

# NEWS FROM THE FORD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

May 2004



## Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Swearing-in of President Gerald R. Ford

David Hume Kennerly Photograph. Courtesy Gerald R. Ford Library.



"Our Constitution works; our great Republic is a government of laws and not of men. Here the people rule." Gerald R. Ford, addressing the nation after his swearing-in as the 38th President of the United States. August 9, 1974.

**"T**he oath that I have taken is the same oath that was taken by George Washington and by every President under the Constitution. But I assume the Presidency under extraordinary circumstances never before experienced by Americans. This is an hour of history that troubles our minds and hurts our hearts.

Therefore, I feel it is my first duty to make an unprecedented compact with my countrymen. Not an inaugural address, not a fireside chat, not a campaign speech—just a little straight talk among friends. And I intend it to be the first of many.

I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers. And I hope that such prayers will also be the first of many.

You have not chosen me by secret ballot, neither have I

gained office by any secret promises. I have not campaigned either for the Presidency or the Vice Presidency. I have not subscribed to any partisan platform. I am indebted to no man, and only to one woman—my dear wife—as I begin this very difficult job.

I have not sought this enormous responsibility, but I will not shirk it. Those who nominated and confirmed me as Vice President were my friends and are my friends. They were of both parties, elected by all the people and acting under the Constitution in their name. It is only fitting then that I should pledge to them and to you that I will be the President of all the people...

[The entire text of President Ford's swearing-in remarks, plus a sound bite, can be found on the Library's website:

<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/speeches/740001.htm>]

### Inside this Issue

NCAA Launches Gerald Ford Award .....	2
A Day of Transition .....	3
A Good Partner: Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies by Gleaves Whitney .....	4
Most Recent Collaborative Programs .....	4
New Logo Unites Presidential Libraries .....	5
A Special Afternoon with Susan Ford .....	5
Thirty Years Ago by Benton Becker .....	6

America in the 1920s Exhibition .....	10
Winter Programming: White House Weekend, Presidents Day, Family Theatre Series, New Film Series .....	11
The First President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge .....	12
Ford Message to Students .....	12
Museum Store: A Brand New Look .....	13
Director's Report on Researchers and	

the Ford Library .....	14
One Student's Research Experience .....	15
Research Grant Awards .....	15
Interview with Audiovisual Researcher Mike Grass .....	16
Are You a "Friend of Ford"? .....	18
Coming UP! .....	19
Window on the West: Views from the American Frontier .....	19



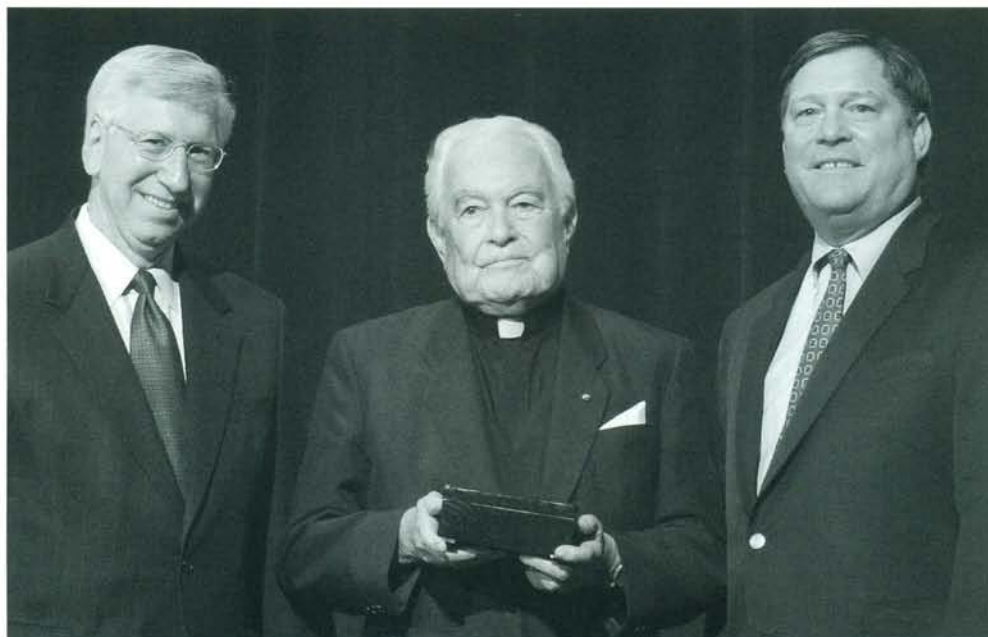
## National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Launches New Gerald R. Ford Award

**T**he National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) awarded its first annual *Gerald R. Ford Award* to Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, at its annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee on January 11, 2004. In establishing the award in Ford's name NCAA President Myles Brand remarked, "Both as a public servant and as an athlete, President Ford embodies the qualities of integrity, achievement and dedication that we aspire to in intercollegiate athletics." A voluntary association of about 1,200 colleges and universities, athletic conferences and sports organizations, the NCAA is devoted to initiating, stimulating and improving intercollegiate athletics programs for student-athletes and to promoting and developing educational leadership, physical fitness, athletics excellence and athletics participation as a recreational pursuit.

The Gerald R. Ford Award was created to honor individuals who have provided significant leadership as an advocate for intercollegiate athletics on a continuous basis over the course of their career. Father Hesburgh's 35 year career at Notre Dame enabled him to be a major influence on the evolution of higher education as well as one of the strongest advocates for the contribution intercollegiate athletics can make to the academy. As president emeritus he served as co-chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, which studied reform in college sports from 1990 to 1996 and again when it reconvened in 2000. The first Knight Commission Report *Keeping Faith with the Student-Athlete: A New Model for Intercollegiate Athletics* was an important impetus to the academic reform movement within intercollegiate athletics that has taken place over the last dozen years.

President Ford played football at the University of Michigan where he participated on national championship teams in 1932 and 1933. He started every game at center his senior year and was voted most valuable player by teammates. Ford received contract offers from the Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions, which he turned down in favor

of studying law at Yale University. Before beginning his law courses, Ford coached freshman football and boxing. Ford continued to serve as an advocate for the value of sport his entire career, playing tennis, golfing, skiing, and swimming while in the White House, and he remains an avid golfer at the age of 90.



[LEFT TO RIGHT] NCAA President Myles Brand, Gerald R. Ford Award recipient Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, and Jack Ford at the NCAA Annual Convention's Award Ceremony

*"I really believe that athletics are an important ingredient in a strong society. And I believe it's very important for young people to participate in team sports to some extent. I know of nothing comparable where you can learn things about cooperation and team spirit better than with a football team or a basketball team. At the same time I believe that Americans ought to learn individual sports, not necessarily to be played when young but to have an avocation which we can enjoy, such as golf, skiing, tennis or swimming, which will contribute to future health as we grow older. I'm devoted to athletics in the broadest sense, because I think it contributes to character building and it contributes to good health, as we mature. And we should do it not only individually, but collectively."*

—Vice President Gerald R. Ford  
*Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation*  
(JOPER) April 1974, p. 11



## A Day of Transition

August 9, 2004 marks the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the Ford administration. On August 9, 1974 Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office as the nation's 38th president in a quickly scheduled ceremony in the East Room of the White House, just minutes after Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had received Richard Nixon's letter of resignation. It was a unique and historic day as power changed hands. Benton Becker, currently a Trustee of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, had the opportunity to accompany Gerald Ford through much of that historic day as the Vice President, and then the new President, went from meeting to meeting. In a narrative that begins on page 6 of this issue, Becker shares his recollections of that day, graciously consenting to our request, and has provided the Newsletter with the unique "Vice President's/President's Daily Schedule" shown on this page.

