

Coolidge Club #24

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News from the Notch

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Autumn Reflections

Fall is a time of great beauty in New England. The leaves change colors, the air is a little cooler, and tourists come to behold the beauty that lies in these everlasting hills. Here at the Coolidge Foundation we are running full speed into the Autumn season. We are working every day to introduce President Calvin Coolidge to more and more Americans. **This exciting work is not possible without you.**

We're looking forward to assessing all of the entries for our Calvin and Coolidge prizes,

which allow talented young Vermonters and capable writers of all ages to show how the principles Coolidge stood for continue to inspire Americans today.

In the spirit of civil discourse which Calvin Coolidge embodied, we are tremendously excited about our **New York Gala Dinner** featuring an exciting debate on income inequality between **Sen. Phil Gramm and Chrystia Freeland, MP**, two highly-respected and highly capable lawmakers who know the issue inside out. We will also welcome debate Team USA and Team Canada to the dinner. We hope to see you there!

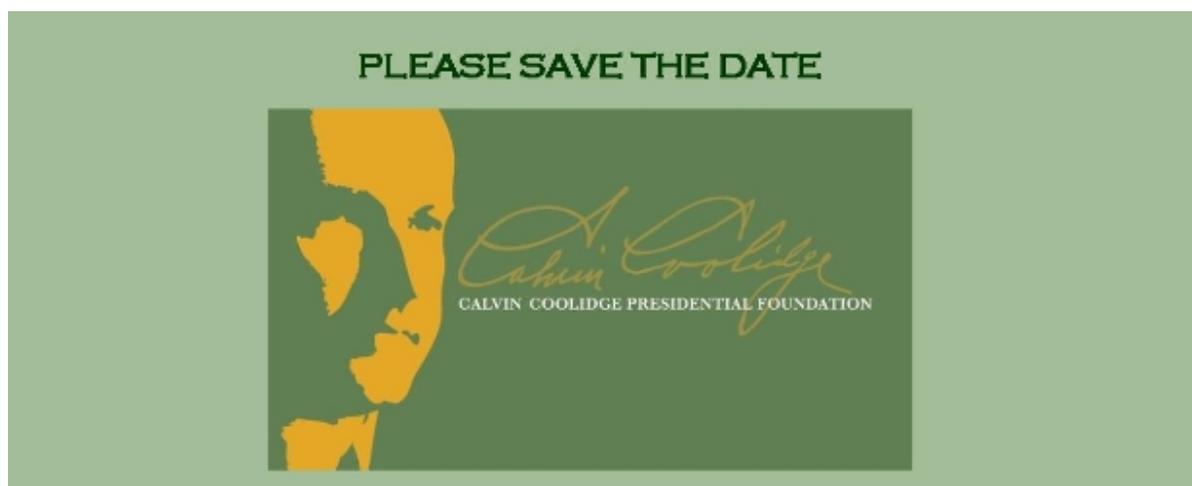
In addition to prizes and dinners and other fun events, Fall is a time that puts me in a reflective mood. As I sit here looking out the window on the beauty of this place that fostered a President of the United States, and think of all the people who labor each day to maintain it in its simple glory, I'm filled with gratitude. Gratitude for the fact that John Coolidge and First Lady Grace Coolidge, understanding the historical significance of this place, worked to preserve the Coolidge Homestead so that future generations would be able to stand where Calvin stood and draw inspiration from his life and example.

