How did they do that?

A behind the scenes look at the Ain’t Misbehavin’? exhibit

Have you ever thought about where the temporary exhibits at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum come from? Most of them are developed in the minds of the Library-Museum staff, and custom built to their creative vision. The upcoming exhibit, Ain’t Misbehavin’? The World of the Gangster, is a prime example of that creativity.

Ain’t Misbehavin’? explores the Prohibition Era, from 1920 to 1933. It covers the time of Al Capone, gangsters, jazz, speakeasies and the G-man. Gangsters ruled the streets and law enforcement looked the other way – for the right price. "Gambling, boot-legging and other vices were hidden in plain sight," said Marcus Eckhardt, curator.

As you enter the exhibit, all is not what it seems to be. As you pass through a hat shop, you’ll find yourself in a speakeasy. As you leave the speakeasy out the back door into the alley you discover a butcher shop, café, pharmacy, and a flower shop. Each is hiding something in their back rooms. Something not quite legal.

"Everything looks normal as you approach," says Eckhardt, "but upon closer inspection, visitors will see how cleverly the gangsters hid their crimes." He said the idea for the exhibit was inspired by a 1930’s era gangland map of Chicago. In a cartoonish sort of way, it laid out gangland territory, murder sites, bootlegging routes and other scenes of nefarious activity. Apparently, it was actually available as a tourist novelty back in the day. A copy is on display near the back of the exhibit.

— Continued on page 5

The Death of a King

By Thomas F. Schwartz, Director
Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum

One of the most requested Hoover photographs shows President Hoover with King Tut, the family German shepherd. The Hoovers were great dog lovers and as parents of two boys, were frequently receiving pleas for yet one more pet. There is no complete listing of all the family pets over the years and all furry four-legged creatures seemed to be treated as cherished family members. King Tut, however, seemed to be a particular favorite of President and Mrs. Hoover. There are home movies showing President Hoover feeding King Tut from the White House dinner table, something all dog trainers would frown upon today. Because the American public is fascinated with Presidential pets, images of President Hoover with King Tut were popular.

— Continued on page 3

To conserve...therein

By Pete Swisher, Superintendent
Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

The Herbert Hoover National Historic Site is one of only two National Parks in Iowa. Our mission, according to the National Park Service’s Organic Act of 1916, charges us with a nearly impossible mandate to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein.” With this in mind, we are to “provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

That means we must work proactively to protect the park’s natural beauty and function. One of our greatest areas of focus is protecting it from storm waters which routinely escape the banks of the creek.

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Message from the President

Robert N. Downer, president, Board of Trustees

“I had no idea…”

My wife, Jane, and I have heard those four words start many sentences uttered by friends whom we have taken to visit the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum over the years. We have long regarded this site, including the birthplace cottage and grave sites of Herbert and Lou Henry Hoover, as an Iowa and national treasure, and have arranged tours for numerous groups with which we have been associated. While all of these visitors had general knowledge of many facts regarding Mr. Hoover’s presidency, few recalled the Hoovers’ post-presidential service through the Girl Scouts and in the Truman and Eisenhower administrations, and fewer still were aware of the Hoovers’ domestic and international humanitarian endeavors from the beginning of World War I until Mr. Hoover assumed the presidency.

Fortunately, the Library-Museum, with support from the Hoover Presidential Foundation and numerous volunteers, has greatly enhanced public knowledge of the Hoovers’ leadership and generosity in relieving human suffering through presentation of the Making of the Great Humanitarian exhibit which attracted large crowds late in 2015 and early in 2016. It is an important part of the Foundation mission to help educate the people of America and beyond of the notable and varied contributions of the Hoovers over an extended time period in public service, philanthropy and relief of human suffering. Our efforts to “spread the word” will be continuing and accelerating in the coming months, and we would welcome all who are interested in joining in this endeavor.

— Robert N. Downer, president, Board of Trustees
Hoover Presidential Foundation

This is West Branch Radio WNZL, 690 AM

The National Historic Site recently upgraded the highway information radio system to a digital model, and it’s never sounded better! The previous version would play a prerecorded message input by dialing into and recording your message over the phone, much like a 1980’s telephone answering system. With the digital model, we’re able to prerecord messages and edit them together on the computer, easily edit out mistakes, remove the ‘ums’ and ‘ahs’, and use multiple voices.

