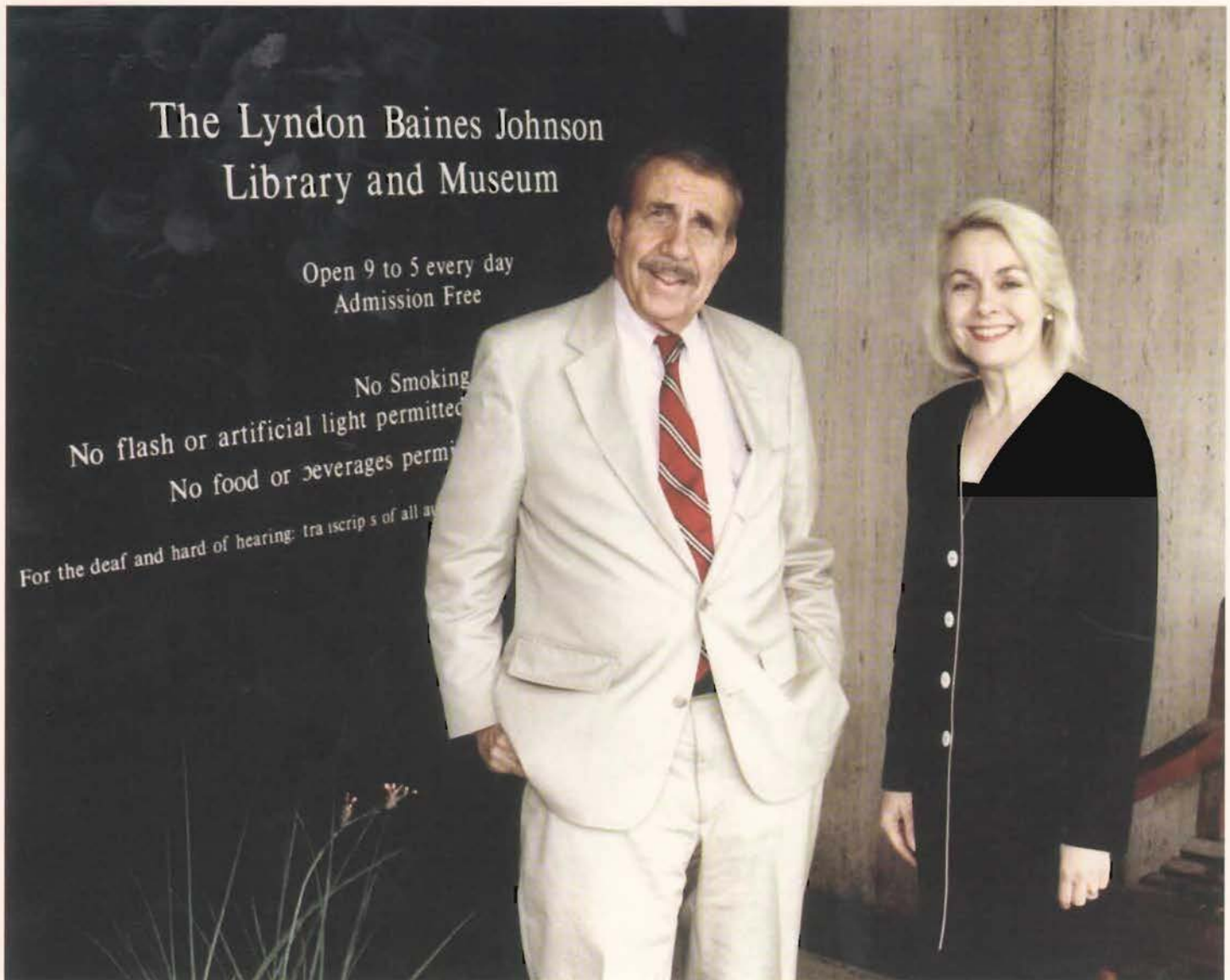


Among FRIENDS *of LBJ*

Issue Number LXVI, October, 2001



**Retiring LBJ Library and Museum Director Harry Middleton,
with Incoming Director Betty Sue Flowers**

Story on page two

Our Next Director



Archivist of the United States John Carlin has named Betty Sue Flowers to succeed Harry Middleton as Director of the LBJ Library and Museum.

