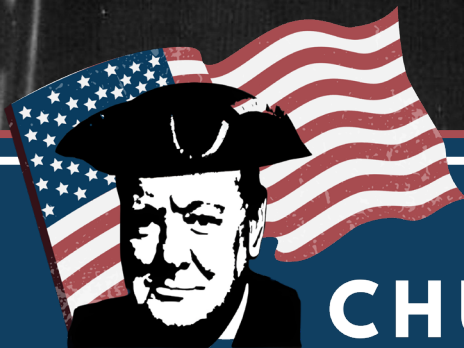




2026

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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Welcome to ICS 2026

International Churchill Society

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Deputy Executive Director

Angela Ostrom, JD

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the International Churchill Society, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Philadelphia for the 43rd International Churchill Conference, Churchill & America.

Building on another year of remarkable growth, we are delighted to welcome an expanding community of members, scholars, supporters, and friends to our annual conference. The enthusiasm surrounding this gathering reflects something larger: a growing interest in Winston Churchill's extraordinary life, leadership, and enduring relevance to the challenges of our own time.

Our ambitions extend well beyond these three days in Philadelphia. Across the United States and around the world, our chapters and members are creating opportunities for people to discover, discuss, and debate Churchill's legacy. Through educational programs, scholarship, publications, and local events, we are reaching new audiences and encouraging the next generation to engage with history and the lessons it offers.

This year's conference reflects that mission. As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, we have assembled an exceptional program exploring Churchill's deep personal connections to the United States, his relationships with American leaders, and the transatlantic partnership that helped shape the modern world. We hope the conversations begun here will inspire new friendships, fresh perspectives, and continued engagement long after we leave Philadelphia.

We are profoundly grateful to our generous sponsors, dedicated Board, conference committee, speakers, chapter leaders, volunteers, and the many individuals whose commitment has made this gathering possible. Most importantly, we thank you for being part of the International Churchill Society and for helping us carry Churchill's legacy forward.

Welcome to Philadelphia. We look forward to a memorable conference and to the continued growth of our Churchill community in the years ahead.



Jean-Paul Montupet
Chairman, Board of Directors
International Churchill Society



Adam Howard
Executive Director
International Churchill Society

Welcome to Philadelphia

Message from the Conference Committee Chairs

Dear Friends and Fellow Churchillians,

Welcome to Philadelphia! It is our tremendous pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 International Churchill Conference as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary in the city where American independence was declared.

When we began planning this year's conference, we could think of no more fitting setting than Philadelphia. As the birthplace of American liberty, this historic city offers an extraordinary backdrop for exploring our theme, *Churchill & America*, and celebrating the remarkable relationship between Winston Churchill and the United States.

Churchill proudly embraced his American heritage through his mother, Jennie Jerome. Yet his connection to this country extended far beyond family. He admired America's founding principles, developed lasting friendships with American leaders, and understood the profound importance of the partnership between the United States and United Kingdom. His relationships with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Dwight Eisenhower helped shape the special relationship that continues to influence our world.

Throughout this conference, we have the privilege of gathering in some of Philadelphia's most distinguished historic venues, joined by exceptional historians, authors, military leaders, and Churchillians from across the globe. Together, we will explore Churchill's American roots, the defining moments of the Anglo-American alliance, and the enduring lessons of his indispensable leadership.

As fellow chapter leaders, we know that the spirit of the International Churchill Society lives not only in gatherings such as this, but in communities where our members bring history to life throughout the year. We encourage each of you to take a little of Philadelphia home with you: share what you have learned, continue the conversations begun here, and find new ways to engage your local communities in Churchill's remarkable story.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our many speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and fellow committee members who have worked so enthusiastically to make this conference possible. Much like our founding principles that were declared and defended here in 1776, Churchill fought to ensure those ideals did not perish in the 20th century. With your support of our mission, you help the ICS do the same in our time. In the words of the 20th century's greatest statesman, *"This is no time for ease and comfort. It is the time to dare and endure."*

Enjoy Philadelphia, celebrate America's 250th, and thank you for joining us for what we hope will be an unforgettable and historic gathering!

Jim Drury

2026 Conference Committee Co-Chair
International Churchill Society



Vince Benedetto

2026 Conference Committee Co-Chair
International Churchill Society



2026 Conference Schedule

Conference Session Venue
Union League of Philadelphia
140 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Host Hotel & Breakfast
W Philadelphia
1439 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 19102
+1 215-709-8000

Day One Thursday, 15 October

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Union League

Conference Registration Opens

4:30 p.m.

W Philadelphia

First Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

5:00 p.m.

W Philadelphia

Second Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Museum of the American Revolution

Guest Arrival, Check-In, and Early Core Galleries Access

5:30 p.m.

W Philadelphia

Final Outbound Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Museum of the American Revolution

Opening Reception — Cocktails and Light Refreshments

6:40 – 6:50 p.m.

Museum of the American Revolution

Brief Welcome Remarks



7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Museum of the
American Revolution

Core Galleries Reopen

7:45 p.m.

Museum of the
American Revolution

First Return Bus Departure to W Philadelphia

8:00 p.m.

Museum of the
American Revolution

Second Return Bus Departure to W Philadelphia

8:15 p.m.

Museum of the
American Revolution

Third Return Bus Departure to W Philadelphia

8:45 p.m.

Museum of the
American Revolution

Final Return Bus Departure to W Philadelphia

Day Two Friday, 16 October

7:00 a.m.

W Philadelphia

Breakfast Opens

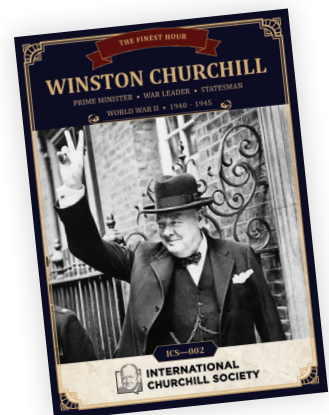
Conference Sessions: Union League, Lincoln Ballroom

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

**Opening Session and
Welcome Remarks**

Tim Riley, Adam Howard



9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

Profiles in Courage: Washington, Lincoln, and Churchill

Denver Brunsman, James W. Muller, Matthew Pinsker

Moderator: Chris Gibson

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

Break

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

The Special Relationship

Ambassador Christian Turner

Introduction: Randolph Churchill

11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

Luncheon & “Not An Attractive Fellow” —

Special One Act Production

Introduction: Lawrence Siskind

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

Break

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

The Allies and the Holocaust

Richard Breitman

Moderator: Adam Howard

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

The Finest Hour Panel Discussion

James W. Muller, David Freeman

Moderator: Angela Ostrom

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.

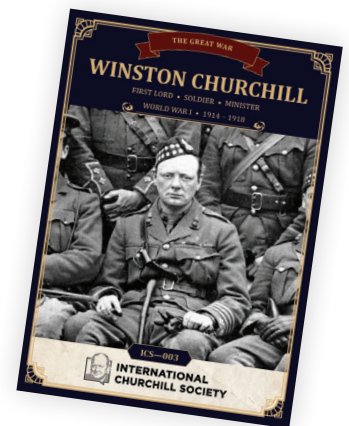
Lincoln Ballroom

Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Lincoln Ballroom

Featured Speaker: William “Bill” Kristol in conversation
with James W. Muller



5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Union League Library

**Author Signing, Reception, and
Union League Award Presentation**

Day Three Saturday, 17 October

7:00 a.m.

W Philadelphia

Breakfast Opens

Conference Sessions: Union League, Mead Room

9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

Mead Room

**President and Prime Minister:
Ike and Winston**

Jonathan W. Jordan

Moderator: Adam Howard

9:50 – 10:45 a.m.

