HPLM has events to mark Republican National Convention

The Republican National Convention will take place July 18-21 in Cleveland, and the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums is working to draw some of the delegates and anyone interested in presidential history to Spiegel Grove.

HPLM has special public events planned for the Saturdays before and after the convention (July 16 and 23). Costumed reenactors will be positioned around the museum and portray the period of 1876, when the Republican National Convention took place in Cincinnati and Rutherford B. Hayes was named the presidential nominee.

Stan M. Haynes, author of two books about presidential nominating conventions, will speak and sign copies of his books at 1 p.m. July 16 in the museum auditorium.

Haynes, an attorney in Baltimore, Maryland, wrote “The First American Political Conventions: Transforming Presidential Nominations (1832-1872)” and “President-Making in the Gilded Age: The Nominating Conventions of 1876-1900.”

HPLM hopes to use this opportunity to share historical information about the 1876 convention and President Hayes’ nomination.

“The 1876 Republican Convention draws some interesting parallels with this year’s convention,” HPLM Executive Director Christie Weininger said. “I think the programs we’re offering will pique curiosity and offer considerable food for thought.”

Events during convention
The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums will have special events during the Republican National Convention:

**July 16 and July 23** - Costumed reenactors will be positioned around the museum from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

**July 16** - Stan M. Haynes, author of two books about political conventions, will speak and sign copies of his books at 1 p.m.
Reflections from Spiegel Grove

Wow! What an awesome Centennial weekend we had May 28 – 30. There were so many highlights and special moments it’s hard to name them all. It was a joy to “throw open the doors” of the newly redesigned museum to area school students, who had won an essay contest, at 8 Saturday morning, prior to the official grand re-opening at 9 a.m. This was a throw-back to our opening in 1916, when the first guests were students. Later that morning, another set of students from all over Ohio read their winning essays about people in their lives who were heroes. These heartfelt essays were read from the speaker’s platform, which was built in the 1920s and never used - until that day!

In the afternoon, some 4,000 of us thrilled to the pageantry of four local bands from Fremont Ross, Fremont St. Joe, Gibsonburg and Lakota along with the Hi Society majorettes who preceded members of The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands onto the grounds of Spiegel Grove. I’m sure even President Hayes, who was a catalyst for the creation of OSU and later served as president of its board of trustees, would have clapped along to the combined bands performing the state rock song, “Hang on Sloopy.” The day was completed with a wonderfully fun beard contest and beautifully moving and patriotic music from “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band brass quintet. Not even a brief rain shower could dampen the excitement and energy on the grounds, especially once we turned into birthday party mode when the quintet ended their concert with “Happy Birthday,” and we distributed cupcakes to the crowd.

Sunday’s centennial ceremony opened with a fly over of a World War II bomber and remarks by Cokie Roberts, delivered via video link due to Tropical Storm Bonnie. Although we were disappointed not to have Cokie here in person, I’ll always remember that when the National Anthem was played by the Marine Band quintet, she also stood and placed her hand over her heart, shortly before delivering her remarks from her closet in South Carolina with an American Flag draped over the clothes racks! What a way to improvise!

It was uplifting to hear the remarks of those who participated in our centennial ceremony, particularly those of Germán Rojas, ambassador of Paraguay. His poignant explanation of how President Hayes gave his war-torn country back its dignity made a big impact on those in attendance.

Spending time with the Hayes family and welcoming them to Spiegel Grove again or for the first time was an honor. Hearing their stories and watching them connect with each other was so much fun. They constantly remarked to me how much they enjoyed being in Fremont and learning the local history of the area as well as the history of their own family.

I am so grateful to the community of Fremont and Sandusky County, the individuals and our organizational partners for helping us make our centennial such a success. It simply would not have been possible without a tremendous effort from our board, staff, volunteers and the outstanding community support. To all who attended or played a role in the planning and implementation of this special weekend, THANK YOU! We all have much to be proud of what we accomplished together.

Editor’s Note: A transcript of Ms. Roberts’ remarks has been posted on our website.

Annual Independence Day Concert to include special additions in honor of HPLM centennial

Celebrate Independence Day with a rousing, patriotic concert by the Toledo Symphony Concert Band at the site of America’s first presidential library.

In honor of HPLM’s centennial this year, the performance will include dramatic readings from the diaries and letters of President Rutherford B. Hayes, First Lady Lucy Hayes and their son, Col. Webb Cook Hayes, founder of HPLM. Civil War reenactors also will punctuate the “1812 Overture” with cannon fire. Please bring a blanket or chair for seating on the lawn.

