

Schedule

10:00 a.m.

Reading Room B: **Sarah Miller**

*Hick: The Trailblazing Journalist
Who Captured Eleanor Roosevelt's Heart*

Reading Room C: **Jason E. Taylor**

The Brew Deal: How Beer Helped Battle the Great Depression

11:00 a.m.

Reading Room B: **Valdivia S. Beauchamp**

*PARNAMIRIM:
An American Airbase in the Tropics, 1939-1945*

Reading Room C: **Karen A. Frenkel**

Family Treasures Lost & Found

Noon

Lunch Break

1:00 p.m.

Reading Room A: **John W. Lanza**

From One War to Another

Reading Room B: **Talmage Boston**

*How the Best Did It:
Leadership Lessons from Our Top Presidents*

Reading Room C: **Christopher D. O'Sullivan**

Frank Knox: Roughrider in FDR's War Cabinet

2:00 p.m.

Reading Room A: **Samuele F. S. Pardini**

*Writing Home:
Selected World War II Letters of Leslie A. Fiedler*

Reading Room B: **John Thomas**

*Kalamazoo Gals - A Story of Extraordinary Women
& Gibson's "Banner" Guitars of WWII*

Reading Room C: **David Kohnen**

*King's Navy: Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King
and the Rise of American Sea Power, 1897-1947*

3:00 p.m.

Reading Room A: **James Shapiro**

*The Playbook: A Story of Theater,
Democracy, and the Making of a Culture War*

Reading Room B: **Christopher N. Breiseth**

The New Deal: Looking Back, Moving Forward

Reading Room C: **Jeffrey P. Rogg**

The Spy and the State: The History of American Intelligence

4:00 p.m.

Reading Room C: Special Afternoon Presentation: **Richard Breitman**

*A Calculated Restraint:
What Allied Leaders Said about the Holocaust*

The Authors

Valdivia S. Beauchamp is the author of PARNAMIRIM: An American Base in the Tropics, 1939-1945 (in Portuguese, with versions in French, English, German, Italian, and Russian), and five other historical fiction books. She is a native of Recife, Brazil, and has a BS in Journalism from University Center of Brasilia (UniCEUB), a Master of Hispanic and Brazilian Literature from New York University and a Master of Spanish Medieval Literature from Purdue University. Beauchamp has been an assistant professor of Portuguese and Spanish for both American universities she attended, and an assistant professor of Communication Theory at UniCEUB. As a journalist, she covered the National Congress of Brazil and Brazilian embassies and produced the political program “Primeiro Plano” on Radiobras. She is the founder of Multilinguas and Euro American Women Writers, Inc. and was the the Cultural Coordinator of Casa Thomas Jefferson (Cultural house of the American Embassy in Brazil). She lives in New York City.

Talmage Boston is the author of How the Best Did It: Leadership Lessons from Our Top Presidents, Cross-Examining History, Raising the Bar, Baseball and the Baby Boomer and 1939: Baseball’s Tipping Point. He is a well-known figure among leading historians as an author, speaker, and onstage interviewer. Boston is one of the most highly recognized lawyers in Texas, having been chosen for three major statewide awards in the last four years by the Texas Bar Foundation and the State Bar of Texas’ Litigation Section. He has been named a “Texas Super Lawyer” by Thompson Reuters every year since 2003, and among the “Best Lawyers in America” every year since 2013. He is the only lawyer to receive a “Presidential Citation” from eight different presidents of the State Bar of Texas for outstanding service to the State Bar. In November 2023, he was recognized by the Dallas Historical Society as “The History Maker of the Year” in the field of promoting history in North Texas. He lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife Claire, son Scott, daughter Lindsey, son-in-law Mitchell, and grandson Nolan.

The Authors

Christopher N. Breiseth co-edited, with David Lembeck, [The New Deal: Looking Back, Moving Forward](#). He was President and CEO of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute from 2001 to 2008. He has been an active board member of both the National New Deal Preservation Association and the Frances Perkins Center, located at the newly proclaimed Perkins Homestead National Monument in Newcastle, Maine, where he also served as chair. He earned his BA in History at UCLA in 1958, a Masters in Modern British History from Oxford University in 1962, and a PhD in European Intellectual History from Cornell University in 1964. He taught European History at Williams College from 1963 to 1971 and at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield) from 1971 to 1984, with a three-year leave of absence to be president of Deep Springs College in California from 1980-1983. He served as president of Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA from 1984 to 2001. A widower with three daughters, Breiseth lives in retirement at Ticonderoga, NY on the shores of Lake George in the Adirondacks.

