me. Bringing her legacy to life for my daughter and other high school girls in the ER Club was a privilege.” — **Elizabeth Roosevelt Kelly**, Dallas ER Club Chapter Chair

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year the FDR Library partners with the Catharine Street Community Center to award two Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarships to high-achieving young people in the community. We congratulate the 2020 honorees, Anthony J. Deyoe and Destiny N. Purvis. Both students worked hard to make their communities a better place through volunteer work including mentoring and leadership. Destiny is attending SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology and Anthony enrolled in SUNY Polytechnic Institute.

2020 MLK Scholars Destiny and Anthony with Library Director Paul Sparrow and Chief Development Officer Trish Prunty at the award ceremony.



A GIFT FOR ELEANOR

A will is deeply personal and can be profoundly impactful — it's where you make your values known, and provide support to causes you care about. In his own will, FDR created gifts to support polio research, his church and some employees. In 2020, Library supporter Nancy Shear set up a bequest to the FDR Library because of her deep connection to, and fondness for, Eleanor Roosevelt.

"In the mid-1950s, when I was eight or nine, Mrs. Roosevelt frequently appeared on TV, and that was my introduction to her. What she said about world peace and human rights, and the sincerity and compassion with which she said it, captivated me. She was dignified yet warm, confident but not arrogant, and I could detect a slight shyness just beneath the surface. When I questioned my mother about her, she said that Mrs. Roosevelt was always trying to help people.

I began to write to her, telling her about my first pair of high heels and my hopes of following her example to become a journalist or a UN delegate, and I received a personal response to every letter. By reading library books by and about her, I began to learn that many of her activities were controversial, so I suspected that she was more concerned about helping people than being liked—a sign of great courage. Mrs. R redefined what it meant to be a woman: warm and gracious but also strong and independent.



Eleanor Roosevelt on NBC's "Meet the Press" at the RCA Exhibition Hall in New York City. With Eleanor Roosevelt are (from left to right) Ned Brooks and Lawrence Spivak (1956).

I met her once, the year before she died, after a speech she gave. Mrs. Roosevelt had descended a long staircase when my mother called out to her, 'Mrs. Roosevelt, please shake my daughter's hand!' Mrs. R stopped, looked up, and climbed halfway back up the stairs to grasp my hand and hold it. I have considered myself forever blessed.

I've followed a different route than the one I had planned when I was young, but Mrs. Roosevelt's life and the example of her philosophy have always given me a sense of security and possibility, and they continue to provide a spiritual context to my life. I look to her as others look to religious figures. Several times a day I ask myself, 'What would Mrs. Roosevelt do?' and the answers always provide a path forward. I am grateful."



NANCY SHEAR is a Library donor and Legacy Circle member. She is the director of a performing arts consulting and public relations agency based in New York City. A writer and lecturer, Nancy has just completed a memoir about her life and work in classical music. Her generous bequest to the Library will support projects related to Eleanor Roosevelt.

FDR LIBRARY LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Roosevelt Institute honors the loyal individuals who have left a gift by will for the Library and Museum.

- Donna Cornick
- Patrick Devanney
- David and Tami Harnish
- Patti Hirahara
- Steven Lomazow and Suze Bienaimee
- James Thornton and Susan Sanok-Thornton
- Nancy Shear
- Paul and Meris Sparrow
- William and Melinda vanden Heuvel
- Adam Weisler
- Francis and Christie Wyman

NEW AND NOTABLE: ELEANOR'S BRIEFCASE

In early 2020 the Roosevelt Institute bought Eleanor Roosevelt's iconic briefcase from an auction house. The story behind the briefcase—one of meaningful friendship—enhances its significance and allows us to illustrate an important chapter of Eleanor's life.

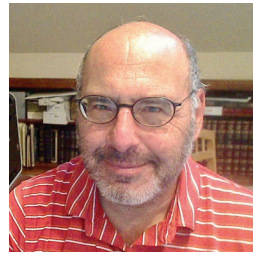
The briefcase was a constant companion as Eleanor traveled the world, often with Dr. Marjorie Whiteman, her legal advisor to the UN Human Rights Commission and a close, longtime personal friend. During a busy day in Switzerland Marjorie offered her own new briefcase to Eleanor to use in upcoming meetings. Eleanor gave Marjorie her well-traveled briefcase in exchange, which Marjorie kept for over 30 years. It was one of her most treasured possessions.

The family of Marjorie Whiteman was pleased to learn that Eleanor's beloved briefcase was coming home to the FDR Library and Museum, and will be featured in an upcoming special exhibit on Eleanor and her work with the UN on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Eleanor Roosevelt, Ernest Gross (left) and P.C. Jessup arriving at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris for the Second Plenary meeting, United Nations General Assembly, 3rd Session.

NEW TRUSTEES



Bruce Alpert is the rabbi of Beth Israel Synagogue in Wallingford, Connecticut where he has served since 2007. He earned a bachelor's degree in political economy from The Johns Hopkins University and a master's degree in Jewish Studies from Gratz College in Philadelphia. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and is chair emeritus of the Board of Trustees of the Academy for Jewish Religion.



Tyler O'Connor, Esq. is an Energy Litigator at Crowell & Moring, where he represents clients in the federal appellate and trial courts, arbitration, state court, and before the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Department of Interior. He received his JD magna cum laude and Order of the Coif in 2014 from Emory University School of Law. Tyler co-founded the Emory chapter of Roosevelt Network (Roosevelt Institute).

