

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation

New Director for Kennedy Library

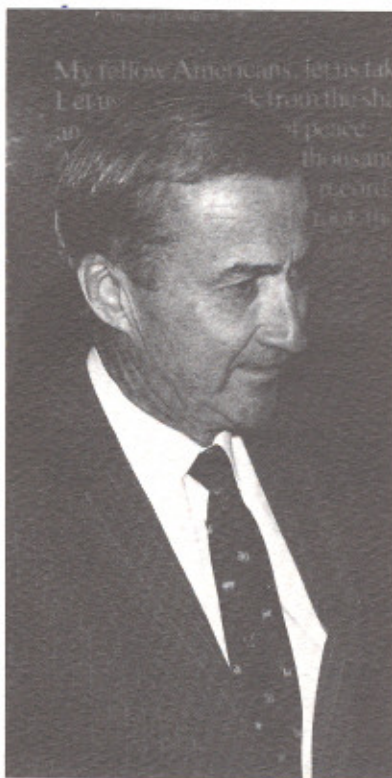
Charles U. Daly, a former aide to President Kennedy, was recently appointed the new director of the Kennedy Library. The announcement was made by Frank Burke, Acting Archivist of the United States, at a press conference held at the Library on Friday, November 6.

"I was honored to have served President Kennedy in that White House of long ago," Daly said. "I am even more honored by this opportunity to become part of an institution that has done so much to carry forward his ideals."

"We are all very pleased with the selection of Mr. Daly," said Caroline Kennedy, who spoke at the press conference. "His academic experience combined with a broad knowledge of government and community affairs will add a new and enriching dimension to the Library's administration."

Mr. Daly was born in Dublin, Ireland on May 29, 1927 and is a naturalized U.S. citizen. He served in the Navy during World War II and in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, earning both a Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Mr. Daly graduated from Yale University in 1949. After



attending the Columbia School of Journalism for two years, he became a congressional fellow to Stewart Udall, then a Democratic congressman from Arizona, and John F. Kennedy, then a Democratic senator from Massachusetts. His distinguished career includes serving as the Staff Assistant to President John F. Kennedy for Congressional Liaison between 1961 and 1964 and as the Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Harvard University from 1971 through 1976.

Most recently, Mr. Daly was the President of the Joyce Foundation in Chicago, an organization with assets of over \$200 million which awards grants to tax-exempt associations in the fields of conservation, culture

and education.

Former Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. said, "I have known Chuck for many years and can attest to his many fine qualities. In my many years in Congress, I have had the pleasure of working with and becoming personally acquainted with many great men. Truly, Chuck measures up in every way."

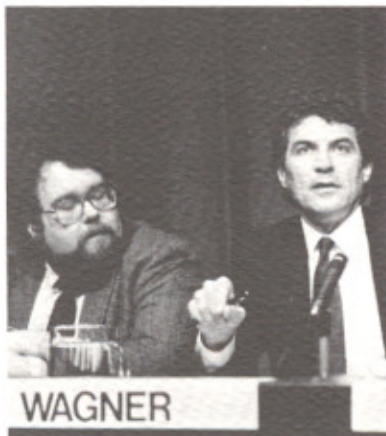
Mr. Daly succeeds John F. Stewart, the Library's acting director since January of 1986.

Since its opening in October of 1979 at its scenic harbor location on Boston's Columbia Point Peninsula, The Kennedy Library has drawn over 2,300,000 visitors to its museum of the life and times of John and Robert Kennedy, more than 280,000 to its evening educational functions, and over 15,000 researchers to its archival collections.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy said, "Chuck Daly is an exceptional choice for Jack's Library. He brings a distinguished record of public service and philanthropy to the position, and I look forward to working closely with him in the years ahead."

Mr. Daly will assume the directorship on January 1.

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Evening Forums at the Kennedy Library

Again this fall, the Library's evening forums generated lively discussion and debate on a variety of historical and political issues.

At "The Housing Crisis in Boston and America," urban planners, real estate developers and community activists examined public policy, development plans, tenants' concerns and the need for affordable housing. The "Religion in American Politics" session reminded us that the constitutional separation of church and state has not always kept religion out of politics.