The University of Texas at Austin has recently named Dr. Flowers, Professor of English and former Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, a Distinguished Alumna of the University. She has served as Director of the Plan II Honors Program and is a Piper Professor and member of the Academy of Dis-

tinguished Teachers. A native Texan, she also has a degree from the University of London. Her scholarly publications include *Browning and the Modern Tradition* and articles on Donald Barthelme, Adrienne Rich, Christina Rossetti, and poetry therapy. She has edited *Daughters and Fathers* as well as four books in collaboration with Bill Moyers: *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth; A World of Ideas; Healing and the Mind*; and *Genesis*. She has published two books of poetry—*Four*

Shields of Power and *Extending the Shade*—and poems and short fiction in various journals. She was series consultant for “The Power of Myth” as well as a host for the radio series “The Next 200 Years.” Her ten-part television series, “Conversation with Betty Sue Flowers,” was aired on the Austin PBS affiliate, KLRU. Professor Flowers has served as a moderator for executive seminars at the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, as a consultant for NASA, as a member of the Envisioning Network for General Motors, as a member of the vision team for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and as a Visiting Advisor to the Secretary of the Navy. In 1992 and again in 1995 and 1998, she worked with an international team to write Global Scenarios for Shell International in London—stories about the future of the world for the next thirty years. She has recently edited a book in conjunction with Joseph Jaworski on the inner dimensions of leadership—*Synchronicity*—and has also completed a manuscript for the Christina Rossetti edition in the Penguin English Poets series. Professor Flowers was the editor of global scenarios for sustainable development and scenarios for the future of biotechnology, both sponsored by the World Business Council in Geneva.

Dr. Flowers will assume her duties as Director of the LBJ Library and Museum in January, 2002.

Until that time, Mr. Middleton will remain in place as Director. On October 24 in the LBJ Auditorium, in “An Evening with Harry Middleton,” he will speak about what his thirty-plus years with the LBJ Library and Museum have meant.

University of Texas President Larry Faulkner recently conferred The Presidential Citation on Mr. Middleton. The University, which does not make use of honorary degrees, instead established this award “to recognize the extraordinary contributions of individuals who personify The University’s commitment to the task of transforming lives.”

Author McCullough Reflects on Latest Achievement

In four weeks, David McCullough's *John Adams* went through ten printings.

Even columnist Maureen Dowd, known for flaying public figures, found occasion to praise McCullough's latest best seller.

It was no surprise, then, that a capacity crowd packed the LBJ Auditorium on June 21 to hear the author of *Mornings on Horseback* (which Simon & Schuster is re-issuing) and *Truman* (which won the Pulitzer prize) talk about his latest success.

Putting *John Adams* together occupied six of the most enjoyable years of his writing life, said McCullough. He noted that the title might well be *John and Abigail Adams*, for "Abby's" role was crucial. When John's spirits sagged under the burden of public life, she would revive him: "You would not be, nor would I wish to see you, an idle spectator," she once wrote. In the White

House—Adams was the first president to live there—Abigail was his "ballast," as he put it, his closest adviser. Over a thousand letters between them exist. They are on high quality rag paper, physically as sound as they were two hundred years ago. McCullough recalled the awe he felt when he first took one of the letters in his hands to read.

When no other lawyer dared to defend the British soldiers accused of murder in the Boston Massacre, Adams accepted the role. Not only that; he got the soldiers off. Adams was always proud of that episode, McCullough asserted, which instead of ruining his career, helped make it.

McCullough firmly believes that Adams was the main force behind the dramatic events in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776. As Jefferson vowed, Adams was the "colossus of independence."

Far from being the cold and colorless Puritan he often perceived to be, Adams loved a joke, was fond of tobacco and alcohol, and delighted in good talk. There is humor in all his writings, McCullough stated, and he wrote exactly as he talked.