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON		
THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE		
Friday, August 9, 1974		
8:15 am	Secretary of State Kissinger	OSOR
9:45	Presidential Take-off	White House Lawn
11:45	Swearing-In Ceremony	White House East Room
THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE		
After Ceremony	Meeting with Congressional Leadership in attendance at swearing-in ceremony	Cabinet Room
	Meeting with Senior White House Staff	Roosevelt Room
2:00 pm	Economic Conference Chairman Burns Secretary Simons Counselor Bush Chairman Stein Director Ash Chairman designee Greenspan R.T. Hartman L.W. Seidman William Scranton	Cabinet Room
2:20-2:25	NATO Ambassadors	Roosevelt Room
2:45	Japanese Ambassador	Sec's WH Office
3:15	USSR Ambassador	Sec's WH Office
4:00	Middle East Ambassadors	Roosevelt Room
4:45	Peoples Republic of China Ambassador	Sec's WH Office
5:00	General Lawson	Oral Office
5:15	Latin American Ambassadors (optional)	Roosevelt Room

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON		
THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE		
Friday, August 9, 1974 - page 2		
5:30	Meeting with Presidential Transition Staff	Cabinet Room
	John Brynes Senator Robert Griffin - <i>has not added</i> Bryce Barlow P.T. Macnamara Jack Marsh Rogers Morton Donald Rumsfeld William Scranton L.W. Seidman Jerry Terhorst Clay Whitehead William Whyte	
6:00	Israel Ambassador	Sec's WH Office
6:30	Vietnam Ambassador	Sec's WH Office

*To Benton Becker with appreciation and admiration for his effective and skillful service in the tough days in August and September 1974. You earned your presence in the Oval Office on August 9th.*  
Gerald R. Ford

## GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

President Ford  
and Betty Ford  
*Honorary Co-Chair*

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Martin J. Allen, Jr.  
*Chairman*

Michael G. Ford  
*Vice-Chairman*

Robert M. Warner  
*Secretary*

John G. Baab  
*Treasurer*

Susan Ford Bales  
Robert E. Barrett  
Benton Becker  
Lee C. Bollinger  
Robert W. Browne  
James M. Cannon  
Richard Cheney  
William T. Coleman, Jr.  
Peter C. Cook, *Honorary*  
Marvin Davis, *Honorary*  
Douglas L. DeVos  
Richard M. DeVos, *Honorary*  
John M. Engler  
Max M. Fisher  
John G. Ford  
Richard A. Ford  
Steven M. Ford  
David G. Frey  
Danny Gaydou  
Robert P. Griffin  
James P. Hackett  
Robert T. Hartmann  
Ralph W. Hauenstein, *Honorary*  
Carla A. Hills  
Roderick M. Hills  
Robert L. Hooker  
G. Richard Katzenbach  
Thomas E. Kauper  
Henry A. Kissinger  
James T. Lynn  
John O. Marsh, Jr.  
F. David Matthews  
M. Peter McPherson  
Frederik G.H. Meijer, *Honorary*  
Hank Meijer  
Mark Murray  
Terrence O'Donnell  
Paul H. O'Neill  
Seymour K. Padnos  
Leon W. Parma  
Peter H. Pocklington  
Donald H. Rumsfeld  
Brent Scowcroft  
Peter F. Secchia  
L. William Seidman  
Glenn D. Steil  
Joseph M. Sweeney  
Steve Van Andel  
Jay Van Andel, *Honorary*  
Frank G. Zarb

Dennis Daellenbach  
*Ex-Officio*

Diane VanAllsburg  
*Administrative Assistant*



## A Good Partner: The Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies

**R**alph Hauenstein has experienced a good bit of history in his 92 years. A colonel in the U.S. Army during World War II, he was chief of Intelligence under General Dwight Eisenhower, and was among the first Americans into liberated Paris, Nazi concentration camps, and war-torn Germany. Those experiences moved Hauenstein to ponder the nature of leadership in a democracy: "In my lifetime—during World War I, World War II, and the Cold War—Western democracies survived threat after threat because of strong, courageous leaders. Today we are faced with a new threat—the war on terror—and America needs good leaders as much as ever."

The idea to inspire and teach a new generation of American leaders led Hauenstein to endow the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University. Established with a gift in 2001, the Center hosts major conferences and eminent speakers who can comment authoritatively on U.S. presidents and their role as leaders.

During the past academic year, the Hauenstein Center has held a conference unveiling the first scholarly book on the George W. Bush presidency (published by Oxford University Press), and had the conference broadcast on C-

**"The Center enjoys a close working relationship with the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Museum..."**

SPAN to a national audience. The Center enjoys a close working relationship with the Gerald R. Ford Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Museum, having co-sponsored three lectures by Garry Wills, Roger Porter and Robert Dallek at the Ford Museum last fall. We have also worked with the Smithsonian Institution and World Affairs Council to bring outstanding speakers before audiences in Michigan.

An exciting slate of speakers will be coming to Grand Rapids in future months, and this fall the Center is planning

**"...this fall the Center is planning a major conference on religion and the presidency that will attract scholars from around the nation. Also in the planning phase are leadership seminars..."**

a major conference on religion and the presidency that will attract scholars from around the nation. Also in the planning phase are leadership seminars that will identify and cultivate a new generation of young people who are inspired to lead and to serve.

The Hauenstein Center is also making its mark with a new, dynamic website at [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org), which is updated daily with the most incisive news about the current and former presidents. The equivalent of a book—about 75,000 words—is posted each week on [allpresidents.org](http://allpresidents.org). The site features exclusive material on the presidents and is a reliable resource for students, scholars, and the public. The number of hits the site is receiving is growing dramatically.

All these developments are attracting attention in West Michigan and around the nation. Robert Dallek, bestselling author of *An Unfinished Life*, is enthusiastically behind the Center's mission. He is watching our success at "developing the Hauenstein Center into a significant venue for discussion of the country's many domestic and foreign concerns." And Roger Porter, of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, observed, "One cannot but be impressed with the Hauenstein Center. The place vibrates with high-quality activity. I will follow your progress with great interest."

Progress should be substantial because, working together, the Hauenstein Center and Ford Foundation, Library and Museum are able to offer outstanding programs to the people of West Michigan.

—BY GLEAVES WHITNEY, *Hauenstein Center Director*

### Most Recent Collaborative Programs

*Calvin Coolidge: More than Two Words*, February 5, 2004. Jim Cooke, who has portrayed the 30th president of the United States in various productions since 1975, including the Emmy Award-winning docudrama, *Campaign Fever*, has over the years taken his popular show across the country to colleges, presidential libraries, the National Archives, the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress.

*Who was Herbert Hoover? The Political Odyssey of a Misunderstood Man*, February 25, 2004. George Nash, the nation's premier authority on President Hoover, discussed the half-century long career of this brainy, quirky president who made enormous contributions to the United States during the very difficult time of the Great Depression. Nash was commissioned in 1975 by the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association to prepare the definitive, multi-volume scholarly biography of Hoover.

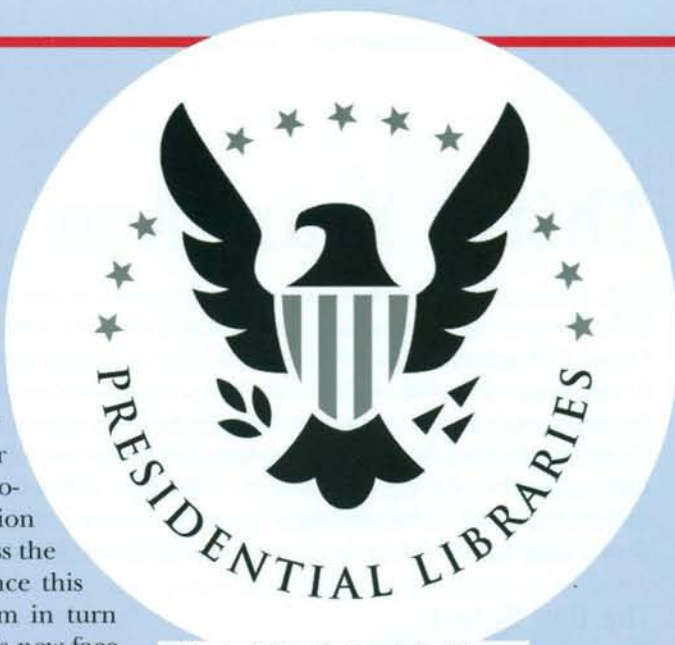
*George Washington: On the Wrong Side of the Slavery Issue?* April 15, 2004. Dr. William B. Allen presented his rebuttal to a recent scholarly portrayal of our first president as a proud, ambitious individual whose private conflict over race and slavery was resolved too late. Few scholars have written more insightfully about our first president than the Michigan State University professor, editor of *George Washington: A Collection*, and contributing writer to *Patriot Sage: George Washington and the American Political Tradition*.

