Cokie Roberts to give keynote at Centennial Celebration

Veteran journalist and best-selling author Cokie Roberts will be the keynote speaker at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums Centennial Ceremony on Sunday, May 29. HPLM is pleased to welcome Roberts, ABC News political commentator and National Public Radio contributing senior news analyst, to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of America’s first presidential library. Roberts has a great interest in presidential history and has visited many presidential libraries over the years, but this will be her first time at Spiegel Grove.

“I’m really looking forward to coming,” Roberts said. “You all are the birthplace of presidential libraries, and it’ll be a real treat for me.

“Presidential libraries are wonderfully different from each other. It’s an inspiration to go to them. It teaches you a great deal about the American political system in its best sense and the difficulty and the leadership that’s required to govern this very big, very diverse country.”

Roberts’ speech will be one of the highlights of HPLM’s grand Centennial Celebration that will take place throughout Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30.) The ceremony featuring her talk will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 29 on the verandah of the Hayes Home. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

“We are thrilled to bring someone of Cokie Roberts’ caliber to Spiegel Grove,” Executive Director Christie Weininger said. “She is passionate about history, particularly political history, and she will have some fascinating things to say about the American presidency, Rutherford B. Hayes and the significance of presidential libraries.”

HPLM opened to the public on May 30, 1916. The library and museum gave the public the opportunity to use

Please see Centennial, page 2

Gateway to the Future campaign launched

The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums has launched its annual Gateway to the Future appeal to raise money for special projects and daily operations. HPLM seeks to raise $115,000 this year. This annual appeal is very important because it helps maintain the Hayes Home, Museum, Library, Carriage House and 25 acres of grounds and allows the facility to offer services and programs to the public.

This campaign also would help the facility make improvements to the White House gates and fence around Spiegel Grove, repave driveways and parking lots, make improvements to genealogical resources and buy equipment to videotape webinars, lectures and other events for distance learning through HPLM’s website.

Members of HPLM’s Development Committee are the chairmen of this campaign.

Please see Gateway, page 7

NEW CENTURY 1916-2016 NEW VISION
Along with all of the exciting centennial events happening this year, 2016 also marks the year the Hayes Presidential Library and Museums begins its reaccreditation process, which happens every 10 years. The American Alliance of Museums accredits museums in the United States that meet high standards of operation. Accreditation is based on 38 characteristics of excellence in seven categories: Public Trust and Accountability, Mission and Planning, Leadership and Organizational Structure, Collections Stewardship, Education and Interpretation, Financial Stability and Facilities and Risk Management. We are well positioned to move through the reaccreditation process with all the exciting projects we have in the works. The staff was amused that one of the self-study questions asked us to explain a situation where we took a risk, made a change or did something innovative. We felt that there wasn’t enough space on their form to answer the question! It feels like everything we are doing is risky and innovative, what with our new name and logo, funky design for the new main entrance and complete overhaul of our exhibits and website all financed by the largest capital campaign we have ever conducted.

It is wonderful to explain to the Accreditation Commission how we are continuing to push the envelope, exceeding high standards in order to better meet the needs of the public. We cannot wait for you to see all the changes this spring!

Centennial, continued from cover
President Rutherford B. Hayes’ books, papers for research and see historical artifacts he and his family collected.

The Centennial Celebration is the culmination of more than two years of planning. Staff, volunteers and community partners have worked hard to provide an unforgettable weekend of events to mark this momentous occasion. Events will take place Saturday, May 28, through Monday, May 30.

The celebration will start Saturday, May 28, when HPLM reopens the museum to the public after its $1.3 million renovation, including installation of new exhibit galleries. The galleries will be more interactive and better tell the story of President Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes. They will use more photos and share more of the Hayes family’s history through their own words, including letters and the president’s diary entries.

In the afternoon, visitors won’t want to miss seeing members of The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands march from downtown Fremont to Spiegel Grove and then perform on the grounds. President Hayes is connected to OSU because he helped found the university and was later president of OSU’s board of trustees.

HPLM will pay homage to President Hayes’ impressive beard, which he grew during the Civil War and kept for the rest of his life, with a beard contest on the Hayes Home verandah. Entrants will compete to see who grew the longest beard in 100 days, whose beard most resembles Hayes’ beard and who has the craziest beard.

A brass quintet, including Fremont native Amy Horn, from “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band will play on the verandah. The band was established in 1798 by an act of Congress, and it is believed to have played at every presidential inauguration since Thomas Jefferson took office. The band’s mission is to provide music for the president of the United States and the commandant of the Marine Corps.