Adams had remarkable vision, said McCullough, who recalled his foretelling the importance that the American Revolution would have for those unborn millions who would come after. Adams also correctly predicted the course of the French Revolution: first a blood-bath, then a dictatorship.

A few days before July 4, 1826, a local delegation came to him and asked him to suggest a theme for the upcoming celebration. It turned out to be his last public pronouncement. "I give you independence forever," he said.



Symposium Explores the Search for Peace During the



On April 20-22, the LBJ Library hosted the fourth in a series of symposia to study the Vietnam conflict. The previous three conferences focused on how U.S. policy toward Vietnam evolved in Washington and was applied in the field. This time, twenty prominent scholars met to consider how the Johnson Administration searched for peace in Vietnam.

President Johnson's memoir, *The Vantage Point*, lists seventeen separate U.S. peace initiatives between 1964 and 1968. Only the last one, the Paris talks, finally came to fruition, and then only four years after LBJ left office. To explain why this was so, the symposium panels posed some hard questions: Was the Johnson Administration sincere in its effort to find a settlement with Hanoi and the National Liberation Front? Was the search for peace doomed by blunders in Washington? What role did other nations play, the Japanese, the Swedes, the Poles, the French,

Professor Lloyd Gardner has organized three scholarly conferences on the Vietnam War for the LBJ Library. The proceedings of the first two have been published: *Vietnam: The Early Decisions* (University of Texas Press), and *International Perspectives on Vietnam* (Texas A&M University Press). An earlier conference, *The Johnson Years: A Vietnam Roundtable*, brought together 22 senior officials of the Johnson Administration to discuss policy making in Southeast Asia. It was published by The LBJ School of Public Affairs and The University of Texas at Austin.



Professor Emeritus Robert Divine stressed that the U.S. fought in Vietnam for many of the same reasons it fought the other wars of this century.

Vietnam War



Professors Qiang Zhai of Auburn University and Ilya Gaiduk of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, delivered papers on the roles of China and the Soviet Union in the search for peace in Vietnam.

and especially the Soviets and the Communist Chinese? Finally, what can be said about the actions of our adversaries in Hanoi, and our allies in Saigon?

UT Professor Emeritus Robert Divine put the Vietnam War into context in his keynote address, "Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace." That title, Divine explained, "captures the essence of American involvement in the wars of the 20th century. We enter each conflict certain that it will be the last. We appear to be convinced that we are doing the right thing—protecting our national interests and advancing the cause of democracy. . . . [W]e justify our departure from our normally peaceful inclinations by the belief we are taking up arms in a noble cause. . . . All

too often, Vietnam is seen as an aberration, when in reality it has much in common with our experience in the other wars of the 20th century."

In 1991, at the first LBJ Library symposium on Vietnam, McGeorge Bundy asserted that there had never been any prospect of meaningful negotiations with Hanoi: "The *New York Times* . . . told us that we must go to the bargaining table and get a fair solution in a war which neither side could win. What is wrong with that proposition is that the other side was determined to win, from beginning to end, and in the end it did."

At this most recent symposium, ten years later, Dr. Edwin Moise of Clemson University agreed, saying, "It is not an accident that when serious peace negotiations finally occurred,

they failed to settle the war. Four years of the Paris negotiations could produce nothing better than the Paris Agreements of 1973, a spurious settlement that neither side signed in good faith. Diplomacy having failed, as it had almost inevitably been going to fail, the war was finally resolved in 1975 on the battlefield.

"The reason there had never been much possibility of a diplomatic settlement of the war was that there had never been any possibility—and please note that I am saying *absolutely no possibility whatever*—of a genuine compromise settlement of the war."

Texas A&M Press has expressed interest in the publishing the papers presented at the symposium.

White House Telephone Tapes Released

By Regina Greenwell, Senior Archivist

On June 8, 2001, the Johnson Library released the latest batch of recordings and transcripts of President Johnson's telephone conversations from June and July, 1965.