Mead Room

Kennedy's Only Hero

Joel Nelson

Moderator: Adam Howard

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

Mead Room

Break

11:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Mead Room

Presentation by The Queen's Royal Hussars

Captain Louis Hoffman

Introduction: Ron & Eleanor Luke

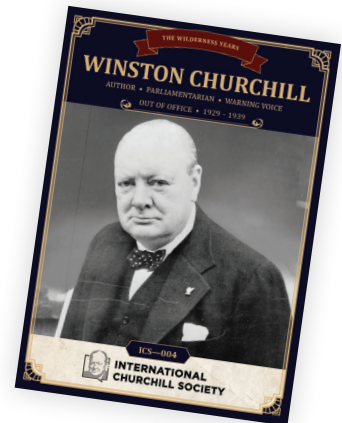
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Mead Room

Churchill's American Roots

Katherine Carter, Bob Jerome, Randolph Churchill,

Moderator: Allen Packwood



12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Mead Room

Special Presentation: Churchill Archives

Allen Packwood

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Mead Room

Buffet Luncheon

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Mead Room

**Shadow Before the Flame: The Hindenburg Disaster
and the Prelude to War**

Catherine Grace Katz

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Mead Room

Churchill and America's Founding Documents

Larry Arnn

Moderator: Hugh Hewitt

Saturday Evening: One North Broad

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

One North Broad

**Cocktail Reception and
Gallery Viewing**

7:45 – 10:00 p.m.

One North Broad

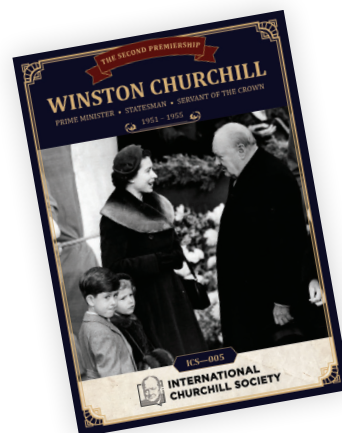
**Black-Tie Gala Dinner and
Leadership Award**

General James Mattis

Moderator: David Rubenstein

Introduction: Adam Howard

Award Presentation: Randolph Churchill



Churchill's American Heritage

From the *Finest Hour*, 2008

By Winston S. Churchill

While recently assembling my grandfather's writings on America into a single volume entitled *The Great Republic* (reviewed in this issue. Ed.), I used it as the opportunity to research further my family's American forebears.

Winston Churchill was half American by birth – a fact of which he was deeply proud. In his first address to a joint session of the United States Congress, on 26 December 1941, he teased the assembled Senators and Representatives with the mischievous suggestion, "If my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way 'round, I might have got here on my own!"

His mother, Jennie Jerome of Brooklyn, New York, later Lady Randolph Churchill, was a noted beauty of her day and Winston, as a young cavalry officer, shamelessly used all the influence she was able to bring to bear in his quest to see action in different parts of the globe from Cuba in 1895 and the North-West Frontier of India in 1897, to the Sudan in 1898 and South Africa in 1899. Through his maternal grandfather, Leonard Jerome, sometime proprietor and editor of *The New York Times*, he had at least two forebears who fought against the British in the American War of Independence: one great-grandfather, Samuel Jerome, served in the Berkshire County Militia while another, Major Libbeus Ball, of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, marched and fought with George Washington's army at Valley Forge. Furthermore Leonard Jerome's maternal grandfather, Reuben Murray, served as a lieutenant in the Connecticut and New York Regiments, while his wife Clara's grandfather, Ambrose Hall, was a captain in the Berkshire County Militia at Bennington. Indeed I have found no evidence of any ancestor who fought with the British in this misguided conflict, which Chatham and Burke had been so eager to avoid!

Not only did Winston Churchill have Revolutionary blood in his veins but, possibly, native American as well. According

to family tradition, Jennie's maternal grandmother, Clarissa Willcox, was half-Iroquois. Clarissa's father, David Willcox, is recorded as marrying Anna Baker and settling in Palmyra, New York in 1791. The implication is that Clarissa may have been a half Iroquois accepted into the family. The truth will perhaps never be known. It is unsurprising that such matters, most especially in those days, went unrecorded. What is certain is that Winston's mother, Jennie, and her sister Leonie, firmly believed the story to be true, having been told by their mother, Clara: "My dears, there is something you should know. It may not be chic but it is rather interesting...." Furthermore, the family portrait of his maternal grandmother Clara, which I have inherited from my grandfather, lends credence to the suggestion that she may have been quarter-Iroquois, with her oval face and mysteriously dark features.

In recent years, genealogical researchers have sought to cast scorn on the suggestion that Clara's descent is other than "American Colonial of English background" (see "Urban Myths," this issue -Ed.). But this fails to explain why, some 130 years ago, Clara would have told her daughters the story, at a time when it would have been deeply unfashionable to make such a claim. Nor does it explain the evidence of Clara's features which have little in common with the Anglo-Saxon. Furthermore, it is undisputed that the densely wooded country south of Lake Ontario around Palmyra, New York, where Clarissa Willcox was born, was the heartland of the Iroquois nation.

My cousin, Anita Leslie, in *The Fabulous Leonard Jerome*, quotes her grandmother Leonie, remarking on her exceptional energy: "That's my Indian blood, only don't let Mama know I told you!" While it is unlikely that the question of the family's native American heritage can be firmly proved either way, I have little doubt as to the truth of the matter. For me physical features speak louder than any entry in a register of births, but I leave it to the reader to make his or her own judgment of the matter.



WHILE compiling *The Great Republic* I read that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, better known as the Mormons, had made available thirty years of their researches on both sides of the Atlantic (www.familysearch.org), dumping on the Internet the records of some 300 million individuals who had been born, been married or had died on either side of the Atlantic. The system is somewhat quirky, in that it refused to recognise my grandfather's name, but when I punched in the name of Jennie Jerome and her parents, suddenly an amazing family tree sprouted forth, detailing some 255 ancestors on the American side of my family, of whose existence I had previously been unaware. Many of the branches run back to before the time of Columbus, one even through twenty-eight generations to the West Country to one Gervaise Gifford born in 1122 at Whitchurch, Dorset. That particular branch of the family barely moved fifteen miles in the space of fifteen generations before William Gifford, born in 1614 at Milton Damerel, Devon, and who married at St. Martins, London, on 4 March 1683, sailed for America, dying soon afterwards at Sandwich, Massachusetts in 1687.

Of these 255 ancestors I discovered no fewer than 26 who were born in England but died in America. To me they are true heroes – for these were the men and women who founded the America of today. In the course of my researches, I suddenly stumbled on the fact that one of my ancestors, John Cooke, who died in Plymouth, Massachusetts

in 1694, had been born in Leyden, Holland, in 1607. Aware that nearly half the Pilgrims on the *Mayflower* had been known as the “Leyden Community” – Walloon Protestants escaping religious persecution – I was prompted to wonder if any of my forebears had made that momentous voyage.

Within seconds, using an admirable Internet search engine straight out of P. G. Wodehouse, appropriately named www.askjeeves.com, I was able to call up via the *Mayflower* website the full manifest of all 102 passengers and was fascinated to discover (assuming the Mormon database to be correct) that Winston Churchill, ten generations removed, had not one but three ancestors who sailed on the *Mayflower* and who, more importantly, were among the mere fifty who survived the rigours of that first cruel winter on the shores of Massachusetts.

John Cooke, a lad of just 13, was one of those passengers, as was his father, Francis, and his future father-in-law, Richard Warren. I was further intrigued to learn that through them we may be linked to no fewer than three Presidents of the United States – Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin D. Roosevelt and George Bush – and to Alan Shepard, the first American in space and the fifth to walk on the moon.

The one question mark regarding this lineage is whether John Cooke's and his wife Sarah Warren's daughter Elizabeth was indeed the mother of Churchill's ancestor, Daniel Willcox, Jr., born c. 1656/57 at Dartmouth, Massachusetts. While the Mormon database is clear on this point, the suggestion has been advanced that Elizabeth may have been the second wife of Daniel Willcox – therefore only the step-mother of Daniel Jr. – in which case the direct link to the *Mayflower* would not be valid. There is here a conflict of evidence as yet unresolved.

What is undisputed is that this injection of American blood, through my great-grandmother Jennie Jerome, kick-started to new triumphs the Marlborough dynasty which had slumbered through seven generations since John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough, had won his series of dazzling victories that had humbled France's “Sun King,” Louis XIV, at the turn of the 18th century.

Mr. Churchill, Sir Winston's grandson, is a Trustee of The Churchill Center.

