

NEWS from the



Tenth "Diamond" Anniversary

Dear Friends:

It hardly seems like ten years ago that I invited 13 of you to lunch at the Hilton Hotel (now the Marriott McKinley Grand) and asked you to help me raise \$100,000 to hire a bibliographer to research all the First Ladies and help me put a complete annotated bibliography on line. "There is a void in American History", I told you, "and we can help fill it." Little did I then dream that it was an idea whose time had come.

With the financial help originally of ten major American corporations, as well as community and national foundations, we raised our first million. Three major fundraisers in Washington and one in Pittsburgh would add another million as we reached out to generous donors throughout the nation.

The opening of our website from the East Room of the White House in February 1998 was the highlight of the project. First Lady Hillary Clinton accessed her bibliography in a video conferencing session, reaching out to a number of schools here and abroad.

When former First Lady Rosalynn Carter came in June 1998 to dedicate the Saxton House, I thought we had reached our goal. We had, however, only just begun.

The Marsh Belden Family's gift of the City National Bank Building, built in 1895, in the year 1999 overwhelmed us with possibilities for the future. The "Save America's Treasures" national matching grant took the possibilities and made them realities. Many of you will remember the then First Lady Hillary Clinton standing on a platform in the center of Market Street in front of the old bank building making us an Official Project of "Save America's Treasures" in July 1999. We matched the 2.5 million dollar grant in one year and completed the restoration of the entire building in 2 years. We had graduated from one room and two closet offices to two buildings and too many rooms to count.

When President Clinton signed the bill in October 2000, we became the 380th unit of the National Park Service. We would also be one of only three dedicated to more than one woman.

So very many of you answered our call for volunteers. You shared the joy and pride of watching First Lady Laura Bush dedicate the Education and Research Center in September 2003, while the national press and media made it a moment that we shall not soon forget in Canton.

I cannot end this brief discourse without mentioning my friend and full-time partner Dr. Sheila Fisher. Her decorating skills have changed an ordinary Victorian décor into a magnificent visual experience.

To all of you who contributed time, money and energy to this, we shall be forever grateful. Make no mistake – it could not have been done without you. The generations who follow will bless you more as they come to these facilities and learn about their great historic heritage.

We will all move on with our lives. We continue to make our facilities more accessible, more useful and more valuable. Our staff has increased, and our programs and outreach have tripled. The joy of remembrance of what we all accomplished here, however, will not be forgotten.

Ten years is the "diamond anniversary" – let's look forward to the next decades of diamonds.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary".

Mary Regula
President and Founding Chair



<p>CARL SFERRAZZA ANTHONY AUTHOR, HISTORIAN & POLITICAL HISTORY ANALYST MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2005 4:00 - 7:00 P.M.</p>	 	<p>Author & Historian CATHY D. KNEPPER, Ph.D. Saturday, May 14, 2005 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.</p>
	<p>You are invited to Meet the Authors at these upcoming Book Signing Events!</p> <p>National First Ladies' Library Education and Research Center 205 Market Avenue South Canton, Ohio 44702 (330) 452-0876</p> <p>Discounted books are available for sale at our giftshop!</p>	

Upcoming Events

April

18th Book Signing – Carl S. Anthony, renowned author and First Ladies' historian will sign copies of his new book, "Nellie Taft : The Unconventional First Lady of the Ragtime Era" from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the Education and Research Center. Books are available at a discounted rate in our gift shop.

18th, 19th, 25th, 26th

School Program – Right to Read "The White House Pets" – This charming program is suitable for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Anyone who loves animals will confirm that one's pet is certainly a member of the family. First Families are no exception to that rule. A First Lady will relate stories about many of the Presidential pets and the families who loved them. The program continues with a First Lady reading a book to your class with the help of puppets and possibly a willing student. 2 performances each day – 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in our Education and Research Center. **Reservations Required**

May

09th Bus Trip – Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, Ohio – Join us as we spend the day

exploring the home and grounds of President Rutherford B. and First Lady Lucy Hayes. **Reservations Required; Bus Fee & Admission Charge**