As Eleanor Roosevelt's granddaughter, I'm forever moved by how the Roosevelt legacy continues to inspire today's leaders. We are thrilled to welcome our first Network alumni to the FDR Library Trustees.  **NANCY ROOSEVELT IRELAND, FDR LIBRARY TRUSTEE CHAIR**



Anita Sonawane is an Associate Vice President at Bessemer Trust. She founded the Roosevelt Network (Roosevelt Institute) chapter at Queens College in 2009, where she graduated valedictorian with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. As an undergraduate, Anita served as a lead strategist in the Network for Economic Development. She has an MBA from Columbia University and a Masters of Science in Financial Economics at the University of Oxford.



Dr. Adam Weisler has taught in the social studies department at Scarsdale High School since 1998. He has a B.A. in Political Science from George Washington University, and an M.A, M.Phil, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University. He earned his Ed.M. in Social Studies from Teachers College, Columbia University. He is a member of the American Political Science Association, the Organization of American Historians, and American Historical Association.

WHAT'S AHEAD

Message from FDR Library director Paul Sparrow

Although the FDR Library and Museum was closed for most of 2020, our staff remained hard at work on a wide range of archival and curatorial projects, as well as an impressive amount of digital programming. Looking ahead I see exciting opportunities to continue delving into the Roosevelt legacy. I hope to see you back at the Library soon.

FDR'S FINAL CAMPAIGN



The special exhibit, "**FDR's Final Campaign**," that was scheduled to open in March 2020 will be featured when the Library and Museum finally reopen. This is an inspiring exhibit that explores President Roosevelt's last months in office and the remarkable legacy he left behind. Our curatorial team is already working on an important exhibit for 2022 tentatively titled "**The Roosevelts and Civil Rights**." The exhibit will explore how New Deal policies impacted the lives of Black Americans and grapple head-on with the ways some elements reinforced racial inequity. The exhibit will also chronicle Eleanor Roosevelt's human rights efforts while First Lady and after leaving the White House. We have put together a world class advisory committee to bring deep expertise to the exhibit from civil rights historians and leaders.

The FDR Library is also proud to announce our **Morgenthau Holocaust Collections Project's international conference, "Examining American Responses to the Holocaust: Digital Possibilities."** The virtual conference will take place from Oct. 10-15, 2021 and is expected to attract top scholars from around the globe.



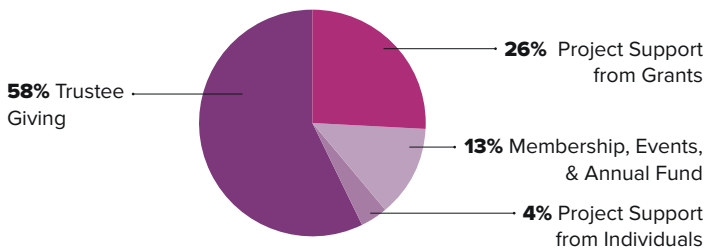
We were pleased to see multiple **Roosevelt items displayed in the White House Oval Office** following the inauguration in January, 2021, including a large portrait of FDR centered over the fireplace. Most notable is a cigarette box on loan from the FDR Library. Franklin Roosevelt kept this box on his desk in his private study at the Library and is stamped with the monogram: F.D.R.

Financial Overview: The Roosevelt Institute and the FDR Library

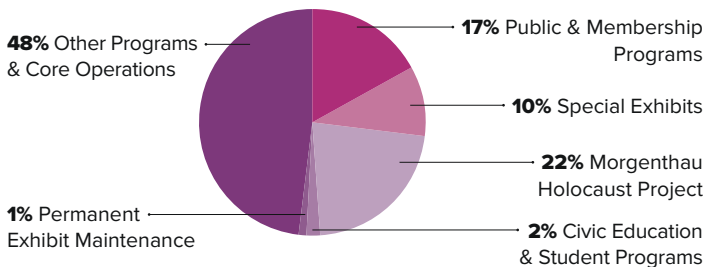
As the FDR Library and Museum's nonprofit partner, the Roosevelt Institute raises and spends funds to support activities that the National Archives and Records Administration—a federal government agency—cannot. These activities include community events, membership programming, civics education work, special exhibits, and digitization efforts to make our resources accessible to the 895,116 annual visitors to fdrlibrary.org.

2020 Budget for the Roosevelt Institute's FDR Library and Museum programming: approximately \$770,000

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Get Involved

- Become a Library member
- Become a monthly supporter
- Include us in your estate planning
- Become a Trustee
- Share our content on social media

Visit fdrlibrary.org/membership for more information

FDR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The Library Trustees were originally created in December 1938, when the FDR Presidential Library and Museum was first conceptualized. 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 2020

Nancy Roosevelt Ireland (Chair)
Bruce Alpert
Lynn Bassanese
Allida Black
Kevin M. Burke
Douglas Brinkley
Fredrica Goodman
Shirley M. Handel
Debra Heinrich
William Leuchtenburg
Steven Lomazow
Mary Moran
Dennis Murray
Beth Newburger
Anita Sonawane
Tyler O'Connor
Alison Overseth
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr.
Elizabeth Roosevelt Kelly
Eileen Simmons
Aprill Springfield Blanco
Gillian Steel
Anne Sumers
William J. vanden Heuvel
Geoffrey Ward
Adam Weisler

Roosevelt Institute Staff at the FDR Library

Trish Prunty, *Chief Development Officer*
Lauren Karagianis, *Sr. Associate and Head of FDR Library Membership*
Abby Gondek, *Morgenthau Scholar*