Museum of the American Revolution

AmRevMuseum.org

Located just steps from Independence Hall in the heart of historic Philadelphia, the Museum of the American Revolution explores the people, ideas, and events that gave birth to the United States. Opened on April 19, 2017—the anniversary of the opening battles of the American Revolution—the Museum brings the Revolutionary era to life through original artifacts, immersive galleries, and interactive experiences. At the heart of its collection is General George Washington’s original wartime headquarters tent, which served as his office and sleeping quarters through much of the Revolutionary War.

In 2026, the Museum is marking the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with *The Declaration’s Journey*, a major exhibition tracing the Declaration’s history and global influence from 1776 to the present. The exhibition examines how its language and ideals have shaped

continuing debates over liberty, equality, rights, and self-government.

Churchill’s connection to the United States began with his American mother, Jennie Jerome of New York, but extended far beyond family ties to American history, political institutions, and founding principles. In his 1946 “Sinews of Peace” address, he described the principles of freedom and individual rights as the “joint inheritance” of the English-speaking world and identified the American Declaration of Independence as their most famous expression. As the United States marks 250 years since 1776, the Museum provides a fitting setting in which to consider the American ideas and history that figured so prominently in Churchill’s understanding of the Anglo-American relationship.





Union League of Philadelphia

unionleague.org

Founded in 1862 as a patriotic society dedicated to supporting the Union and the policies of President Abraham Lincoln, the Union League of Philadelphia became an important center of civic mobilization during the Civil War. Its members raised resources for the Union war effort, supported soldiers and their families, influenced public opinion, and helped recruit troops. The League's purpose-built clubhouse on South Broad Street was begun in 1864 and opened in May 1865. Since then, the Union League has welcomed U.S. presidents, heads of state, diplomats, military leaders, and other distinguished visitors from around the world. Its enduring motto remains *Amor Patriae Ducit*—"Love of Country Leads."

The Union League is also marking America's 250th anniversary through programs that connect the ideals of the Founding with later struggles over Union, citizenship, liberty, and equality. Its Path of Patriots traces Philadelphia's Civil

War-era history and the League's role in defending what its founders understood as the ideals of 1776, while Crafting Independence: "All Men Are Created Equal" explores the continuing meaning of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill each became symbols of national leadership in moments of profound political and military crisis. Churchill studied American history and repeatedly engaged with the country's constitutional tradition, its founding principles, and figures such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Gathering at the Union League during America's 250th anniversary therefore brings together themes central to this year's conference: the American Founding, Lincoln and the preservation of the Union, and Churchill's enduring engagement with the history and political traditions of the United States.

One North Broad Historic Masonic Temple

onenorthbroad.com

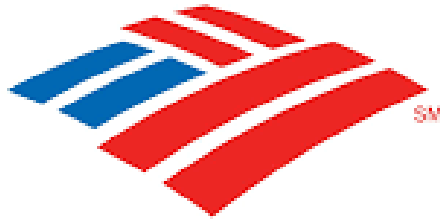
The conference will conclude on Saturday evening with a glittering black-tie gala reception and dinner at One North Broad. Nestled on North Broad Street in the heart of Philadelphia, One North Broad is not simply a venue. Housed within the iconic Masonic Temple, this extraordinary setting offers guests the rare opportunity to step inside one of the most magnificent buildings in the United States. It is the largest Masonic Temple in the world, constructed not for spectacle but as a working headquarters for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, one of the oldest Masonic jurisdictions in existence. Freemasonry was deeply intertwined with the civic and intellectual life of early America, and Philadelphia was its epicenter. This building was designed to reflect that influence and permanence.

Designated a National Historic Landmark and completed in 1873, the Masonic Temple is a masterpiece of nineteenth-century architecture and craftsmanship with soaring staircases and richly detailed interiors. The Temple was conceived as a living museum of world architecture and symbolism. Each major hall and lodge room is modeled on a different historical civilization or architectural tradition, including Egyptian Revival, Corinthian Greek, Gothic Medieval, Renaissance, and Roman styles. These were not decorative pastiches. They were built with scholarly precision to educate members about moral philosophy, history, and governance through space itself. In effect, the building teaches as you move through it. It houses an extraordinary rare-book and archival library, containing thousands of volumes, manuscripts, and artifacts related to American history, Enlightenment philosophy, early science, and civic leadership.



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The friendship between Sir Winston Churchill and Odette Pol Roger began at a luncheon in liberated Paris, where the 1928 vintage of Pol Roger was served. Their bond endured until Churchill's death, forging ties

between the Pol Roger and Churchill families that remain strong today. Churchill declared Pol Roger "the most drinkable address in the world" and even named one of his racehorses after it—an enduring tribute to his favorite champagne. We are grateful to Champagne Pol Roger for their generous sponsorship.



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*Theodore Roosevelt meets a young
Winston Churchill in a spirited encounter
about ambition, politics, character,
and the future.*

2026 INTERNATIONAL
CHURCHILL CONFERENCE

CHURCHILL & AMERICA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026

**THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA
LINCOLN BALLROOM**

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★ **ROB HARGRAVES** ★

— *Theodore Roosevelt* —

SAG-AFTRA actor with extensive stage work in Philadelphia-area theatre, including *The Weir*, *12 Angry Men*, and *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.



★ **NATE MILES-MCLEAN** ★

— *Winston Churchill* —

University of the Arts BFA Acting graduate whose credits include the Maryland Renaissance Festival, *Something Rotten*, and *It's Only a Play*.



★ **AJ DWAYNE** ★

— *Elijah Marshall* —

New York-based actor, host, voiceover artist, improviser, writer and director with stage, film, television, and live-performance credits.

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR

Rosey Hay

WRITER

Lawrence Siskind

PRODUCTION

Rob Shwab • Rosey Hay • Lawrence Siskind

ABOUT THE PLAY

A spirited theatrical encounter imagining Theodore Roosevelt and a young Winston Churchill in conversation about ambition, politics, and character.

★ NOT AN ATTRACTIVE FELLOW ★

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2026 • LINCOLN BALLROOM • UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

Why Churchill Matters — Churchill as American



*By Vince Benedetto, Director,
International Churchill Society
Board and President, Churchill
Society of Pennsylvania,
Reprinted from the Churchill
Bulletin*

There are moments in life when history stops feeling distant.

Americans, in many ways, have always claimed Winston Churchill as one of their own. None other than President John F. Kennedy, during a White House ceremony in April of 1963, did so. President Kennedy proclaimed Churchill an honorary American citizen of the United States. Churchill, too frail to be present at the ceremony, sent his son, Randolph, to accept the honor. Churchill did, however, write a moving letter that his son read aloud during the ceremony. Churchill's adoration for our American Republic shone through with his eloquent words:

"I am, as you know, half American by blood, and the story of my association with that mighty and benevolent nation goes back nearly ninety years to the day of my Father's marriage. In this century of storm and tragedy I contemplate with high satisfaction the constant factor of the interwoven and upward progress of our peoples. Our comradeship and our brotherhood in war were unexampled. We stood together, and because of that fact, the free world now stands."

Though he led Britain and the free world through its finest and most perilous hour, he occupies an enduring place in American hearts and minds. To this day, we invoke his 'never surrender' and 'never give in' words during competitions, corporate planning sessions, in Congress and at the White House. We study his leadership and strategies at our military

academies and business schools; we keep his portraits and busts in our halls of government, libraries, cigar lounges, and private studies. We study his oratory and wordsmithing skills in public speaking and creative writing classes, remember him in toasts with the finest scotches and champagnes, and flash the victory symbol during both consequential and casual moments. He is the subject of an ever-growing number of documentaries and a recurring character in numerous TV shows and cinema. His books remain on our shelves, his speeches circulate virally and remain on the tip of our tongues, his name is invoked on a near daily basis on talk radio, and his example continues to stir people born long after the Allied victory in WWII. He is, in every way, ever present in the American consciousness with no signs of fading. Indeed, it is the mission and passion of the International Churchill Society (ICS), and our affiliated chapters, to make sure it stays that way – all while safeguarding the official record of Churchill's life and legacy!