So we are!

The radio system manufacturer provides a professional announcer on a limited basis, who reads a standardized message we created about the Hoover Campus. In between cuts, we’ve added testimonials from park visitors who give several reasons to pull off the highway and stop in for a visit. We have also dropped in interviews with park, library and foundation staff covering a variety of exhibits and events. The interview format draws the listener in and helps make the message more interesting.

The new system is easy to use, but is not without some challenges. Once the program has been edited and saved on a USB drive, it has to be taken to the actual radio tower and inserted into the transmitter manually. The sound quality is all controlled by the editing system, and what sounds good on the computer doesn’t always match what goes out through the tower, so we’re working on improving that with each new message.

Each week a new message is loaded and within the first three minutes, you’ll hear about all the special programs happening at the Hoover National Historic Site and at the Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, as long as you’re within about five miles from the tower. Please check it out the next time you drive in or around West Branch, or try the sample clip found on our website under the MULTI-MEDIA/ Audio tab. Your computer must be able to play .mp3 files.

Want to be a radio star? Audition for a testimonial spot on the radio! What would you tell your friends and neighbors about the Hoover Campus to entice them to visit? Call Brad at 319-643-5327 for a try-out! ★
The Death of a King

Continued from front page —

As King Tut grew older and less interested in the attentions of White House visitors, the Hoovers decided to send him to a familiar but quieter location. Several newspapers reported that King Tut was sent to Camp Rapidan, where he later died. These news sources have been cited in published biographies of Hoover, continuing the misinformation. In fact, the Hoovers asked their good friend, United States Senator Frederick Collin Walcott from Connecticut if he and his wife Mary would take care of King Tut. Walcott had served under Hoover in the United States Food Administration during World War I. When Walcott was elected to the United States Senate in 1928, he rented the S Street residence of Herbert and Lou Hoover since they would be living in the White House. King Tut, having lived in the house for almost a decade, was very familiar with the residence and the surrounding grounds. It was here that the dog died, not Camp Rapidan. Senator Walcott wrote a very touching letter of October 14, 1929, describing King Tut’s final days:

My dear Mr. President and Mrs. Hoover,

The passing of Tut is a real tragedy to the Walcotts. His loyalty to a few chosen friends, his unswerving devotion to a still smaller group endeared him to those he favored.

He was conscious of his failing eyesight but he tried to cover up his age by stretching himself up at full length and putting his front paws on my chest. That was the signal for a short romp in a rough and tumble. If I left one chair to go to another in the same room Tut would move with me.

He was always waiting for me for breakfast with the birds and squirrels and in the evening he invariably went with me to my room while I dressed for dinner.

He was a strong character and we miss him terribly. Butler is of course broken hearted. Butler stumbled over him in the dark and Tut got up slowly and went into the laundry. I had him out for a drive early that morning and that evening he met me as usual and followed me upstairs perfectly well apparently. Yesterday, Sunday morning, Butler, supposing he was upstairs with me did not look for him until about 8:30 when he knew he was going to play golf. Not finding him then he started to look for him, he was lying close to the water heater in the laundry, dead. He must have died soon after going in there from Butler’s room. He was never out of the yard except with Butler and never out of Butler’s sight. We have lost a good friend.

I am going to place a small stone at his grave and a small suitable tablet in the yard here if you don’t mind.”

Most sincerely, F. C. Walcott

At the time of death, it was estimated that King Tut was about ten years old. The S Street house still stands in Washington, D.C. and it now serves as the Myanmar Embassy. It is unknown if the marker Walcott erected in memory of King Tut still stands in the yard.

May is Membership Month!

See page 10 for details
One of the things I really enjoy about being the Hoover Presidential Foundation’s Executive Director is that every day is different. I’m sure most of us can say that, but there is one thing that happens occasionally that just takes my breath away.

The breathlessness occurs when I open a letter (either from an attorney, accountant or trust department) and find that a supporter of the Hoover Presidential Foundation has left a bequest to the Foundation. It’s always unexpected, and an insight to people’s generosity. Many are people I never had the chance to meet, but I often take it upon myself to get to know more about them, their families and why they chose the Hoover Presidential Foundation as a recipient.