The Centennial Ceremony featuring Roberts begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 29. Afterward, there will be a festive barbecue on the grounds of Spiegel Grove. Presale tickets will be available for the barbecue, and there will be other food vendors on site.

On Monday, May 30, Terra State Community College in Fremont will dedicate its Rutherford B. Hayes Skilled Trades Center. The college chose to name the center after Hayes because he was a champion of education and training in skilled trades.
Centennial Celebration Schedule

Saturday, May 28
9:30 a.m. – Ribbon-cutting ceremony for grand reopening of museum after $1.3 million renovation. The museum will be open until 5 p.m.
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Hayes Home open.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Family activities and games for kids.
1 p.m. – Members of The Ohio State University Marching and Athletic Bands marching from downtown Fremont to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums at Spiegel Grove. Co-Sponsored by City of Fremont and the Knight Baldwin Charitable Foundation, Chris & Mary Knight and Charles Knight.
1:30 to 2 p.m. – Members of OSU Marching and Athletic Bands play at Spiegel Grove.
2:15 p.m. – Beard contest. Sponsored by Mayle, Ray & Mayle, LLC.
3 to 4:30 p.m. – A brass quintet from “The President’s Own” U.S. Marine Band plays on the Hayes Home verandah. Bring your own chair or blanket.
3:45 p.m. – Birthday cake will be served.

Sunday, May 29
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Hayes Home and Museum open.
11 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Family activities, including games for kids.
1 to 2:30 p.m. – Centennial ceremony on the Hayes Home verandah. ABC News and National Public Radio analyst Cokie Roberts will be the keynote speaker. Bring your own chair or blanket. There will also be a wreath-laying ceremony at President Hayes’ tomb.
2:30 to 4:30 p.m. – Barbecue and festive celebration.

Monday, May 30
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Hayes Home and Museum open.
Noon – Dedication ceremony for the Rutherford B. Hayes Skilled Trades Center at Terra State Community College, 2830 Napoleon Road, Fremont. Those who attend can take self-guided tours of the building after the ceremony.

Additional funding for centennial events provided by Mary B. Wonderly, M.D.; Sandusky County Convention & Visitors Bureau; ProMedica Memorial Hospital; Catawba Island Brewing Company.

Hayes Easter Egg Roll
Children ages 3-10 can experience a White House tradition at the home of the man who created it, President Rutherford B. Hayes.

What: Hayes Easter Egg Roll
When: 2 to 3:30 p.m. March 26
Where: Lawn of the Hayes Home at Spiegel Grove
Admission: Three hard-boiled, colored eggs

Kids receive balloons, treats and a pass to the Hayes Home or museum. The Easter Bunny will visit, and there will be face-painting and crafts. Sponsored by Root’s Poultry and Welly’s Horseradish and Seasonings.

Verandah Concert schedule
Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy live music on the grounds of Spiegel Grove during summer Verandah Concerts, which start June 15.

The concerts are performed from the 80-foot-long verandah of the historic Hayes Home.

An old-fashioned ice cream social starts at 6:45 p.m., and performances begin at 7 p.m. The concerts are sponsored by the Fremont Federal Credit Union with additional funding provided by Mosser Construction, Inc.

The schedule is as follows:
• June 15 – The Lake Plains Chorus, performing men’s barbershop music
• June 29 – Bridge County Bluegrass Band
• July 13 – The Zenobia Highlanders, playing bagpipe music
• July 27 – Matthew Ball, playing ragtime and boogie woogie piano
• Aug. 10 – The Rev. Robert Jones and Matt Watroba, playing American roots music
• Aug. 24 – Performers to be determined

In the case of inclement weather, the concerts will be canceled. Updates will be available at 419-332-2081, at rbhayes.org, on Facebook at facebook.com/hayespresidentialcenter and on Twitter at @rbhayespres.
Cokie Roberts was a toddler when her father returned to Washington D.C. for his second term in Congress.

She grew up with an insider’s view of the U.S. government and politics as she watched her father – and later in life, her mother, who also served in Congress – work to help solve major issues that affected the country and its future.

Politics always held her interest, and she pursued a career in journalism that has spanned more than four decades, crossed TV, radio and print media and resulted in several best-selling books.

“I’m a patriot,” said Roberts, who is a political analyst for ABC News and National Public Radio. “First, I’m in a position where I’ve got a front-row seat to history. Second, I have an opportunity to explain to voters what is going on in the country and the world.

“It’s a great privilege and also a great responsibility because people need information from which to make decisions.”

Few people have seen the American political system as closely as Roberts has.

She has covered every presidential election since 1980 – including the primaries in the 2016 race – and has been involved in presidential elections in some way since 1972. She has interviewed numerous U.S. presidents and first ladies. And she has researched and written historical books about the women who helped found the United States.

Covering each election was interesting in its own way, she said. She pointed to Ronald Reagan’s election in 1980, which brought a shift in power toward the Republicans, the contested 2000 election of George W. Bush and the 2008 election of Barack Obama as some of the most memorable and unusual.

She finds the parallels between the 2000 election and the 1876 election – when Rutherford B. Hayes eventually won the presidency – fascinating. Like Bush, Hayes did not win the popular vote, and there was controversy over ballots in some states. In Hayes’ case, a special commission determined he would be president instead of his Democratic opponent, Samuel Tilden.

As in 2000, the 1876 election also caused turmoil, especially because it happened during a time when the United States wasn’t far removed from the Civil War and trying to reunify and heal, she said. The country also didn’t learn who would be its president until a few days before the scheduled inauguration, and both Hayes and Tilden came to Washington, D.C. Hayes actually took his oath of office privately in the White House a few days before his inauguration ceremony.

“That must have been incredibly difficult,” Roberts said. “I saw it in 2000 when we did have a decision before inauguration day.”

Veteran journalist Cokie Roberts has written best-selling books about women in history and other topics.
Roberts, continued from page 4

Although Roberts has visited several presidential libraries – including those of Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan – her speech at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums’ Centennial Ceremony will mark her first trip to Spiegel Grove.

A scholar of important women in American history, Roberts is curious to see how the new museum exhibit galleries portray First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes. Although history has somewhat reduced her to her stance on temperance, she advocated for many causes, including veterans’ rights and helping orphans.

“She was a very active and significant partner to President Hayes,” Roberts said. “I certainly hope she gets her due.”

During the war, I understand she would sometimes visit with the troops. There is nothing that would endear someone more.”

Roberts has always had an interest in women who helped shape the U.S. government.

“I saw my mother and her cohorts being incredibly influential and very powerful,” she said. “I figured that the women of the founding, which is so crucial in our history, had to be at least that influential. I didn’t know anything about them because very little had been written about them.”

She started researching them and decided to write a book about them. The result was “Founding Mothers,” published in 2004 and a New York Times best-seller. She also published a children’s version of the book.

Although she has worked in many forms of media, Roberts sees the strengths in each and doesn’t favor one over another. “The visual imaging of TV is something you just can’t match,” she said. “The intimacy of radio and the power of the voices is enormous. In print media, you can give information and complicated ideas and people can go back and reread it.”

“Nowadays, young people coming into journalism are expected to work on many platforms. I’ve just been doing it a lot longer.”
When Webb Hayes IV and Burke Hayes Sr. walked into the Hayes Home a few weeks ago, they were overwhelmed with memories of their childhood. They remember playing ping-pong on the verandah and shuffleboard and pool in the basement.

Upstairs, the third-floor, dormitory-style rooms where they stayed haven’t changed much. And the second-floor bedrooms, which were not part of the 2012 house restoration but are on the public tour, are mostly unchanged, Webb said.

“Every room brought back some memories,” said Webb, who had not been to the home in about 20 years. “When I was there, I had at one point or another slept in most of the bedrooms on the second floor. We had friends come visit. My parents always had guests.”

Webb, Burke and their brothers, Stephen and Jeff, were the last generation to live in the house, which was first occupied by their great-great-grandparents, President Rutherford B. Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes. The brothers’ parents left the house and turned it over to the state of Ohio in 1965.

Webb and Burke returned in January to film a video that will be included with video of other Hayes family members in an interactive exhibit in the Hayes Family Gallery. In the video, they share their recollections of growing up in the house.

“It didn’t feel the least bit strange to be there because it felt like being home,” Burke said. “Just walking in the door, I had a complete recall – we both did – of the house because we spent many, many years there for long periods of time.”

They plan to attend the Hayes Family Reunion, which will take place during the Centennial Celebration over Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30).

“My greatest joy will be introducing Fremont and Spiegel Grove to my children and grandchildren,” Burke said.