Admission is free, thanks to title sponsor Crown Battery Manufacturing, Inc. Additional funding is provided by Mosser Construction, Inc.

Additional funding for centennial events provided by ABC INOAC Exterior Services, LLC; Automatic Fire Protection; Catawba Island Brewing Company; City of Fremont; Community Health Services; Croghan Colonial Bank; Downtown Fremont Inc.; Richard Binau Insurance & Financial Services; The Tom Kiser Family; Knight-Baldwin Charitable Foundation, Chris & Mary Knight and Charles Knight, ProMedica Memorial Hospital; Sandusky County Communities Foundation; Sandusky County Convention & Visitors Bureau; The Fremont Co.; Mary B. Wonderly, M.D.; Wright Leather Works.
Library & Museums during the Bid at the Grove Auction.

The two events make HPLM’s annual GroveFest, a full day of events at Spiegel Grove, the 25-acre wooded estate of 19th U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes.

Nature at the Grove takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Local nature organizations and businesses will have activities and educational experiences for kids and their families. Food also will be available.

In the evening, the Bid at the Grove Auction will take place from 6 to 9:30 in the reception tent in Lucy Hayes’ rose garden. Guests can dine and bid on some great donated items from area businesses. Money raised will benefit HPLM. The theme this year is “A Centennial Celebration.”

Tickets are $100 per person. Discounts are offered for tables: Tickets are $90 per person for a table of 8 and $85 per person for a table of 10.

This will be the finale for the Bid at the Grove Auction. Nature at the Grove will continue to be an annual event. For tickets or information, call 419-332-2081.

Major sponsorship provided by KeyBank trustee for Walter E. Terhune Fund; The Fremont Co., Richard & Kathryn Smith; and The Randolph J. and Estelle M. Dorn Foundation.

Gold sponsorship by Albrechta & Coble Ltd, Attorneys; Motorists Insurance Group and Richard Binau Insurance & Financial Services; ProMedica Memorial Hospital; KF Construction & Excavating LLC. Silver sponsorship provided by Mosser Construction, Inc.; Pomona Properties, LLC; Unique Fabrications, Inc.; Decker Siding & Gutter Solution; Christy Lease; Dan & Jacque Lease. Bronze sponsorship provided by: Comfort Inn and Suites; Fremont Federal Credit Union; McDonald’s – Tom Humbard and Dorita Snyder; Ralph W. Peters, M.D.; Steinhle GMC Cadillac & Steinhle Chevy Buick; Wright Leather Works.

Spiegel Grove Squires

‘The Boys of Summer’

The Spiegel Grove Squires are baseball devotees who bring to life the sport during its early years. In the 1860s, base ball, as it was spelled back then, became an organized sport with rules of play for base ball clubs.

The Squires are volunteers who have studied and learned the methods of play used in the 1860s, including playing bare-handed and using a bat that looks more like a broom handle. Players are called ballists, and they wear period-style uniforms.

Admission to home games at Spiegel Grove is free, and games take place on the lawn behind the Hayes Home. The Squires are sponsored by KF Construction & Excavating, LLC.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, July 2 - 2 p.m. double-header in Bay Village vs. the Villagers Vintage Base Ball Club and the Whiskey Island Shamrocks.

Sunday, July 17 - 2 p.m. in Wyandotte, Michigan, vs. the Wyandotte Stars.

Saturday, July 23 - Noon at the Sauder Village Cup tournament at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio.

Sunday, July 31 - 2 p.m. at HOME vs. the Stemtown Stinkers from Green Springs.

Sunday, Aug. 14 - 1 p.m. at the Carnation Cup Tournament, hosted by the Alliance Crossing Rals Base Ball Club.

Sunday, Aug. 21 - 2 p.m. a HOME vs. the Villagers Vintage Base Ball Club from Bay Village.

Sunday, Aug. 28 - 2 p.m. at HOME versus the Wyandotte Stars from Wyandotte, Michigan.

Sunday, Sept. 18 - 10 a.m. at the Tiffin-Seneca County Heritage Festival at Hedges-Boyer Park in Tiffin, exhibition games against other vintage base ball clubs.
By November 1878, Paraguay was a devastated country, recovering from a long and bloody war fought between it and three other South American countries.

Seventy to 90 percent of the men in Paraguay died in this conflict, leaving the strong women of the country to rebuild their war-torn homeland and save its identity.

Paraguay was still arguing with Argentina, one of the countries it fought in the war, over a piece of land the size of Michigan.

“This is this part when the figure of President Hayes appears in our history, to bring the light of justice to our devastated hearts,” Germán Rojas, Paraguay’s ambassador to the United States, told those gathered for the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums Centennial Ceremony on May 29.