Since I love history, I go to the file cabinet (nearly all have been foundation members or previous donors), and read the history of the relationship between the donor and the Foundation. And it is truly amazing! There is no one “common denominator,” other than they were struck by how important it felt to support the Hoover Presidential Library Association in the future. Frankly, we have not made that a priority in recent years. This year, especially with the many changes that have occurred in charitable donations and the law, I have pledged to make sure the supporters of the Hoover Presidential Foundation know the various options available to them. Each person has different circumstances and I think it’s important to know the different options available.

So, we begin with this issue of the American Road and three options for planned giving.

1. Is This Gift Right for You?

In general, a charitable bequest works for anyone who would like to support your favorite nonprofit in the future. Because you can change your mind at any time and make your gift in relative proportion to bequests to family and friends, this type of gift has universal appeal.

Profile of a Giver

- You want to support your favorite nonprofit after your lifetime.
- You have a will or living trust, or are ready to create one.
- You are young or old, wealthy or middle class.
- You want to make a charitable gift while ensuring family is taken care of first.
- You want to maintain the flexibility to change your mind at any time.
- You want estate tax relief.

2. A Gift in Your Will: Getting Started

We hope you’ll consider including a gift to your favorite nonprofit in your will or living trust. Called a charitable bequest, this type of gift offers these main benefits:

- Simplicity. Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed. Share the sample bequest language for your favorite nonprofit with your estate planning attorney: 
  “I, [name], of [city, state ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to [your favorite nonprofit] [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”
- Flexibility. Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- Versatility. You canstructure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to the Foundation.
- Tax Relief. If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift’s full value.

To conserve…therein

Continued from front page —

and force the park into closure until the waters recede and the area can be satisfactorily cleaned.

In 2006, the National Park Service prepared an Environment Impact Statement and subsequent Record of Decision for the management of Hoover Creek. It has taken many years for this issue to reach a point where a solution could be identified and to obtain funding, but that time has finally arrived.

It’s important to consider that any “remedy” to a watershed flooding issue cannot be solely resolved from within the boundary of the national park. This is a community concern, one that has its origins much further up the watershed of the Wapsipinicon than the national park can influence. A successful plan requires cooperation and mutual participation in best management practices from the waters’ source to its drain. Just as the waters accumulate as they head downstream, the implementation of cumulative storm water management practices can affect flooding potential downstream. Put simply, we are all in this together.

Fortunately the City of West Branch has enthusiastically reconvened its “stream team” bringing back knowledgeable representatives from the city itself, engineers, the Hoover Presidential Foundation, the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), and the park.

A complete watershed model is being prepared by the USGS which will aid the team as they consider the effectiveness of flood water mitigation options before they are implemented. The model helps ensure funding is focused to those efforts deemed most productive.

The model takes time to complete, therefore viable solutions for creek treatments within the park boundaries will likely not be known until our fiscal year 2017 begins. Until that point, the park has begun the extensive process of “clearing” areas that are likely locations for some future work as it relates to Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. The work involves a good deal of archaeological exploration to ensure we have knowledge of what lies beneath the surface of the ground and can provide adequate protection of any of these resources.

The National Park Service has also enlisted the aid of an independent engineering firm to evaluate the previous Environmental Impact Statement. Our goal is to be a good neighbor and implement only measures which will help to protect the park from the detrimental flash flood waters of Hoover Creek, but also to be involved with the recommendation process throughout the watershed for the benefit of the community. By doing so, we keep the park poised for the next generation ready to hear the Hoover story. ★
How did they do that?

"We decided to focus on four key gangster themes, gambling, bootlegging, prostitution and graft," said Eckhardt. So they developed a city block with four buildings to cover those themes. The curators develop an inventory of items to showcase in the exhibit and draw up a rough floor plan of how they see placement and traffic flow. Then they work with Rolly Owens, the facility manager, to develop plans to build custom pieces, including a downtown cityscape.

"I try to keep things modular, in four and eight foot segments," said Owens. "By doing so, I can reuse many of the materials from past exhibits and keep costs down." He estimates the cost of building the downtown set at about $3,000. "The brick walls, for example, came from the WWI exhibit last summer," he said. Much of the plywood, plexiglass and studs are several years old.