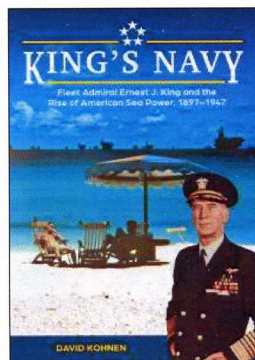
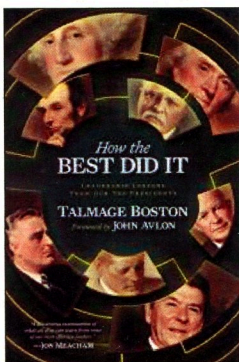
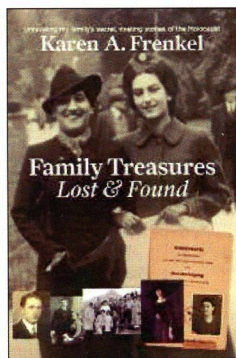
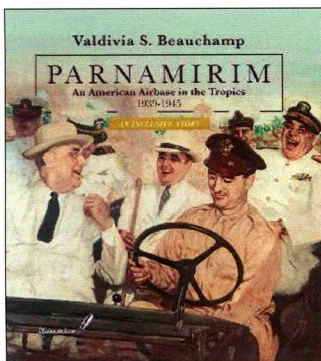
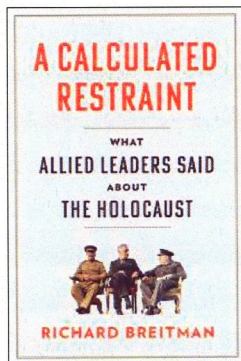
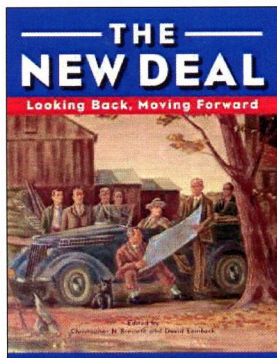
Richard Breitman is the author of [A Calculated Restraint: What Allied Leaders Said about the Holocaust](#). He has written extensively on modern German history, the Holocaust, American immigration and refugee policy, and intelligence during and after World War II. He spent his entire teaching career at American University in Washington, DC, retiring as distinguished professor emeritus in 2015. He has written or co-authored fourteen books and served for twenty-five years as editor of the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. He also led a group of historians who helped to declassify more than eight million pages of US government records under the 1998 Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act. Breitman graduated from Yale summa cum laude. He earned both his MA and PhD in Modern European History at Harvard. His best-known books are [The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution](#) and, with Allan J. Lichtman, [FDR and the Jews](#). In 1999, Breitman received an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College. He and his wife Carol live in the Washington DC area.