[Photographs and captions courtesy of the Hauenstein Center's website: [www.allpresidents.org](http://www.allpresidents.org)]



## New Logo Unites Presidential Libraries

**T**he Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum is part of the Presidential Library system of the National Archives and Records Administration. NARA's Presidential Libraries stretch across time and the country, from the Herbert Hoover Library in West Branch, Iowa, to the William Clinton Library, scheduled for dedication this November, in Little Rock, Arkansas. As the number of Libraries has grown, so has increased cooperation and joint programming. Each Library is unique, but there is also a mutual mission with such things as Presidential Library-quality exhibits shared across the system. The Presidential Library system has a new logo to enhance this common identity. Strengthening the bonds of the Library system in turn strengthens the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum. Look for this new face of Presidential Libraries at all the Libraries across the country.



Part of the National Archives  
and Records Administration

## A Special Afternoon with Susan Ford

**S**usan Ford Bales made a special appearance at the Museum last October 26 to talk about her life in the White House as a teenager, and after the White House, especially as co-author of a new book, *Sharp Focus*. The book is the second in a series of First Daughter Mystery Novels that she began in 2002 with the publication of *Double Exposure*. A book-signing took place after her remarks.



Ford Foundation Chairman Marty Allen discusses the great collaboration between the Hauenstein Center, the Gerald R. Ford Foundation, and the Ford Museum and Library.



Dr. William B. Allen

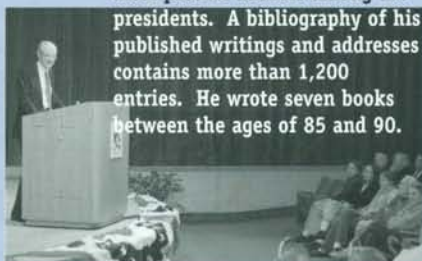
Hauenstein Center Director Gleaves Whitney quotes from the *Wall Street Journal*, stating that "Jim Coooke does Calvin Coolidge better than Coolidge himself!"



Dr. George Nash making the point that Hoover was one of our most prolific authors among the presidents. A bibliography of his published writings and addresses contains more than 1,200 entries. He wrote seven books between the ages of 85 and 90.



Dr. George Nash being introduced to Fred and Lena Meijer at a gathering of the *Friends of Ford*.





# Thirty Years Ago...August 9, 1974

BY  
BENTON BECKER

**R**ecalling the impressions and emotions present at the White House thirty years ago, on August 9, 1974, the day that Gerald Ford was administered the oath of office of President of the United States, rekindled conflicting feelings. Feelings that included joy, anger, and exhaustion. But, above all, pride. Pride, derived from the historical context for simply having been there at that time. Pride, that evolves from having satisfactorily completed a difficult task. And pride, for having been privileged to provide assistance to a man of such integrity and intellectual honesty on that memorable date.

## The Day Before

Early in the afternoon, one day before August 9, 1974, President Nixon met privately with Vice President Ford in the Oval Office. The President had something important to relate in person to his Vice President of nine months. "I have made the decision to resign...it's in the best interest of the country," Nixon said in a firm voice. The President's unprecedented announcement was followed by forty minutes of free flowing dialogue, with Nixon doing most of the talking. He spoke of foreign policy, SALT II negotiating with Russian Premier Brezhnev, the deplorable state of the US economy, Cabinet and senior White House personnel and possible worthy candidates for the soon-to-be-vacant Office of Vice President. When the arrangements for the next day's swearing in ceremony and Nixon's family departure were resolved, the conversation ended abruptly. President Nixon thanked the Vice President for, "his support over these painful weeks" and offered his "prayers in the days and years ahead."

The remainder of the Vice President's day was devoted to a thousand details that required planning, scheduling and coordinating the anticipated August 9 swearing-in. They included ensuring travel arrangements to Washington for Chief Justice Warren Burger, vacationing at the time in the Netherlands. An Air Force plane had to be dispatched to fly the Chief Justice to a location where a non-stop flight to Washington could be obtained. The already pared-down list had to be further reduced to no more than 275 guests, the maximum number of people allowed in the

East Room. Invitations to the ceremony needed to be hastily extended, received, and acknowledged. For some, like longtime colleague and golfing buddy, Tip 'O Neill, a personal telephone invitation was in order. When the Vice President invited Tip 'O Neill, the future Speaker demonstrated his well known charm and Irish wit, remarking "Isn't this a wonderful country? Here we can talk like this and you and I can be friends, and eighteen months from now (during the 1976 Presidential race) I'll be going around the country kicking your ass." The amused Vice President responded, "That's a hell of a way for a Congressman to speak to the next President of the United States."

Another person who needed to speak to the Vice President that day was Ford's longtime aid and speechwriter, Bob Hartmann. Hartmann had quickly composed an Acceptance Speech (not an Inaugural Address) for the new President to deliver at the conclusion of the next day's swearing-in ceremony. Incredibly, given the limited notice afforded Hartmann to write the speech, the speech was perfect in tone and content for the next day's quasi-solemn, quasi-joyous ceremony. It was pure Jerry Ford. With one exception. The Vice President's sensibilities were offended by one sentence in the speech, believing it to be "too hard on President Nixon." Ford told Hartmann he wanted the sentence deleted. Hartmann disagreed... and a debate ensued. The one line was ultimately allowed to remain intact. Today, thirty years later, that one sentence remains the most quoted phrase from President Ford's Acceptance Speech, "Our long national nightmare is over."

At day's end, concluding with a late meeting with Henry Kissinger, the Vice President returned to his modest home in Virginia. After a quite dinner with Betty Ford and the children, and a quick read of the day's News Summaries, the future President retired early. Tomorrow was going to be a busy day.

## "The Festering Crisis is Resolved"

As if August 9, 1974 was going to be another day at the office, the Vice President rose early and made his own



Courtesy Nixon Presidential Materials Staff

**"I have made the decision to resign...it's in the best interest of the country..."**



breakfast (one toasted English muffin and coffee). At 8:00 AM, he carried his own briefcase to the Vice President's limousine, and, in the company of Phil Buchen and Congressman John Byrnes, drove to the White House. Buchen and other members of a hastily formed ad hoc Transition Team had drafted a four page memorandum for the future President. Buchen handed the memo to the Vice President as the limousine departed the Ford home. The Transition Team memo addresses a variety of subjects, including the sensitive topic of The Continuation of Nixon Staff and Nixon Policy versus Implementation of Ford Administration changes. The memo warned, "You must walk a delicate line between compassion and consideration for the former President's staff, and the rapid assertion of your personal control over the Executive Branch." Ford thanked them for a "fine job."

When the Vice President's limousine arrived at the White House, President Richard Nixon was completing his final breakfast in the Lincoln Sitting Room and busily making notes on his farewell speech to his White House staff, scheduled for later that morning. Nixon was interrupted by Chief of Staff, Al Haig, who handed the President an unsigned letter of resignation addressed to the Secretary of State. "Something has to be done, Mr. President," said Haig. Nixon read the brief one sentence letter and, without comment, signed it. The letter read, "I hereby resign the Office of President of the United States, effective twelve noon, Eastern Standard Time, on August 9, 1974."

At 8:45 AM, Secretary of State Kissinger visited the Vice President to suggest scheduling a number of ten to fifteen minute meetings later that afternoon, from 2:30 to 7:00 PM, with foreign Ambassadors. The Vice President agreed, carefully reserving some allotted afternoon time for Transition advisors. After Kissinger left, and following a quick review of the text of his Acceptance Speech, in the quite solitude of the Vice President's Executive Office Building office, the Vice President of the United States, like so many of his fellow Americans that morning, turned on the television and watched President Nixon deliver an emotional farewell address to his White House staff and Cabinet. Years later, in

Courtesy Nixon Presidential Materials Staff



**"...the two couples then walked four abreast, as equals, down the White House lawn."**

an interview with historian James Cannon, President Ford described his feeling at that moment. "I was inwardly, deeply saddened that a longtime, personal friend...whom I admired greatly as a superb foreign policy Commander in Chief would resign the Presidency... To have such a tragedy happen to good friends was extremely difficult to understand and accept." "On the other hand, it was a tremendous relief to have the festering crisis resolved. For the previous nine months I had been sitting on a time bomb, with a blow up likely to take place at any time, as damaging evidence kept surfacing."