The two countries chose Rutherford B. Hayes to arbitrate the dispute, and on Nov. 12, 1878, he awarded the land to Paraguay, giving the country 60 percent of its land.

That decision forever formed a bond between Rutherford B. Hayes and the people of Paraguay. It helped return dignity to a country that still feels the effects of that devastating war today, Rojas said.

“I believe (Ohio) has given life to at least eight presidents of the United States, with Ohio values... but for Paraguayans, this one in particular is very close to our hearts, and for him we are forever in gratitude,” he said.

Rojas was among several speakers at the Centennial Ceremony, which began with a World War II bomber flying over Spiegel Grove.

Keynote speaker Cokie Roberts was unable to attend in person because she was caught in tropical storm Bonnie in South Carolina, but she spoke via live video. Roberts, a scholar of influential women in history, spoke about First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes.

Although Lucy is known for her stance on temperance, there was so much more to her. She tended to wounded Civil War soldiers. A strong abolitionist, she influenced
Celebration

her husband’s views. She skillfully managed being a mother with the obligations of first lady, all while commanding tremendous respect from those close to her and from the public.

“The story of Lucy Webb Hayes is an important one in American history,” Roberts said. “It’s not enough to know of the daring deeds of our famous men. That’s only half of the story; it’s an incomplete telling of the past. This library, now fully prepared to take its place in a new century, tells the whole story.”

The Centennial Ceremony and other events Sunday were part of HPLM’s Centennial Celebration that took place throughout Memorial Day weekend. It included performances by local high school bands, members of The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands and a brass quintet from the U.S. Marine Band.

The new museum exhibits and new, handicapped-accessible main entrance reopened. Bearded men competed in three categories for who had the best beards. Terra State Community College formally renamed its skilled trades center for President Hayes, a champion of education in manual trades.

And about 200 members of the Hayes family came from 21 states and Canada for a family reunion. Walter “Sandy” Hayes Jr., 78, great-grandson of President Hayes, said he greatly enjoyed all of the events through the weekend. Although he lives in Amsterdam, New York, he is originally from Perrysburg and has visited HPLM often.

One of his favorite parts was seeing members of the OSU bands perform in front of the Hayes Home. He obtained his master’s degree from OSU and wrote his thesis about President Hayes’ connection to OSU. President Hayes helped to found the university when he was governor of Ohio.

“That was unbelievable,” Walter “Sandy” Hayes said. “I was just about crying. It’s just been a sensational weekend.”
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Northwest Ohio Auditors Association
Educator and local historian Mike Gilbert’s popular series, History Roundtable, returns to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums this fall.

Gilbert will discuss topics ranging from President John F. Kennedy’s assassination to local ghost stories. He will offer six History Roundtable sessions on Saturdays from Sept. 17 through Oct. 29, with the exception of Oct. 1. Cost is $5 per session or $25 for all six. Preregister with Nan Card 419-332-2081, ext. 239, or ncard@rbhayes.org.

The schedule is as follows:

**Sept. 17 – Early Physicians: Two Centuries of Healing**
– Learn about the early doctors who served our county and the hardships they faced, including the terrors of the Great Black Swamp and the 1834 Cholera epidemic. Sandusky County’s many fine physicians were nationally and internationally known for their medical achievements.

**Sept. 24 – Fremont’s Business Legacy**
– During the turn of the 20th Century, Fremont and Sandusky County were known for their industry and business acumen. Explore the riches of the county’s past as Gilbert leads a study of industries that put this area on the map.

**Oct. 8 – JFK Assassination: Evidence Explained 50 Years Later**
– This segment will offer new and intriguing evidence about the assassination, 50 years later. Help piece together pieces of the puzzle to this fascinating mystery.

**Oct. 15 – Tales from the 1913 Flood**
– Learn how the surrounding communities banded together to help the Fremont area after it was devastated by the flood. Find out about the courage, community and heroic effort that helped the town survive the flood.

**Oct. 22 – Oakwood’s Historic Cemetery**
– Take a journey through the past as we walk among the people buried here, reminding us of the debt we owe to those who settled and lived in the area. Learn about the well-known, as well as the ordinary people who brought attention to our city.

**Oct. 29 – Local Ghost Stories**
– If you like a good ghost story, come join us for an interesting discussion of local ghost lore. What better way to spend an October morning than discussing the spooky, eerie world of ghosts!

**History Roundtable is sponsored by:**

Mary B. Wonderly, M.D.