14th Public Program - "Amelia and Eleanor" – Mothers and daughters will see history come alive when they join two of America's most admired women in this special program. The event is based on a book about a real life adventure shared by Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt at the White House. Mothers and their daughters have the opportunity to participate in a memorable moment from America's history. For mothers and daughters (girls in the 4th- 6th grades) – 12:00 noon in our Education and Research Center. **Reservations Required, Admission Charge**

14th Book Signing – Dr. Cathy Knepper, will sign copies of her recent book, "Dear Mrs. Roosevelt: Letters to Eleanor Roosevelt Through Depression and War" The book is a collection of fascinating letters written to Eleanor from people all over the country. These letters represent a true reflection of the years of the Great Depression and the War. Dr. Knepper will be signing her book

from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. in our Education and Research Center. Books are available at a discounted rate in our gift shop

16th, 18th

School Program – Right to Read "Amelia and Eleanor" – Suitable for students in 4th through 6th grade. Two of America's most admired women were real life friends. History will come alive when Amelia Earhart and Eleanor Roosevelt appear together to weave the tales of their extraordinary and adventurous lives for you and your students. The two women dreamed big, defied convention, and had huge influences on women (and men!) in their own and future eras. The program has a few surprises in store for your class that includes reading a special story involving the two famous friends on a spontaneous night time ride in the sky and through the streets of Washington, D.C.! 2 performances each day – 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in our Education and Research Center. **Reservations Required**

June

18th Public Program – "White House Wedding" – Frances Cleveland was 21 years old when she married Grover Cleveland in the Blue Room of the White House. Guests will join Frances as she relates her memories of a presidential courtship and wedding day in the late 1800's. A reception follows the presentation of Victorian weddings and the memories of a remarkable First Lady. 2 performances – 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in our Education and Research Center. **Reservations Required, Admission Fee**

For more information or to make reservations for any of the events listed above, please contact our office at (330) 452-0876. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Exhibit News

“The Progressive Age – 1901-1933” runs through July 16th

Our newest exhibit “The Progressive Age – 1901-1933” features extraordinary women who changed America from the turn



of the century until the 1930's. This exhibit highlights the contributions and

legacies of First Ladies Edith Roosevelt, Helen Taft, Ellen Wilson, Edith Wilson, Florence



Harding, Grace Coolidge and Lou Hoover. These First Ladies of our land were fascinating, progressive women living in rapidly changing times. Their influence would extend well into the 20th century and beyond.

One of the most historically significant and unique items on display is Florence Harding's original diary. On this 1891 (the year she and Warren G. Harding were married)

calendar, Florence recorded her most private thoughts and continued doing so until sometime in 1911. It was on these

pages that Mrs. Harding expressed some of her inner most concerns, sorrows and joys. Consider this startling quote from the diary: “Love makes all men liars.”

In addition to the diary, books

and letters, the exhibit features gowns, hats and accessories, worn by the Progressive Age First Ladies. Prints of painting by Ellen Wilson are also on display.

Running concurrently is our Women's History display that follows the theme of Women's History Month, “Women Change America.” It features not only First Ladies who “changed America”, but also women from other walks of life who have had a lasting influence on our nation. Women

such as Dr. Mary Walker who was the first and only woman to have re-



ceived the Congressional Medal of Honor as a result of her work as a surgeon during the Civil War. Amelia Earhart, who shared the joys of flying with Eleanor Roosevelt, is also included.

The exhibit runs through July 16, 2005.

Women's Equal Rights Exhibit Planned

In observance of the 85th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, an exhibit entitled “First Ladies and the Fight for Equal Rights for Women” is being planned. The exhibit will span two centuries of women's

struggle to gain equality. It will begin with Abigail Adams' admonishment of “Remember the Ladies” to her husband John who was helping to write the Declaration of Independence. Also examined will be the 70-plus

years women's suffrage movement, and the stances taken by First Ladies. In addition, the Equal Rights Amendment and those First Ladies who supported it will be explored. The exhibit will open August 1, 2005.