At 10:50 AM, the Vice President and Mrs. Ford were seated in the Diplomatic Reception Room, awaiting the arrival of President Nixon and his family. When the Nixons arrived, the two men spoke quietly to each other, whispering remarks of consolation and friendship. The moment was awkward and tense. Within moments, the outside door of the Reception Room swung open, and the President and Mrs. Nixon walked out onto a bright red carpet on the White House lawn. Pausing for the Fords to join them, the two couples then walked four abreast, as equals, down the White House lawn. The red carpet led to a helicopter, ready to transport the Nixons to nearby Andrews Air Force Base, and from there, to board Air Force One for San Clemente, California. No farewell remarks were scheduled to be made by the departing President. The Nixon family boarded the helicopter first, and as President Nixon climbed the steps of the craft, he momentarily halted before entering. Impulsively, he turned around to face the White House lawn (and the nation, via national TV) and



Courtesy Nixon Presidential Materials Staff



Courtesy Nixon Presidential Materials Staff

**"...and the Administration of Gerald R. Ford was about to begin."**





Courtesy Nixon Presidential Materials Staff

**"Alexander Haig delivered President Nixon's letter of resignation to Secretary of State Kissinger..."**

At 11:35 AM, as the White House helicopter was making its way toward Andrews Air Force Base, Alexander Haig delivered President Nixon's letter of resignation to Secretary of State Kissinger in Kissinger's White House office.



**"...the arrival of the Vice President..."**

the staff. This gathering of dignitaries and friends for the Ford swearing-in could well have been described as... the government of the United States. Wearing his traditional black robes of office, the silver haired Chief Justice entered. He calmly walked to a raised platform in front of the room, patiently prepared to preside at the appointed time. The atmosphere was a strange blend of solemnity (almost funeral like) mixed with a collective sense of relief. At 11:58 AM, the Marine Band struck up The University of Michigan Fight Song, as the Vice President and Mrs. Ford entered the room. Believing the occasion inappropriate for musical flourishes, the Vice President had earlier directed that Hail to the Chief not to be played. An invisible microphone intoned "The Vice President of the United States and Mrs. Ford." A deafening silence covered the room as the Fords joined the Chief Justice on a small platform.

raised both arms upward above his head, flashing for the last time his "V" for victory signal. He turned back and boarded the helicopter quickly. In a moment, it was over. The helicopter motors accelerated, the craft ascended, the White House shrubs and trees shook...and the Administration of Gerald R. Ford was about to begin.

By 11:36 AM, seated somewhat tightly in the East Room anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Vice President, were 275 quiet, well mannered "inaugural" guests. The East Room was the same room

where less than ninety minutes earlier President Nixon had delivered his farewell to

**"...a sentimental visit with President Ford's former congressional colleagues..."**

**"...are you prepared to take the oath of Office of the President of the United States?"**



The Chief Justice stated, "Mr. Vice President," (he would never again be addressed that way) are you prepared to take the oath of Office of the President of the United States?" Ford replied, "I am, sir." Betty Ford, standing on the platform between her husband and the Chief Justice, passed a family Bible to her husband, opened to Proverbs 3, 5, and 6. At twelve noon, the oath of office was administered. The new President then addressed the nation.

Mr. Ford's voice was strong, but one could sense an inner conflict between an effort to maintain stern control and an effort to avoid personal emotion. The crowd reacted noticeably with head nods and barely audible sighs as the new President announced, "Our long national nightmare is over." One emotional eruption occurred during the speech, when the President asked for the nation's "prayers for Richard Nixon and his family." Speaking these words brought to the President's mind his own recent prayers for guidance and he became emotionally caught up, pausing momentarily before continuing.

The entire ceremony was over in less than twenty minutes. The Marine Band played America the Beautiful as the newly installed President and First Lady exited the East Room. They proceeded to the Red Room for a sentimental visit with President Ford's former congressional colleagues Speaker Carl Albert (now for the second time in his life, number one in presidential succession), Senator Mike



**"...the newly installed President and First Lady exited the East Room."**





Mansfield and various others.

As the East Room crowd disbursed and departed, the crowd's prior despondent manner followed. An obvious and noticeable change permeated the East Room (and concurrently, the nation). It was, as Bryce Harlow stated, "The nation's frown had been replaced with a national smile."

Guests departing the East Room and entered the White House hallways could not avoid noticing the change that evidenced the passage of the torch of freedom to a new leader. Less than thirty minutes earlier those same White House walls that had for the past five years displayed framed photos of Richard Nixon, the Nixon family and Tricia Nixon's White House wedding, now only featured framed photos of Gerald and Betty Ford and the Ford children, giving the impression that Gerald Ford had been President for years, not minutes. It was, at first, shocking...than reassuring. The newly hung White House photos carried a not too subtle message to the new President; Transition at the White

House moves quickly and efficiently.

**At 1:05 PM,** at nearby Dulles Airport in Virginia, an airplane originating from Nice, France, landed, carrying passengers; US Ambassador to NATO Donald Rumsfeld, and Mrs. Rumsfeld. One day

**"...an unscheduled meeting with the senior members of the Nixon White House staff."**

earlier, while vacationing in southern France, Rumsfeld received a message that the Vice President had requested him to come to Washington "immediately." A White House car and driver met the Rumsfelds at the airport, whereupon Ambassador Rumsfeld was handed a sealed envelope containing a letter from Ford asking him to head his new Transition Team. Rumsfeld invited his former assistant, who had also met the Rumsfelds at the airport on that faithful day, to accompany him to the



**"The balance of the day... was spent conferring with Ambassadors..."**



White House. The thirty-ish year old former assistant's name was Dick Cheney.

The remainder of the day was a whirlwind. At 1:30 PM, President Ford was unexpectedly ushered by Chief of Staff Al Haig into an unscheduled meeting with the senior members of the Nixon White House staff. This brief session was followed by a prolonged Economic Conference in the Cabinet Room with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Arthur Burns, the Reserve Board Chairman designee Alan Greenspan, Treasury Secretary William Simon and others. This meeting would be the first of hundreds and hundreds of hours, the new President would spend on over the next three years trying (successfully) to cure the nation's massive economic woes. The balance of the day, through 7:00 PM, was spent conferring with Ambassadors, assuring them and their nations that US foreign policy remained the same, notwithstanding our change in Head of State. Some of the foreign Ambassadors that conferred with the new President that afternoon and evening represented Russia, Japan, People's Republic of China, Israel, and various Latin American nations. During the session with USSR Ambassador Dobrynin, the Ambassador was forcefully informed by the new President that under no circumstances should the Soviet Union seek to take advantage of this new period of change in the American Presidency.

**At 5:40 PM,** the President met in the Cabinet Room with the new Transition Team that had been assigned the task of organizing and carrying out the ongoing Executive Branch

[continued on page 17]



**"...a prolonged Economic Conference..."**



# America in the 1920s

**A**ll That Jazz: *America in the 1920s*, the Museum's first in-house production in the new temporary exhibit gallery, opened January 31, 2004 and defined the Museum's programming throughout the winter. Comprised of 260 artifacts and documents from over 60 leading institutions, the exhibit examines how major areas of American cultural life were transformed in this seminal decade from their Victorian trailings into world leadership. Literature, music, film,

Fitzgerald and Sinclair Lewis, displaying Hemingway's passport and notes from his book, *A Farewell to Arms*, and the opening type-written page of Sinclair Lewis' book *Main Street*, with handwritten changes. In the *Golden Age of Hollywood* viewers find items from Gloria Swanson, costumes from Tom Mix and Al Jolson, and the Roman outfit worn by Francis X. Bushman in the 1925 film *Ben Hur*. The vibrant music of the day is signified by Louis Armstrong's trumpet, Jelly Roll Morton's handwritten music and items from George Gershwin and Cole Porter, and more.