The twentieth anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli War renewed debate over the West Bank and Gaza strip. Scholars and government officials reviewed the past two decades of Israel's history—her internal politics, relations with neighbors and role in the global arena. In conjunction with the Library's "Women at Work" exhibit, area women discussed career choices, challenges in the work place, and the struggle for acceptance in non-traditional jobs.

At "The 1988 Presidential Race: The Role of the Media,"

participants scrutinized recent disclosures about political candidates and the nominating process. In his keynote talk, William A. Henry III, associate editor of *Time* magazine, attributed five factors to current media vigor.

Watergate, according to Mr. Henry, was a "shaping event for many editors who were either participants or in the formative years of their careers." A second factor is Ronald Reagan's skill at "the monarchic aspect of the presidency," especially in his first term when he made people feel good about being American again. Mr. Reagan's mastery of the symbolic aspect of the job has today's candidates following his formula.

Mr. Henry added that because many people feel they can do little to effect government, they do not vote. Americans prefer government by representatives instead of direct participation. Since campaign issues rarely become issues of governance, citizens feel further removed from policy making and influence. The fourth factor, said Mr. Henry, is the decline of political parties, primarily resulting from the lengthened primary season. The power of the press has increased due to the nomination procedure which has been removed from the hands of the parties' political bosses and given to the candidates' personal organizations.

The final reason, the women's movement, has brought personal life into the public agenda, added Mr. Henry. A candidate's behavior in private matters can become part of the public domain. Mr. Henry concluded that the issue of character dominates current political debate because of the effect of the Iran-Contra scandal on the

Reagan presidency. Revelations of poor management and bad thinking have led the press to emphasize character and look for prudence among the contenders for the Oval Office.

The forums, attended by concerned citizens of all ages, set the mood for lively and exciting debate of political and other issues. Our series on the elections next fall promises to continue the discussion.

JFK Scholar Program

The University of Massachusetts at Boston has established a new program under which it will annually select a distinguished post-doctoral scholar who will use the Kennedy Library to research materials as well as lead a research seminar at the University.

Dr. Richard D. Mahoney of Phoenix, Arizona, has been named the first John F. Kennedy Scholar. Dr. Mahoney is well known to the Kennedy Library because his distinguished book, "JFK: Ordeal in Africa" was based largely on research in the Kennedy Archives. Also, Dr. Mahoney's father, William Mahoney, served as the Ambassador to Ghana under President Kennedy.

John Stewart, acting director of the Kennedy Library, said, "We are excited about the opportunities now opening for more student research under the direction of Dr. Mahoney, who has a distinguished background both as a scholar and as a political activist, a combination that fits well with the goals and purposes of the Library."

Students Learn That a Great Life Can Make for Great Learning

At the Library, where John F. Kennedy is "the major character," it takes some effort when working with visiting classes to remember that JFK's life and presidency do not constitute a major part of their studies at school. Given the amount of material they are expected to cover each year in social studies, how could it be otherwise?

Therefore, when valuable time is taken out from classroom work to pay a visit to our museum, it is up to the Library education staff to tie this experience as closely as possible to the school curriculum. In many instances the connections are obvious: when the class is doing a unit on presidents, for example, or on government, or reading biographies of famous Americans.

But what about the many classes that come to the Library while being involved in a study of Ancient Greece? Isn't it stretching things a bit far to try and make the connection with a man who lived over two thousand years later? Experience has shown that this isn't the case at all. The "stretching," in fact, was done by JFK himself—who had incorporated so much of the classical heritage into the fabric of his life and presidency. Searching for evidence of this heritage during

their visit here can be a challenging assignment for students—and one which gives focus and relevance to their field trip.

In the pavilion, for example, we have a panoramic view of the city which became known as "the Athens of America." What similarities could there have been between the Athens of 500 B.C. and the Boston of John Kennedy's boyhood, or the boyhood of his grandpa, Mayor John Fitzgerald, who was famous for mastery of the cadences and phrases of classical oratory?

So much of our political vocabulary is rooted in the Greek city-states of antiquity, in the "polis" as they called it, which is the source for our word, "politics." And, looking over toward the "Victura," and picturing JFK's hand on the tiller, steering this small boat with the same verve and confidence with which he steered the "ship of the state," we have an image similar to that which the self-confident, seafaring Greeks must have had in mind when they used "kybernan," meaning "to steer," to express the essence of what leading the polis required. And this is where our word "government" comes from.