Library Happenings

Facelift! By Martha Regula



The National First Ladies' Library website is getting a complete facelift! Coming soon is a whole new look for the website. Since the website is our "face" to the world we decided it was time to spruce it up so that virtual visitors from all over the country and the world would be able to find the information they need about First Ladies and about our Museum and Library.

In addition to the cosmetic changes, a number of new features are being added:

Calendar- We will now have an online calendar listing all our events for every month. The event listing will link to a complete description of the event and supply all the pertinent information.

Online Gift Shop-Patrons will be able to order from our secure online gift shop. Initially we will be offering the First Ladies' china online. Gradually we will offer more items online from our gift shop.

Curriculum for Teachers-The first segment of the First Ladies curriculum enrichment series will soon be completed and will be made available online. Teachers will be able to download the materials to use in their classrooms.

Contacts-Patrons will find direct email links to all the staff and departments.

The new improved website should be up and running sometime this summer. The address will be the same, www.firstladies.org. Be sure to "drop by" in a month or so and check out our new "face"!

New Library Director

The NFLL is happy to welcome our newest staff member, Martha Regula. Martha has accepted the position of Library Director this past October and will be working with the archives, the library collections and the website in addition to other responsibilities. Martha comes to us with a Master's in Library Science from Kent State and 27 years experience in both public and private education and 16 years experience in librarianship. Prior to accepting, the position at the NFLL Martha served for nine years as the Library Director at Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio.

Martha developed an interest in librarianship during her years as a secondary teacher in Tenn., Florida and Colorado. Before returning to her "roots" in Ohio

she spent 10 years as the District Library Director in Gilpin County Colorado.

"I really loved Colorado, it's one of the most beautiful places on earth, but after 23 years living out of state I finally returned to Ohio to be closer to my family," Martha commented.

Martha is excited about her new position here at the NFLL, "there is so much to be done here and it's wonderful to have a challenge. I feel as if I'm fortunate to be in on the ground floor of what is a great endeavor. I'm hoping to bring the library and the collections into the 21st century through the use of the incredible technology that is now available. Libraries of the future will be dynamic, not static, and they will be accessible from your living room anyplace in the world."

Our new librarian has many other interests as well. She designs and markets jewelry made with materials acquired from her worldwide travels. She features her pieces on her recently launched website, designsbymartha.com. She says, "I've always loved traveling and experiencing other cultures, travel is the ultimate intoxicant. It's even more fun when I can discover materials and ideas to incorporate in my jewelry pieces. It's a stimulus for my creative side."

Martha may be reached at the Education and Research Center at (330) 452-0876 Ext. 303 or through email at regulam@firstladieslibrary.org.

Symposium Planned

First Ladies Social, Cultural & Historic Impact Will Be Explored

by Martha Regula

More and more researchers are discovering our website and our collection. Daily I receive requests from students and professional researchers inquiring for information about First Ladies. Recently a number of individuals have personally stopped by the library to use our collection of materials.

In an effort to attract even more scholars to our facility we have decided to host a symposium in March 2006. The event will focus on a topic of historical significance relating to First Ladies. We are still in the planning stages, but our goal is to bring in researchers, authors and scholars to share information about a specific area related to First Ladies and their impact socially, culturally and historically. This will be an all day event with a panel of experts and a group of selected participants.

In the months ahead I will be working with our "non-resident" First Ladies' Scholar, Carl Anthony, to plan for this event.

Frequently Asked Questions

"What is original to the Education and Research Center?"

Original items to the historic 1895 City National Bank building,



which now serves as the National First Ladies' Library Education and Research Center, are: the pink

Tennessee marble floor; white Corraera marble wainscoting; egg and dart, dental, ivy and Victorian rosette molding; glue chip glass transoms; the bronze City National Bank doors hanging in the reception area; the skylight above the 110 yr. old matching size glass block on the floor

(most is covered by carpet, exposing a small portion so visitors can see the ironwork it is set in); the wrought iron stair rail and green slate steps climbing to all 7 floors. Most of the window casings throughout the building, as well as the woodwork and hardware on the upper floors are original. In addition the lower level has the original walk-in bank vault door manufactured by Diebold. The 1,000 pound cast iron façade of the original boiler is located behind the theater.