In other sections the exhibit portrays the Prohibition Era with bootleg liquor dragged up from the rivers in Detroit and a brick from the wall of the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. The Great Sports Heroes are embodied in Red Grange's Most Useful Player trophy from the Big Ten, Babe Ruth's uniform, the silks and saddle from Man O'War, and medals won by Bobby Jones, Bill Tilden, and

Johnny Weissmuller. Other Heroes like Charles Lindbergh (flight goggles), Richard Byrd (electrified flight suit), and Gertrude Ederle (swimming goggles) are honored, while a Model A Ford and a 1929 Duesenberg

represent the era when the automobile transformed our culture and landscape. A multitude of other historical artifacts are displayed, such as a textbook from John Scope's classroom, the first Miss America robe, Houdini's leg irons, a gun used by Sacco and Vanzetti in their ill-fated robbery, the first radio and television broadcasts, Knute Rockne's movie camera used during football practice, Calvin Coolidge's inaugural jacket and an original Norman Rockwell painting. The Museum extends its gratitude to the exhibit's underwriters for making it all possible, the Steelcase Foundation and the Gerald R. Ford Foundation.



Viewing the exhibit section entitled *Jazz: America's Music*.



Hoisting the Model A up to the new temporary exhibit gallery.

sports, technology—all were lifted to new heights. The Roaring 20s was a vibrant decade that continues to impact on the cultural life of our nation even today.

A decade of great literary achievement, the 1920s also marked the rise of Hollywood and the emergence of jazz as a unique American music. The exhibit honors the great writers with the lines of Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott



Framed banking posters, patent books, and a 1920s cash register in the Mass Consumerism area of the exhibit.



# the 1920s

## White House Weekend, February 13-15



Jessa Piaia as Amelia Earhart



Calvin and Grace Coolidge

Sporting a 1920s theme, the Museum's annual White House Weekend opened on Friday night with a portrayal of Amelia Earhart by Jessa Piaia of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who delighted audiences with tales of Earhart's life and love of aviation.

On the following Saturday evening Bill and Sue Wills returned for a second year in *Presidents and their First Ladies*, dramatically speaking, entertaining and informing with wonderful conversations between our First Couples of the 1920s: Calvin and Grace Coolidge and Herbert and Lou Hoover.



Herbert and Lou Hoover

Events culminated on Sunday afternoon with *Ray Kamalay and his Red Hot Peppers*—a lively and informative jazz concert featuring 1920s music with historical notations.

## Presidents Day, February 16



John Swartz made a return visit to the Museum as George Washington

thoroughly delighted children and parents alike as the nation's first president apprised them of various aspects of his life and times. The shows took place in the New Michigan Room, where capacity crowds enjoyed its intimate setting. Other activities included showings of WGTV-TV's ever-popular show *Liberty's Kids*, presidential birthday cake and patriotic crafts.

Programming was further enhanced by Raymond

The festivities continued on Monday, Presidents Day, for 640 visitors, 400 of whom were children. Ten 20-minute mini-performances throughout the day by General George Washington

Guyton's American flag project. Guyton, a Grand Rapids native, has traveled the country asking young and old to sign 20 by 30 inch cloth panels which will eventually be incorporated into a 21 by 25 foot American flag. His stop at the Museum secured the signatures required to reach his goal of 50,000, thus completing the project. Guyton hopes "to further enrich the historical relevance of America by focusing on the significance of America's strengths through the observance of Flag Day and other symbolic events." The finished flag will be displayed throughout the country.

## Family Theatre Series February 14, March 13

Howard Taylor's *Tales of the Great Depression*, premiered before a Grand Rapids audience on February 14, highlighting childhood activities in 1920s America. The second performance in the series marked Women's History Month. On March 13, in *Michigan Magic*, Sandra Hansen utilized theater and magic to tell the stories of five influential Michigan women, including abolitionist Laura Haviland Smith and Gail George, a tribal chief.

## A New Film Series

The 1920s was the Golden Age of Hollywood when America became the unquestioned leader in the movie industry. By mid-decade movie production ranked as our country's fourth largest industry, raking in \$2 billion annually and churning out an average of 700 films each year. And the decade created the first great screen icons such as Rudolph Valentino, Clara Bow, Mary Pickford and Charlie Chaplin who, it was said, was known by name and sight to more of his contemporaries in all the lands than anyone who had ever lived.

In an age of dizzying statistics, consider that by the end of the decade 100 million Americans attended a movie each week when the nation's population stood at only 122 million.

For five weeks in March the Museum hosted a series of films from and about the 1920s, all in conjunction with the Museum's feature exhibit *All That Jazz: America in*

*the 1920s: Ben Hur* (1925), *The Sheik* (1921), *The Gold Rush* (1925), *Wings* (1927), *Inherit the Wind* (1960) and *The Jazz Singer* (1927).





## The First President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge

September 11, 2001, changed America and Americans. The tragedy of that day nearly three years ago brought out a great spirit and patriotism in the hearts of Americans across our country, with many people articulating through their words and actions what being an American truly means to them. It was hoped that the first *President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge* would help students articulate their thoughts, focusing on the theme, *The Meaning of Liberty Today*. In announcing the new initiative, President Ford stated, "...I am pleased to announce the new *President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge* ... a competition for high school students sponsored by The Grand Rapids Press Newspapers in Education program, AXA Advisors, as well as the Museum.

This significant new essay contest will challenge students

to explore the concepts upon which our great nation was founded. It is my wish that it will help a new generation understand what it truly means to be an American." And challenge students it did. Over 500 students from schools throughout West Michigan submitted essays. After an in-depth review, the judging panel selected six entries for the top three places and three honorable mention awards.

The Essay Challenge winners were announced and awarded a total of \$4,500 in bonds at a ceremony at the Museum on the evening of Presidents Day, February 16, with family, friends, and teachers in attendance. Lainey Bowen, of Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School, won the first place prize with her essay, "Twelve Candles, Two Towers."

## President Ford's Remarks to Students Who Participated in the President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge

Congratulations to all the students who so thoughtfully participated in this first President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge. I am very proud to be part of this new "classroom for democracy" experience. As you have explored *The Meaning of Liberty Today*, you have grown in your appreciation and understanding of the priceless legacy of liberty, freedom, equality, justice, and democracy that unite us as Americans.

In 1976, I had the great honor and high privilege of serving as President of the United States during our nation's 200th birthday. We celebrated the bicentennial of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson's immortal words declared that all men are endowed by their creator with the unalienable right of *liberty*. The Declaration of Independence was truly an inspiration and guiding star for equality, freedom, and justice. Jefferson's fellow Virginia patriot, Patrick Henry, boldly proclaimed how precious was this unalienable right: "Give me *liberty*, or give me death." And at the end of the Revolutionary War, when they won their independence, our nation's

founders joined together in ordaining and establishing a Constitution of the United States of America "to secure the blessings of *liberty*" to themselves and to posterity.

These words, these values, from the very beginnings of this great nation are now well over two hundred years old. But you have reminders all around you each and every day of how much *liberty* is a part of our rich heritage. The Statue of *Liberty* stands tall in New York harbor, lifting high her torch of freedom to welcome people from all over the world to the American adventure. With our hands over our hearts, we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, as one nation under God, with *liberty* and justice for all. I have seen the design of the new Michigan quarter, with the state surrounded by the magnificent Great Lakes. And the one word that is shining on the front of this quarter, and on all U.S. coins in our pockets and purses, is "*liberty*."

For each generation of Americans, through these more than two centuries, there can be a shared experience that defines the meaning of *liberty* on a very personal level. For me,

serving our country in World War II was such an experience. I saw first hand how the unalienable right and blessing of *liberty* were not some abstract concepts. Freedom, justice, and *liberty* had real meaning and motivation as we fought to protect and preserve our great national values. For your generation today, the tragedies of September 11, 2001, will always be your moment in time when *liberty* was under attack. Just as those who have gone before you, I have no doubt that you will come together to proclaim that the American spirit of *liberty* is strong and will endure.

Growing up in Grand Rapids—yes, many years ago—I learned at an early age the values that are still with me today. The world has changed, but not the striving for freedom and *liberty* that are in every human heart. I challenge you students to live every day by these cherished ideals. Pass them on as an inspiration for future generations. As our founding patriots did more than two centuries ago, in the words inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, "Proclaim *liberty* throughout all the land."



## Museum Store: A Brand New Look

**T**he last phase of the Ford Museum renovation was completed in early December, 2003, wrapping up a grueling 3 months of marble dust



and jackhammers. Key to the remodeling was the creation of an outer lobby for visitors and renovation of the Museum Store, both located at the entrance. To achieve the new look, a 7,000 pound greeting wall that formed one side of the Museum Store had to be moved. It was no mean feat.

