

Coolidge Club #18

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News from the Notch

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Fire at the Forbes Library

The Coolidge Foundation was saddened and shocked to learn that an arsonist set a fire at the [Forbes Library in Northampton, Massachusetts](#), the repository of many of President and Mrs. Coolidge's papers and effects. According to police, the arsonist started the fire with lighter fluid at about 8:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14. A library custodian and a patron used fire extinguishers to put out the blaze, but it damaged the white oak banister, chestnut paneling, and carpeting on the stairs.

It will cost \$150,000 and take three weeks to clean the library's second floor to restore

it to public use. Fortunately, the City of Northampton's fire insurance will cover these costs.

Earlier this week I spoke with our good friend Julie Bartlett Nelson at the Forbes Library to inquire about the status of the Coolidge Collection. She assured me that **nothing from the collection has been damaged**, and the museum and everything else on the second floor of the building will be thoroughly cleaned by professionals over the course of the next few weeks.

You may be wondering how the Forbes Library relates to the Coolidge legacy. As you may know, **President and Mrs. Coolidge lived most of their adult lives in Northampton, Massachusetts**. It was to Northampton that the president went to read law after finishing his undergraduate education, and Mrs. Coolidge arrived in Northampton to teach at the Clarke School for the Deaf after her graduation from the University of Vermont in 1902. It was in Northampton that the Coolidges' two sons, John and Calvin, Jr., were born. President Coolidge served the City of Northampton as a city councilman, city solicitor, mayor, clerk of courts, state representative, and state senator, before moving on to the lieutenant governorship and governorship of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And it was to Northampton that the Coolidges returned in March 1929 after the conclusion of eight years as the first and second couple in the land.

The President began donating documents and memorabilia to the Forbes Library as early as 1920, and continued to do so until he died in January 1933. At the conclusion of his presidency he sent his personal library from the White House to the Forbes Library. That gift included the famous Howard Chandler Christy portraits of the president and his wife, and the famous electric horse he used for exercise. The library was established as the permanent home for the Coolidge Collection in 1956, when Mrs. Coolidge and the Trustees of the Forbes Library requested that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts establish a "Calvin Coolidge Memorial Room" as a perpetual tribute to the life of President Calvin Coolidge. Today, the Forbes Library is the largest repository of primary source material on President Calvin Coolidge, and the only public library in the country to house a presidential collection.

We at the Coolidge Foundation are very grateful that nobody was injured in the fire, and wish the best to our colleagues at the Forbes Library as they continue the restoration efforts.

*--Rushad L. Thomas
Program and Editorial Associate*

*The trustees of the
Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation
invite you to the Foundation's*



Annual Summer Gala

August 2, 2014 • 5:30 PM



*with keynote remarks
"Can Democracy Survive
in Today's Partisan Environment?"
by James H. Douglas
80th Governor of Vermont*

*under the tent at the
President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site
3780 Route 100A, Plymouth Notch, Vermont*



Calvin Coolidge
CALVIN COOLIDGE PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

More information can be found on our website [HERE](#).

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
Presents

Plymouth Old Home Day

President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site
Plymouth Notch, Vermont

Saturday, August 2, 2014
10:00 AM — 4:00 PM



Join us for this century-old town tradition! Wagon rides, barbecue, craft demonstrations, cheese making at the factory, old-time fiddle music, sheep shearing, "Clara's Games" (children's activities organized by the Vermont Historical Society). Reeve Lindbergh — Vermont author and daughter of the famous aviator — speaks at 1:30. Reenactment of Calvin Coolidge's "Homestead Inaugural" at 2:47! (Reeve Lindbergh and the inaugural program are sponsored by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation.)

For more information, call 802-672-3773





Annual Meeting and Lecture by Reeve Lindbergh

A large letter dropped from the sky over Plymouth Notch in July of 1927 containing greetings from Charles Lindbergh as he made his celebratory tour over New England.

On **August 2nd at 1:30 p.m.**, Lindbergh's daughter, Reeve, will visit the Union Christian Church at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site to speak about *Family Meetings and Historical Events*. She'll describe her experiences with her own family and their relationship with the Coolidge family.

Her grandfather, Dwight Morrow, became friends with Calvin Coolidge while they were classmates at Amherst College. Their friendship continued into the time when President Coolidge welcomed her father back to the United States after the famous 1927 New York-to-Paris flight. Reeve will relate other stories in the Lindbergh family history in later years and will take questions. Some of Lindbergh's books will be for sale and she will be happy to sign books before and after her talk.

