Eleanor Roosevelt: The War Years

Our 2016 Signature Event at the LMC Mendel Center

Join the History Center on Thursday, October 27, as we welcome First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center.

Rene Goodwin, an actor/historian with the American Historical Theatre in Philadelphia, will portray the woman widely regarded as the greatest of our First Ladies in a one-woman show, *Eleanor Roosevelt: The War Years*.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are $75 for an individual or $500 for a table of eight. The event also includes door prizes and a silent auction. Dinner choices are sliced beef tenderloin, salmon, or vegetarian (apple stuffed with a vegetable mix). Advance reservations are required and can be made by calling the History Center at (269) 471-1202.

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born in 1884 to Elliot Roosevelt (Theodore's younger brother) and Anna (Hall) Roosevelt. Eleanor (she always preferred to use her middle name) had an unhappy childhood. Her mother died of diphtheria when she was just eight years old and a brother died six months later. Two years after that her father, a troubled alcoholic, died in a sanitarium. She was raised in her grandmother's household, where she was starved for affection and considered herself an "ugly duckling."

She married her fifth cousin once removed, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in 1905. The marriage was a complicated one from the beginning. Franklin's controlling mother, Sara, interfered with their family, and in 1918 Eleanor learned of her husband's affair with Lucy Mercer. To cope with these problems, Eleanor sought fulfillment in a public life of her own. She persuaded Franklin to stay in politics after a 1921 polio attack left his legs paralyzed, and she made speeches and public appearances on his behalf. Eleanor served as Franklin's eyes and ears throughout his political career as state senator, Governor of New York and as President of the United States.

Eleanor redefined the role of First Lady. Other president's wives had remained in the background, but...  

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Eleanor caused a stir during World War II when she went on a half-hour flight in a J-3 Cub with African-American chief civilian flight instructor C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson.
Berrien County Historical Association Board and Staff

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**BCHA Mission Statement**

The mission of the BCHA is to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, and educational and community outreach programs for public benefit.

Learn more about the BCHA by visiting www.berrienhistory.org

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**Director’s Comments**

*By Kathy Cyr*

Dear Friends,

Wow! Where did the summer go?! Labor Day is just around the corner - we will host a Blacksmith Festival at the History Center that weekend on Saturday, September 3, organized by Sam Kurtzweil, a Boy Scout from Niles.

Bob and I will serve as the intrepid tour guides on the Superior Country Fall Color Tour on September 15 - 22. We have 33 people signed up for this tour and are looking forward to learning about the historic sites and natural wonders of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On Saturday, October 15 from 3-6 p.m., the staff and volunteers will again collaborate with The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center's staff and volunteers for our 3rd annual Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour. Join us for this informative and fun tour of State Street homes and the St. Joseph City Cemetery.

On Thursday, October 27, the BCHA Board of Directors will host our annual fund raiser at LMC's Men-del Center featuring Eleanor Roosevelt, portrayed by Rene Goodwin of Philadelphia. Watch the mail for your “save the date” postcard followed by the invitation with the reply card. We look forward to your support for this event!

Wrapping up the year on December 1 is Kindle Your Christmas Spirit. Join us for this community event!

Thank you to everyone who attended our Thurs-days at Courthouse Square summer program series. We had another banner year with an attendance of over 600 at the six programs. A special thank you goes to the Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary Club and AEP Indiana Michigan Power for their continuing support of this program series, and to the Berrien Springs Community Library for again partnering with us on two of the programs.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the vol-unteers who staffed the BCHA History Center’s booth at the Berrien County Youth Fair: Bob Cooley, Gary and Karen Campbell, Carole Bronicki, Bob Norris and Jim Temple and to Madge Bibler, Museum Services Coordinator, who ordered the merchandise, hauled it to the Fairgrounds, set up the booth and helped staff the booth. We could not have done it without your valuable assistance.

We hope you had a great summer and we wish you a glorious fall. We hope to see you at our fall events.

Sincerely,

*Kathy A. Cyr*

Executive Director
New Event, September 3 ~

Blacksmith Festival

Sam Kurtzweil, a Boy Scout from Niles, is taking on our Bennett Forge Blacksmith Shop as his Eagle Scout project. The project includes a fund-raising Blacksmith Festival on Saturday, September 3, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The festival invites blacksmiths from northern Indiana and southwest Michigan to demonstrate their craft at the Bennett Forge Blacksmith Shop here at the History Center. The blacksmiths will work in the Bennett Forge and (weather permitting) on the courthouse grounds. They will also offer some of their hand-forged items for sale.

Members of Sam Kurtzweil’s Boy Scout troop will have food items available for purchase during the event.

Admission to the event is free, but donations will be accepted to fund needed repairs to the blacksmith shop.

The term “blacksmith” comes from iron as a “black” metal and “smith” from the old word “smite,” meaning to strike something. Tinsmiths were known as whitesmiths because they worked with a “white” metal.