To this end, we hold our most important global event each year, the International Churchill Conference. This annual gathering brings the brightest lights, leaders and scholars around the 'Great Man' together! The ICS will be doing this for our forty-third year this autumn, and this conference may very well be our most consequential. It's also no accident that it happens to be our first ever gathering in Pennsylvania. This October 15–17, the International Churchill Society will convene in Philadelphia as the United States continues celebrating its 250th anniversary. The conference has even been designated as an official America250PA event.

The theme this year will aptly be: 'Churchill and America'. No city could be more fitting. Philadelphia is the birthplace of American liberty. It's where the First and Second Continental Congress gathered and where the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution were signed, giving concrete form to the ideals of American liberty and self-government. This gathering will examine Churchill's profound attachment to the United States—an attachment that helped save the free world. The connection began at birth. Churchill's mother, Jennie Jerome, was an American from New York. From her he drew not only his American heritage but an instinctive affinity toward the United States. He took great pride in knowing his mother's ancestry traced back to the American Revolution, where his

distant relatives fought in George Washington's army. As such, Churchill was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and a hereditary member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He boasted that he was "half American," and he said it with a smile that made him beam.

From his first visits to New York and Pennsylvania and through lecture tours after the Boer War, to repeated journeys across his long career, Churchill drank deeply from the American spirit. He admired the United States' restless energy, vastness, innovative genius, republican vitality, entrepreneurial spirit and can-do optimism. He periodically grew impatient with American reluctance to more quickly confront gathering threats, yet he never doubted the Republic's latent power—its ability, once awakened, to mobilize resources and moral force on a scale unmatched in the annals of history. America continually intertwined through his life story with drama and irony. For example, in 1931, Churchill was struck by a car on 5th Avenue in NYC after looking the wrong way before stepping into the path of an oncoming car—an Englishman's momentary lapse in a city where we drive on the 'other side'. He would even write a book titled *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, which covers the shared history of Britain and the United States.



During World War II, in his grand struggle to defend all that was good and true, Churchill found a kindred spirit in another leader, President Franklin Roosevelt, who became his indispensable partner. The Churchill-Roosevelt bond stands as one of history's most consequential friendships. Two men of different temperaments, backgrounds, and political instincts forged an alliance of trust and shared purpose that altered the course of the 20th century—the ramifications of which still echo across all corners of the globe to this day. Through the Atlantic Charter, combined strategy sessions, and personal correspondence, WSC and FDR coordinated the greatest military coalition the world had ever witnessed. Their partnership demonstrated that free nations achieve their highest triumphs not through isolationism, but through magnanimous cooperation grounded in common ideals.

Pennsylvania, and Philadelphia, hold their own 'firsts' in Churchill's American journey. He first visited Philadelphia in 1900, the opening stop on his North American speaking tour on the Boer War. Churchill was also a student of the American Founding and the Civil War, studying with care the commanders and the battles. He admired George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and even toured the Gettysburg Battlefield by helicopter with President Dwight Eisenhower. Churchill understood that the principles proclaimed in Philadelphia in 1776, and defended on the fields of Gettysburg in 1863, representative government, free speech, individual rights, and natural law, represented a shared Anglo-American inheritance. When Britain and America stood shoulder to shoulder against totalitarian darkness, they were, in Churchill's mind, returning to their deepest common roots.

Americans' enduring fascination with Churchill is no accident. He embodied virtues we have always associated with American greatness: courage in crisis, infectious optimism, moral clarity, mastery of language, an unyielding refusal to accept defeat, and an admiration for the underdog. In an age that often prizes things that are perishable, Churchill offers something rarer—steadfast conviction and a belief in the things that last. Churchill knew that only good things endure. He understood that America was great because America was good. He knew standing for the good gave us a power our enemies could never muster. He believed in his words that "Strength is granted to us all when we are needed to serve great causes." By studying him, we have a better chance of discovering this strength in ourselves. He reminds us that real

leadership, the type of leadership that saves civilizations, is judged ultimately by principle and courage, not by polls or momentary approval—something worth remembering at a time of instant gratification, 'likes,' and 'clicks'.

Those of us who admire him often possess a special intensity in our admiration. For me, it echoes the devotion inspired by another British phenomenon I have loved since youth: The Beatles. The comparison is lighthearted, of course. It was not common for Churchill to be mobbed by screaming fans at the airport. Yet the parallel holds. Across the decades, new books about him continue to become bestsellers. His speeches have racked up millions of views online. Lecture halls fill to hear scholars revisit battles and decisions from eighty years ago. Like pilgrims, we still travel to his Cabinet War Rooms, his home at Chartwell, and his birthplace, Blenheim Palace. The enthusiasm remains remarkably fresh. We still very much live in a world order with Churchill's name and fingerprints all over it (And let us not forget John Lennon's middle name was, 'Winston').

This October, at the historic Union League of Philadelphia, combined with outings at the Museum of the American Revolution and the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, we will celebrate both America's 250th birthday and the extraordinary bond between Churchill and America. I can think of no better setting to reflect on the Englishman who did so much to preserve our liberties and who forged and fostered the 'special relationship' between America and Britain. Churchill was, of course, British. Yet through ancestry, affection, and alliance, he was also profoundly, and uniquely, American. That dual belonging helps explain why, more than 61 years after his death, his stature continues to rise rather than recede. In honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves as Americans. Churchill still matters because the future fate of western civilization may very well be tied to the enduring love we maintain for Sir Winston, as he was its greatest admirer and defender. In the 21st century, when so many things that anchored us for so long seem up for debate, we would be wise to continue to turn to the 20th century's greatest statesman and remember his words: "Do not let spacious plans for a new world divert your energies from saving what is left of the old."

Winston Churchill may technically be half-American, but we Americans love him with our whole hearts!

The 4th Queen's Own Hussars

Before Churchill was a statesman, he was a Hussar.

Winston Churchill joined the 4th Queen's Own Hussars as a 20-year-old second lieutenant in 1895, entering a regiment already steeped in more than two centuries of cavalry tradition. Formed in 1685, the 4th Hussars had fought across Europe and the British Empire and earned lasting fame at Balaklava in 1854, where they rode in the legendary Charge of the Light Brigade.

For the young Churchill, the regiment offered something more than military training. It opened the door to the wider world.

In 1896, the 4th Hussars sailed for India and were stationed at Bangalore. Churchill embraced the life of a cavalry officer—horses, polo, comradeship, and competition—but routine garrison duty could not contain his ambitions. He read voraciously, educating himself in history, philosophy, economics, and politics, while actively seeking opportunities for adventure and active service.

Still an officer of the 4th Hussars, Churchill made his way to the North-West Frontier, where he fought and reported on the Malakand campaign. His experiences became his first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*. He later secured a place with the 21st Lancers in the Sudan and took part in the Battle of Omdurman in 1898.

And then there was polo. Churchill was an accomplished and fiercely competitive player. In 1899, he returned to India to join the 4th Hussars team in the Inter-Regimental Polo Tournament, helping the regiment win one of the most coveted trophies in Indian polo.



By then, Churchill was already becoming something unusual: soldier, journalist, author, adventurer, and aspiring politician all at once.

He left the regular Army in 1899, but he never left the Hussars entirely behind. More than forty years later, in the darkest days of the Second World War, Prime Minister Winston Churchill became Honorary Colonel of his old regiment.



The 4th Hussars themselves moved with the times, exchanging horses for armored vehicles and serving in both world wars. In 1958, they amalgamated with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, and their traditions are carried forward today by The Queen's Royal Hussars.

For Churchill, the regiment would always belong to the beginning of the story: the years when an ambitious young cavalry officer first set out to make his mark on history.

We are especially honored to welcome members of The Queen's Royal Hussars to our conference in Philadelphia, bringing this remarkable history—and Churchill's enduring connection to the regiment—into the present day.

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HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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Speaker Bios



Sir Christian Turner

Sir Christian Turner was appointed as His Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of America on 18 December 2025. Sir Christian formally took up the role on 2 February 2026.

Previously, Christian was Political Director at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) from January 2023 to September 2025.

Christian was British High Commissioner to Pakistan, from December 2019 to January 2023. Before that, he was the Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser and Deputy National Security Adviser from 2017 to 2019.

