Eleanor Roosevelt: “First Lady of the World”

By Ranger Jan Buerger

This is a time for action—not for war, but for mobilization of every bit of peace machinery.

Eleanor Roosevelt, April 16 1954.

Every year in March we celebrate Women’s History Month. Many famous women come to mind, but ranking high on the list is Eleanor Roosevelt. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born to privilege in 1884, the very year the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Washington Monument which her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, made the centerpiece of the National Park system in 1933 by the Reorganization Act. This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the monument’s dedication.

At first very shy, Eleanor blossomed as FDR’s wife, giving him courage in the face of his disability, and empowering him during his Presidency (1933-1945). She was as amazing as he, and like him, is a towering figure in American and world history. She is the only First Lady, indeed the only woman, featured in a major structure at National Mall and Memorial Parks, Neil Estern’s rather curmudgeonly statue in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The lessons of her life still resonate, particularly today.

As a four-term First Lady, she was a tireless advocate for civil rights, and a virtual guardian of the idea that women, including single women, were important elements in society. Like later First Lady, Senator, and now Secretary-of-State Hillary Clinton, she knew women’s involvement in politics was critical to democracy.

After FDR’s death, the American public and politicians alike expected her to continue FDR’s legacy and flourish on her own. With all the terms in the White House she was one of the most accomplished politicians in the Nation. After an initial period of grief, a desire to release her children from restrictions that come from a parent’s life in public office, and a true propensity for humility, she realized she could be a powerful influence for her own causes. When President Truman asked her to carry on FDR’s dream of a United Nations - as the only female in the first U.S. Delegation to the U.N. (1845-52) - she accepted. She turned out to be the delegation’s star, and he dubbed her “First Lady of the World.” She was one of the few women in any U.N. delegation. In our age of...
## March

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### Don’t forget...

Daily ranger programs at the memorials, presented every hour from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

#### Tuesday, March 2
Women In Wartime
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
American women have served in wartime since the Revolution; women such as Deborah Sampson who impersonated a man to join the Continental Army. Come learn more about Sampson, other individuals, and female units which became prevalent during World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624.

#### Wednesday, March 3
Suffragette City
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
On March 3, 1913, on the eve of the inauguration of a president few of them could legally vote for, more than 5,000 women marched down Pennsylvania Avenue to demand women’s suffrage in the United States. They were met by jeers, taunts, and violence. Meet at the Washington Monument. Contact Monica Arjev at 202-426-6841.

#### Thursday, March 4
Living History Program: Presidential Inaugurations
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
In the past Presidential Inaugurations have not always taken place in Washington D.C. on January 20. Join park rangers in period clothing to celebrate the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson on March 4, 1801. Meet at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact Mike G. Rose at 202-438-9667.

#### Saturday, March 6
Closing the Ring: March 1945
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
In March 1945 the Allies were seizing victory from the Axis powers. American forces landed on the island of Iwo Jima in the Pacific and they were crossing the Remagen Bridge across the Rhine River into Germany. Why were these events so meaningful? Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Paul O’Brian at 202-426-7066.

#### Sunday, March 7
The Women’s Army Corps
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Learn about the 150,000 women who served in the United States Army during World War II and marked the first time American women were permitted in the U.S. Armed Forces. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Rebecca Karcher at 202-359-1334.

#### Monday, March 8
First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt
1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Learn more about First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, as we will examine how she helped President Roosevelt during his presidency and how her work with the United Nations continued his vision. Meet at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Dennis Mosso at 202-528-9605.

#### Tuesday, March 9
Madame Marie Curie: The Pioneer of Radioactivity
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Come learn about the life of Marie Curie and how she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize by discovering the uses of radium and how it helped during World War I. Meet at the District of Columbia War Memorial. Contact Stephanie Ortiz at 202-426-6841.