While the brick walls are really only a quarter inch thick, Owens has a way to seam them together and distress them so they appear as the real thing. "I have a special formula that I've developed over years of trial and error," he said, for taking the 'like-new' shine off and making a surface look old and weathered. "Soot-juice" is what he called it, I believe. "Creating a marble surface is easy too," he said. "It's just three different colors of paint over a certain base color." Easy. Right? It is for Owens, who has the knack for theatrical builds. But you have to be quick. A town isn't built in a day. "It takes about six weeks," he said.

Owens says the secret is only building where the eye is led. "You see the outer façade and the interior walls, but nobody really looks up when they leave the area, so I just paint those areas with a flat neutral color that fades into the background and nobody takes notice of it," he said. At least until now, as our readers will most likely be looking above every door!

I asked Rolly if he ever goes to opening night to catch the reaction to his work. "No – it's not my show. I just made the stage, then the actors come in and make it great," he said, referring to the museum pieces on display in the exhibit. To keep the project rolling, he works on different segments simultaneously. "Otherwise I'd get stuck in minute details and never get the rest built," he said. By moving from project to project bit by bit, it all comes together at about the same time. "People will come in the next morning and see all this work done as if by magic overnight. I tell them it was the 'shoe elves' who did it."

There's no love lost for tearing the exhibit down at the end, either. "I am just as happy reclaiming the material and saving it for the next show, to see how much money we can save on materials."

"These were not nice people." The exhibit opens to the public on Saturday, April 23. A free, private VIP reception will be held for members of the Hoover Presidential Foundation on Friday, April 22. Members must register in advance online or by calling the Foundation office at 319-643-5327. Watch for news about upcoming murder mystery nights at the museum and other special events!

Top left: This tourist map of gangland territories was part of the inspiration for the exhibit.
Top right: Construction ends where the eye is not drawn. Most people will not notice the top of the wall on the way out. By painting the area in muted tones, the space falls away into the shadows.
Bottom: Marcus Eckhardt points out the detail in the papered-over window. The newspapers contain actual headlines and copy from the era, lending another layer of authenticity for those with a keen eye.
On Thursday, July 7, a luxury Windstar coach will greet you and escort the group to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where you’ll stay at the Courtyard by Marriott, in downtown Grand Rapids. Dinner will be arranged by the Foundation.

Friday starts with breakfast at your hotel. Then meet your coach for transfers to the Gerald R. Ford Museum for a special program and lunch arranged by the Foundation. That afternoon you’ll enjoy a tour of the incredible Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, a 158-acre botanical garden and outdoor sculpture park. It’s ranked in the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide by *Art Newspaper*. The sculpture program features more than 200 works in the permanent collection sited both indoors and outdoors on the main campus. The docent-led tour is by open tram.

Dinner will be at Leo’s – exquisite seafood and classic cuisine in an elegant atmosphere.

Saturday also begins with breakfast at the hotel, and then the trip continues on to Mackinaw City for a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. Once in Mackinaw City you’ll take the ferry to Mackinac Island. This pristine car-less island atop Lake Huron has been greeting guests for two centuries.

Climb aboard horse and carriage for your ride to your hotel – the magnificent Grand Hotel – the world’s largest summer hotel since 1887. Grand Hotel offers outstanding accommodations where no two guest rooms are alike. Enjoy spectacular views of the Straits of Mackinac in a rocking chair on the world’s longest porch.

Afternoon tea is available – this includes tea sandwiches, scones and other desserts served with hot tea, champagne and sherry until 5:00 pm. There will be time to stroll about the beautiful grounds before getting ready for dinner.

We’ve put together five days and four nights of education, entertainment and delicious treats for this year’s Foundation Member Trip, July 7 to 11!
Tired of those boring service club programs? We have an answer to your problems. Take the Foundation to lunch— whatever meeting you have—and we will present an interesting, concise and fact-filled presentation about life on the Hoover Campus and the many interesting programs and exhibits found at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site. Our 20-minute PowerPoint presentation contains several ‘modules’ that can be added or subtracted to fit your specific need. Just call the office at 319-643-5327 to lock in your date. Two-week notice is appreciated, but you can try us for those rare, last-minute fill-in spots too.