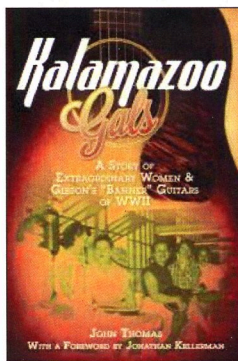
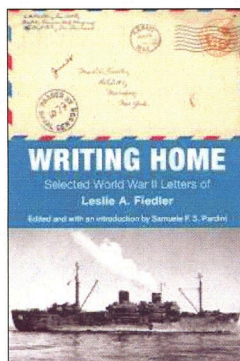
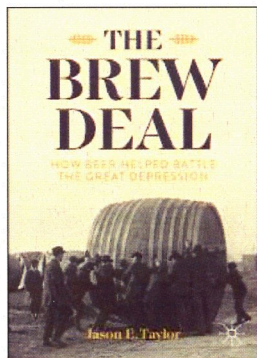
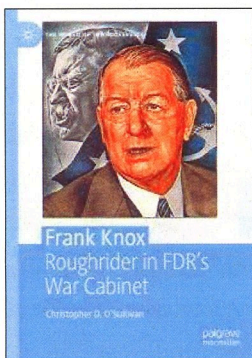
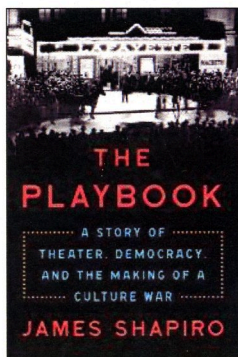
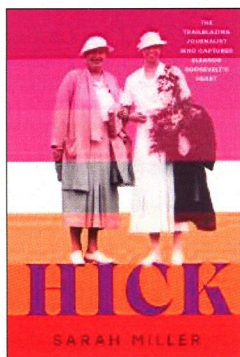
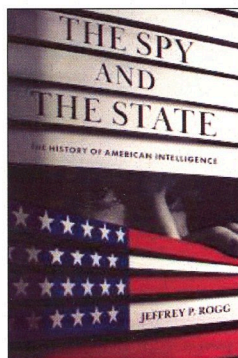
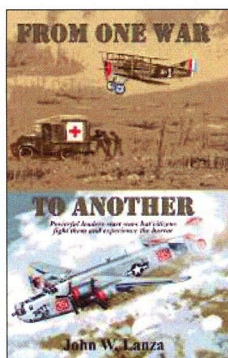
Karen A. Frenkel is the author of Family Treasures Lost & Found. She is an award-winning technology and science journalist, author, and documentary producer. She is the co-author, with Isaac Asimov, of Robots: Machines in Man's Image, and three books on physics for children. She is the producer of the documentary *Family Treasures Lost & Found* (2024), a companion to her memoir of the same name. Her award-winning documentaries -- *Minerva's Machine: Women and Computing* (1995) and *net.LEARNING* (1998) -- appeared on public television. Frenkel's many articles have appeared in national and trade magazines, and newspapers including *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Essence*, *Forbes*, *Scientific American*, the *New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, and *U.S. News and World Report*.

David Kohnen is the author of King's Navy: Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King and the Rise of American Sea Power, 1897–1947. He specializes in maritime history at the Naval War College in Rhode Island. As a historian in museums, he produced award-winning exhibits surrounding the captured German U-boat U-505 in Chicago and the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) in Virginia. With 30 years both on active and reserve service in the US Navy, he also completed multiple combat deployments at sea and ashore in the greater Middle East after 9/11. Kohnen's published works include 21st Century Knox: Influence, Sea Power, and History for the Modern Era and Commanders Winn and Knowles: Winning the U-boat War with Intelligence. He lives with his wife, Dr. Sarah M. Goldberger, and their two daughters, Elisabeth and Katherine, in Rhode Island.

John W. Lanza is the author of From One War to Another. He grew up in Revere, Massachusetts. After graduating from Bates College in 1967, he earned an MBA from Baruch College and was a banker in New York City for almost forty years, retiring from JPMorgan Chase in 2006. He taught undergraduate and graduate courses on payments systems for over twenty-five years. Lanza spent the first four years of his retirement writing Shot Down Over Italy about a crew that included his uncle. He has five grown children and eight grandchildren, and lives with his wife, Diana, in Caldwell, New Jersey.

The Books





The Authors

Sarah Miller is the author of Hick: The Trailblazing Journalist Who Captured Eleanor Roosevelt's Heart. She writes historical fiction and nonfiction for adults and children alike, including The Borden Murders, hailed by the *New York Times* as “an historical version of ‘Law & Order’” and The Miracle & Tragedy of the Dionne Quintuplets, which received four starred reviews. Her novels include Marmee, and the *USA Today* bestselling Caroline: Little House, Revisited.

Christopher D. O'Sullivan is the author of Frank Knox: Roughrider in FDR's War Cabinet. He teaches history at the University of San Francisco where he is the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Award as well as the Innovations in Teaching Prize. He is also a professor of history at the Fromm Institute at the University of San Francisco. He has published six books on historical and political topics including Sumner Welles: Postwar Planning and the Quest for a New World Order and FDR and the End of Empire. He has been a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Jordan and a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Studies at the London School of Economics.

Samuele F. S. Pardini is the editor of Writing Home: Selected World War II Letters of Leslie A. Fiedler and The Devil Gets His Due: The Uncollected Essays of Leslie A. Fiedler. He's the editor and author of In the Name of the Mother: Italian Americans, African Americans, and Modernity from Booker T. Washington to Bruce Springsteen, and regular contributor to *The Brooklyn Rail*. Pardini is Professor of American Studies and Italian Studies at Elon University.

Jeffrey P. Rogg is the author of The Spy and the State: The History of American Intelligence. He is Senior Research Fellow at the University of South Florida's Global and National Security Institute. Previously, he was an assistant professor at the Joint Special Operations University (U.S. Special Operations Command) and The Citadel. Rogg is the vice president of the Society for Intelligence History and is on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*. His work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*,

The Washington Post, *The National Interest*, *The Hill*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He has a BA in Latin and Ancient History from Swarthmore College, a JD from Villanova University School of Law, an MA in Security Studies from Georgetown University, and a PhD in History from The Ohio State University. Rogg served six years in the Massachusetts Army National Guard as an infantryman.

James Shapiro is the author of [The Playbook: A Story of Theater, Democracy, and the Making of a Culture War](#). He is Larry Miller Professor of English at Columbia University, where he has taught since 1985. Among his books are [A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare, 1599](#), [Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?](#), [The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606](#), and [Shakespeare in a Divided America](#). In 2011, Shapiro was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He serves on the board of the Authors Guild and as Shakespeare Scholar-in-Residence at the Public Theater in New York.

Jason E. Taylor is the author of [The Brew Deal: How Beer Helped Battle the Great Depression](#). He is Professor of Economics at Central Michigan University. His work can be found in both popular and scholarly outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, and *National Public Radio*. He has written extensively on Roosevelt period, including his book, [Deconstructing the Monolith: The Microeconomics of the National Industrial Recovery Act](#).

John Thomas is the author of [Kalamazoo Gals - A Story of Extraordinary Women & Gibson's "Banner" Guitars of WWII](#). He is a writer, musician, filmmaker, photographer, and law professor, probably in that order. John's 200+ publications address topics from gun violence to health policy, politics, autism, and music and musical instruments and have appeared in professional journals, major newspapers, music magazines, and the Oxford University Press. John co-produced the award-winning *Kalamazoo Gals* short documentary, which is based on his book of the same title that uncovered the suppressed story of the women who built Gibson's WWII guitars.

FDR and His Book Collection

Franklin D. Roosevelt was an avid collector of books, prints, and historical manuscripts throughout his life. At the time of his death in 1945, his private collection included more than 21,000 volumes.

He always enjoyed reading. FDR's serious book collecting began during his years at Harvard, where he served as librarian for the Hasty Pudding and Fly Clubs. After Harvard, he continued his collecting. He often stopped at bookshops on his honeymoon in Europe, and later formed relationships with several dealers in the Eastern United States.

In 1921, Roosevelt was stricken with polio and was no longer able to visit dealers. Instead, he sent his private secretary, Louis M. Howe, with specific instructions of what he wanted, and how much he was willing to spend. From his bed, he began making a card catalogue.

He did not spend a great deal of money on his books. Most were purchased for \$10 or less. Some of his more expensive purchases were a \$28 collection of Charles Dickens' Christmas books and a rare 1802 English chapbook about American naval hero, John Paul Jones, he purchased for \$15.

FDR collected many books that related to his other hobbies such as ornithology, local history, nature, naval history, and marine architecture. He also collected children's books.

Often the physical appearance of a book attracted FDR. He admired attractive bindings, cover designs, typeface, and paper. For each new addition to his naval collection, Roosevelt added a bookplate that he designed himself (featured on the back page). The more valuable books were given slipcovers.

Roosevelt used and enjoyed his books. He often jotted his name and would sometimes add small notes in them, either describing something about the nature of the book or its relevance in his personal or political life.

By the 1930s, Roosevelt had run out of space for his collection and began holding auctions to get rid of duplicates and less desirable volumes. At this time he also began planning a permanent library on his Hyde Park Estate.

Dedicated in 1941, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, is the repository for Roosevelt's most beloved books.

Acknowledgements

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Roosevelt Reading Festival participants:

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