In these two pivotal months, President Johnson faced critical decisions at home and abroad, many of which are discussed in these recordings. He made several historic appointments, including naming Thurgood Marshall as Solicitor General, the first African-American to hold the post, as well as appointing Arthur Goldberg as Ambassador to the United Nations and Abe Fortas to the Supreme Court. During this period, Congress considered the Voting Rights bill, an omnibus housing bill, the Cold War GI bill, and attempted to repeal

Section 14-B of the Taft-Hartley Act. But many of the conversations concern the decision to increase the U.S. military commitment in Vietnam. Throughout these two months LBJ discussed his concerns about Vietnam with numerous people, including President Dwight Eisenhower, Senators Mike Mansfield and Richard Russell, and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

There are approximately 18 hours of recorded conversations from this time period: 9 hours for June 1965 and 9 hours for July 1965. In addition to these recordings, the Library also opened the recording of an informal press conference the President held in September 1964. Detailed information about individual conversations are available in the Library's Reading Room and on the Library's web site

(www.lbjlib.utexas.edu).

Researchers may either listen to the recordings in the Reading Room or purchase copies of individual tapes at a cost of \$6.00 per tape, plus shipping. The cost of the set of 19 tapes is \$114.00, plus shipping and Texas sales tax where applicable. Orders should be placed with the Reading Room archivist, 512-916-5137, extension 234.

Copies of transcripts of those conversations which were transcribed by the President's staff may also be purchased at a cost of 25 cents per page by mail or 15 cents per page if ordered in the Reading Room. Researchers should be cautioned that the transcripts are not always reliable and should never be used without checking them against the actual recordings to assure accuracy.



LBJ's Birthday Observed



At the LBJ Ranch family cemetery, Johnny Barr reads his father's remarks. Barr Sr. is seated first on the left in the front row, next to Mrs. Johnson.

On August 27, 2001, the 93rd anniversary of LBJ's birth, friends, family and admirers gathered at the family cemetery at the LBJ Ranch to commemorate the occasion.

John Barr wrote the main address. Mr. Barr went to work for the Johnson Foundation in 1971, and he is the only secretary-treasurer the Foundation has ever had. Barr's son Johnny read his father's remarks to the crowd.

Barr evoked a portrait of LBJ in retirement, still a whirlwind; writing his memoirs, organizing the LBJ Foundation, and seeing to a multitude of business affairs. Always the Ranch was LBJ's deepest concern and love. "He was familiar with every cow and bull in his herd of registered Herefords," recalled Barr. No detail of ranch operation escaped LBJ's attention, and he visited every pasture every day, weather permitting. Ranch foreman Dale Malechek was sorely pressed to keep up with the stream of commands that those visits inspired in his boss.

One such journey, Barr remembered, was to inspect a distant lake-front lot. The Former President was

driving the big Lincoln. They were a long way from anywhere when Mr. Johnson announced that he badly needed a rest stop. To the dismay of the Secret Service, LBJ pulled up at the house of a complete stranger, knocked on the door, "and asked the bewildered lady of the house to use her bathroom. She said, 'Certainly, Mr. President,' and welcomed him inside. Upon his departure, the lady, still dumfounded, invited the 36th President back any time he had a need for a rest facility."

On August 25, at the LBJ Grove in Washington, another crowd gathered to hear the remarks of noted LBJ biographer Robert Dallek.

"For thirty years," said Dallek, "we have been hearing that Johnson's Great Society failed. But in fact, every one of his major initiatives remains in place and affects all of us every day of our lives."

"His legacy also should include the transformation of the south. The civil rights laws opened the way to greater black equality and greater self-respect for whites, who could now feel that their section was in sync with



Historian Dallek recalled LBJ's legacy to the nation.

the great principles of American democracy and the rule of law. The civil rights revolution helped bring the South back into the mainstream of the country's economic and political life."

Dallek concluded by quoting from Congresswoman Martha W. Griffiths' eulogy to LBJ: "Other Presidents gave us eloquence and agendas. Lyndon Johnson gave us hospitals and houses, and national parks, and schools, and roads, and better cities, and dignity in our old age and opportunity in our youth."

History of Science Documented in the LBJ Library



By Mary Knill, Archivist

(By permission. This article first appeared in the *AIP History Newsletter*.)