Berrien County, like most areas, had dozens of blacksmiths and their shops were fixtures in every town. They sometimes made items of iron or steel, but more often engaged in repair work. The Blacksmith Festival offers an opportunity to experience firsthand this traditional American art form.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, and only 4% of Boy Scouts earn it. Famous Eagle Scouts include President Gerald R. Ford, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and film director Steven Spielberg.
Curator’s Corner

Recent Donations to the Museum Collections

Heathkit catalog .......................... Barbra J. Kolm
Match safe, posters, photographs ........ Daryl T. Schlender
Postcard ................................. Dearborn Historical Museum
Photographs .............................. EAA AirVenture Museum
Native American projectile points ....... Guntis A. Vitums
Photographs, calendar ................. Jackie Hammond
Photographs ............................. Donald & Martha Ryman

Third Annual Haunted St. Joseph Tour

Our annual Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour will be Saturday, October 15, from 3 to 6 p.m. We conduct the tours with our friends at The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in St. Joseph.

Tours begin at “Bear Park” at the corner of State and Market streets behind the St. Joseph Public Library. Tours are $5.00 per person and reservations are strongly recommended. To make your reservation, call The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center at (269) 983-1191.

The tour route follows State Street for about six blocks and back with stops along the way for true stories about the people who lived in the houses and their sometimes tragic fates. A bus will carry participants to the St. Joseph City Cemetery for a special tour of the cemetery and mausoleum.

Many of our regular tour guides will return this year, armed with some new stories of St. Joseph hauntings. Be sure to ask about the ghost and the bathtub!

We’ll also have copies of our new booklet, Historic St. Joseph Walking Tour, for sale at the event. You can pick up a copy and have author Bob Myers and designer Jennifer Richmond sign it for you.

We hope you can join in on this fall’s Haunted St. Joseph Tour. We have a fun time every year and we’re sure you will, too!

Our thanks go to Barbra Kolm for her donation of this 1961 Heathkit catalog.
Enjoy Our Local History!

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SPECIAL: Greetings from Buchanan & Story of Buchanan  Quantity: __________
Get both for $29.95!

Subtotal: $ ______
Discounts (Library 20%  BCHA Members 10%)
State sales tax (6% for Michigan orders only)
Shipping ($4.95 for 1st book, $1.00 each additional book

Total: $ ______
Eleanor Roosevelt (continued from page 1)

Eleanor held press conferences, wrote a syndicated newspaper column and toured nationally. She prodded a sometimes reluctant Franklin to take action on social and racial issues. For his part, Franklin often used Eleanor to float ideas for new policies: if the idea proved unpopular, he could take cover by saying that the notion, after all, came from his wife and not the president.

After the outbreak of World War II, Eleanor lobbied hard for the United States to allow the immigration of European refugee children. She tried to persuade Franklin to allow the immigration of European Jews, but the president bowed to pressure from those who feared the infiltration of Nazi spies and restricted immigration instead. Their son, James, later wrote that her failure to save refugees was his mother's greatest regret.

Eleanor visited American and English troops in England in October 1942 and toured American bases in the South Pacific in August 1943. Her visits boosted morale in both theaters of the war, but left her shocked and depressed at the sight of so many wounded men.

Franklin Roosevelt died suddenly in April 1945 shortly after starting his unprecedented fourth term in office, but Eleanor remained active in politics for the rest of her life. She was a strong advocate for the United Nations and became the United States' first delegate to the UN in December 1945. She served as the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights and played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She also chaired the John F. Kennedy administration's Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, despite the fact that she did not support the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

Eleanor Roosevelt died in New York City in 1962 at age 78, and was laid to rest beside Franklin at their home in Hyde Park, New York. She had received 35 honorary degrees, 13 of them from universities outside the United States, and in 1999 was ranked in the top ten of Gallup's List of Most Widely Admired People of the 20th Century.

We know that you'll love meeting Eleanor Roosevelt at our 2016 Signature Event!

A Fabulous Tour to the Cahokia Mounds!

We had a marvelous trip to the St. Louis area in June, where we took in the Cahokia Mounds, the St. Louis Arch, and saw Garrison Keillor's next-to-last Prairie Home Companion show at the Fox Theatre. We filled the bus with 46 people! A big thank-you to Candace Myers, who served as co-guide for the tour.

Several of us got up at 4 a.m. (!) to see the summer solstice at the woodhenge at Cahokia Mounds. Front to back: Austin Frambach, Candace Myers, Rebecca Marsden, Rick Rasmussen, Glen Laing & John Frambach

The Fox Theatre, where we saw Prairie Home Companion, was incredible. Bob took some interior photos, but it was too dark and they didn't turn out.
“Springing into the 1830s” Pioneer Day

Over 320 elementary school students from around the area had a great time at our annual Pioneer Day in May. They learned about life in Michigan during the 1830s in sessions that included using a crosscut saw and corn sheller, blacksmithing, flintlock muskets, horse care, stenciling and log cabin living.

Randy Bibler brought in two miniature horses. They were a big hit with the kids!

Dave Francis demonstrates blacksmithing to a group of avid listeners in the Bennett Forge Blacksmith Shop.

Bob Cashbaugh, Julie Knight and Joyce Daniels helped students use the crosscut saw.

Stenciling in the Sheriff’s Residence with Karen Campbell, Angela Widdis and Isabel Widdis
Continuing and Upcoming Events

September 3: Blacksmith Festival. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Free admission!


September 29: Historic homes in St. Joseph featured in our Historic St. Joseph Walking Tour booklet. 6:30 p.m. at The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center in St. Joseph.

October 15: Haunted St. Joseph Walking Tour. 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

October 15: Kindle the Christmas Spirit, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

October 27: Signature Event An Evening with Eleanor Roosevelt. 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center.