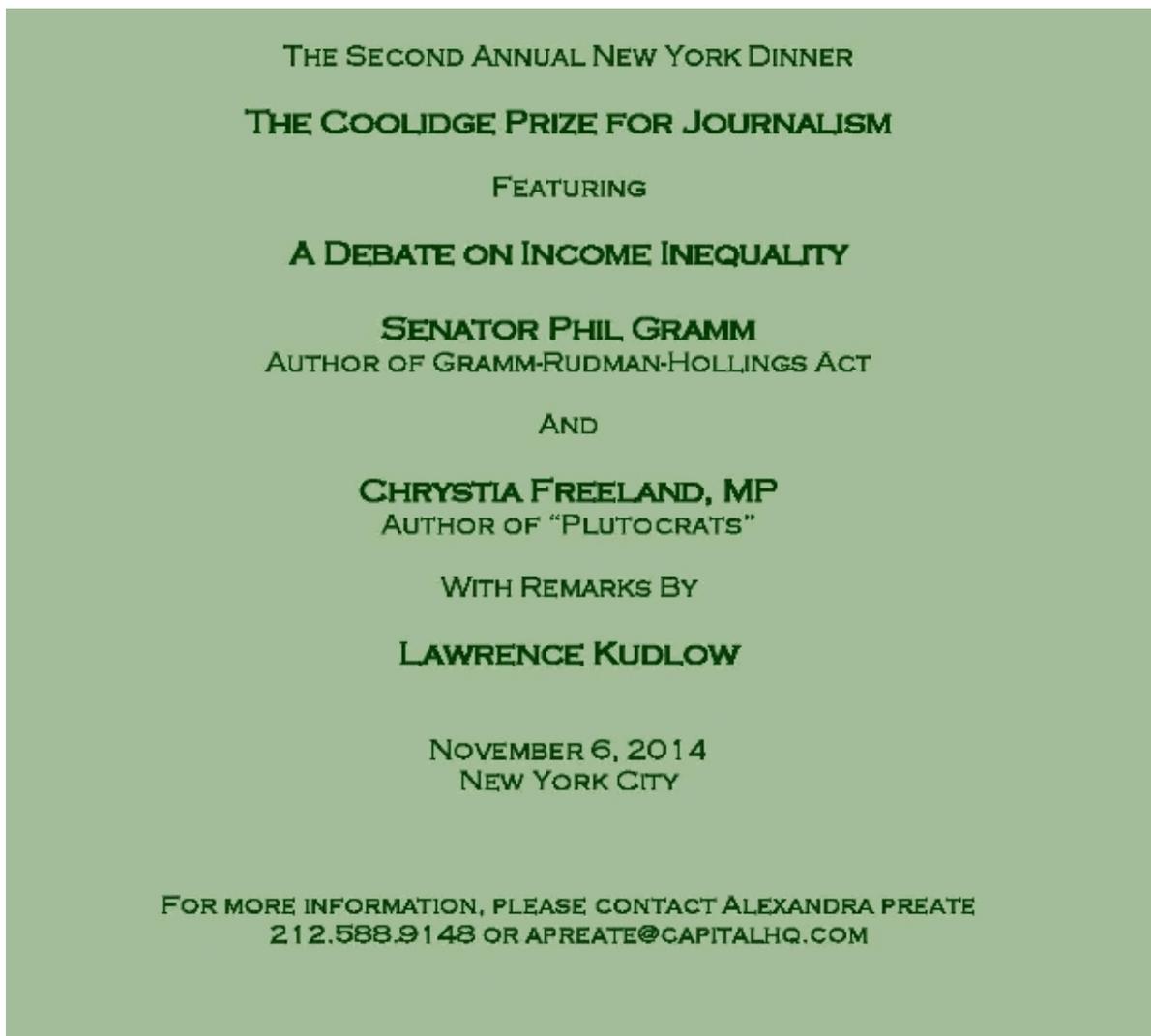
I'm also grateful for the people who make this place possible, first and foremost being **Bill Jenney, the Historic Site Administrator**, who has given 25 years of his life to maintaining the Coolidge legacy. For friends like **Pat Davis**, a recently-deceased docent at the historic site, and the many others who will remain nameless, but whose commitment and hard work make this place possible.

They all are Calvins. And you are as well.

--Rushad L. Thomas

Program and Editorial Associate





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!**

You can view a promotional video for our dinner on our [YouTube Channel](#).





The Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation proudly announces the second annual **Coolidge Prize for Journalism**, a \$20,000 prize for short writing of published articles or published blog posts under 800 words each.

The prize will go to the author who best captures the spirit and style of the thirtieth president and the ideals Coolidge favored, some of which were: independence, thrift, balanced budgets, a restrained federal government, active state government, perseverance after hardship, appreciation of commerce, stable money, support for international law, competence at work, meticulous respect for the Constitution, civility and respect for religious faith.

The Coolidge Prize for Journalism will be awarded at a banquet dinner on **November 6, 2014 at the historic Metropolitan Club in New York City**. To be eligible for the prize, the candidate must commit to attending the banquet dinner should he/she be named a finalist (reasonable travel costs will be covered by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation).

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of the Thomas W. Smith Foundation.

Deadline to apply: September 26, 2014 at noon EDT.

Applications may be submitted on our [website](#).





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](#).



The Constitution Story: a Resource for Teachers

"The more I study it, the more I have come to admire it, realizing that no other document devised by the hand of man ever brought so much progress and happiness to humanity. The good it has wrought can never be measured." Calvin Coolidge on the Constitution

Great stories are hard to resist. You're invited to come to beautiful Plymouth Notch on **Thursday, September 25** to hear Constitutional scholar, **Kevin Ryan**, from the Vermont Bar Association, tell the story of the United States Constitution and what it means today.

- What did the Framers of the Constitution think they were doing?
- How did their opponents perceive the Constitution?
- How has that disagreement become the fundamental debate of American constitutional democracy?

1:00 PM: Meet for a brief tour of the Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site.

(Come earlier if you'd like more time to walk around.) Learn of the many program opportunities for student and other groups of any age and number.

2:00 PM *The Constitution Story* with Kevin Ryan

Following Kevin's talk and discussion, we'll take a look at some resources that support civics education and teachers will go home with activities to use with their students. Participants are welcome to bring resources that they use to understand and teach the United States Constitution. (Note that this program will be very helpful to teachers but is open to all who would like to know more about the U.S. Constitution.)

This free program is sponsored by the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation. Refreshments will be served. Join us!

Please RSVP to Education Director **Diane Kemble** at education@calvin-coolidge.org or call 802.672.3389.

History Exploration Visits are now being scheduled through the end of October. Our team of experienced docents lead small groups of students through the village of historic Plymouth Notch, where Calvin Coolidge was born, grew up, returned to, and was sworn in by his father as the 30th President of the United States. See the award

was sworn in by his father as the 30th President of the United States. See the award-winning “*More Than Two Words*”; *Life and Legacy of Calvin Coolidge* and the new exhibit, *The Coolidges, Vermont and the Civil War*.

Voting Rights/Civil Rights activity and presentation is available as part of any student visit. Buckwheat Harvesting or Sheep Shearing is available on certain dates. Let me know your interest and studies and we'll tailor your visit.



In Memory of Lola Aiken

This week we were saddened to learn of the passing of Lola Aiken, the widow of the late **U.S. Senator George Aiken of Vermont**. Lola served for a number of years on the National Advisory Board of the Coolidge Foundation, and she was a force in Vermont and D.C. in her day. She is pictured above on her 100th birthday, and she died on Monday at the age of 102. Rest in peace, Lola.





Foundation member Betty Sykes was recently in the Black Hills of South Dakota and visited the game lodge that served as the Summer White House for the Coolidges in 1927.





From Trustee Owen Stearns, for any of you who participated in our summer debate program. Coolidge would be proud!



Calendar Reminders

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

- **September 25: The Constitution Story with Kevin Ryan**, President Calvin Coolidge Museum and Education Center, Plymouth Notch, VT.
- **September 26: Deadline for Submissions to the Coolidge Prize for Journalism and the Calvin Prize for Vermont Youth.**
- **November 6: Second Annual New York Dinner.** Metropolitan Club, New York City. *Tickets Required* (info coming soon).
- **November 12: Budget Conference.** Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.



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