#### Wednesday, March 10
Women In Wartime
5 p.m. – 6 p.m.
American women have served in wartime since the Revolution; women such as Deborah Sampson who impersonated a man to join the Continental Army. Come learn more about Sampson, other individuals, and female units which became prevalent during World War II. Meet at the World War II Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-286-1624.
Meet our Staff: Ranger George McHugh

Ranger George McHugh grew up in New York City, attended a state university in North Carolina, and earned degrees in Oceanography and Environmental Science before joining the National Park Service.

Q: How long have you been a ranger, and where else have you worked for NPS?

A: I've been a ranger for 12 years, and I've worked at Glacier National Park, Isle Royale National Park, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Q: What are your favorite sites here on the National Mall?

A: My three favorite sites are the Lincoln Memorial, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian Castle. They embody the beauty and history of the Mall.

Q: What is your favorite small marker set in cherry trees along the FDR Memorial?

A: The small marker set in cherry trees along the FDR Memorial is my favorite. It's a beautiful and thoughtful tribute to FDR's legacy.

Q: How are you involved with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, and how many people are expected to attend this year?

A: I am the chief of the National Cherry Blossom Festival's security team, and we expect over one million visitors this year.

Q: Why is the Cherry Blossom Festival important?

A: The festival is a celebration of the beauty of cherry blossoms and the friendship between the United States and Japan. It's a symbol of the enduring relationship between our nations.

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Eleanor Roosevelt: “First Lady of the World”

rights, while keeping her eye and corralling the drafting committee’s focus on the prize. Facing the new post-war Cold War era she surmounted Russian arguments for prioritizing community over individual, and she held firm against Russian insistence on forced repatriation - that thousands of post-war refugees return to countries that were no longer theirs to be treated as traitors. She skillfully survived the fragile issue of U.S. discrimination against Blacks. She understood how to think on a global scale, give and take, or hold the line as necessary, to achieve the central vision. Her combined outreach to all the delegates with a pragmatic get-to-the-goal strategy won “a Magna Carta for all mankind.”

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948.

Her work as Chair of the Commission on Human Rights involved a constant watch over the Declaration’s drafting committee, which she insisted come up with a document all 55 delegations could accept. Her male colleague, French Delegate René Cassin, produced its final draft, and they would jointly share the honor of a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1961 then U.S. Delegate Adlai Stevenson argued again for her to receive the Prize, not only because of her contribution to the Declaration, he wrote, but because “she has become a world symbol of the unity of mankind and the hope of peace.” President Kennedy also pushed for it in 1962. Even after she died in 1962 scores of others pled for a posthumous award, but by then it was against the rules. In 1968 Cassin alone was the awardee.

Eleanor Roosevelt was far from finished with her eventful career after her first stint at the U.N. One of her posts was especially significant for women’s history. Even after her initial opposition to Kennedy as the Democratic nominee in 1964 (whom she distrusted for his failure to stand up against McCarthyism), he was impressed with her. In 1961 he appointed her to the position of Chair of his Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. That Commission helped fuel the second wave of American feminism.

Eleanor’s position in that role was interesting, since, as an ardent advocate of women’s rights, she opposed the Equal Rights Amendment. The Commission’s report was more sophisticated. It went beyond the feminism of the 1960s, which attempted to hinge the status of women on the concept that they were the very same as men - arguing that that they achieve equality on the job by dressing, behaving, and playing political games like men. This stance still held women and government alike hostage to a male-dominant viewpoint. The Commission, rather, urged the President to secure the Nation’s treatment of women not as men but as important in their own right. Through experience, Eleanor Roosevelt had seen that women were equal or more adept at some things than men – compassion, fairness, teamwork, and diplomacy, - and considered an appreciation of those natural abilities a more realistic approach than the traditional concept of “equal.” Her vision reached beyond the 1960s, reaches beyond where we are today, and is still a beacon for equality.

In 1999 the Gallop Organization compiled a list of the most admired persons of the 20th century, and, not surprisingly, Eleanor Roosevelt was near the top of the list.
**“A Deed Of Barbarism”**

By Ranger John Lockwood

So read the headline in the March 8, 1854 issue of the Washington, D.C. Daily National Intelligencer. On the night of March 5th, a group of persons had stolen a gift stone from the Pope, intended for installation along the Washington Monument’s inside stairway, from a storage shed on the Monument grounds. The shed contained many such stones from around the country and the world, but only the Pope’s stone led to any controversy.

Mid-19th century America had seen the rise of a nativist movement opposed to the increasing influx of Catholic immigrants. The nativists went wild when news of the Pope’s gift got around. They organized, demonstrated, and petitioned against accepting the stone when it reached America. One such petition read, in part: “We, the undersigned...believing the proffered intention was to send two stones. One would come from the remains of Rome’s Temple of Concord. It was white marble, and read “A ROMA AMERICAE”--Latin for “from Rome to America.”

Most accounts of the theft stop at this point, adding that the original 1854 stone was never seen again. Actually, it was, and there are a few other little-known details of the story as well.

For instance, the original Papal intention was to send two stones. One would come from the remains of Rome’s ancient Capitol and the other from the Coliseum. In the end, just one stone reached Washington a few years later, from Rome’s Temple of Concord. It was a pink- and white-veined stone, with an English inscription in gilded Gothic script: “Rome to America.”

Finally, the stone did re-surface again—literally. The June 19, 1892 Washington Post reported how several workers were dredging the Potomac River for new piers, and up came a pink and white stone, with several pieces missing, and the surviving inscription, in Gothic script, “Ro__t__merica.” Then, the June 21, 1892 Post reported how the stone had been stolen again!

The original Pope stone may have completely disappeared for good, unless 3 pink and white pieces at the Museum of American History are indeed from fragments broken off in 1854.

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**Eastern National Bookstores**

**Park Concessionaires**

Eastern National Bookstores

Serving the Visitors to America’s National Parks and Other Public Trusts

National Mall and Memorial Parks is a very inspiring and powerful place, but your experience does not have to end in Washington, D.C. Continue learning more about park sites and American history by visiting the many Eastern National bookstores throughout the park. Capture the moment, take home a book, and explore the ideas and values that make visiting National Mall and Memorial Parks such a stirring experience. Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores located at:

- Washington Monument Lodge
  - 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Lincoln Memorial
  - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
  - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
  - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

www.easternnational.org

Park Concessionaires

Guest Services, Inc. manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks. This includes refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park. They also operate the following recreational opportunities...

- **Tidal Basin Paddle Boats**
  - 202-479-2426
  - www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com

- **East Potomac Tennis Center**
  - 202-554-5962
  - www.eastpotomactennis.com

Tourmobile Sightseeing provides live, narrated shuttle tours with hop on/ hop off service. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then reboard and ride to another historic location. Purchase your tickets directly from the driver at any tour stop or any seasonal ticket booth.

- **Adults:** $27.00
- **Children 3-11:** $13.00
  - 202-554-5100
  - www.tourmobile.com

www.tourmobile.com

National Mall Times 5
Self-Guided Walking Tour for March, 2010

Beginning at 18th Street and Constitution Avenue, a short walking tour passes by sites which stand as testaments to Washington's rise as one of the more beautiful capital cities of the world. The first, Constitution Gardens, is an idyllic backdrop to the National Mall and Memorial Parks with its large lake, framed by winding paths, wrought iron benches, and shade trees. It is the work of prominent landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing, who died before realizing his dream of beautifying the nation's capital.

Stop 2: At 17th Street and Constitution Avenue stands the Lock Keeper's House, a remnant of the Washington City Canal which followed the path of the Tiber Creek, and connected the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers. During heavy rains waste overflowed and ran down city streets into the canal. It was filled in and paved over, the prominent parts of which are known today as Constitution Avenue and Washington Avenue, SW.

Stop 3: Crossing 17th Street toward the Washington Monument, one finds a small stone known as The Jefferson Pier Marker, where the Potomac waters once washed closely to the Washington Monument, and marks the clear 90 degree angle intersection of the south facing of the White House and the west facing of the United States Capitol.

Stop 4: Looking east toward the Capitol, one cannot miss the large, red-tiled roof, neo-classical style buildings which dominate the area north of Constitution Avenue. Follow the arrow. This area, Federal Triangle, rose during the Great Depression, a project which provided work to a desperate American labor force.

Stop 5: Turning south, at the terminus of 17th Street stands the John Paul Jones Memorial. Dedicated on April 17, 1912, his statue honors the first American naval officer who forced an enemy ship to strike its colors in battle. This charming memorial blends sculpture and fountains, standing amidst a tree lined traffic circle adjacent to the Tidal Basin.

Stop 6: A gaze to the southwest reveals the Tidal Basin in all its glory. On March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Taft, and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, planted the first Japanese cherry trees along the Tidal Basin. Along with the architectural changes, these trees helped transform Washington D.C. into a crown jewel amongst world capitals.

Other National Parks In Our Area

Glen Echo Park and Clara Barton National Historic Site

to 4 p.m. Visit the Clara Barton National Historic Site to hear the stories and learn about the house, the Red Cross, and the amazing woman who resided there.

For more information visit...

Glen Echo Park

www.nps.gov/glge
301-320-1400

Clara Barton National Historic Site

www.nps.gov/cbna
301-320-1410

Glen Echo Park

Glen Echo, Maryland is a small town located only a few miles north of Washington, D.C. It offers two units of the National Park Service, Glen Echo Park, and the Clara Barton National Historic Site.

Glen Echo Park has a history that extends back into the late 19th century, first existing as a center for cultural enhancement known as “Chautauqua,” then later as a popular amusement park. It is now a place rich with history and a thriving arts community. Visiting the park, one can see architecture from 1891, the art deco period of the 1940s and 50s, as well as one of the country’s oldest working carousels, dating to 1921. There are always activities to be found at Glen Echo, from dances, art and music classes, children’s performances, and park tours and program offered by the National Park Service.

Just a short walk from Glen Echo Park is the Clara Barton National Historic Site, the first national historic site dedicated to a woman. Constructed in 1891, this building has served as a warehouse for the American Association of the Red Cross, its headquarters, as well as a residence for Clara Barton and her Red Cross staff. It is a unique building, both for its architecture and its history. Open year-round, 45 minute tours are given every hour on the hour from 10 a.m.
Each year, the National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the friendship between the people of Japan and of our Nation’s Capital. When the cherry trees arrived in Washington, D.C., in early 1910, they were inspected but were found to be diseased and full of insects. To protect the plants of American farmers and growers, the cherry trees had to be burned! Two years later, 3,000 more trees were sent from Japan and workmen began to plant them around the Tidal Basin. The planting continued for several years. The first Cherry Blossom Festival took place in 1935. In the years following, the Japanese people continued to send cherry trees and other symbols of friendship to Washington, D.C.

Can you solve this month's mall mystery?

Find the plaque which marks where the first cherry blossoms were planted. In what year was the plaque placed there?

Go to the Survey Lodge Ranger Station with the correct answer to receive your prize!

The Arrowhead is the National Park Service symbol.

Using what you see on the arrowhead, fill in the blanks.

The ______________________ represents all of the plants that grow and are protected in your National Parks.

The ______________________ represents all of the animals that live in parks and are protected in your National Parks.

The ______________________ shape represents many stories from the past and special places in history that are preserved in your National Parks.

The ______________________ represents the rivers, lakes and ocean areas that are protected in your National Parks.

The ______________________ represents the different landforms that are found in your National Parks.

Word Search

BLOSSOM    CHERRY TREES
JAPAN     PAGODA
DAVID FAIRCHILD
ELIZA SCIDMORE
FESTIVAL     FRIENDSHIP
PINK     POTOMAC RIVER
STONE LANTERN
TIDAL BASIN

C M P H B L V D P G E S C Z I U M V H L
R L J F Y L P O N Y G R D T F N M V D
Q G H J P A G O D A L J B E S D F G H H
Z X C V R V C V B N M N B L T D J S D D
N B V C X I N B V C J H G I G A F D S A
M N S R Y S Y T L R E A D A T B J I I I
P O T I U E Y R E O L E N S N S F G H D
A S N D F A X V A V V S P I O F G H K A
Y T E G D S A S S F G H O D Y T Y U O T
Q W L E T D I I S G T Q I M T Y U I I R
A S A W Q N Y O A F Y W R O R E U U Y C
D G N R U S M R D D U E T R R Y K J H
D G I T U D T G T S I R Y E T T D B R H I
F S E E R Y T R R E H C F H W H F V G L
D S R G J F G W F H Y U G J E C G C F D
A D N F G P O T O M A C R I V E R C B I
F F B G J A N E Y J I L H K L V B B P U
C V B N M V P R P I H S D N E I R F O Y

National Mall Times   9
March is a great time to experience your national park. Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park including park-wide walking tours and shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website, www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Superintendent John Piltzecker

McHugh Continued from page 3

gave Washington D.C., a city that still had dirt roads, an identity of its own that allowed it to compete with cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. In a city of transient status, where even the federal government continually evolves, the Cherry Blossom Festival remains a constant.

Q: What is the most important thing you would like visitors to take away from the festival, and why?

I hope the Cherry Blossom Festival complements their visit to the National Mall, knowing they had an experience that can’t be had anywhere else. We strive to present programs throughout the year that present universal concepts. I want the festival to do the same; while presenting a different experience for each visitor, its beauty and historic importance are universal concepts for all.

Potomac Nature Packs

Discover the wild side of the National Mall with nature packs designed to engage the entire family. Each pack is filled with a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps, and activities for the whole family. These self-guided nature packs allow the whole family to put on their Eagle eyes, and explore the unbelievable sights and sounds of the National Mall!

Packs are available at the Survey Lodge Ranger Station near the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds. Packs are available on a first come, first served basis, and require an adult’s drivers license. One pack per family. Call 202-426-6841 for more information.

Old Post Office Tower NHS

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation’s Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation’s Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Sunday and Holidays
10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 a.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 a.m.

202-606-8691

www.nps.gov/opot

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue

Upon Request:
Saturdays and Sundays
11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.’s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

For Whom the Bell Tolls: The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress

First Thursday of every month
6:45 p.m.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Message from the Superintendent

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Superintendent John Piltzecker

“Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

National Park Service Organic Act

August 25, 1916

Potomac Nature Packs

Birds, Bugs and Trees, OH MY!

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For Whom the Bell Tolls: The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress

First Thursday of every month
6:45 p.m.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

McHugh Continued from page 3

gave Washington D.C., a city that still had dirt roads, an identity of its own that allowed it to compete with cities like New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago. In a city of transient status, where even the federal government continually evolves, the Cherry Blossom Festival remains a constant.

Q: What is the most important thing you would like visitors to take away from the festival, and why?

I hope the Cherry Blossom Festival complements their visit to the National Mall, knowing they had an experience that can’t be had anywhere else. We strive to present programs throughout the year that present universal concepts. I want the festival to do the same; while presenting a different experience for each visitor, its beauty and historic importance are universal concepts for all.

This space is saved for Mount Vernon Printing

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website! http://www.nps.gov/linc

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook and an Interactive Site. The flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the memorial construction from inception to completion. You can experience a virtual walk-through of the memorial, and listen to ranger reflections of the memorial and its history on the Interactive Site.

Old Post Office Tower NHS

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation’s Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation’s Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Sunday and Holidays
10:00 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 4:45 a.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:45 a.m.

202-606-8691

www.nps.gov/opot

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue

Upon Request:
Saturdays and Sundays
11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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