There's no fee for this service, as long as we can drive there in a reasonable amount of time. We might, however, bring a few membership brochures to distribute among the crowd.

Herbert Hoover has done many remarkable things in his lifetime, and we'd like to share those stories with your organization. Hopefully, we'll make some new friends, attract a few more visitors, and you can bet that your club members will leave the meeting saying, “I never knew that about Hoover!”

Modules Include
- West Branch Hoover
- Stanford Hoover
- Lou Henry Hoover
- Mining Career
- World Travels
- The Great Humanitarian
- The Presidency
- Hoover-Ball
- The Hoover Campus
- Exhibits this year
- The Hoover Presidential Foundation

Or ask us to create one for a special need!

Your trip includes
- All taxes, meal gratuities, guide gratuities, driver gratuities, and hotel luggage handling
- Two nights' hotel accommodations at the Courtyard Marriott in Grand Rapids
- One night’s hotel accommodations at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island
- One night’s hotel accommodations at the Doubletree Hilton, Dearborn
- Full breakfast each day
- Registration closes when we fill the bus. Last year’s trip sold out quickly—SO PLEASE ACT NOW!

Thursday
- Dinner provided by the Foundation

Friday
- Program at the Gerald R. Ford Museum
- Tour of the Frederik Meijer Gardens
- Dinner at Leo's

Saturday
- Ferry from Mackinaw City to Mackinac Island
- Horse and carriage ride from Dock to the Grand Hotel
- Afternoon Tea
- 5-course dinner

Sunday
- Horse and carriage transfers
- Return ferry transfers
- Admission & tour of the Henry Ford Museum
- Admission to the Ford Rouge Factory Tour
- Dinner at Tria

Monday
- Return home

Tired of those boring service club programs?
If you’ve ever had to find a speaker for your organization, or sit through the mindless droning of an ill-equipped executive rambling on and on… we have an answer to your problems. Take the Foundation to lunch!

Or dinner, or breakfast—whatever meeting you have—and we will present an interesting, concise and fact-filled presentation about life on the Hoover Campus and the many interesting programs and exhibits found at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum and Hoover National Historic Site. Our 20-minute PowerPoint presentation contains several ‘modules’ that can be added or subtracted to fit your specific need. Just call the office at 319-643-5327 to lock in your date. Two-week notice is appreciated, but you can try us for those rare, last-minute fill-in spots too.

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Dinner is a five-course event with live music. After dinner there is dancing with the Grand Hotel Orchestra!

Sunday morning after breakfast you depart via horse and carriage to the ferry for the trip back to Mackinaw City. Today you will drive down to Dearborn, Michigan and explore The Henry Ford Museum in a guided tour. This is followed by a self-guided tour of the Ford Rouge Factory. “Put yourself at the center of sheer manufacturing might. Beyond the awe-inspiring sweep, scale and action of the real-life factory floor where the new military grade aluminum-alloy body Ford F-150 is made, get set for some eye-opening encounters with the technology of tomorrow — today.”

Sunday evening you check in to the Doubletree by Hilton, Dearborn with dinner at Tria—an elegant modern American brasserie. The trip concludes Monday after breakfast at the hotel and travel home.★

Foundation Member Rates:
Single Members..........................$2,195 per member
Couples……………………………..$1,695 per person

Non-member Rates:
Single …………………………………..$2,295 each
Couples………………………………$1,895 per person

A $1,000 deposit is required per person, with the balance due on May 31.

Modules Include
- West Branch Hoover
- Stanford Hoover
- Lou Henry Hoover
- Mining Career
- World Travels
- The Great Humanitarian
- The Presidency
- Hoover-Ball
- The Hoover Campus
- Exhibits this year
- The Hoover Presidential Foundation

Or ask us to create one for a special need!

Photo © Michael Barera
Delene McConnaha finds them. Delene is the membership and academics program manager at the Foundation. She connects with thousands of teachers, hundreds of school systems and even home school organizations across the state to promote the annual program. She has developed a promotional package including a letter of explanation, a poster, and informational brochures that go out to a list of over 2,500 educators. She also takes advantage of Foundation social media outlets, our monthly e-newsletter, Hoover’s American Spirit, and Google Adwords. Adwords are small advertisements that come up during Google searches for scholarships in Iowa. The Foundation is allowed over $300 per day in advertising at no cost to us as part of a grant from Google. The ads generate over 20,000 views and 300 clicks on average each month. Last year, 75 students applied for the program.

“It takes a lot of work,” to be named an Uncommon Student, Delene said. “The projects they take on can take hundreds of hours to complete over the summer.” So finding students even willing to apply can be tough. “Although those who do apply are already uncommon,” Delene said. “And those are exactly the type of students we want in the program.”

Narrowing the list falls upon the Uncommon Student Award committee members. Delene presents the information, but the committee makes the final selections. “It’s hard to do. There are so many students with outstanding project ideas,” said committee chairman Jeannita McNulty.

To aid in the 2016 promotional effort, an eight foot by eight foot portable wall was created to highlight the program. The wall was featured prominently in Des Moines’ Hall of Pride during the state high school wrestling and basketball tournaments in February and March. A box full of program brochures was attached to the wall. “Thousands of Iowa students and their families will pass by the wall, planting the seeds for this year and the years to follow,” Delene said.

How do you find an Uncommon Student?

Each year, the Hoover Presidential Foundation selects 15 students from across the state to participate in the Uncommon Student Awards. The students work a community service project of their own design during the summer. Upon completion of the program, each student presents the results of their efforts before a panel of judges, and they all receive a $1,000 cash award for their efforts. Three of them, as selected by the panel, will earn an additional $5,000 scholarship. It’s a great program and the students are amazing, but where do they come from?
Hoover-Ball gets state-wide exposure

Hoover-Ball is now part of the Iowa Games! By partnering with them, we’ll expose Hoover-Ball to a much larger audience statewide in a very efficient manner. Iowa Games will help promote Hoover-Ball and provide access to their easy-to-use online registration, and even supply awards to the winning teams!

The Iowa Games began in August of 1987 as a weekend event, featuring 16 sports and 7,104 participants (nearly a record number at that time for a first-year state games). For the first time, weekend athletes, school children and senior citizens could experience the thrill of great performances and satisfaction of doing their best in a statewide Olympic-style competition.

Many of the Iowa Summer Games are held in Ames in July. Still others, like Hoover-Ball are held at their home fields. The Hoover Presidential Foundation, who manages the Hoover-Ball National Championships, has been invited to the Summer Games to host Hoover-Ball demonstrations throughout the day. The exposure will allow our volunteers to demonstrate the game and invite walk-on players to give it a try. Thousands of athletes will be on site – and hopefully want to join our event during Hoover’s Hometown Days!

The Summer Games begin July 15. The national championships continue in West Branch during Hoover’s Hometown Days, on Aug. 6. ★

Grant helps fund summer internship

The Foundation is pleased to announce that we won a grant from Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area to help cover the cost of our summer intern program! One condition of the grant is that the intern spend time researching and promoting the upcoming farming exhibit in 2018. The intern will research and write stories about Hoover and agriculture that we will ‘put in the can’ and bring out as needed to share in our newsletters, social media and with potential donors.

And speaking of interns....

Tessa Lamartine of Donnellson, Iowa has accepted our offer to become the 2016 summer communications intern! Tessa will begin the fall semester as a junior at Iowa State University in Ames.

She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and management at ISU’s College of Business.

Tessa has served in many leadership roles on campus as a member of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity, and the Food Recovery Network. She is also a member of several business and athletic organizations on campus.

"I can’t wait to get started," Tessa said. "I’m looking forward to the variety of work and really digging into it!"

In addition to writing advance papers on the 2018 farming exhibit, she will be running the Hoover-Ball program and social media pages. The internship begins in mid-May and ends after Hoover’s Hometown Days weekend in August. ★

Look for our ad on page 118 of the Iowa Travel Guide!

Order your free copy at www.traveliowa.com

#THISISIOWA
Gifts to the Hoover Presidential Foundation Made Easy

Continued from page 4 —

How it Works

To make a charitable bequest, you need a current will or revocable living trust.

Your gift can be made as a percentage of your estate. Or you can make a specific bequest by giving a certain amount of cash, securities or property. After your lifetime, your favorite nonprofit receives your gift.

Putting Your Family First

When planning a future gift, it’s sometimes difficult to determine what size donation will make sense. Emergencies happen and you need to make sure your family is financially taken care of first.

Including a bequest of a percentage of your estate ensures that your gift will remain proportionate no matter how your estate’s value fluctuates over the years.

3. IRA Charitable Rollover Now

Permanent: See the Benefits

Available to You

Congress reinstated a law that allows you to make a tax-free gift from your individual retirement account (IRA). Known as the IRA charitable rollover, this law no longer has an expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to your favorite nonprofit from your IRA this year and well into the future.

The recently reinstated law allows individuals 70 ½ and older the ability to transfer up to $100,000 from their individual retirement accounts directly to a qualified charitable organization without being subject to income taxes.

Here are the Details

• You are age 70 ½ or older at the time of the gift.
• You transfer up to $100,000 directly from your IRA. This opportunity applies only to IRAs and not other types of retirement plans.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I’ve already named your nonprofit as the beneficiary of my IRA. What are the benefits if I make a gift now instead of after my lifetime?
A. By making a gift this year of up to $100,000 from your IRA, you can see your philanthropic dollars at work. You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and giving yourself the joy of watching your philanthropy take shape. Moreover, you can fulfill any outstanding pledge you may have already made by transferring that amount from your IRA under this legislation as long as it is $100,000 or less for the year.

Q. I’m turning age 70 ½ in a few months. Can I make this gift now?
A. No. The legislation requires you to reach age 70 ½ by the date you make the gift.

Q. I have several retirement accounts—some are pensions and some are IRAs. Does it matter which retirement account I use?
A. Yes. Direct rollovers to a qualified charity can only be made from an IRA. Under certain circumstances, however, you may be able to roll assets from a pension, profit sharing, 401(k) or 403(b) plan into an IRA and then make the transfer from the IRA directly to your favorite nonprofit. To determine if a rollover to an IRA is available for your plan, speak with your plan administrator.

Q. Can my gift be used as my minimum required distribution under the law?
A. Yes, absolutely. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift.

Q. Do I need to give my entire IRA to be eligible for the tax benefits?
A. No. You can give any amount under this provision, as long as it is $100,000 or less this year. If your IRA is valued at more than $100,000, you can transfer a portion of it to fund a charitable gift.

Q. I have two charities I want to support. Can I give $100,000 from my IRA to each?
A. No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of $100,000. For example, you can give each organization $50,000 this year or any other combination that totals $100,000 or less. Any amount of more than $100,000 in one year must be reported as taxable income.

Q. My spouse and I would like to give more than $100,000. How can we do that?
A. If you have a spouse (as defined by the IRS) who is 70 ½ or older and has an IRA, he or she can also give up to $100,000 from his or her IRA.

Q. Can my gift be used as my minimum required distribution under the law?
A. Yes, absolutely. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian to complete the gift.

Q. I have two charities I want to support. Can I give $100,000 from my IRA to each?
A. No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of $100,000. For example, you can give each organization $50,000 this year or any other combination that totals $100,000 or less. Any amount of more than $100,000 in one year must be reported as taxable income.

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Please feel free to contact me at the Hoover Presidential Foundation offices with any questions you may have.

Jerry Fleagle, IOM, CAE
JFleagle@HooverPF.org

May is Membership Rewards Month!

Spread the News!

The Hoover Presidential Foundation grows stronger as we grow larger. Having a larger membership base allows us to build stronger programs. Think of it as building a skyscraper. Without a strong, stable foundation, the builders have no chance to build upon the previous floor in a lasting, meaningful way. They will never attain their lofty goal without fear of their work crumbling around them!

We appreciate your membership, and hope you’ll encourage others to join in the fun and partake in the exciting things that are happening on the Hoover Campus! And we’re not asking for a donation... we’re asking that you tell a friend, or two, or three, about the value of membership in the Hoover Presidential Foundation and how much you’ve enjoyed your membership. Then ask them to consider joining and point them to our website, www.HooverPresidentialFoundation.org. For every new membership you refer in May, we’ll give you four free adult admission guest passes to use as you please – that’s a $40 value! Perhaps you’ll want to give them to some other friends and convince them to join, too? Or pass them along to visiting family or a neighbor who helped you out – the choice is yours as our way to say Thank You for helping us grow!

Just have your new member mention your name during sign-up in the comments box online or on the phone. We’ll send your bonus passes to you the same day we send out your friends’ new member packet – it’s that easy! And there’s no limit on rewards – we’ll send you four free guest passes for each new membership you refer in May!
Upmeyer, Kapucian named 2016 Uncommon Public Service Award Recipients

Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives, Linda Upmeyer, and State Senator Tim Kapucian were recognized March 30 in their respective legislative chambers by the Hoover Presidential Foundation for ‘uncommon public service’ to the people of Iowa. The Foundation established the award to be presented annually to one member of the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate who exemplifies Herbert Hoover’s humanitarian efforts and commitment with uncommon service. The nominees are judged solely on their public service and humanitarian projects.

State Representative Bobby Kaufmann presented the award to Linda Upmeyer before members of the House as the session opened. "Being 'uncommon' is a quality of life and of service that we see often in our great state," said Rep. Kaufmann. "We find uncommon people in our schools, churches, courts and hospitals . . . we even find them in our state government.”

Rep. Kaufmann quoted from Speaker Upmeyer’s nomination form, "Linda Upmeyer has exemplified the values of leadership and integrity in all walks of her personal and professional life. She is passionate about and dedicated to the state of Iowa. Linda demonstrates Herbert Hoover’s value of work ethic when you find her in her office at the Capitol prior to 6:30 a.m. each day. It is very important to her to make sure her constituents are heard and represented. She meets with all of her constituents at their request and holds political forums on days when the legislature is not in session.”

Speaker Upmeyer serves House District 54 and is the first woman in Iowa history to preside over the House chamber. Her father, Del Stromer, served as Speaker during the 69th General Assembly. Linda and her father are the first father and daughter pair in the nation to have both served as Speakers of the House.

Tim Kapucian was honored on the floor of the Iowa State Senate. In his opening remarks, State Senator David Johnson described President Hoover as an uncommon and extraordinary public servant. ". . . in his lifetime, Hoover saved the lives of well over a billion people in 57 countries. That certainly made him an 'uncommon' person,” said Johnson.

Sen. Kapucian was honored on the floor of the Iowa State Senate. In his opening remarks, State Senator David Johnson described President Hoover as an uncommon and extraordinary public servant. "... in his lifetime, Hoover saved the lives of well over a billion people in 57 countries. That certainly made him an ‘uncommon’ person,” said Johnson.

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WHO DUNNIT?: MURDER AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

In connection with the new temporary exhibit, Aint Misbehavin? The World of the Gangster, the Hoover Presidential Foundation will host two murder mystery nights at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. The first will be Saturday, June 4 with a second mystery on Saturday, July 23. Each will begin after the museum closes to the public, and can accommodate up to 50 ‘sleuths.’

Can you solve the mystery? The mob knocked off a squealer who didn’t know when to shut up. The clues are there, the room is full of the usual suspects, but do you have what it takes to solve the crime – before it happens again? Join in the fun to solve the crime – you’re probably one of the suspects anyway.

Foundation members will have the first opportunity to register for the murder mysteries at the upcoming VIP Exhibit Preview Reception on April 22. Watch the Foundation’s website for pricing information and online registration. The evening includes hors d’oeuvres, wine and other ‘gangster period’ beverages. Some of which might have been bootlegged. As an option, participants are encouraged to dress for a night out in a 1920’s speakeasy.

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April 22
VIP Exhibit Preview Reception, 5 to 7 p.m.

April 23
Aint Misbehavin? The World of the Gangster opens to the public

May 24
Concert in the Park, featuring the West Branch High School Jazz Band

May 30
Memorial Day, Concert in the Park, featuring the Eastern Iowa Brass Band

Thursdays in June and July
Enjoy a Concert in the Park, featuring a different music style each week. See our website calendar for details

June 11
Laura Ingalls Wilder presentation by Julie Frances Miller, 11 a.m.

July 4
Eastern Iowa Brass Band, 2 p.m.

August 5-6
Hoover’s Hometown Days