Webb Hayes IV and Burke Hayes Sr. share memories of growing up in the Hayes Home during a recent visit.

In honor of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums’ centennial, the Catawba Island Brewing Company is making a special beer and having a fundraiser to benefit HPLM. CIBC will release its new Presidential Ale during the fundraiser April 1 at the brewery’s tasting room in Port Clinton.

From 5 to 10 p.m. that day, the brewery will donate $1 from each beer – the Presidential Ale and other CIBC brews – purchased at the tasting room to HPLM. The event will feature live entertainment, 50/50 raffles and raffles for gift baskets from the brewery and HPLM. Food also will be available.

The Presidential Ale will then be available throughout the summer, and it will be offered on Sunday, May 29, during HPLM’s centennial barbecue from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. In addition to offering it on tap, the brewery will sell 100 limited-release 22-ounce bottles of Presidential Ale. A portion of sales will be donated to HPLM.

“We’ve had so much success in the past doing beer for special events,” CIBC President Mike Roder said. “We felt like it made sense to make one for the presidential library.”

Brewery employees are researching President Hayes to find out what ingredients they could use in the ale that might have ties to him, Roder said. For ideas, they want to find out what type of foods he liked and what type of drinks were served at his grandparents’ tavern in Vermont.

“We are interested in digging into his life and trying to really tailor a beer around him,” Roder said.
Gateway to the Future annual appeal is your opportunity to fund the restoration of the White House Gates at Spiegel Grove. Our Gateway to the Future goal of $115,000 will fund two special projects listed below and several others; along with our day-to-day programming and operations.

Five sets of original White House Gates were donated in 1928 by Congress for use at the entranceways to Spiegel Grove – site of the nation’s first presidential library. We appreciate the persistence of our founder, Col. Webb C. Hayes, second son of the president, for securing these priceless artifacts. Did you know that it took three Acts of Congress to secure the donation of the White House Gates to Spiegel Grove?

With your financial support we can repaint and restore the White House Gates to the level of beauty they once were.

Gil Gonzalez, head of photographic resources, shares his department’s need to purchase equipment and software to video lectures, speeches and special events. “New imaging equipment will enable us to record public events and classes, but here’s the exciting part: we’ll create a series of short demos that highlight our book, manuscript and artifact collections,” Gonzalez said. “We’ll share expertise and show areas that are behind the scenes. We hope this interests everyone, whether they’ve ever been here or not.”

We need your support of our annual campaign, Gateway to the Future. Ways to donate:

• Return the campaign form.
• Donate online at rbhayes.org.

Read more about the challenges of obtaining the White House Gates in a new book being published for the Centennial Celebration. “A Son’s Dream: Colonel Webb C. Hayes and the Founding of the Nation’s First Presidential Library” by Meghan Wonderly. The book will be available for purchase Memorial Day weekend.

THANK YOU for your support of last year’s campaign. We exceeded our goal and raised $128,000.

Last Year’s Campaign Success helped us:

• Reopen on Mondays – Increasing tours and moving staff to full-time employment
• New website – to be launched this spring
• Beautification of Spiegel Grove for the centennial

Gateway, continued from cover

“Spiegel Grove and the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums are splendid, living testaments to the history of our community and our nation,” said Laurie Miller Sistrunk, Development Committee member. “Like all living things, they must be nourished and cared for in order to survive and flourish.”

The White House gates found at entrances to Spiegel Grove once protected the White House in Washington, D.C., and they were at the White House when Rutherford B. Hayes was president. They were installed in 1871 and meant to control horse and buggy traffic. By 1920, they had outlived their usefulness to a public increasingly traveling in cars and were considered a hazard. Col. Webb C. Hayes, founder of the HPLM, sought to bring the gates to Spiegel Grove. Although President Warren G. Harding liked the idea, Congressional approval was needed. After six years of dispute and wrangling, the gates arrived at Spiegel Grove in 1928.

Money raised through Gateway to the Future would pay for restoring and painting these gates.

“The White House gates are iconic showpieces of American and local history,” said Richard Smith, HPLM Development Committee chairman and board of trustees member. “Their restoration is long overdue.”

Funds raised through the campaign also would help HPLM repave parking lots and driveways, many of which are marked with potholes.

With updated equipment, the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums could expand its video offerings.

The White House gates at Spiegel Grove.
The Statesman is the quarterly newsletter of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums.

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We Love Parties!
Celebrate with us 100 years of America’s first presidential library, May 28-30.
rbhayes.org