He previously served as Director General for the Middle East and Africa, also leading the UK organisation of the London Syria Conference in February 2016. From 2012 to 2015 he was British High Commissioner to Kenya; and from 2009 to 2012 he was FCO's Director for the Middle East and North Africa.

Between 1997 and 2008 Christian held various positions in the Foreign Office, the Cabinet Office and 10 Downing Street, including as Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, as Secretary to the Economic and Domestic Committees of Cabinet, and as First Secretary in the British Embassy in Washington from 2002 to 2006.

Before joining government, Christian made television documentaries, after completing his PhD.



James Mattis

General, United States Marine Corps (Ret)
& 26th Secretary of Defense

Secretary Mattis was raised in southeastern Washington and enlisted in the Marine Corps Platoon Leader's Course in 1969 while attending Central Washington State College. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1971 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

During his more than four decades in uniform, he commanded Marines at all levels, from a 40-man infantry platoon to a 42,000-man Marine Expeditionary Force. He led an infantry battalion in the liberation of Kuwait; a naval task force in Afghanistan after the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001; 1st Marine Division in the initial attack and the following stability operations in Iraq in 2003 and 2004; and subsequently led all U.S. Marine Forces in the Middle East as Commander of I Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Forces Central Command.

During his non-combat assignments he served on recruiting duty; as the Battalion Officer at the Naval Academy Preparatory School; Executive Secretary to the Secretary of Defense; Director of Marine Corps Manpower Plans & Policy; Senior Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense; and Commanding General of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

In joint assignments he commanded U.S. Joint Forces Command; NATO's Supreme Allied Command

for Transformation; and U.S. Central Command. At U.S. Central Command he directed military operations of more than 250,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, and allied forces in combat across the Middle East.

Retiring in 2013, he was a Davies Family Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Subsequently he served as the 26th Secretary of Defense from January 2017 through December 2018. His eligibility for this position was contingent upon a congressional waiver, as amendments to the National Security Act prohibited active duty commissioned officers from serving as defense secretary for a period of seven years after service. The only previous waiver granted was for the appointment of George C. Marshall in 1950.

Currently General Mattis continues his work at the Hoover Institution.



Dr. Larry P. Arnn

Larry P. Arnn is the twelfth president of Hillsdale College.

He received his B.A. from Arkansas State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from the Claremont Graduate School. He served as director of research for Sir Martin Gilbert, the official biographer of Winston Churchill. He served as president of the Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy from 1985 to 2000. In 1996, he was the founding chairman of the California Civil Rights Initiative.

Dr. Arnn is on the board of directors of The Heritage Foundation, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, and

the Claremont Institute. He served on the U.S. Army War College Board of Visitors for two years, for which he earned the Department of the Army's Outstanding Civilian Service Medal. He was appointed in late 2020 as chairman of President Donald Trump's 1776 Commission. He received the Bradley Prize from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in 2015, the Edmund Burke Award for Service to Culture and Society from *The New Criterion* in 2022, the Heartland Liberty Prize from The Heartland Institute in 2024, and the Great American Award from The Heritage Foundation in 2025.

Published widely on issues of public policy, history, and political theory, he is the author of three books: *Liberty and Learning: The Evolution of American Education*; *The Founders' Key: The Divine and Natural Connection between the Declaration and the Constitution and What We Risk by Losing It*; and *Churchill's Trial: Winston Churchill and the Salvation of Free Government*.

Dr. Arnn is a professor of politics and history at Hillsdale and teaches courses on Aristotle, Winston Churchill, twentieth-century totalitarian novels, and the American Constitution.



William Kristol

For three decades, William Kristol has been a leading participant in American political debates and a widely respected analyst of American political developments. Having served in senior positions in the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations, Kristol understands government from the inside; as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard University, he has studied American politics

and society from the outside. Now, as founding director of Defending Democracy Together, an organization dedicated to defending America's liberal democratic norms, principles, and institutions, Kristol is in the midst of the national debate on issues ranging from American foreign policy to the future of the Republican Party and the meaning of American conservatism. Kristol is editor-at-large of The Bulwark, a news network dedicated to providing political analysis and reporting free from the constraints of partisan loyalties or tribal prejudices. Kristol frequently appears on all the major television talk shows, and also is the host of the highly regarded video series and podcast, Conversations with Bill Kristol. Kristol received his undergraduate degree and his Ph. D. from Harvard University.



**Richard Breitman,
Ph.D.**

Richard Breitman has written extensively on modern German history, the Holocaust, American immigration and refugee policy, and intelligence during and after World War II. He spent his entire teaching career at American University in Washington, DC, retiring as distinguished professor emeritus in 2015. He has written or co-authored fourteen books and served for twenty-five years as editor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a scholarly journal. He also led a group of historians who helped to declassify more than eight million pages of US government records under the 1998 Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act.

Breitman graduated from Yale summa cum laude. He earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in modern European history at Harvard. Breitman's best-known books are The Architect of Genocide: Himmler and the Final Solution (Alfred A. Knopf, 1991), which stressed Heinrich Himmler's central planning of the Holocaust; and a work co-authored with Allan J. Lichtman, FDR and the Jews (Harvard University Press, 2013). Both books won prizes. His latest book, A Calculated Restraint: What Allied Leaders Said About the Holocaust, offers a new perspective on the relationship between World War II and the Holocaust.

In 1999 Breitman received an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College, and in 2018 he was given a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Holocaust Educational Foundation. He and his wife Carol live in the Washington DC area.



**Denver Brunzman,
Ph.D.**

Denver Brunzman is Associate Professor and Chair of the History Department at George Washington University, where his courses include "George Washington and His World," taught annually at the Mount Vernon estate. He is an award-winning author of the books George Washington and His World: Enslaver, Revolutionary, President (2026) and The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World (2013), co-author of a leading college and AP U.S. History textbook, Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People (2016; 2020), and co-editor of The American Revolution Reader (2014), among other publications.



Katherine Carter

Katherine Carter is a curator and historian who has managed the house and collections at Chartwell, Winston Churchill's country home, for 13 years. A commentator and adviser on the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill, she lectures internationally and appears frequently in print and broadcast media. She is a Fellow of both the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Arts, and is a Churchill Fellow of Westminster College, the site of Winston Churchill's 'Iron Curtain' speech in Fulton, Missouri.

Her bestselling first book, Churchill's Citadel: Chartwell and the Gatherings Before the Storm

(2024) published by Yale University Press, has been well received in both the national and international press and has earned critical acclaim. Literary Review magazine called it “a stimulating and enjoyable work that shows us interwar politics from an unfamiliar angle”, while The Critic Magazine remarked that it had been written “with such relish that one can smell the cigar smoke exude from every page”.



Randolph Churchill

Randolph Churchill is President of the International Churchill Society and the primary global ambassador for his great-grandfather’s legacy.

After serving as a Royal Navy officer, he transitioned into a successful career in international finance.

Deeply committed to historical preservation, he serves as a trustee of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust and an Honorary Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, traveling worldwide to speak on Sir Winston’s enduring leadership principles.



David Freeman

David Freeman is editor of *Finest Hour*, the quarterly journal of the International Churchill Society, and a longtime Churchill scholar. He earned his Ph.D. in British history from Texas A&M University and has taught history at California State University, Fullerton since 1999. A contributor to *Finest Hour* since his college years, he became the journal’s editor in 2014. His research and writing have covered a wide range of Churchill-related subjects, including Churchill’s foreign policy, intelligence, the League of Nations, Iraq, and

his political and personal relationships. Freeman has conducted research in major British archival collections, including the Churchill Archives Centre, the British National Archives, the British Library, and collections at Oxford and Birmingham.



**Chris Gibson,
Ph.D.**

Chris Gibson is a writer and analyst. He is the author of three books, and has also published numerous scholarly journal articles, opinion pieces, a book chapter and a book review. As an analyst, he has appeared on Fox, Newsmax, C-SPAN and NPR, among other outlets. Gibson previously served as the 12th President of Siena College (2020-2023) and before that as the Stanley Kaplan Distinguished Visiting Professor of American Foreign Policy at Williams College (2017-2020). Prior to his academic career, Gibson served as a Member of Congress representing upstate New York from 2011 to 2017, with committee assignments on Armed Services, Agriculture and Small Business. His distinguished congressional service was recognized by the Lugar Center in 2014 when he finished first in the country in the House of Representatives in their inaugural report on bipartisanship. Gibson has dedicated a significant portion of his life to military service. He served in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Colonel. His military career included roles in various capacities, including leadership positions and strategic planning. Gibson’s experience in the military has deeply influenced his approach to national security and public policy. He will be a Professor of Political Practice at Bard College for the spring 2027 semester.