In the design of the building itself, which was meant to capture in its monumental geometric forms and pleasing proportions something of John F. Kennedy's spirit, something of the Greek spirit was captured too. Can you

see the principle of the "Golden Mean," so vital to the Greeks around which much of the culture was organized, expressed in the proportions of the concrete slabs in the Archives tower? Can you see this same principle at work in JFK's vision of "an America which will not be afraid of grace and beauty . . . in which poetry and power, physical and intellectual development, artistic and scientific achievement would all be part of a dynamic and balanced society?" Can you find evidence in the museum of his efforts to promote this vision as president?

Another avenue for exploration is opened up in considering to what extent JFK's pursuit of a political career, and of the presidency, was a pursuit of happiness, as the Greeks understood it.

"Happiness, as defined by the Greeks, is 'the exercise of vital powers along lines of excellence in a life affording them scope.'"

—JFK, 1963

With this definition in mind, students can investigate the question of just what powers and abilities *can* be exercised by a political leader, what kind of scope is afforded—especially in serving as president? What *are* the satisfactions of a life in politics, which JFK himself called "the greatest of all professions?"

It is always a challenge to make visits here as meaningful as possible to schoolchildren, but many such successful experiences have led to a new appreciation for the significance of John F. Kennedy's life and vision in the context of basic humanities education—and education for humanity as well.



Photo by Costa Tschellariou

A Look Back: The Cuban Missile Crisis to the Limited Test Ban Treaty

On October 21, the Library marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Cuban Missile crisis by releasing to the public an eighty-two page transcript of four hours and forty minutes of recordings made in the White House on October 27, 1962—the day in which a United States U-2 plane was shot down over Cuba by a Soviet-made SAM missile killing the pilot.

The meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council took place on the last full day of the Missile Crisis. The next morning, on October 28, to the great relief of the entire world, Premier Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union would withdraw all offensive nuclear missiles from Cuba.

This had been the first direct test involving nuclear weapons between the Soviet Union and the United States. The transcript capturing the discussions of that tense October day was prepared by McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to President Kennedy for national security affairs, and donated to the Library as part of his personal papers.

The attention paid to the transcripts by the media has primarily focused on President Kennedy's insistence on seeking a compromise involving the removal of American missiles from Turkey. The President repeatedly resisted pressure to initiate military action. Ultimately, his caution and statesmanship prevailed.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a turning point in the life and presidency of John F. Kennedy. In June 1963, he



delivered the commencement address at American University in Washington, D.C. During that address, President Kennedy insisted that Cold War stereotypes had to be overcome and called for a world in which all children, from the East and the West, could grow up in peace and security. By the summer of 1963 the Limited Test Ban Treaty was being negotiated and ratified.

This legacy of peace will be celebrated by the Kennedy Library over the next year with a series of programs for students, teachers, scholars and the general public in the area of nuclear issues and arms control. In this way, the Library can help to carry forward the most significant part of his living legacy for peace to the people of the United States and the world.

"I speak to you tonight in a spirit of hope. Eighteen years ago the advent of nuclear weapons changed the course of the world as well as the war. Since that time, all mankind has been struggling to escape from the darkening prospects of mass destruction. . . Yesterday, a shaft of light cut into the darkness. Negotiations were concluded in Moscow on a treaty to ban all nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. For the first time, an agreement has been reached on bringing the forces of nuclear destruction under international control. . . The achievement of this goal is not a victory for one side; it is a victory for mankind.

Odds & Ends

Found in the Archives . . .

While most of the researchers who come to the Library to use its collections are serious students examining issues and events, a remarkable portion of the inquiries are of such detail as to warrant the designation of "Kennedy trivia."

Did President Kennedy have any Italian ancestry? (A definitive answer is not possible, but many genealogists have linked the Fitzgeralds to the Ghenardini family in eleventh century Florence.) What was JFK's Navy serial number? (116071/1109.) What was his address at Harvard? (Winthrop House, F-14.) What brand of wristwatch did he wear? (Lord Elgin.)