Fitted with new slat wall covers, oak trim and new display cases, the Mu-

seum Store is now a brightly-lit space that makes efficient use of every square inch. The reception desk is the "shining star" of the project, made of

marble and a stunning midnight-blue Corian. A jewelry case shows off wonderful pieces of jewelry and an attached book case displays kid's book at a child's eye level. The inventory room was reorganized into work activity "pods;"

its square footage more than doubled.

The renovation was completed in time to display exciting new inventory related to the *America in the 1920s* exhibit, including some very popular 1920's inspired jewelry, cotton throws, paper dolls, and catalog house plans from the era. In addition, the Museum Store has become an authorized dealer of *Authentic Models*, a beautifully hand-

crafted line of culturally interesting and nostalgic gifts, including 1920s model airplanes and charming balance toys, some of which are shown here.



**"The Flying Circus Jenny heralding the new Age of Flight. Barnstormers conquering the nation."**

***The Spirit of St. Louis***  
"A young airmail pilot flew solo, crowing the Atlantic. A First! New York to Paris non-stop, 3,520 miles or 5,670 kilometers. His name: Charles Lindbergh: The Year: 1927."



***Flying Tiger Balance Toy***  
"Suddenly five huge yellow and black tigers streaked in, silent and fast. The trainer entered from a side gate, and ordered each one onto brightly painted pedestals."

Log on to our website

to see our

**NEW and UPDATED**

**Museum Store Catalog:**

[www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov](http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)

### Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Museum Store Catalog



**Presidential Collectibles**



**Books**



**White House China**



**Toys and more ...**



Gerald R. Ford Museum Store Catalog

To place an order  
call (616) 254-0286



## Director's Report on Researchers and the Ford Library

**T**he Ford Library strives every day to live up to the enlightened goals President Gerald R. Ford expressed in his deed of gift for his papers. In his deed, the President specifically stated his desire for an archival facility where "students, historians and other scholars" could draw upon the papers "in order accurately to recount and judge the political history of our times and my participation in the events of that history." Placing the facility "in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in connection with a long-established, diversified and distinguished institution of higher learning" was especially important. Being on the campus of The University of Michigan meant the papers would be "readily available to a large resident faculty and student body and to visiting scholars and researchers from throughout this nation and from other countries."

A critical part of making Gerald Ford's papers readily available is the Library's strong student researcher ties with The University of Michigan. Director Dennis Daellenbach's history class last fall on the Ford Presidency had fourteen

**"...President Ford said,  
'Congratulations. They  
were excellent. Please  
let the students know  
how much I appreciated  
their work.'"**

hard-working, dedicated students who researched and wrote first-rate undergraduate seminar papers. Commenting to Director Daellenbach on the papers, President Ford said, "Congratulations. They were excellent. Please let the students know how much I appreciated their work." The Director is looking forward to teaching again for the History Department this fall with a special seminar on the 1976 Presidential election.

A second capstone research class with The University of Michigan has been Prof. David R. Smith's course on the Vietnam War. Under the oversight of David Horrocks, the staff has worked with over ninety of Prof. Smith's students this winter semester as they research and write on the events and lessons of that provocative war. In addition, students from other classes, including several political science courses, have come on their own to use the Library's materials as they prepared research papers. And it isn't just using the papers. Last fall, in cooperation with the University's Bentley Library next door during their construction, for several months the Bentley staff brought their records over to the Ford Library so their students and scholars could continue to do their research.

There are other examples also of "students, historians and scholars" drawing on the resources of the Ford

Library. The University of Michigan's History Honors class came to the Library for an introduction to research. From Wayne State University, a professor brought an archives class to the Library to learn from how we handle our audio-visual materials. David Horrocks made a presentation to an American Diplomatic History class at nearby Concordia University, with students following up with research at the Library. Students from outside the area have included a class from Canada, and a researcher from David Eisenhower's seminar at the University of Pennsylvania. And, as noted before in the Newsletter, the Library continues to have waves of teams of State Department historians conducting research in the papers for the Foreign Relations of the United States series.

A valuable component for scholars working in the papers is our research grants program, generously funded by the Ford Foundation. Furthering President Ford's goal of having the papers "readily available...to visiting scholars from throughout this nation and from other countries," the grant recipients are quality researchers doing significant work in the papers. Their contributions to scholarship, along with other outside scholars, are important in sustaining the Library as a first-class research institution.

The Library staff has also been especially successful in getting the word out in the wider academic community about the research value of the Ford papers. Geir Gundersen's article, "The Gerald Ford Library," appeared in the December 2003 issue of *Passport*, the newsletter of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR). In March, the National Coalition for History (NCH) electronic newsletter featured a special notice about our newly-designed web presentation of our collection descriptions, including links to full collection finding aids and other web information.

On a different front, it has been a pleasure to welcome two new additions to the Library's archives staff. Brooke Clement (BA-Michigan, MA-Columbia) joined the staff in January, and Joshua Cochran (BA-Aquinas, MA-Western Michigan) started in March. Everyone is pleased to have these two recent graduates on staff helping to create a solid foundation for the future at the Library.

Now, back to President Ford's deed of gift. Fulfilling his goals, the Library is indeed making his papers widely and readily available to all researchers, from students at The University of Michigan to scholars from across the country. It is our privilege at the Library to be involved with these dynamic developments, as we successfully build and sustain the appropriate recognition and place in history for Gerald R. Ford and his Presidency.

BY DENNIS DAELLENBACH  
*Director, Gerald Ford Library and Museum*



## One Student's Research Experience

College students make several hundred research visits to the Library each year. Kelley Harvilla, a University of Michigan political science major, is among this year's student researchers, and she has told us something of the experience from her perspective.

Kelley, like many intrepid students in history professor David Smith's class on the Vietnam War, used Ford archival records in her course paper. Uniquely, though, Kelley brought along her father. "When I told him I was going to the Ford Library, he expressed an interest in coming along, especially when I told him we could watch (network news) television footage of the fall of Saigon. When we were there, we both thought it was very cool that we could actually hold original documents. I remember we were looking at memos from Henry Kissinger, and thinking, 'Wow, he held this.' We were also looking at documents on U.S. concerns over China's involvement....we both learned more about the conflict, and I got a chance to relate to (my dad) on something he's very interested in."

Kelley came back a couple weeks later, this time for a paper in Professor Hanes Walton's political science class on political parties. With a classmate pursuing parallel research, Kelley examined files on the 1976 Republican Party platform found in the papers of press secretary Ron Nessen and presidential assistant Michael Raoul-Duval.

Professors Smith and Walton were key to Kelley's research, bringing the archival resources to their students' attention and working with Library staff to plan effective visits. Faculty partners are vital, and not all are from the University of Michigan. From nearby Concordia University, for example, Professor Julianne Frost recently assigned her diplomatic history students to examine the Kissinger-Scowcroft files. They viewed documents declassified so recently that not even scholars have seen them. Even from distant University of Pennsylvania, Professor David Eisenhower, no stranger to presidential libraries, periodically sends a top undergraduate for several days' research funded by his school.

## Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant Awards

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation semi-annually awards grants of up to \$2,000 to support research in the Ford Library's collections. For grant application forms and information, please contact Helmi Raaska, Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, by phone (734) 205-0559 or email [helmi.raaska@nara.gov](mailto:helmi.raaska@nara.gov). Application deadlines are March 15 and September 15. The recipients of the Spring 2004 awards and their topics are:

### Randall Adkins

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
*Leadership in Crisis – Impeachment and Scandal (chapter in The Healer in Chief: Presidential Leadership in Crisis and Grief)*

### Randall Balmer

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
*Piety and the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush*

### Jeff Bloodworth

OHIO UNIVERSITY  
*Solzhenitsyn Affair*

### Mark Boulton

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
*Learning a New Narrative: Vietnam Veterans in Higher Education, 1965-1985*

### Paul Coyer

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE  
*Tacit Allies? Sino-American Strategic Cooperation, 1971-1976*

### Brent Geary

OHIO UNIVERSITY  
*Riding the Wave: U.S. Public Diplomacy, Egypt and Arab Nationalism from 1956 to 1979*

### Matias Spektor

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
*Henry Kissinger and Brazil (1969-1983)*

### Daniel Weimer

NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE  
*Seeing Drugs: The United States and Narcotics Control in the Third World, 1969-1976*

### Christine Weiss

YALE UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG  
*Presidential Spouses in Campaign Strategies, 1960-1992*

### Scott Williams

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Dead Right in Philadelphia: The Rise of Conservatism in the Northeast, 1960-1980*

### Julian Zelizer

SUNY-ALBANY  
*Overcoming Vietnam? The Political History of the National Security State since the 1960s*



## An Interview with Audiovisual Researcher Mike Grass

**M**ike Grass, a Grand Rapids-based writer/producer for Strategic Communications, first visited the Ford Library in March of last year to prepare a 30 minute documentary on President Ford for Grand Rapids public television. *Gerald Ford Turning 90* aired last July 27, as Grand Rapids celebrated President Ford's 90th Birthday. The show recently won the 2004 Michigan Association of Broadcasters "Best in Category" Award for a News Special and also received the "Best Documentary" Award from the Michigan Associated Press.