Hugh Hewitt

Hugh Hewitt is a lawyer, law professor and broadcast journalist whose nationally syndicated radio show is heard in more than 120 cities across the United States every weekday afternoon. Professor Hewitt is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, and has been teaching Constitutional Law at Chapman University Law School since it opened in 1995. Professor Hewitt has been a frequent guest on CNN, Fox News Network, and MSNBC, and has written for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and the Los Angeles Times. He has received three Emmys for his work as co-host of the ground-breaking Life & Times program, a nightly news and public affairs program that aired on the Los Angeles PBS affiliate, KCET, from 1992 until 2007. Professor Hewitt also conceived and hosted the 1996 PBS series, Searching for God in America. He is the author of a dozen books, including two New York Times best-sellers.

Professor Hewitt served for nearly six years in the Reagan Administration in a variety of posts, including Assistant Counsel in the White House and Special Assistant to two Attorneys General. Since returning to California in 1989 to oversee the construction of the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Hewitt has served as a member of the California Arts Council, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Orange County Children and Families Commission. He and his wife live in Orange County.

Hewitt's passions are the Cleveland Browns and Indians, Ohio State and Notre Dame football and running.



Captain Louis Hoffman

Captain Louis Hoffman serves as Second-in-Command of D Squadron, The Queen's Royal Hussars (The Queen's Own and Royal Irish), one of the British Army's principal armoured regiments and the successor regiment to Winston Churchill's 4th Queen's Own Hussars.

Born in Dublin to an Irish father and English mother, Hoffman attended Blackrock College before reading History at Trinity College Dublin, where he was active in debating, politics, cricket, and the Irish Army Reserve. He also spent a year studying politics, economics, and history in Siena, Italy.

Before joining the Regular Army, Hoffman served with the London Irish Rifles and worked in the House of Commons, first as a speechwriter and adviser to Matt Vickers MP and later as a senior adviser to Tobias Ellwood MP, then Chair of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, he transferred his Army officer application from the reserves to the regular service and entered the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Commissioned into The Queen's Royal Hussars in 2023, Hoffman subsequently completed armoured troop-leader training and qualified as a tank commander. His service has included a deployment to Estonia as part of the British Army's contribution to NATO's eastern flank, followed by command and leadership roles within the regiment. He now serves as D Squadron Second-in-Command as the regiment prepares for the transition to the British Army's new Challenger 3 main battle tank.



**Adam Howard,
Ph.D.**

Adam Howard, Ph.D., is Executive Director of the International Churchill Society (ICS), where he leads the Society's global efforts to advance the study of Sir Winston Churchill's life, leadership, and legacy. He oversees ICS's strategy, educational programs, publications, development, conferences, and international partnerships, with a particular focus on expanding its educational reach and demonstrating the continuing relevance of Churchill's leadership and ideas.

Before joining ICS, Dr. Howard served as chief historian of the U.S. Department of State, where he oversaw the Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series, the official documentary record of U.S. foreign policy. He and his team also provided Department leaders with historical context for decision-making and trained diplomats to use history in advancing U.S. foreign policy.

Dr. Howard earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Florida. He is the author of *Sewing the Fabric of Statehood: Garment Unions, American Labor, and the Establishment of the State of Israel* and compiled multiple volumes of the FRUS series. For more than two decades, he has taught international history and U.S. foreign relations at The George Washington University. He is also a regular contributor to the International Churchill Society's *Finest Hour* magazine.



**Robert Jerome,
Ph.D.**

Robert W. Jerome is Professor Emeritus of international management at the graduate school of the University of Maryland Global Campus. In addition

to a varied academic career, he has held senior positions in government, including the U.S. Senate and International Trade Administration; the private sector, including the Capital Group and the Business Council for the United Nations; and the Economic Strategy Institute.

He has written extensively on international trade, including Congressional testimony, two books, and articles in the *Harvard Business Review*, *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and the *Journal of Commerce*, among others. He has served on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the Pamela Harriman Fellowship.

His paternal great-grandfather was a second cousin of Jennie Churchill's father, Leonard Jerome, and his great-great-grandmother was a first cousin of Leonard from the Murray side.



Jonathan W. Jordan

Jonathan W. Jordan is the author of *IKE AND WINSTON: World War, Cold War, and an Extraordinary Friendship* (Dutton, 2026). He is also the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *BROTHERS, RIVALS, VICTORS: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe*; *AMERICAN WARLORDS: How Roosevelt's High Command Led America to Victory in World War II*; and the award-winning *LONE STAR NAVY: Texas, the Fight for the Gulf of Mexico, and the Shaping of the American West*.

He is co-author, with his daughter, of *THE WAR QUEENS: Extraordinary Women Who Ruled the Battlefield*; a contributing author to *The Armchair Reader: World War II* and *The Armchair Reader: The Amazing Book of World History*; and editor of the Library of Texas edition of *To the People of Texas* by Texas Navy Commodore Edwin Ward Moore.

A regular book critic for *The Wall Street Journal*, his writing has appeared in *World War II Magazine*, *Armchair General*, *Military History*, *World War II History*, and *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*.

A native of Savannah, Georgia, Jon grew up on Air Force bases while his father flew C-141 Starlifters for the Military Air Command during and after the Vietnam War. He earned an accounting degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. He practiced law in Texas for nine years before moving to Atlanta, Georgia.

When not hiking, shooting, or camping, Jon is working on his next book.



Catherine Grace Katz

Catherine Grace Katz is a writer and historian from Winnetka, Illinois. She graduated from Harvard in 2013 with a B.A. in History and received her MPhil in Modern European History from Christ's College, University of Cambridge in 2014, where she wrote her dissertation on the origins of modern counterintelligence practices. After graduating, Catherine worked in finance in New York City before a very fortuitous visit to the Chartwell Booksellers in the lobby of her office in Manhattan led her to return to history and writing. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in May 2023. Catherine published her first book, *The Daughters of Yalta: The Roosevelts, Churchills, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* in 2020. Her second, *Shadow Before the Flame: The Hindenburg Disaster and the Prelude to War*, is forthcoming from Viking in the fall of 2026.

James W. Muller is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, chairman of the Board of Academic Advisers of the International Churchill Society, and senior editor of *Finest Hour*. He studied political philosophy at Harvard University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and won the Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Dissertations in English. He served as Harvard's exchange student at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris (1973–74). In

1983–84, he was a White House Fellow, and in 1988–89 he was an Academic Visitor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. During the Michaelmas term of 1995, he was an Archives by-fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge.



**James W. Muller,
Ph.D.**

Professor Muller is the editor of *The Revival of Constitutionalism* (University of Nebraska Press, 1988), *Churchill as Peacemaker* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), and Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech Fifty Years Later (University of Missouri Press, 1999). He has published annotated editions of four books by Winston S. Churchill. His definitive edition of Churchill's early work, *The River War: An Historical Account of the Reconquest of the Soudan*, published in 2020 in two volumes by St. Augustine's Press, won the 2021 Winston S. Churchill Literary Award from the International Churchill Society. His editions of Churchill's interwar essay collections, *Thoughts and Adventures* and *Great Contemporaries* (ISI Books, 2009 and 2012), have returned to print with new forewords (Bloomsbury Academic, 2024). Most recently, he published an annotated edition of Churchill's memoir *My Early Life: A Roving Commission* (St. Augustine's Press, 2024).

He lives in Anchorage with his wife, Judith, with whom he founded the Right Honourable Sir Winston Spencer Churchill Society of Alaska in 1990, and their daughter, Helen Pospisil, resident production stage manager and office manager of Anchorage Opera.