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**Civil War roster donation**

Bob Donelly of Lakewood, Ohio, donated this Civil War roster of the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was President Hayes’ unit, to the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums. It was likely written shortly before or after one of the regiment’s annual reunions, which Hayes attended. Another matching ledger with similar information was preserved by President Hayes and is often used by Civil War researchers. Donnelly’s wife’s family had the roster.

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**October centennial events**

As the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, staff are compiling a special exhibit to show how the facility has changed over the years. “100 Moments: Celebrating a Century of the Nation’s First Presidential Library” opens Oct. 1. The exhibit is expected to include photos and artifacts from HPLM’s long history. The exhibit will be open through Jan. 8, 2017. HPLM is looking for someone to sponsor the exhibit. Anyone interested is asked to call Kathy Boukissen at 419-332-2081, ext. 226.

The Lecture on the Presidency will take place the first weekend in October. The specific date has not yet been selected. Clifton Truman Daniels, grandson of President Harry and First Lady Bess Truman, is the speaker.

**Lecture on the Presidency is sponsored by National Machinery Foundation.**
Oklahoma City bombing Survivor Tree seedling planted at Spiegel Grove

The day Tim Cullen visited the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, he saw a family placing birthday balloons at the memorial bearing the names of all who died in the 1995 terrorist attack there.

The family was honoring a child who was a victim of the attack. As Cullen watched the sad and peaceful moment, he knew he was on hallowed ground.

He shared that experience, as well as his experiences of visiting the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York, during a Peace Ceremony on April 19 at Spiegel Grove, the grounds of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums.

During the ceremony, a seedling from the Oklahoma City bombing Survivor Tree, which is part of the memorial and had been a focal point before the attack as well as after, was planted at Spiegel Grove. The seedling, an American elm, is believed to be the only one from the Survivor Tree planted in Ohio, said Stephanie Miller, regional urban forester for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

“This now will be hallowed ground, too,” Cullen, superintendent of Bishop Hoffman Catholic Schools, told the crowd who gathered at Spiegel Grove. “I don’t have a reason why bad things happen. Our resiliency is what sets us apart. We’ve got to go from hopelessness to hope.”

The ceremony took place on the 21st anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. Although the tree was damaged during evidence collection after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, it lived on. The explosion, one of the worst terrorist attacks on American soil, killed 168 people, including children in a daycare center in the building.

The Tree and Beautification Committee applied for a seedling of the tree to be placed at Spiegel Grove on behalf of the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums.

“We felt the survivor seedling would be a great addition to the history the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums offers,” said Jamie Gottran, commission member. “We hope it grows tall and strong and adds to the beauty of Spiegel Grove for many years.”

New book about HPLM’s founding

When Col. Webb Cook Hayes decided to found America’s first presidential library, he faced myriad challenges that tested his resolve and threatened his health and finances.

Still, he persevered, and on Memorial Day 1916, the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums opened to the public, forever making the papers, books and artifacts of 19th U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes available to the public for research and learning.

Meghan Wonderly, HPLM annual giving and membership coordinator, has written a book about Col. Hayes, son of Rutherford and Lucy, and how he founded HPLM. “A Son’s Dream: Colonel Webb C. Hayes and the Founding of the Nation’s First Presidential Library” is available in the HPLM Museum Store for $14.99.
Learn to trace family history in genealogy classes

The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums can help answer that ages-old question of “Where did I come from?” Its Learning About Your Past series of genealogy classes provide a guide to finding the answer.

Classes are offered throughout the year and cover topics ranging from how to get started with genealogy research to publishing your own family history. Class times are 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Hayes Museum. Cost is $10. Please pre-register to Head Librarian Becky Hill at bhill@rbhayes.org.

The series is sponsored by RootsMagic, Inc.

The schedule is as follows:

**July 16 - Digitizing your old family photos** - Head of Photographic Resources Gil Gonzalez will explain the best methods of digitizing family photographs – file formats, internet albums, etc.

**Sept. 10 - Beginning genealogy** - Hill will give an overview of how to get started doing your family history, especially using the resources available at the Hayes Library.

**Oct. 15 - Free genealogical websites** - Hill will explain the basics of how to utilize the free genealogical websites in family history research. She will explore in depth such internet resources as the Hayes Presidential Library’s Ohio Obituary Index, along with FamilySearch.org, USGenweb.org, Worldcat.org, Findagrave.com, EllisIsland.org and other popular websites.


Second Saturdays R 4 Kids learning events

**July 9** – 11 a.m. to noon. The event will feature a George Custer living history presenter. Cost is $1 for kids. There is no fee for adults to bring children to this program. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 419-332-2081, ext. 230, or emailing dmclochlin@rbhayes.org.