Grass previously covered Gerald Ford as congressman, vice president and president while on the news staff of Grand Rapids' WOOD-TV in the 1970's. He and his show's host, Matt McLogan, were among the select few journalists to be in the East Room of the White House on August 9, 1974, when Gerald Ford took the oath of office as President of the United States. During his latest research visit, Mike Grass sat down to talk with the Library's audiovisual archivist Kenneth Hafeli.

### What is the purpose of your research?

"I am writing and producing a major documentary on President Ford for WGVU-TV, the PBS affiliate in Grand Rapids. We produced a 1 1/2 hour version which was aired back in July, in conjunction with Gerald Ford's 90th Birthday. That was more for a local audience. Because no definitive documentary has even been produced or broadcast on the subject matter, we determined to produce a one-hour documentary about Mr. Ford, as well. That's the genesis of the project.

The documentary will be titled after James Cannon's book, *Time and Chance*. I've interviewed Jim Cannon extensively and he has given us permission to use the title of his book as the title of our film."

### Are you finding the material that you need at the Ford Library?

"Initially I had no idea how to start, so I began in Grand Rapids, at the Ford Museum. Even though the Museum had copious amounts of photographs and documentation, I was directed to the Ford Library in Ann Arbor, where I found a wealth of background information, both in print and in media. While at the Library I culled through the photographs for items to illustrate the script that I wrote and viewed documentary footage from throughout Ford's Presidency, his Congressional days, and his Vice Presidency. I was extremely pleased with the quantity and the quality of the material here in Ann Arbor. Without the Museum, and certainly without the Library, this project would be impossible to finish."

### How do you go about doing your research?

"My process is to interview first then find material to fit the interviewee's remarks. For this project I interviewed



Producer/writer Mike Grass and director/videographer/editor Rob Byrd display the 2003 Michigan Association of Broadcasters Award for Best News Special they received for *Gerald Ford Turning 90*.

President Ford, Vice President Cheney, Governor Jennifer Granholm, James Cannon, William Seidman, Susan Ford Bales, Tom DeFrank of the *New York Daily News*, Helen Thomas, Mort Kondracke of *Roll Call*, Werner Veit, former editor and publisher of *The Grand Rapids Press*, Peter Secchia and Minister Emeritus of the Fountain Street Church and Duncan Littlefair, who passed away in January. I also used videotaped interviews with Henry Kissinger, George H. W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, and Colin Powell provided by the Library."

### Have you been to other Presidential Libraries?

"No. I have done some archival work before, but just through libraries in general—nothing this extensive or sophisticated."

### As you looked at the materials did other ideas pop up like other types of documentaries you could do, not necessarily on President Ford but...

"I produce documentaries, corporate programs and historical programs—writing them as well as producing them in conjunction with television stations and independent funding sources. My research experience at the Ford Library certainly gives me some ideas on where and how I might investigate other projects. In fact, I've already proposed two documentary projects to PBS inspired by my research here. It's been a great experience and an easy experience, thanks to the Library staff. Ken Hafeli has been very helpful in providing direction in where to go to look for the information I needed."

As this issue goes to press, Mike Grass' one-hour documentary on Gerald R. Ford has been scheduled to show on national public television in Fall 2004.





[continued from page 9]

transition from the Nixon to the Ford Administration. The President appointed four former House veterans with whom he had worked closely as Minority Leader to head the Team. The four were Donald Rumsfeld, Interior Secretary Rogers Morton, Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton and Jack Marsh. Phil Buchen's unofficial ad hoc team would be dissolved and replaced with this new team. Contrary to Richard Reeve's scathing (and fictional) description of this meeting in his 1975 volume "A Ford, Not a Lincoln", it was the new President, not Al Haig, who demonstrated "a commanding presence" throughout. Taking a moment to describe his personal work habits to the group, the President related that he, "starts work at 8:00 AM, and would begin with a daily intelligence briefing, followed by meetings with Bob Hartmann, Jack Marsh on legislative liaison and with the Press Secretary." By 10:00 AM, and not before, President Ford told his Transition Team he would be ready for morning appointments and other commitments, "I'll have an open door," he warned "but don't waste my time." Finally, desirous of a flexible White House presidential access structure, the President asked the Team to consider the feasibility of implementing a "spokes-of-the-wheel" procedure he had employed in his House Minority Leader office. Under that system, a Chief-of-Staff would be replaced with a number of co-equal assistants who would report to the President on different subjects daily. Although not vocalized at the time by any Transition Team member, the suggested system was not warmly received. Particularly not by Al Haig. The meeting concluded with Don Rumsfeld warning that, barring some major catastrophe, the Transition Team should conclude their work expeditiously and, "be out of here in a month." (The Team finished its work and disbanded in two weeks.)

A brief meeting with the Nixon Cabinet members followed. It featured the new President informally walking from chair to chair around the Cabinet table, shaking hands and speaking privately to each Cabinet member. The long day concluded with two late scheduled foreign Ambassador conferences. Like a Las Vegas casino, the White House has no clocks and the day was extended further by two unanticipated matters. The first involved a private Presidential briefing with CIA Director William Colby, lasting over thirty minutes. The second was a request for answers to two questions posed to Press Secretary Jerry ter Horst late that afternoon. The questions were: "Did former President Nixon sign a pardon for himself prior to leaving office?" "Did the former President take the White House tapes with him or are they still in the White House?" After seeking and obtaining an accurate response to the questions, ter Horst reported back

**"...the President met in the Cabinet Room with the new Transition Team..."**

to the White House press corp that Nixon had signed no pardons for himself or others, and that the Nixon tapes "are still in the White House." A reporter then cited Ford's response to a question asked of him during the then Congressman's fifteen plus hours of testimony at the Senate and House Vice Presidential Confirmation Hearings, and asked the Press Secretary, "If Ford's position was still not in favor of granting Nixon immunity from prosecution?" "Yes," the Press Secretary responded, "I can assure you of that."

The work day mercifully ended at 8:00 PM.

On August 9, 1974, the Office of the President of the United States inherited by Gerald Ford was discredited and devoid of public trust. That adhesive "glue" (truth) that President Ford spoke of at his swearing-in, that was used to hold government together had dried out and been discarded. A significant number of the American people doubted, disputed and suspiciously questioned every announcement and utterance of the federal government, particularly if it originated from the White House. This public distrust adversely infected every aspect of the nation's being, including its ignored and sinking economy, its confusing perception by the international community, its non-legislating Legislative Branch, and its polarized generation of citizens opposed to the continuation of governmental status quo. This almost indescribable chaos awaited Gerald R. Ford thirty years ago on August 9, 1974. As usual, Henry Kissinger has it right, when on August 9, 1974 he wrote, "No one had taken over the Presidency under more challenging circumstances."

Throughout history, the American people have been blessed with exceptional Presidential leadership in times of national crisis. Lincoln in 1860, Franklin Roosevelt in 1941 and Theodore Roosevelt in 1900 readily come to mind. To this exalted list, add the name Gerald R. Ford in August 1974...and, on behalf of the nation, join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to him.

[Sources used in this article include the personal memory and notes of the author, James Cannon's *Time and Chance*, Robert Hartmann's *Palace Politics*, Richard Reeve's *A Ford, Not a Lincoln*, and Gerald R. Ford's *A Time to Heal*.]