Joel Nelson

Joel Nelson is a British writer and historian. He received a first-class honours degree in History from

Jesus College, Oxford, in 2016 and an MPhil from the University of Cambridge in 2017. He subsequently worked as an adviser to Rory Stewart, as an assistant editor at Foreign Affairs, and as Director of European Policy at an AI think tank in Washington, D.C.

In 2020, Nelson was awarded a Kennedy Scholarship to study at Harvard. His interest in John F. Kennedy's admiration for Winston Churchill led him to five years of archival research on both sides of the Atlantic. The result is his first book, *Kennedy's Only Hero: How JFK's Obsession with Winston Churchill Defined His Presidency*, forthcoming from PublicAffairs in November 2026.



Allen Packwood

Allen Packwood BA, MPhil (Cantab), is a Fellow of Churchill College at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He was awarded an OBE for services to archives and scholarship in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours. His book, *"How Churchill Waged War"*, was published by Pen & Sword in 2018 and he has recently edited the Cambridge University Press Companion to Winston Churchill and co-edited *"Letters for the Ages: The Private and Personal Letters of Sir Winston Churchill"*. His latest book is *"Churchill's D-Day"*, co-authored with General Lord Dannatt and published for the eightieth anniversary of Operation Overlord in June 2024.

Allen will step down as the long-serving Director of the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, Cambridge in late 2026, but will lead the campaign for a new archives building.



Angela Ostrom

Angela Ostrom, J.D., serves as Deputy Executive Director of the International Churchill Society, where she provides executive leadership across operations, development, communications, membership, governance, conferences, and strategic initiatives.

At the International Churchill Society, Angela oversees key organizational functions including the Society's annual international conference, membership and development initiatives, publications and communications, Board governance, and strategic partnerships.

A member of the Maryland Bar, Angela holds a law degree from the University of Maryland and a B.A. from The Ohio State University. A lifelong Anglophile, her path began with Monty Python and a steady diet of World War II documentaries, leading to an enduring admiration for Winston Churchill and the leadership lessons she applies daily. Off the clock, she's an unabashed corgi devotee who brings a bit of bulldog spirit—and humor—to everything she does.



**Matthew Pinsker,
DPhil**

Matthew Pinsker holds the Brian Pohanka Chair of Civil War History at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and serves as Director of the House Divided Project, an innovative effort to build digital resources on the Civil War era. Matt has previously held visiting fellowships at New America Foundation, U.S. Army War College and the National Constitution Center. Matt graduated from Harvard College and received a doctorate from the University of Oxford. He is the author of three books: *Abraham Lincoln: A Volume in the American Presidents Reference Series* from Congressional Quarterly Press (2002) and *Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the*

Soldiers' Home (Oxford University Press, 2003). Matt's most recent book is *Boss Lincoln: The Partisan Life of Abraham Lincoln* (W.W. Norton, 2026), which the *Wall Street Journal* calls a "landmark" and "Team of Rivals on steroids." Matt also currently produces a popular Substack series called: *What Would Lincoln Do?* He has published widely in the history of American politics, contributing to the *Journal of American History* and several other academic journals as well as to newspapers such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*. He appears regularly on TV channels such as C-SPAN, PBS, and A&E's *History*. Matt has managed multiple digital projects on the Underground Railroad for the National Park Service Network to Freedom. He has led numerous K-12 teacher-training workshops for organizations such as the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. He also currently serves the Organization of American Historians (OAH) as a "Distinguished Lecturer." Finally, Matt sits on the advisory boards of several historic organizations, such as Ford's Theatre Society, Gettysburg Foundation, National Civil War Museum, President Lincoln's Cottage at the Soldiers' Home, and the Thaddeus Stevens & Lydia Hamilton Smith Center for History & Democracy.



Tim Riley

Since 2016, Timothy Riley has served as the Sandra L. and Monroe E. Trout Director and Chief Curator of America's National Churchill Museum, where he has expanded collections, exhibitions, programs, and publications while underscoring Churchill's contemporary relevance. A graduate of Lawrence University with graduate study at Columbia University, he previously worked at The Cloisters (Metropolitan Museum of Art) and directed The Trout Museum of Art (2006–2012), where he was named Director Emeritus.

Riley has curated Churchill exhibitions across the United States—including aboard the *Queen Mary* in

Long Beach, at the Society of Four Arts in Palm Beach, Hillsdale College, and Washington University in St. Louis, which *Vanity Fair* called "the most comprehensive collection of Churchill paintings ever to be presented." He has been cited or interviewed by outlets such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Le Point*, NPR, and C-SPAN.

An in-demand speaker on Churchill, Riley contributed a chapter on Churchill and Gorbachev to *The End of Cold War and its Aftermath* (Simons Center/Command and Staff College Foundation Press) and serves as a contributing editor for *Finest Hour*, the journal of the International Churchill Society. He was inducted into the Association of Churchill Fellows of Westminster College in 2016.

He also serves on the Board of Governors of the Association of Churchill Fellows of Westminster College and the Board of Directors for the International Churchill Society–United States.

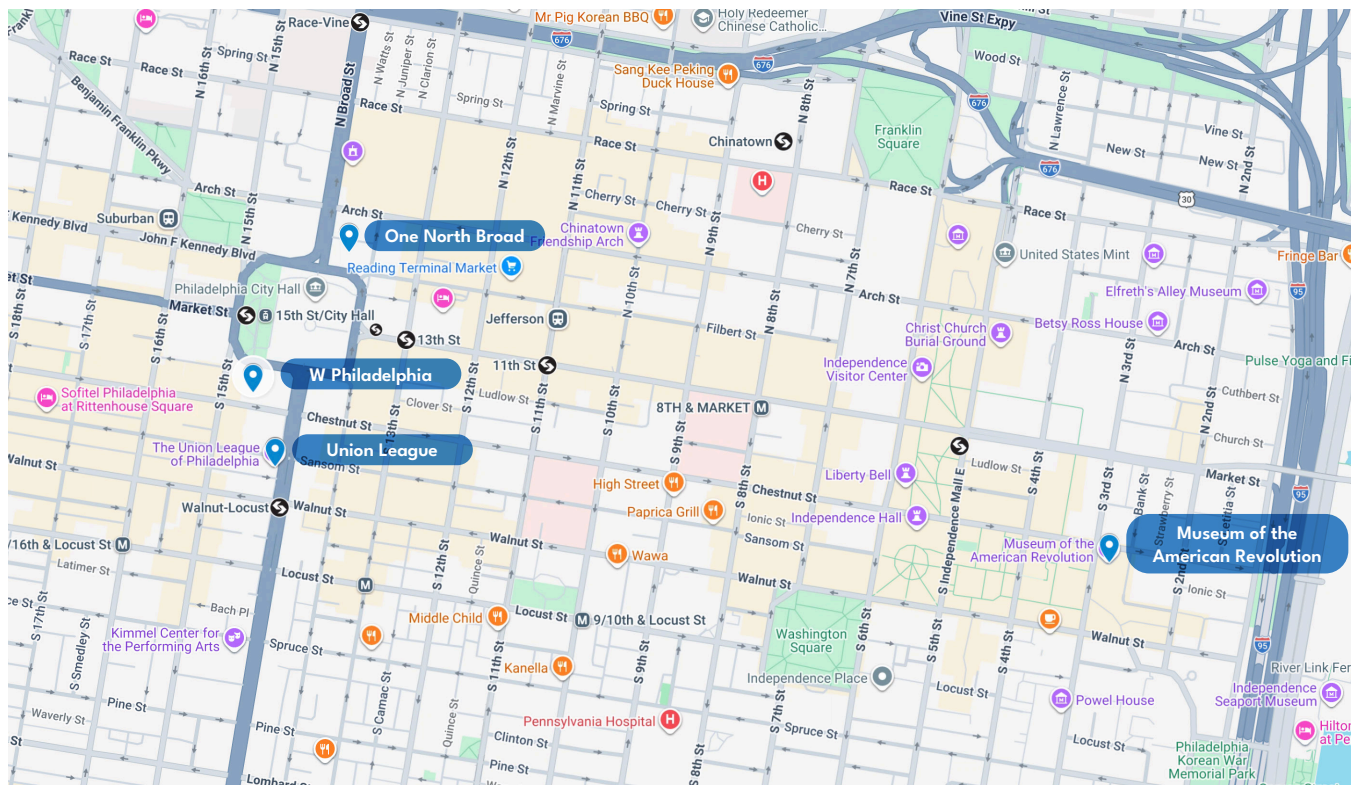


David M. Rubenstein

David M. Rubenstein is Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of The Carlyle Group. He is a 1970 graduate of Duke University and a 1973 graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.

Mr. Rubenstein is a Baltimore native and is the Chairman, CEO, and principal owner of Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles.

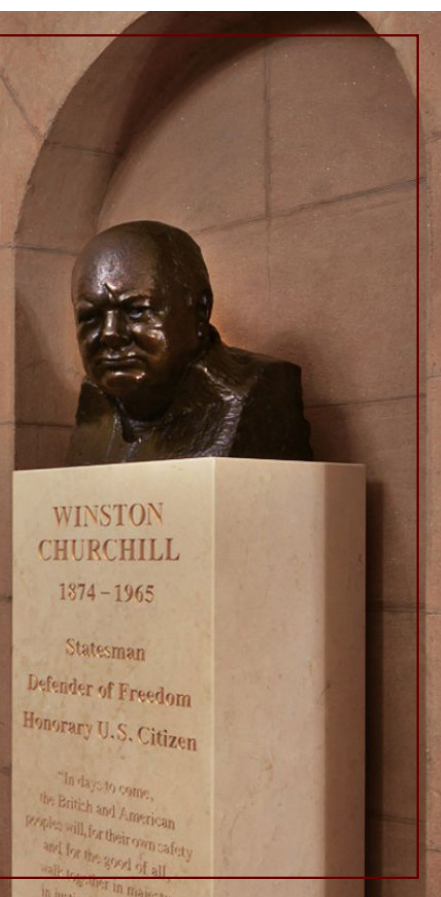
Mr. Rubenstein is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Chairman of many educational and nonprofit boards. He is an original signer of The Giving Pledge and the host of *The David Rubenstein Show*, *Bloomberg Wealth with David Rubenstein*, *Longevity with David Rubenstein*, and *Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories with David Rubenstein*.



The International Churchill Society (ICS) was founded in 1968 to educate new generations about the continuing relevance of the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill. In 2016 the society established the National Churchill Leadership Center (NCLC) at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. to serve as a forum for teaching about the important example of Churchill's leadership.

America's National Churchill Museum (ANCM) opened in 1969 on the campus of Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946. The museum was designated by act of Congress in 2009 as the official tribute to Churchill in the United States. The museum has hosted leading dignitaries such as Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, and Madeleine Albright to lecture on Churchill's enduring importance.

Since 2016, ICS and ANCM have worked in strategic partnership in their shared mission to advance Churchill's legacy. Both are private, non-profit, tax-exempt organizations that rely on membership and donations. Please consider making a gift above your membership dues to ICS, ANCM, or the NCLC so that our vital shared work may continue. Donations can be made by visiting www.winstonchurchill.org/donate.



ICS 2026 Schedule At A Glance

October 15-17, 2026

Thursday, 15 October

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. | Union League
Conference Registration Opens

4:30 p.m. | W Philadelphia
First Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

5:00 p.m. | W Philadelphia
Second Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Museum of the American Revolution
Guest Arrival and Optional Gallery Access

5:30 p.m. | W Philadelphia
Final Outbound Bus Departure to Museum of the American Revolution

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Museum of the American Revolution
Opening Reception — Cocktails and Light Refreshments

7:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. | Museum of the American Revolution
Bus Departures to W Philadelphia

Friday, 16 October

7:00 a.m. | W Philadelphia, Ballroom
Breakfast Opens

9:15 – 9:45 a.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Opening Session and Welcome Remarks

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Profiles in Courage: Washington, Lincoln, and Churchill

10:45–11:00 a.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Break

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
The Special Relationship

11:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Buffet Lunch and Theodore Roosevelt Play

1:45 – 2:00 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Break

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
The Allies and the Holocaust

3:00 – 3:45 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
The Finest Hour Panel Discussion

3:45 – 4:00 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Break

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Union League, Lincoln Ballroom
Featured Speaker: William “Bill” Kristol

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Union League Library
Author Signing, Reception, and Union League Award Presentation

Saturday, 17 October

7:00 a.m. | W Philadelphia, Ballroom
Breakfast Opens

9:00 – 9:50 a.m. | Union League, Mead Room
President and Prime Minister: Ike and Winston

9:50–10:45 a.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Kennedy’s Only Hero

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Break

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Presentation by The Queen’s Royal Hussars

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Churchill’s American Roots

12:15 – 12:30 p.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Special Presentation: Churchill Archives

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Buffet Luncheon

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Shadow Before the Flame: The Hindenburg Disaster and the Prelude to War

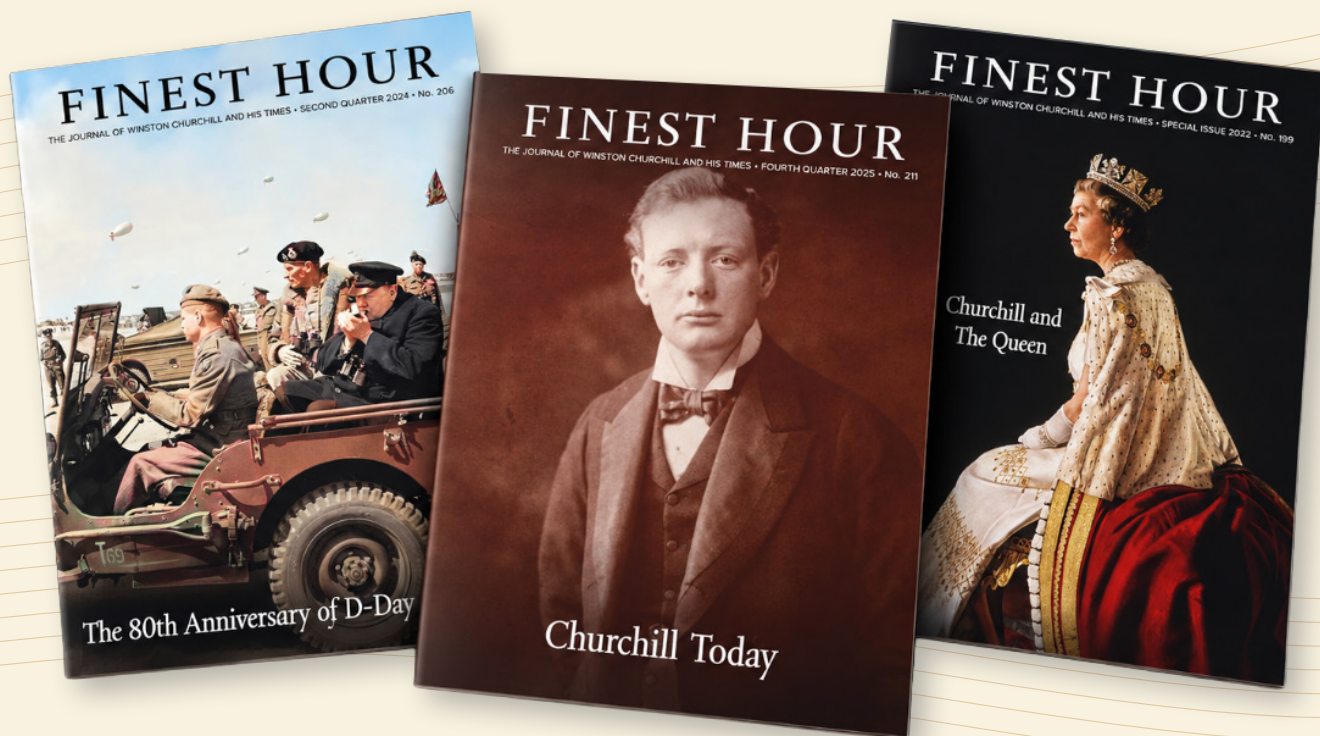
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Union League, Mead Room
Churchill and America’s Founding Documents

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. | One North Broad
Cocktail Reception and Gallery Viewing

7:45 – 10:00 p.m. | One North Broad
Black-Tie Gala Dinner and Leadership Award

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