**Aug. 13** – Second Saturdays R 4 Kids will be included with the GroveFest: Nature at the Grove activities. Nature at the Grove takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and offers nature activities on the grounds of Spiegel Grove. Admission is free. Food also will be available for purchase on the grounds.

**Sept. 10** – 11 a.m. to noon. The event will feature a Mark Twain living history presenter. Cost is $1 for kids. There is no fee for adults to bring children to this program. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 419-332-2081, ext. 230, or emailing dmclochlin@rbhayes.org.

**Oct. 8** – There will be a scavenger hunt available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the museum. Cost is $1 for kids and $7.50 for adults. This includes admission to the museum.

**Nov. 12** – 11 a.m. to noon. Imagination Station will be the featured presenter. The session includes hands-on experiments that relate to the War of Currents between Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison, which occurred during the Gilded Age, the era when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. Cost for kids to be determined. There is no fee for adults to bring children to this program. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 419-332-2081, ext. 230, or emailing dmclochlin@rbhayes.org. **Sponsored by Century Die Company.**

**Dec. 10** – There will be a scavenger hunt available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the museum. Cost is $1 for kids and $7.50 for adults. This includes admission to the museum.
Development Office Notes
By Kathy Boukissen, director of development

Members of the Hayes family, I think this quote was made for you. Your first link is to President & Lucy Hayes and then Colonial Webb Hayes’ dream to build the nation’s first Presidential library. And you truly are the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums’ BRIDGE to the FUTURE.

WOW, is how I sum up the Hayes Family Reunion, as a part of our Centennial Celebration. Almost 200 family members, representing 21 states and Canada, came to our big celebration. We were overwhelmed with the enthusiasm and appreciation from the family. What a great group of individuals. Many relatives visited the R. B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums for the first time; and many were meeting each other for the first time. We hope our centennial helps bond all of you over the coming years.

I would like to take this time to thank Meghan Wonderly, our annual giving & membership coordinator, for her help with organizing the Hayes Family Reunion. She was my right-hand person through all of this. A big thank you to the Hayes Reunion committee listed below. Many are community members who volunteered their time to help organize and physically implement our plan. We also had Hayes family members from afar who would call in to the meetings to help us with our efforts. The full staff at HPLM was involved, but those listed below were a part of the planning committee.

Centennial Campaign success
We started our Centennial Campaign less than one year ago. Since this campaign started as a “private” campaign, meaning it would not include federal and state money, we decided a $1 million goal was obtainable, with plans to raise much more. I appreciate Executive Director Christie Weininger’s confidence in my development expertise to run this campaign internally. We utilized the professional staff we have at HPLM to run a successful campaign, especially Gil Gonzalez, head of photographic resources, who designed all our campaign literature.

Donors stretched in their giving because they saw the importance of our vision for the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums. So I am overwhelmed with appreciation to say at this point we have raised $1.4 million in PRIVATE donations.

BUT even more great news, we recently received notice that the state of Ohio has granted us $270,000 toward capital projects in the campaign. We have now raised over $1.6 million, the largest campaign in the history of the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums. But we are not stopping there!

We have many more things we want to do here on the grounds of Spiegel Grove, the Hayes Home, Library & Museums. We will continue the Centennial Campaign through our Centennial Year. Thank all of you for your continued support of our efforts.

Membership Campaign
We kicked off our Pass to the Past membership campaign in April. As of June 1, we have 150 new members! We invite you to become a member of our growing organization. The new enhanced membership program offers more opportunities to become involved and connected through exhibitions, programs and events designed to enrich and entertain, all while ensuring the future of the museum, library home and Spiegel Grove Grounds. Memberships include FREE unlimited tours of the museum & Hayes Home and start at $35.

Contact Me
As always, feel free to contact me with any comments or questions you have. Meeting and talking with people is what I love best about my profession. 419-332-2081 ext. 226. kboukissen@rbhayes.org.

Cheers! Catawba Island Brewing Company made a special Presidential Ale to benefit HPLM.
Your pass to the past is here!

The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums recently launched a membership drive.

Membership benefits include free unlimited admission to the Hayes Home and museum for one year, Museum Store discount, invitations to exhibit openings and more.

New benefits at some membership levels include behind-the-scenes tours of the Hayes Home and a photo in the Hayes Home.

In addition, by being a member, you are supporting operations of HPLM, America’s first presidential library.

For details, visit rbhayes.org.

The White House Years exhibit in the Hayes Museum is pictured. Get unlimited admission for one year to the museum with a membership.

HPLM staff help Hayes family members with genealogy research. Genealogy benefits are included at most membership levels.