When Lyndon B. Johnson took the oath of office on November 22, 1963, the United States was in a race with the Soviets to put a man on the moon, and was also embroiled in the Cold War. The race to accomplish a manned lunar landing prompted advances in nuclear energy, jet propulsion, the development of synthetic materials, and computer technology. There was also revolutionary progress in radiological medicine, meteorology, electronics, communications and communications satellites, and supersonic transport.

The LBJ Library has a number of collections useful to researchers on these topics. They include the White House Central Files (the main filing unit for the White House) and the National Security File, which contains the majority of material concerning foreign policy issues. White House Central Files subject areas of interest include those on atomic energy, civil aviation, international organizations, outer space, and disarmament. Materials of particular interest in the National

Security File include the Subject and Agency Files, the Files of Spurgeon Keeny, and the Files of Charles Johnson. Spurgeon Keeny served on the National Security Council and with the Office of Science and Technology. Charles Johnson handled issues involving arms control, atomic energy, space, and served as liaison between the Atomic Energy Commission and NASA.

The LBJ Library Administrative History collection includes histories of the Office of Science and Technology, NASA, the National Aeronautic and Space Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Other collections of interest are the Recordings of Johnson's Telephone Conversations, Office Files of White House Aides, papers of the President's Advisory Committee on Supersonic Transport, the large collection of oral history interviews, and such personal papers as those of Donald Hornig, director of the Office

activities as chairman of the Armed Services Preparedness Subcommittee, which investigated the U.S. satellite program following the Soviet launch of Sputnik in 1957; his tasks as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Space and Astronautics, and the Special Committee's successor, the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. The Vice Presidential Papers and the Vice Presidential Security File document LBJ's performance as chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council. Those searching for the official records of the Preparedness Subcommittee, the Space Committees, and the Space Council, however, should contact the National Archives at (301) 713-6800 or by email at inquire@nara.gov.

For more information, researchers should refer to the Library's website at www.lbjlib.utexas.edu. This site includes copies of relevant reference guides and some transcripts of oral history interviews.



September 15, 1964: LBJ visits the workforce at Cape Kennedy.

Museum Assistant Makes Unique Donation

Max Noe has decided to help complete the LBJ Museum's collection of political memorabilia.

Mr. Noe ("Noh") has been a volunteer worker in the LBJ Museum collection for eighteen years. He was initially recruited by Gary Yarrington, the first LBJ Museum Curator, to help organize its collection of political memorabilia and establish a workable nomenclature for organizing it. As a "Tuesday morning regular," he also worked with the group that catalogued such items as White House menus and the philatelic collection. Because of his long experience with the Postal Service—he retired as Austin Postmaster in 1976—he was able to teach his coworkers the difference between a post card and a postal card, between a first day cover and a first day cancellation. And his special expertise in LBJ buttons and related collectibles has always been a major asset.

Some background: Mr. Noe began accumulating clocks in the 1960s, and at one time had sixteen striking clocks in his home. It was becoming a real problem: he was running out of clock space. Simply to stop

buying clocks was not a solution, for Mr. Noe had caught the collecting bug. He had to collect *something*.

While on his clock-collecting excursions Mr. Noe had discovered a lively trade in political memorabilia, especially campaign buttons. Because of their great variety, political buttons are a fertile field of opportunity for a collector. Not only are they small and easily sorted and stored; they are initially inexpensive but increase in value with age. And they provide many categories for specialization, a quality that has great allure for the collector-addict.

And so began the Noe collection of political memorabilia, much of which is now to become part of the LBJ Museum holdings.

Mr. Noe decided to specialize in LBJ-related political mementoes. Every variation of a button is a separate collectible. The presence or absence of a union bug; a different color or size; a change in the photograph used; each means a distinct item.

Mr. Noe used a code to record the purchase price of his buttons, and he has shown the Museum staff how to decipher it. The present value of the

collection greatly exceeds the original price, but since the collection has not been appraised the Museum is unsure of its total worth. Its importance to the LBJ Museum far exceeds its dollar value, because it fills so many gaps in our original collection. Nothing Mr. Noe has donated to the Museum duplicates what is already represented in the Museum collection.

