

PLACE TO OFFER “FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR”

The **Place** WILL PRESENT “Franklin and Eleanor” at **date, time**. The living history program will be performed by Dr. Gary M. Gray as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Erma Stewart as Eleanor Roosevelt. The program will take place in the **room**.

While both actors will appear together on stage, each will perform independently of the other. As President Roosevelt, Gray will portray FDR at the Little White House in GA on April 8, 1945, shortly after his Yalta visit with Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill and just days before his death.

From Eleanor’s private getaway home in Hyde Park, NY, in 1948, Stewart will portray Roosevelt’s widow, reminiscing on their life together, the ideals she courageously championed as First Lady, and her accomplishments in the United Nations regarding human rights.

Dr. Gray is the author of *MR. PRESIDENTS: Voices of Freedom, Equality, and Dignity* (The Presidential Press, ISBN: 0-9774194-0-1), now available at bookstores everywhere. Along with TR, the book features nine historical “moments in time” featuring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt (with Erma Stewart as the first lady), and General Douglas MacArthur.

Gray is an historian, writer, and actor renowned for his brilliant and historically accurate portrayals of seven of America’s greatest citizens. His performances are expertly prepared in the Chautauqua-style, capturing the true character and essence of the characters he portrays. Gray holds graduate degrees from Phillips University, Southern Methodist, and Notre Dame, alone with a doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

Gray says “this particular format is unique in that Erma and I will not interact with each other even though we will be onstage together. Instead, we will present our own character’s perspectives and their reflections on the life and times of these two extraordinary Americans. To my knowledge, this has not been accomplished in the Chautauqua format before.”

According to Gray, “a re-enactment of FDR is also rare because of his confinement to a wheelchair as a result of the polio he contracted in 1921. He did not wish to be seen in public, thereby making it difficult to stage an FDR appearance. The problem is solved in this case by bringing FDR in early without fanfare in a wheel chair.. Since the FDR portrayal at the Little White House in Warm Springs, GA, and he is not talking to an audience, the process works. It probably is helpful to know the President of the United States from 1933-1945 could not walk.”

Stewart is a retired high school media director. She had taken her award winning performance as Eleanor Roosevelt to Oklahoma, Missouri, California, North Carolina, and Michigan. In addition to ER, Stewart portrays Carrie Nation, the hatchet bearing temperance crusader.

Stewart says Eleanor is “a model for our time. I love it when the audience asks me

questions about Eleanor because the things she said and did are universal and relate to current events.”

Host directors’ name suggests *“the people of city or area will be riveted by this “Franklin and Eleanor” presentation. Both Gray and Stewart have carefully researched their characters. Together they present a two-person play that allows each to talk about the other.*

You will see FDR as he deals with issues of that moment: the atomic bomb, Jewish concentration camps, Japanese Kamikaze pilots at Okinawa, Lend-lease, starvation in Holland, and plans for the occupation of Japan, then have a moment of tenderness on the phone with Lucy Mercer, and a “planning” call to Eleanor. He is to die just four days later.

Stewart has developed all the mannerisms of the former First Lady. You’ll see Eleanor as she talks about the Human Rights Charter she championed through the United Nations, and as she looks back at her marriage with FDR, especially the affair with Lucy Mercer. Ultimately we will see the fabric of a woman destined to be known as the “First Lady of the World.”

*It was a remarkably awkward yet successful marriage that was key for America during the great crises of the Great Depression and World War II. Please plan to join us on **date at place.**”*