**"...ter Horst reported back to the White House press corp that Nixon had signed no pardons..."**



## Are you a "Friend of Ford"?

Become a member of Friends of Ford and help support the Library & Museum's many exhibits and programs. Join us as we seek to enhance public understanding of American history, government and the presidency.

*Members of Friends of Ford receive many valuable benefits:*

- ★ Free admission to the Gerald R. Ford Museum
- ★ Advance notification of speakers and exhibits
- ★ Invitation to pre-opening exhibit tours by a Museum staff member
- ★ Foundation Newsletter, "News From The Ford"
- ★ Free admission for two guests per Museum visit
- ★ 10% discount on merchandise at the Museum Store
- ★ Free admission to other nine Presidential Museums
- ★ Membership card
- ★ Members at the Family, Associate, Sustaining, Patron and President's Cabinet membership levels receive additional benefits.

*"I am profoundly grateful for the kind words that have been said about me, but the finest tribute of all will be to see the Gerald R. Ford Museum living and growing and constructive and useful."*

**GERALD R. FORD**  
MUSEUM DEDICATION  
SEPTEMBER 18, 1981



**As a member of Friends of Ford you are invited to participate in many special Museum activities that are not open to the general public.**

To join the Friends of Ford, please mail the completed application form to the Gerald R. Ford Foundation at the address below or visit our website at <http://www.geraldrfordfoundation.org>. The Foundation's administrative assistant, Diane VanAllsburg will be happy to answer any questions you may have. She may be reached at the address below, by telephone at (616) 254-0396, by email at [diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov](mailto:diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov).

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Dr./ Mr./ Mrs./ Ms./ Miss/ other (please circle)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level Choices (please check one):

- ☐ Individual: \$35-\$49
- ☐ Family: \$50-\$99
- ☐ Associate: \$100-\$249
- ☐ Sustaining: \$250-\$499
- ☐ Patron: \$500-\$1,000
- ☐ President's Cabinet: \$1,000 and above

### Payment Choice:

- ☐ Check (enclosed)
- ☐ Charge Card (check card type)
  - ☐ MasterCard
  - ☐ Visa
  - ☐ American Express
  - ☐ Discover

Checks should be made payable to the "Friends of Ford." If you are using a credit card you may prefer to fax your application to Diane Van Allsburg at (616)254-0403. Please mail your application to:

**The Gerald R. Ford Foundation**  
303 Pearl Street, NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Coming UP

## *All that Jazz: America in the 1920s*

CONTINUING THROUGH JUNE 13, 2004. The first in-house exhibition produced by Museum staff for the new temporary exhibit gallery. (See description on page 12 of this issue).

## *Window on the West: Views from the American Frontier*

JULY 3 – SEPTEMBER 24, 2004. An outstanding exhibition of artwork from the American West. (See description below and illustrations on back cover).

## *Independence Day*

Celebrate an old-fashioned 4th of July at the Museum from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## *President Ford's 91st Birthday*

JULY 14, 2004. Celebrations include the traditional birthday cake and free admission. In honor of President Ford's birthday, the Museum will officially sponsor the July 14th **West Michigan Whitecaps** home baseball game. Come down to the ball park to celebrate with us.

## *Celebration of 30th Anniversary of Swearing-in of President Gerald R. Ford*

AUGUST 3, 2004. *Richard Nixon and Watergate*. John H. Taylor, executive director of the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation, comes to Grand Rapids to discuss Nixon's wartime presidency and how the mindset of war was at the root of Watergate. Please join us to hear John H. Taylor discuss the roots of our nation's greatest scandal. Another great collaboration with Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies.

*Additional events to be announced.*

## *President Gerald R. Ford Essay Challenge*

SEPTEMBER 11, 2004.

Theme and rules for the 2004-2005 competition will be announced.

## *The Amazing Adventures of Lewis and Clark*

SEPTEMBER 22 – 24, 2004. Back by popular demand, Face to Face Productions will bring their lively and highly entertaining musical to the

Museum for six special school performances, coinciding with the last three days of *Window on the West*.

*Debate Watch 2004*, a Commission on Presidential Debates education initiative. Details to be announced.

## *China: The Opening of the Middle Kingdom*

OCTOBER 15, 2004 – MARCH 13, 2005. The Museum's second in-house production for the new temporary exhibit gallery will look at the development of this ancient land through its rich artistic legacy and America's efforts to open China's markets for trade and the evolution of their diplomatic history.

## *Thomas C. Reed Lecture*

OCTOBER 20, 2004. The former Secretary of the Air Force will speak on topics related to his recently published book, *At the Abyss: An Insider's History of the Cold War*.

## Window on the West: Views from the American Frontier, the Phelan Collection July 3 - September 24, 2004

**T**his summer the Museum will host *Window on the West: Views from the American Frontier – The Phelan Collection*. These sixty works of art document the West as explorers, natives, and others moved about its vast expanse. Its settling and eventual disappearance is told through the skills of some of its greatest artistic chroniclers, Frederic Remington, Albert Bierstadt, Alfred Jacob Miller, Karl Bodmer, and John Frederick Kensett. Many others, including the first academically trained Native American artist, Lone Wolf, and one of the first two women artists of California, share on canvas their experiences and permit the visitor a

glimpse out their window at one of the greatest stories in our nation's history, the American West.

This is an exhibition in which the subjects of the works and the way they are depicted are more important than the names of the artists. While artists who are well known in Western American art are included, so are lesser-known and even anonymous artists. And all the works have a common theme—the way the West really appeared to the artists. The paintings do not attempt to impress or lure observers with mythical or imaginary conceptions of how the American frontier looked. Instead, they simply

depict what was seen—often for the first time—by European-American eyes. Visitors to Phelan's collection are commonly left with a feeling of freshness and surprise in seeing an American West that may be both more and less than they have anticipated.

The exhibition is organized by the Trust for Museum Exhibitions of Washington, D. C. The paintings are drawn from the collection of Arthur J. Phelan of Chevy Chase, Maryland. For over thirty years, this student of American history and Yale graduate has compiled an impressive collection of western art. Currently, he directs an oil tanker company headquartered in New Orleans.



## SUMMER AT THE FORD MUSEUM

Window on the West: Views from the American Frontier, the Phelan Collection [July 3 – Sept 24]

### THE WAY THE WEST REALLY APPEARED TO ARTISTS

Visitors to Phelan's collection are commonly left with a feeling of freshness and surprise in seeing an American West that may be both more and less than they have anticipated.



"Glenwood Springs, Colorado" by Walter Paris, 1891



"The Lost Greenhorn" by Alfred Jacob Miller, 1845



"Abiquiu, NM" by Jozef G. Bakos, ca. 1930



"Ranch Hand, Wyoming" by Williard C. Schouler, 1888



The Gerald R. Ford Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose primary mission is to support the Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum through historical exhibits, educational programs, conferences, research grants and awards. In fulfilling its mission, the Foundation seeks to honor the principles and values demonstrated by President Ford throughout his public service career. The Foundation also seeks to educate Americans about the unique history and significant events of the Ford presidency. Finally, the Foundation seeks to enhance public understanding of American history and government, particularly the presidency. Inquiries regarding contributions should be addressed to Martin J. Allen, Jr., Chairman, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5353.

THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER  
Editor: Nancy Mirshah

## Gerald R. Ford Foundation

1000 Beal Avenue  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

For information about Library programs:  
Gerald R. Ford Library, 1000 Beal Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2114 (734) 205-0555  
Email: [ford.library@nara.gov](mailto:ford.library@nara.gov)  
Website: <http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov>

For information about Museum programs:  
Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353 (616) 254-0400  
Email: [ford.museum@nara.gov](mailto:ford.museum@nara.gov)  
Website: <http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov>

For information about Foundation programs:  
Gerald R. Ford Foundation, 303 Pearl Street NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5353  
Chairman Martin J. Allen, Jr. (616) 254-0370  
Interim Director Bob Gamble (616) 254-0397  
Administrative Assistant Diane Van Allsburg (616) 254-0396  
Email: [diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov](mailto:diane.vanallsburg@nara.gov)  
Fax: (616) 254-0403  
Website: [www.geraldrfoundation.org](http://www.geraldrfoundation.org)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 25  
ANN ARBOR