The Coolidge Foundation's Annual Meeting will take place on August 2nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Union Christian Church. All Foundation members are invited to attend.

The Coolidge Brief is Available Online!



SPRING 2014

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The Coolidge Brief

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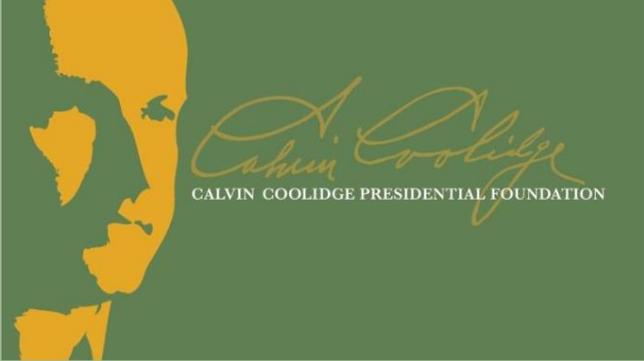
Taking Coolidge to America

Do young people know about Calvin Coolidge? That's a question many older Americans ask. Younger generations may learn tangentially about Coolidge in the classroom, but they rarely have the opportunity to experience Coolidge first hand.



Please click [HERE](#) to access the **Spring 2014** edition of the **Coolidge Brief**, our twice-yearly newsletter.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE



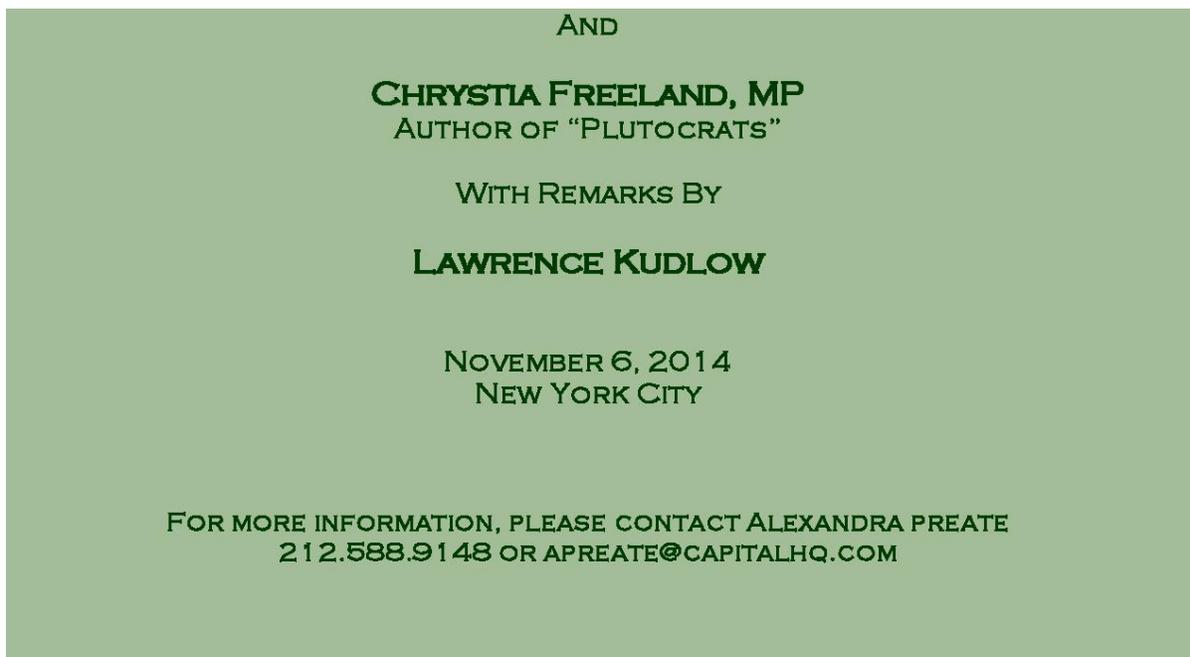
THE SECOND ANNUAL NEW YORK DINNER

THE COOLIDGE PRIZE FOR JOURNALISM

FEATURING

A DEBATE ON INCOME INEQUALITY

SENATOR PHIL GRAMM
AUTHOR OF GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS ACT



Since debate is our major program, this year's dinner will feature a debate on income inequality between former **U.S. Senator Phil Gramm** and **Chrystia Freeland, Canadian MP**. [Gramm](#), a trained economist, was a longtime U.S. Senator from Texas and the author of much financial legislation. Freeland represents Toronto in the Canadian Parliament and is the author of the major book *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*. Freeland gave a [TED talk](#) on inequality, and it has received well over a million views. **Larry Kudlow** has agreed to help moderate. At the dinner we will again award the \$20,000 **Coolidge Prize for Journalism** and the \$1,500 **Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth**. This year we will also award a runner-up Calvin Prize. Be on the lookout for more dinner information soon, but for now **SAVE THE DATE!**

Last Chance to Sign up for the Coolidge Foundation Home School Debate Camp

This summer we are pleased to launch our first annual Homeschool Debate Camp. Interested homeschool families are invited to learn more about this exciting opportunity and sign-up. All the details, [including the link to sign-up](#), are included in our program flier, below.





Join us in idyllic Plymouth Notch, Vermont for the first annual Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Homeschool Debate Camp. Plymouth Notch is the birthplace and childhood home of America's thirtieth president. It is here that Calvin Coolidge took the Oath of Office in 1923 in a ceremony administered by his father, a notary public.

This unique historical setting is an ideal place for homeschool debaters to come for top-quality debate instruction and an opportunity to win college scholarship prize money.

- Special presentations by **Amity Shlaes**, **Matthew Denhart** and **Rushad Thomas** of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation and **Roberto Salinas-Léon**, president of the Mexico Business Forum.
- **Greg Rehmke** of Economic Thinking and experienced NCFCA alumni will lead sessions for beginning and advanced students in policy, Lincoln-Douglas and extemporaneous formats.
- Students will learn how American history and economic principles can give them an edge debating their own annual topic.
- On Friday, August 1, homeschool campers will be invited to compete alongside high school debaters from the Debate Institutes of Dartmouth summer camp on an impromptu topic, with prizes in the form of college scholarship money for the winners.
- Campers will be lodged at the recently renovated Cortina Inn and Resort. **Parents are needed to Chaperone.**
- Camp begins at **11AM on July 30** at the Coolidge Foundation. The Cost is **\$150**, which includes lodging, all meals, and materials. Registration Deadline: **July 11, 2014.**
- For more information please email events@calvin-coolidge.org.

REGISTER TODAY AT

<https://coolidgefoundationdebatecamp.homeschooldebate.net>

(802) 672-3389 • www.CoolidgeFoundation.org

Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth





The Coolidge Foundation has established the **Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth**, a writing prize named after President Coolidge and Calvin, Jr. Writers aged 19 years and younger currently living in the state of Vermont are eligible to compete for the **first-place prize of \$1,500 and the runner-up prize of \$500**.

This year's Calvin Prize, the second annual, asks Vermont students to think about what factors will influence their decision to remain in Vermont or move elsewhere when the time comes. Furthermore, students are instructed to use Coolidge's *Autobiography* and other sources to address the issues they face and compare and contrast their own situation and decision-making process with that faced by Calvin Coolidge in his years as a Vermont youth. Learn more about the 2014 Calvin Prize by [clicking on this link](#).



Coolidge Foundation Updates

Coolidge needs your mind, wisdom and voice this summer! We have a very full calendar of events for summer 2014, and there are many opportunities for Coolidge Club members to get involved. Please join us **August 1 to judge our high school**

debaters. Also join us **August 2** to celebrate the inauguration of President Coolidge with the Foundation's annual meeting, a reenactment of the 1923 inauguration, and a presentation by author Reeve Lindbergh. **Let us know if you can help by emailing events@calvin-coolidge.org.**

Here's a comprehensive list of date reminders for your calendar

- **August 1: Presidential high school economic debate at Plymouth Notch.** To judge, email events@calvin-coolidge.org.
- **August 2: Coolidge Foundation's Annual Meeting** and Plymouth Old Home Day with speaker **Reeve Lindbergh**. We will also hold a **reenactment** of Coolidge's 1923 inauguration as President. Actor **Jim Cooke** will be on hand for this.
- **August 2: Annual "Under the Tent" Summer Gala at Plymouth Notch.** **Keynote address: "Can Democracy Survive in Today's Partisan Environment?" by James H. Douglas, Vermont's 80th Governor.** Tickets required. [Information is available at this link.](#)
- **August 11: Naturalization Ceremony at Plymouth Notch.** Ceremony begins at 1:00 p.m. Open to the public.



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