

The Val-Kill Spirit of Freedom, Curiosity and Determination:

A conversation about what we can learn from
Eleanor Roosevelt about living our lives
and changing the world.

with

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and a “Val-Kill Kid” in the 1950s and 1960s



**Saturday, July 17, 2010 – 10:00 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.
1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site

***“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift.
That’s why we call it ‘the present’.” – Eleanor Roosevelt***

Come be present for a reflective and inspiring conversation at Eleanor Roosevelt’s Stone Cottage at Val-Kill. Val-Kill has been described by National Park Service historians as “a departure from accepted social conventions, represented by a pioneering spirit, curiosity and determination.” Those are exactly the qualities we hope to rekindle in our cottage conversation. Historians Blanche Weisen Cook and Alida Black described Val-Kill as “the window into Eleanor Roosevelt’s infinite courage and compassion... part home, part refuge, part retreat, part political laboratory. Val-Kill was the space she held closest to her heart.” Eleanor Roosevelt herself said that it was at Val-Kill where she “emerged as an individual.”

Stone Cottage is where the Val-Kill story begins. It is a compelling and hallowed place to learn and grow, and a comfortable setting for *a planned series of Eleanor Roosevelt-style conversations about our lives as women today and lessons from Eleanor Roosevelt’s life and times.*

We will begin the seminar with a snapshot of a historic conversation between Eleanor Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy on “the status of women.” This 1962 conversation was one of several facilitated by Eleanor Roosevelt at Brandeis University as part of an innovative television series, “Prospects of Mankind.” Produced by National Education Television, the forerunner of PBS, the show adopted a colloquium format, and provided a forum for prominent leaders and decision makers to discuss and debate important current affairs. The first episode of “Prospects of Mankind” was recorded during the week of Eleanor Roosevelt’s 75th birthday (October 1959) and the last, just months before her death in November 1962.

This look back at history will jumpstart a conversation about our lives today and how they have been, or could be, influenced and inspired by Eleanor Roosevelt. The host of the seminar will also share personal stories about growing up at Val-Kill in the 1950s and 60s and those early influences that shaped her life. Reflecting on the Val-Kill spirit of freedom, curiosity and determination in this way will allow us to share our stories and recreate a vibrant and reflective space today, like the “refuge” and “retreat” that nurtured Eleanor Roosevelt’s vibrant spirit years ago.

**You can choose to attend either a morning or an afternoon session.
To register *call Josie Wallin at 229-9115 ext. 10*
Seats are limited at these free programs, so make your reservation early.**