The renovation, which started in 2001, took two years to complete. Before the National First Ladies' Library took ownership of the building, it had been vacant for 15 - 20 years.

Suffrage Parade Planned



In celebration of the 85th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, we will be holding a Suffrage Parade on August 20, 2005. Plan on joining us to celebrate this significant achievement in obtaining equal rights for all women!

Gift Shop

Visit Our Gift Shop For That Special Gift

If you haven't visited the library gift shop lately it is definitely worth the trip. Featuring items that are unique, educational, functional and just a great find, the gift shop has something for everyone. Sweatshirts, cardigans and hooded zip front sweatshirts with the beautiful National First Ladies' Library logo make wonderful gifts.

New Books Available...

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt by Cathy Knepper Ph.D.

Nellie Taft – The Unconventional First Lady of the Ragtime Era by Carl Sferrazza Anthony

Prayer, Power & Petticoats by Sue Tennant

The World War II Memorial by Douglas Brinkley

Founding Mothers by Cokie Roberts (with signed bookplate)

Barbara Bush Reflections by Barbara Bush

Children's Books . . .

Patriots in Petticoats by Shirley Raye Redmond

Call Me Madame President by Sue Pyatt

Madame President by Catherine Timmesh

Amelia Earhart – More than a Flyer by Patricia Lakin

Amelia and Eleanor Go For A Ride by Pam Munoz Ryan

Smart About the First Ladies by Jon Buller, Susan Schade, Dana Regan, Sally Warner & Jill Weber

First Kids by Gibbs Davis

Need a wedding or shower gift... **Flowers of the First Ladies' China** is beautiful, functional and collectible. Our logo is on the back of each plate as well as a first lady's signature. Expand your collection with a Cup/Saucer set, Serving Tray, Soup Bowl and Cake Platter.

When seeking unique gifts, keep us in mind.



Volunteer News

Volunteers Honored

The National First Ladies' Library has always been grateful and extremely proud of their volunteer pool. Every year we recognize all of our volunteers for their dedication, talent and commitment to the library.

Mrs. Donna Boldt who gave 226 hours and Miss Joann Swanson who gave 221 hours *live* by the true meaning of "volunteer". Both are very active in their communities and give their time and talent to many other areas of interest.



Donna, who portrays First Ladies Anna Harrison and Dolley Madison in costume as a docent at the Saxton House, is an active volunteer at the McKinley Museum and St. Joseph's Assisted Living as well. She is also very active in Canton Woman's Club and Eastern Star.

Jo, a life long resident of the area, portrays First Ladies Abigail Adams, Florence Harding, and Edith Wilson as a Saxton House docent. She is also an active volunteer for other area organizations including the Canton Civic Opera, Hoover Historic Center and the North Canton Heritage Society. Along with guiding tours at the Saxton House Jo has delighted audiences as a performer in several of our educational programs.



Thank you, ladies, for contributing to the uniqueness of the National First Ladies' Library!

First Lady Trivia

Did You Know....? By Craig Schermer

...that Dolley Madison's cousin was Angelica Singleton Van Buren? (Angelica's mother was a Coles as was Dolley's mother so they were first cousins.)



...that in her youth Jane Pierce was considered such a good pianist that she was encouraged to consider a musical career?

...that Lucy Hayes thought herself "too light" to be married to Rutherford B. Hayes. By "light" she meant her mind being too light-weight.

...that Sarah Polk disagreed with her husband about banks-she encouraged him to put their money in the bank-he preferred carrying it with them in their luggage.