Every phase of LBJ's political life is represented here. There are many JFK/LBJ 1960 objects, and a large number of anti-LBJ and anti-war buttons. But the items Mr. Noe is proudest of are from the 1941 special election, when a young LBJ made his first bid for the Senate, running against W. Lee ("Pass the biscuits, Pappy") O'Daniel.

A special museum exhibit is being planned to display some highlights of this singular collection.



The Brass Mailbox



Postal worker Mark Isenhour services the brass mailbox.

At the entrance to the LBJ Museum store stands a shiny and impressive antique brass mailbox. It is not merely for show; the Postal Service collects the mail there every day at about four o'clock.

Museum assistant Max Noe knows the history of that postal artifact. Here it is, as he recounted it recently:

In the 1920s, a hundred of these brass boxes were made, possibly as an experiment, and were sent to various places around the country. They were painted Post Office olive drab (left over from World War I military supplies); no one could tell that they were brass—until the paint began to weather or peel.

In the years that followed, these unique mailboxes became collectors' items among postmasters, who loved to have them as office ornaments.

Dan Quill, long-time postmaster of San Antonio, was a close friend of Lyndon Johnson; in fact it is likely that LBJ had helped get Quill appointed postmaster in 1934. A few years later, when LBJ and Lady Bird Taylor made their abrupt decision to get married in San Antonio, it was Quill whom LBJ called on to make the frantic last-minute arrangements for the Johnsons' wedding—including a dash to Sears, Roebuck to get the ring. (Not knowing the right size, Quill took a tray full of inexpensive rings to the church for inspection. The bride chose one which was priced at \$2.50. Quill paid for it and made it his wedding present to the newlyweds.)

About 1970, as Mr. Noe recalls, Quill made LBJ a present of two of the old brass mailboxes. One went on a street in Johnson City. The other graces the Library's first floor, as seen here. Workers at the Museum store, just next to where the mailbox stands, report that visitors find it fascinating. They regularly ask, "Is that sign correct? Is this really a working mailbox?" A smile: "You bet it is. We use it all the time."

From the Photo Archives



President George W. Bush reacted to the recent tragedies in New York and Washington with a stirring speech before the assembled Congress. It inspired us to search our archives for this photo of President Johnson speaking to the Joint Session of Congress (above and inset) in another historic effort to rally the nation, after the November 22, 1963 tragedy in Dallas.

In Memoriam



September 11, 2001

Let's Be Friends. . . .

Members of the Friends of the LBJ Library are eligible to attend the many events made possible by the Friends organization: Preview receptions for major exhibitions; symposia and conferences; and the highly successful "Evening With" lecture series, which in the past has featured such noted authors, politicians, columnists, statesmen and historians as William Bundy, Horace Busby, Joseph Califano, Ramsey Clark, David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, John Kenneth Galbraith, Barry Goldwater, Ann Landers, David McCullough, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Charles Robb, Dean Rusk, Liz Smith, William

Westmoreland, and Brian Williams. You will have free admission to all the other presidential libraries (the LBJ Library is the only one that doesn't charge), and a 15% discount on purchases made in the Museum store.

To join, fill out the form below, cut along the dotted line and send, with a check, to:

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Please make checks payable to The Friends of the LBJ Library.

Coming Events:

October 24 "An Evening With Harry Middleton," LBJ Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

November 15: "An Evening with Michael Beschloss" (on *Reach for Glory*, volume II in his series on the White House telephone tapes) LBJ Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

November 26-27: A symposium, "The Future of Presidential Libraries," 8th Floor, LBJ Library, starting at 9:00 a.m. each morning. If you plan to attend, please notify Ted Gittinger, 512-916-5137 ext. 265, or ted.gittinger@nara.gov.

December 12: "An Evening with Bishop John McCarthy," LBJ Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

Among Friends of LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library

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www.lbjlib.utexas.edu

The LBJ Library is one of ten presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration

