



The FDR Memorial Legacy Committee 2023 Highlights

While we are proud of all of our accomplishments in 2023, here are our top ten in chronological order.

Paul Sparrow's Interview with Jonathan Darman

On January 19, 2023, the FDR Committee hosted a webinar with historian and author Jonathan Darman. Advisory Board Member Paul Sparrow interviewed Jonathan about his book *Becoming FDR: The Personal Crisis That Made A President*. Click [here](#) to watch the video on YouTube. Teaser alert – Paul has a book coming out this year – *Awakening the Spirit of America: FDR's War of Words With Charles Lindbergh—and the Battle to Save Democracy*. Pre-order [here](#).



Browne Education Campus Students Celebrate FDR's 141st Birthday

On January 27, 2023, 7th graders from Browne Education Campus, a DC public school, presented a wreath and flowers at the FDR Memorial to mark President Roosevelt's birthday.



Right to left: National Park Service Ranger Jen Epstein; FDR Committee Board Member Arlene King-Berry, J.D., Eli Yussuf, at the time representing HumanitiesDC, and Browne Education Campus students. Photo Credit: Jimell Greene

Learning Disability International (LDA) 60th Annual International Conference

In February, FDR Committee Executive Director Mary E. Dolan, Board Member Arlene King-Berry, J.D., and Education Consultant Dr. Rosalie Boone presented at the LDA's 60th Annual International Conference. Using the life stories of Judy Heumann and Mick Countee and drawing from the fight for the FDR wheelchair statue, they led a presentation about self-advocacy skills needed to improve post-high school outcomes for students with learning disabilities. The presentation was built around the lesson plans ["DC Heroes in the Disability Movement"](#) which were funded by [HumanitiesDC](#).

FDR Committee at the National Cherry Blossom Festival



The FDR Committee brought sunshine and smiles to the Cherry Blossom Festival on a rainy weekend in March. The Committee displayed a beautiful Cherry Blossom banner to take selfies and played games about all things Roosevelt with children and adults. To learn more about the FDR Committee in action at the Festival, click [here](#).

Photo: Visitors were encouraged to take photos with Fala, FDR's famous Scottish Terrier, as an interactive way to educate them about the FDR Committee.

Eli Yussuf Joins Board of Directors, Elected as Treasurer

In June, by unanimous vote, Eli Yussuf was elected to the Board of Directors and also as Board Treasurer. Eli currently is the Grants Administrator at Food Research & Action Center in Washington, DC and is a former program officer with HumanitiesDC.

Photo: Eli Yussuf, Member of the FDR Committee Board of Directors and Treasurer.



A New Look at FDR: Insiders Talk About the Making of the Latest History Channel Documentary

On June 20, 2023, the FDR Committee hosted an exciting discussion with renowned Roosevelt experts who served as historical consultants on the latest History Channel documentary titled *FDR*. Paul Sparrow, Advisory Board Member and former Director, FDR Presidential Library and Museum, and Dr. Allida Black, historian and Distinguished Visiting Scholar, University of Virginia, shared their stories about making the new documentary. Dr. I King Jordan, President Emeritus of Gallaudet University, and FDR Committee Advisory Board member, provided opening remarks. Click [here](#) for the video on YouTube.

The First Interns from the Michael Reeves Deland Internship Program



University of the District of Columbia undergraduate students Tewelde Semere and Derrick Simms successfully completed the first **Michael Reeves Deland Internship** program for the 2022-2023 school year. They worked on a project on food insecurity in Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, DC, under the supervision of Professor Arlene King-Berry, J.D., Member of the FDR Committee Board and Professor at the University of the District of Columbia.

Photo: Tewelde Semere and Professor Arlene King-Berry show off project materials at a DC festival.

Two Weeks of Professional Development Workshops for K-12 Teachers

In July, the FDR Committee delivered two - one-week in-person professional development workshops to 58 teachers from across the country on the disability history of the FDR Memorial and FDR presidency. The workshop included site visits and lectures from leading scholars, advocates, and professionals. It was conducted in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia with majority funding from the National Endowment for Humanities. Click [here](#) to review a graphic representing the results of the workshop.

Photo: Educators visited the FDR wheelchair statue at the FDR Memorial as part of the workshop.



Tidal Basin Seawall Awareness Campaign

The FDR Committee continued raising awareness of the Tidal Basin flooding issue and long-term preservation of the FDR Memorial. Executive Director Mary E. Dolan and Advisory Board Member Senator Tom Harkin testified before the National Capital Planning Commission raising long term concerns about protection of the FDR Memorial. View one of FDR Committee's advocacy letters [here](#).

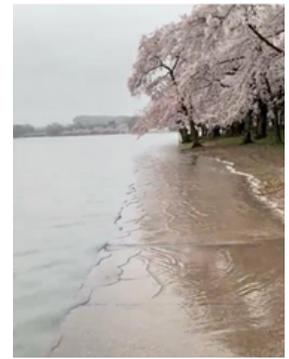


Photo: A photo from March 2023 of the Tidal Basin seawall near the FDR Memorial flooded with water.

\$100,000 Challenge Match Met Ahead of Schedule

The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation once again offered a challenge match of \$100,000 for 2023. Thanks to all of you, we reached this amount in September, which led to the Gund Foundation's full match of \$100,000. Another match for \$100,000 is underway for 2024!! Hint – It's time to make your 2024 donation. Visit our [Donate page](#) to give.

Honoring Those We Lost in 2023

The FDR Committee suffered the loss of multiple friends in 2023. [Judy Heumann](#), FDR Committee Advisory Board Member and disability rights legend, passed away in March. Ambassador C. Boyden Gray, champion of the Americans with Disabilities Act, friend of the FDR Committee and major donor passed away in May. Our friend and Advisory Board Member [Steven Graham](#) passed away in September. We are forever honored to have had these individuals as part of our organization. Their contributions were great, and the impact they made will never be forgotten.



Judy Heumann was featured in a lesson plan developed by the FDR Committee. To access the lesson plan, [click here](#).



Steven Graham holds his hand up to touch the bronze mural created by his father at the FDR Memorial.

Your donations help fund our mission to promote education about the FDR Memorial, improve inclusion and accessibility so all visitors can experience the Memorial, and preserve the Memorial for future generations. Through the Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation Gift Matching Program, your donation can be doubled. Donate at www.fdrmemoriallegacy.com/giving/.

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