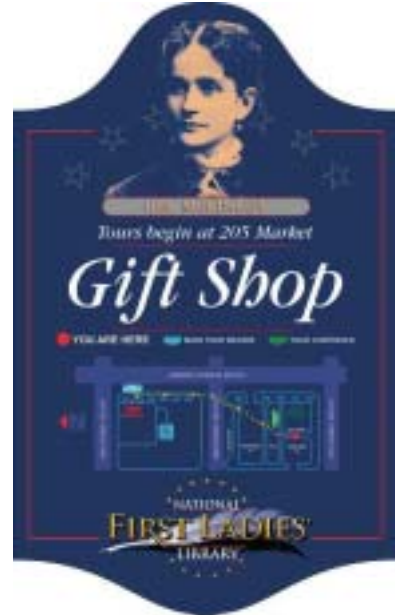


...that Florence Harding supported herself, after being abandoned by her 1st husband, giving piano lessons for \$.50 an hour. One of her students was Warren G. Harding's sister, Charity.



...that the first time Grace Goodhue saw her future husband, Calvin Coolidge, he was standing in the window of his apartment, shaving with a bowler on his head. She was outside, across the street, watering the flowers.

Signage and Parking



We will soon have new signs directing visitors to the National First Ladies' Library. The signs will be placed throughout our property showing the way to the Gift Shop, Saxton House and the tour beginning point.

Also our visitors are welcome to use our parking lot on Market Avenue South and Third Street SW. Entrance to the lot is on Market Ave. Call the office or use the intercom at the lot entrance to obtain the gate code.

The lot exits onto Court Avenue SW; the exit gate lifts automatically as a car approaches.

Volunteers Needed!

As Spring and Summer draw near, we expect record numbers of visitors to come for tours and programs. We already have reservations from many groups in April, May & June. Plus, in June, July & August we will open for tours on Sunday afternoons, in addition to our normal Tuesday through Saturday tours.

We need your help! Please consider becoming a part of our volunteer family. You can serve as a costumed docent, a hostess or a gallery greeter. Just a day or two a month would be greatly appreciated.

For more information on our volunteer program, please contact Cyndee Frailly at (330) 452-0876 ext. 317.



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Audio Visual Collection by Carl Sferrazza Anthony, Noted First Ladies Historian

From the very beginning, the National First Ladies Library founder and president Mary Regula envisioned a reference library for the nation that consisted not only of books, articles and the written word but the moving image as well. In its original mission statement, the NFLL set out to also begin a national collection of film, television and radio recordings of the First Ladies through the years, whether they were part of documentaries, newsreels, news footage, or even feature and entertainment news interviews. Along with such primary sources was also a notion of collecting dramatic depictions of the First Ladies in film, television and recorded theater productions whether the First Lady was the main character or a supporting one.

The creation of the NFLL Audio-Visual Collection began in the summer of 2004. In the first phase of identifying, finding and then seeking donations or purchasing the material, I as a member of the NFLL board, worked closely with the

Hoover, FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, LBJ, Ford, Carter, Reagan and Bush presidential libraries, as well as the Nixon Materials at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (soon to be transferred to the new National Archives storage and research facility being built in conjunction with the privately created Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda, California).

Among the items also assembled in the first phase, however, were some old newsreels rarely seen - perhaps not at all seen - since they were first made for the American film-going public which at one time got its visual sense of the week's news as part of the newsreels shown at intermission in movie houses. These were part of a great collection of not only the newsreels but also the cut footage now housed at the University of South Carolina Library. Silent film newsreel showing Frances Cleveland, Edith Wilson and Florence Harding, as well as "talkies" of Grace Coolidge, Lou Hoover, Eleanor Roosevelt are from this collection and provide unique

glimpses of these First Ladies not only behaving officially in ceremonies, but also making asides and remarks, often uncertain where to look or having to do several "takes" for the cameraman. Another unique element of American life which is being captured in the nearly one-century of the moving images of these women is the evolution of speaking styles, from the formal "elocution" sound of those First Ladies who were of the upper-classes in the earlier twentieth century to the more diverse regional American accents found among those of the latter twentieth-century.

The effort of identifying, finding and gathering the collection is almost halfway done. Once the materials are assembled and catalogued, they will be available for viewing to researchers, although copyright prevents the NFLL from either copying, licensing or in any way permitting the audio-visual collection to be used for other than research and reference purposes. It is estimated that the collection may be opened by the early spring of 2006.