These inquiries come from a variety of sources. A television or movie production researcher may need a detail of dress or furnishing to set a scene. Quiz show writers want to authenticate possible questions. People of all ages call to settle a fine point of dinner table or earnest tavern discussion. As soon as staff begin to feel they have encountered every possible question, a new and different one comes along!

Special Exhibit

Christmas Peace. . . A special exhibit on display in the Changing Exhibits Gallery at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum through Sunday, January 24, 1988. Featured are toys and dolls received by John and Caroline when they were children in the White House and Christmas gifts to President and Mrs. Kennedy from all over the world.

Men no longer maintain that disarmament must await the settlement of all disputes, for disarmament must be a part of any permanent settlement. And man may no longer pretend that the quest for disarmament is a sign of weakness, for in a spiraling arms race a nation's security may be shrinking even as its arms increase.

President John F. Kennedy
September 25, 1961

Honorary Fellows Speak Out . . .

In 1965, I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malawi. . . a small country in southern Africa. I taught secondary school mathematics. During school breaks volunteers were often invited by their students to visit their villages. This was an adventure of the highest order (as) many students lived 50, even 100 miles from the school.

I went home with (student) Grant Chiocha. We took an all day bus ride and after getting off the bus walked several hours through the

bush to the village. The trek went on forever, through corn field after corn field, until we reached a remote, isolated village of mud huts. That evening Grant came to me and said, ". . . the old men of the village are here. They want to speak with you, to know why you came."

In a little hut about five old men were seated. I started speaking. In Peace Corps training we had learned Chinyanja, the major language of Malawi. My Chinyanja was terrible—enough to say "Hello my name is. . ."

. . . As I spoke Grant wisely translated. I said that I had come to teach in the secondary schools. And then, . . . I said, "President Kennedy had sent us here to teach in the schools." I was dumbstruck at the response. In this mud hut with a thatched roof, in this remote village in an unknown country, the men nodded and murmured, "Yes, President Kennedy of America."

President Kennedy had reached here. It is a moment I shall never forget.

Fred Gorsen
Arlington, Virginia



Best Sellers Series

Renowned economist John Kenneth Galbraith opened the Library's first "Best Sellers" series with a timely discussion of his new book, *Economics in Perspective*. Mr. Galbraith surveyed the history of economic thought and behavior and analyzed current economic policy which led to the recent turmoil in the world financial markets. Ambassador to India under President Kennedy, Mr. Galbraith shared his expert insight and experience as a public servant and economist. One observer commented, "He educated us about economic theory while entertaining us with anecdotes."

The 1986 congressional candidacy of Joseph P. Kennedy III was followed by

writer Gerald Sullivan and reporter Michael Kenney. In their recently published book, *The Race for the Eighth: The Making of a Congressional Campaign: Joe Kennedy's Successful Pursuit of a Political Legacy*, Messrs. Sullivan and Kenney trace the 1986 campaign in the district which boasted President Kennedy and House Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill as its former representatives. The authors compared the district, electorate and circumstances during the elections of John and his nephew Joe Kennedy.

In late November, former Governor John Volpe discussed the recently released, *John Volpe: The Life of the Son of Immigrants*, by Kathleen Kilgore. Mr. Volpe attributed his spectacular rise in business and politics to the diligence and discipline he

learned at home from his immigrant parents. Throughout his long career—Federal Highway Administrator, Governor of Massachusetts, Secretary of Transportation, Ambassador to Italy—Mr. Volpe always took pride in his work and the efforts of his colleagues in public service. The appointment as Ambassador to Italy fulfilled Mr. Volpe's dream by combining his devotion to the people of America and his love of the land of his forefathers.

The "Best Sellers" series will continue during the months of March and April when authors will discuss their recently published books on issues of American government, history and politics. It is an exciting opportunity to exchange views with public leaders and the writers who record our history for future generations.

Kennedy Library Events

February

A special exhibit entitled "Cead Mile Failte—A Hundred Thousand Welcomes" will open. The exhibit focuses on President Kennedy's historic visit to Ireland in 1963 and will be on display through March.

April

A day-long conference commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will be the first of several events throughout 1988 celebrating this significant step toward world peace. A special exhibit will open on April 3 featuring an art exchange between Soviet and Boston children and will run through June 4.

Museum Hours

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New Year's Day

For specific information,
please call the Kennedy
Library at 929-4500.

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