

Harry S. Truman Little White House
111 Front Street
Key West, Florida 33040



★ Calendar of Events ★

January, 2010: FDR in the Florida Keys Exhibit. The forgotten story of Franklin D. Roosevelt's experiments in hydrotherapy for polio in 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926.

January, 2010: Seasons Greetings from the White House continues until the end of the month. The Little White House collection of presidential Christmas cards and gift prints.

February - March 31, 2010: With Love, Harry – A look at some of the letters between Harry and Bess Truman.

February, 2010 - Happy 125th Birthday, Bess Truman – A tribute to the first lady on her 125th birthday. *Details at www.TrumanSymposium.com*

April 15 - July 15, 2010: Sixtieth Anniversary of Korean War Exhibit.

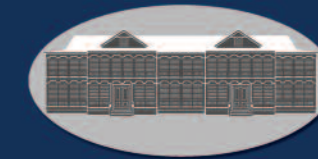
May 14 - 15, 2010: Eighth Truman Legacy Symposium focuses on Truman's Far East Legacy of Japan, Korea, Vietnam and the Two Chinas Jointly sponsored with the Truman Presidential Library of Independence, Missouri.

Details at www.TrumanSymposium.com

July 15 - Nov 15, 2010: I Like Ike, Too - A look at our 34th US president and his 1955-1956 stay at the Little White House.

November 16, 2010 - January 10, 2011: – A Very Merry 1940's Christmas. The Little White House decorated for the holidays using our collection of 1940, and 1950s ornaments.

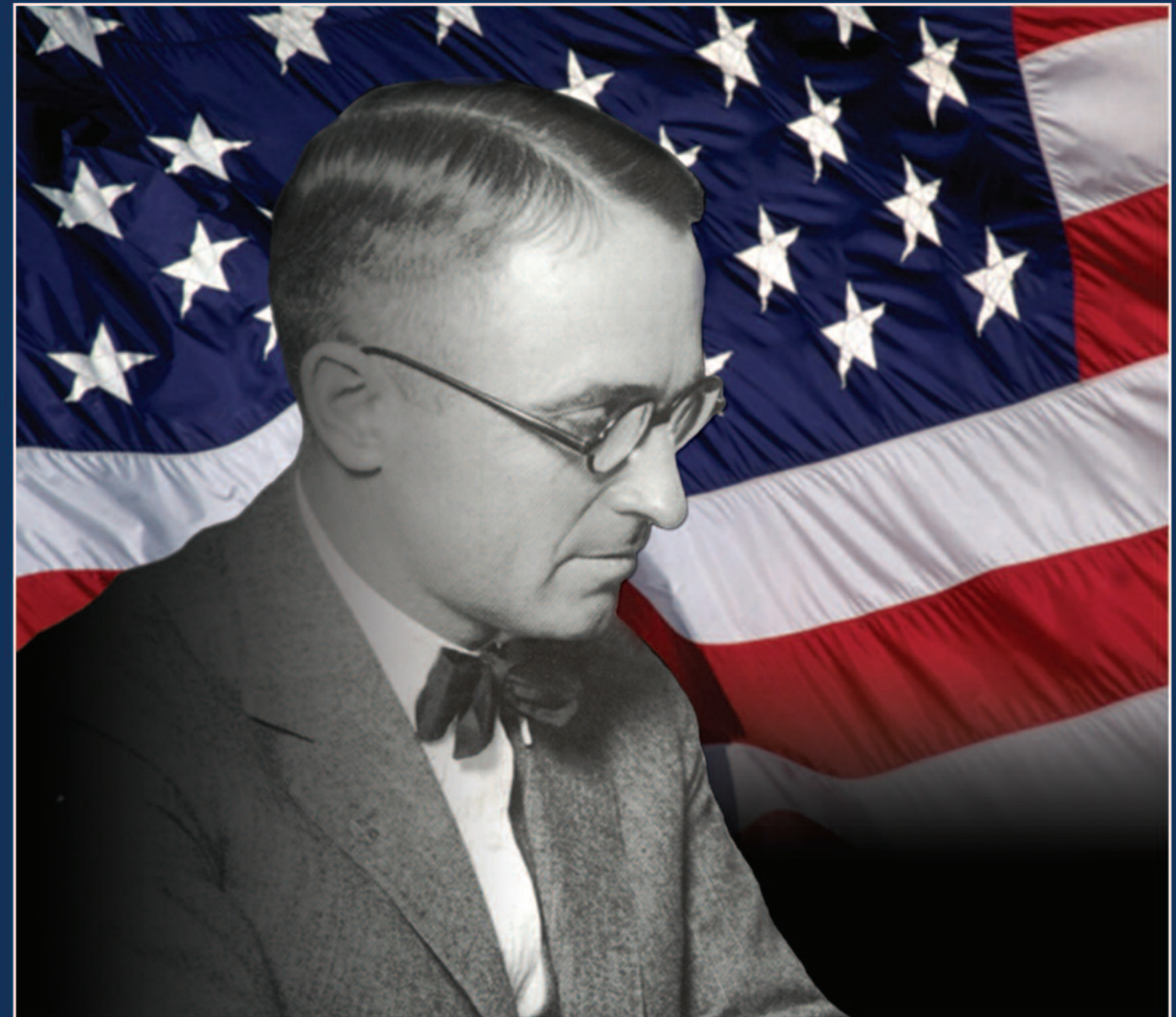
December 19, 2010: Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation Members Only Christmas Party at the Little White House. Come get in the spirit enjoy a bit of holiday cheer and see the house decorated as it was in World War II.



The Key West

Harry S. Truman

2009 Foundation Report



“Celebrating Harry S. Truman's 125th Birthday”



Message From the Executive Director

Celebrating 125 Years of Harry S. Truman

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

2009 has been an extraordinary year filled with memories. National and international observances were held in honor of President Harry S. Truman's 125th birthday anniversary.

The 2008 presidential election saw all candidates from both the Democratic and Republican parties invoking Harry Truman in their campaign speeches and promises.

In February 2009, C-Span Cable News Network concluded its latest poll by 64 presidential historians ranking the presidents in terms of moral authority, human rights, international relations, administrative skills, vision and overall performance. Truman, for a second time, ranked as our fifth greatest president.

Every day we at the Little White House have an opportunity through our interpretative tours and exhibits to introduce Harry Truman to a new audience. Perhaps more importantly, we introduce the concept that one individual can change the world for the better.

Harry Truman was such an individual. His administration changed American foreign policy forever through the creation of the United Nations, the Truman Doctrine, the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council.

Through the use of five Executive Orders he expanded basic human rights by desegregating the federal workforce and the U.S. Armed Forces. He gave hope to a new nation in the immediate recognition of the state of Israel. He confirmed the supremacy of the civilian government over the military by dismissing General Douglas MacArthur in Korea.

He was the first to use the principle of working vacations using the Little White House as the functioning White House of America.

This year was the first time C-Span Cable News chose to broadcast our annual Truman Legacy Symposium further expanding our educational outreach to a national audience.

Your foundation is only seven years old and we have



Robert J. Wolz, Executive Director

“Make no little plans. Make the biggest plan you can think of, and spend the rest of your life carrying it out.”

-Harry S. Truman

achieved the milestone of raising \$1 million dollars for the restoration of the house and gardens. Former Senator George McGovern attended the rededication of the house on May 15. We are obviously very proud of these accomplishments and hope you agree your investment has paid huge dividends. These accomplishments were only possible through your generous support.

We look forward to your continued membership and donations in 2010.

Thank you !

Robert Wolz, Executive Director
Key West Harry S Truman Foundation, Inc.



New for 2010 Donor Recognition Pin



New for 2010, donors contributing \$100 or more will receive our Donor Recognition Pin suitable for wear on suit or blouse. This pin combines our national colors with the inaugural eagle used in 1948 created in antique gold. Please wear it proudly knowing you have helped protect and preserve a national treasure used by seven American presidents...The Little White House.

Proposed Key West Presidential Center



The restoration of the Little White House is in its final stages, but our current exhibition space limits our ability to interpret the military history of Key West, its strategic role in the Cold War and the emergence of the modern presidency. The proposed Key West Presidential Center will provide opportunities for students of all ages to benefit from greatly expanded exhibits, an auditorium, classrooms and research facilities. The center will also house our offices and larger museum store.

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Key West Harry S. Truman Donor Honor Roll

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Happy Birthday, Mr. President

May 7th & 8th, 2009 were very important dates to observe at the Little White House as we celebrated the 125th anniversary of Harry Truman's birth. The weather made it perfect. Large throngs of well-wishers turned out and the program focused on three special aspects of this incredible man's life: human rights; the humanitarian mission of the Berlin Airlift and the Marshall Plan; and on Truman's recognition of Israel. This event was jointly sponsored by the Little White House, Congregation B'nai Zion, and Key West Post 3911 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliaries.

Eddie Jacobson, Truman's business partner, was a leading force behind Truman's recognition of Israel. Gloria Schusterman, Eddie's daughter, represented the Jacobson family and shared stories of the friendship between Eddie and Harry.

A group of Tuskegee Airman, forerunners of the civil rights movement, attended.

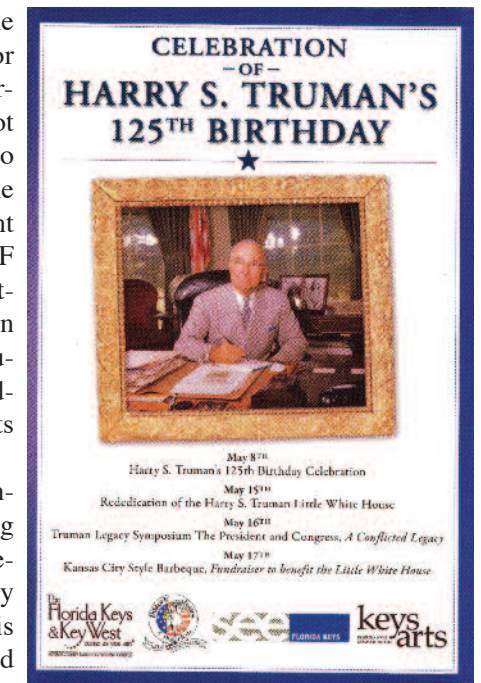
Robert Hughes, a white instructor for the Tuskegee Airmen,

Robert Griffen, the first engineer for the Tuskegee Airmen and Pilot Hiram Mann who retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, USAF were among the attendees. Truman wrote five Executive Orders to advance civil rights of all Americans.

Brigadier General Walter Ludwig of the Federal Republic of Germany represented his government and brought thanks for Truman's bold initiatives of both the Berlin Airlift that supplied food and fuel to Berlin from June 1948 until May 1949 and the larger Marshall Plan that aided nearly all of Europe in the postwar years.

Col. Gail Halvorsen also attended. He became known as the Berlin Candy Bomber as he was the first to drop candy bars to the children of Berlin.

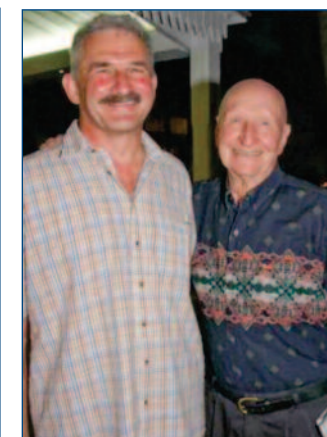
Truman was surely with us in spirit. President Truman is shown here with his 61st birthday cake. Our birthday cake served more than 300 guests.



Event's guide for Truman's 125th birthday celebration.



Mrs. Gloria Schusterman



Federal Republic of Germany's Brigadier General Walter Ludwig and Berlin Airlift hero, Col. Gail Halvorsen, the famous WWII "Candy Bomber."



WWII heroes, the Tuskegee Airmen, were America's first African American pilots. (L to R) Robert Hughes, Robert Griffen, and Hiram Mann.





Exhibits on Display

Telling the President's Story Through Exhibits

The Little White House has engaged in a number of programs and exhibits to share the stories of the American presidency with our visitors and guests of all ages.

Some of our recent exhibits have included :

Presidents in Paradise

The semi-permanent photo archive of vintage photographs of Presidents Ulysses S. Grant, William Howard Taft, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight David Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and William Jefferson Clinton in Key West.

Every Four Years, the Presidential Electoral Process

An educational exhibit that explain the Electoral College and featured a massive collection of campaign buttons for Barack Obama and John McCain as well as sixteen third party candidates who were running for President in 2008.

Upset: The 1948 Election

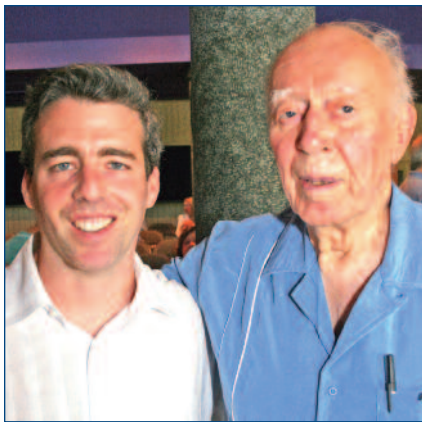
A display of 1948 campaign memorabilia from the Little White House collection. Rare items included Whistle-Stop Train menus, a sterling silver whiskey jigger owned by President Truman, and a massive collection of buttons used by the different candidates' in the 1948 campaign.



Christine Todd Whitman

1948 – The Year That Changed the World

Events included recognition of Israel, the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, two of Truman's human rights executive orders, the re-election of President Truman and fun facts like the start of NASCAR, the invention of Scrabble and the summer Olympics in London.



Michael Grunwald (left) with Ken Hechler, former Truman staffer who attends every symposium.

“To accumulate and disseminate information about the American presidency with special emphasis on President Harry Truman and the presidents, past and present, who have enjoyed the Florida Keys and Key West.”

The Little White House – From Commandant's House to the White House

Some of our photo archives of the Little White House as seen through the years.

Harry Truman at 125 : From Farmboy to Statesman

A photo review of Truman's life from rare baby photos in 1884 to his death in 1972.

Season's Greeting From the White House

A display of official presidential Christmas cards and accompanying gift prints issued by the President of the United States, from Eisenhower through George W. Bush.

I'm Just Mild About Harry

A thought-provoking examination of Truman political cartoons that allowed the viewer to examine how cartoons reflect public opinion or help create it.

lowed the viewer to examine how cartoons reflect public opinion or help create it.

FDR in the Florida Keys

A recently discovered story of Franklin Roosevelt's four years in the Florida Keys from 1923 to 1926 as he experimented with hydrotherapy to cure his polio.

A White House Christmas

A display of the official White House Christmas ornament collection created by the White House Historical Association.



2009 panel of Presidential Scholars for the Truman Symposium.



Key West Harry S. Truman Donor Honor Roll

The value of a state heritage landmark like the Little White House can not be measured in dollars and cents, but in the lives we touch and the guiding principles we are able to impart to a new generation.

It is with the deepest humility that we, therefore, acknowledge and thank you for your financial support. It is only through your significant investment that we are able to fill our mission:

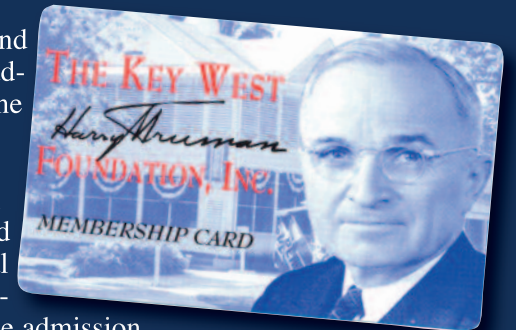
- 1.To protect and preserve the building and grounds of the state heritage landmark known as the Harry S. Truman Little White House.
- 2.To accumulate and disseminate information about the American presidency with special emphasis on President Harry Truman and the presidents, past and present, who have enjoyed the Florida Keys and Key West.
- 3.To interpret the continued use of the site for historic events and visits by world leaders in light of President Truman's role as the father of modern statesmanship.



Levels and Benefits of Support

\$50 Donation

Donate \$50 and receive free admission for one full year.



\$100 Donation

Donate \$100 and receive a special donor recognition pin plus free admission for one full year.

\$250 Donation

Donate \$250 and receive the Buck Stops Here sign plus free admission for one full year.

\$1,000 Donation

Donate \$1,000 and receive two tickets to the Truman Legacy Symposium Reception and one full year free admission.

\$500 Donation

Donate \$500 and receive an autographed copy of the Legacy of the Little White House and free admission for one year.

\$10,000 Donation

Donate \$10,000 and receive free use of the presidential dining room for a presidential dinner and free tour for your guests.

2007 Donors

\$19,999 to \$15,000

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\$14,999 to \$10,000

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\$9,999 to \$5,000

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Frederick Hoffman
Ed Scales



Celebrating 125 years of Harry S. Truman

OUR MISSION

The Key West Harry S Truman Foundation, Inc. exists for the purpose of protecting and preserving the building and grounds of the state historic site known as the Harry S. Truman Little White House in Key West, Florida.

Our mission includes accumulating and disseminating information about the American presidency with special emphasis on President Harry S. Truman and the American presidents, past and present, who have enjoyed the Florida Keys and Key West.

The Harry S. Truman Little White House is a living museum, not frozen in time. While it is imperative to maintain focus on the most important use of the building during President Truman's visits from 1946 to 1952, it is a site of continuing historic events and visits by world leaders and these too must be commemorated and recognized, especially in light of President Truman's role as the father of modern statesmanship.



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Robert Wolz is a non voting director of both the Board of Directors and the National Advisory Council.

The museum admissions and museum store provide an operating budget for the Little White House.

This operating budget provides for all staff salaries, less than 3% of the Key West Harry S Truman Foundation's income is used for administration.

The Harry S. Truman Little White House State Heritage Landmark is owned by the Internal Improvement Trust and the governor and cabinet of the state of Florida. No state or federal administrative funding is received. Your gifts, grants, donations and membership pay for educational outreach, preservation and restoration of the house and gardens.



Our Outreach Continues Through Special Programs

On a regional basis, a number of school children visit from the tri county area in the form of organized field trips.

Special programming is offered to the teachers, and instructional games are included that help the children to focus on what they are seeing as they tour through the house. Last year we had nearly 5,000 elementary school children tour the site.

For the adult audience the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation has partnered with the Truman Presidential Library of Independence, Missouri to conduct a national educational conference each year here in Key West.

World class scholars present original research thus broadening our knowledge of President Truman's legacy.

Recent topics have included:

2007: Truman's Environmental Legacy: From Los Alamos to the Everglades

Keynote speakers included former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Christine Todd Whitman and Michael Grunwald, author of *The Swamp*.



Key West High senior Luis Gonzalez, Jr. won \$200 from the National Archives for his essay on his grandfather becoming a US citizen.

2008: Coming To America: Truman's Immigration Legacy

We were honored that the National Archives Southeast Office headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia hosted a county-wide school essay contest entitled "Becoming A Citizen". Panelists explored Truman's Plan that allowed Asian and Pacific Islanders to emigrate to the US as well as recent changes in immigration laws aimed at easing African and Latino immigration.

This latest symposium held in May 2009 was entitled, *The President and the Congress: A Conflicted Legacy*

US Senate Historian Don Ritchie chaired this excellent conference that examined Presidents from Truman to Obama and explored their successes and failures in dealing with the US Congress. This event was broadcast nationally by the C-Span Cable News Network on June 13.

Please note that exhibits and symposia topics are always posted on our permanent websites:

www.Trumanlittlewhitehouse.com
and www.Trumansymposium.com

These educational successes are paid for by your generous contributions and memberships.

Special Thank You...

Spottwood Companies and **Marriott Beachside** for donation of the speakers guestrooms and use of the conference center.

Old Town Trolley Tours® of Key West provided free transportation from the conference center to the Harry S. Truman Little White House.

Presidents Still Use The Little White House



On December 27th, 2007 President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter and family made a visit to the Harry S. Truman Little White House. Shown above are Director Bob Wolz and Operations Manager Paul Hilson welcoming the presidential family. This is their second visit to the house. They first came on January 31, 1996 for a family gathering and New Year's Eve dinner.

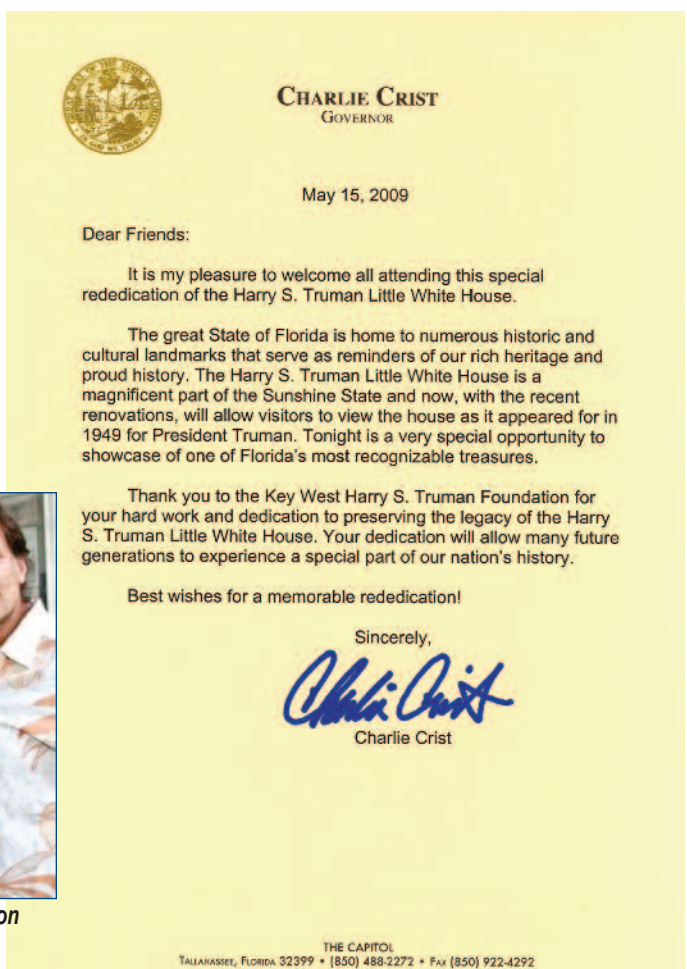


The House Gets Rededicated in 2009



Clifton Truman Daniel, the president's eldest grandson, welcomes the audience on May 15 for the rededication of the Little White House and the opening of the Eighth Truman Legacy Symposium.

Sixty years ago, the US Navy spent \$100,000 to refurbish the Little White House and to make it more suitable for the President and the guests he'd entertain here. In 1987, Pritam Singh gave the Little White House to Governor Bob Graham and two years later committed almost \$1 million to open the site as a museum. Since 2003, an additional \$1 million was raised by your foundation to restore the house to its 1949 appearance. Your membership card allows you to visit as often as you choose for the whole year. Please take advantage of this benefit. Enjoy the Little White House and proudly show it to your friends and family realizing your membership helped make it possible. We are close to completing the restoration; please help us finish the last remaining projects by your continued support.



Board Chairman Edwin O. Swift welcomes former Senator George McGovern.



Bob Wolz, director, and Robert Watson of Lynn University greet former Truman staffer Ken Hechler.



Environmental Work



Becoming a Green Museum

In May 2007, the fifth Truman Legacy Symposium was held on Truman's environmental legacy. Our companion book released by Truman State University Press entitled *The Environmental Legacy of Harry S Truman* argues that the beginning of the environmental movement came under President Truman's administration.

The Little White House is located in the sensitive ecosystem called the Florida Keys and we feel it our duty both to society and to President Truman's memory that we be as ecologically responsible as possible. To this effort we have made the following improvements

Save Waste Paper

- Reuse office paper by using faxes and other office paper on both sides.
- Recycle office paper and cardboard through the use of special dumpsters.

Save Energy

- The new HVAC system is energy star rated and our 5 units use much less electricity than the 7 units manufactured in 1988.
- Our programmable thermostats raise the temperature slightly at night.
- All our lighting is converting to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- We have switched to a tankless hot water heater thanks to the generous donation from Gary's Plumbing of Key West.
- Susan Server donated a new washer and dryer to the house.

Save Water

- Public restrooms were converted to low flow toilets thanks to a grant from the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority. The change from 5 gallons per flush to 1.6 gallons is enormous.
- All sinks in the restroom and kitchen were converted to water saving faucets. The new irrigation system is state of the art with better zones and timed control.

Redecoration

- The paints donated by Glidden Paint and Coatings were low in volatile organic compound (VOC). Since we changed colors and shades our inventory of older paints was donated to local theaters for set design.

We still have several major initiatives for which we are seeking funding:

1. Our carpet has had more than a million visitors and is showing its 20 year age. It needs to be replaced with a "green product" in the proper color scheme;
2. We need to insulate the attic. We really need this as a high priority for further energy savings;
3. We need to collect water output from the air conditioning and from rainwater and recycle it into the irrigation system;
4. We need to seek alternative means of electric and lighting. The Bureau of Historic Preservation has given tentative approval to solar electric alternatives both for our garden lighting and electric generation.



Progress Report

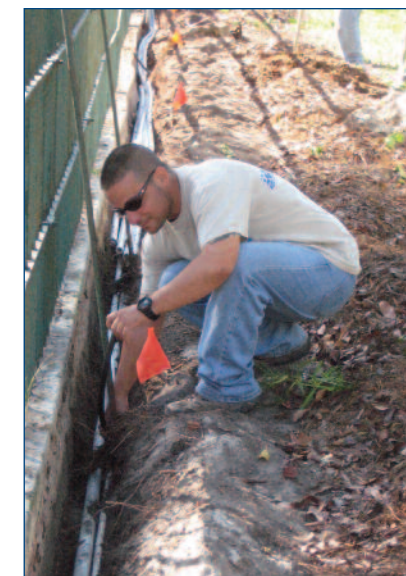
Restoring the Historic Gardens

In March 2008, Foundation board member Mary Haffenreffer was volunteering at the Monroe County Public Library when she uncovered the remarkable story of Willard H. Wells.

Mr. Willard Wells, a Key West native, was named the official gardener of the Key West Naval Station prior to World War I. A 1930s newspaper article related this story: Mr. Wells combed the island for nuts, seeds and cuttings which he planted and carefully nurtured on the naval station. As these developed into a tropical paradise they attracted the attention of Navy men, civilian botanists and even governmental experimental stations.

David Fairchild of Fairchild Gardens in Miami, Florida, was one of those who sent even more unusual and rare specimens of plants from all over the world which Mr. Wells added to his collection. More than 2,786 trees and shrubs were planted on the base. Many of these rare specimen trees remain around Truman Annex.

Site plans used by the US Navy from 1942, 1956, 1968 and 1989



Blue Island installing new irrigation.

still exist in the Little White House archive. Comparing these plans of various dates allowed us to determine most of the large trees surrounding the Little White House date from Mr. Wells's plantings. East Indian almond trees line the west lawn, a number of Royal Poinciana, mahogany and gumbo limbo trees as well as a very rare Soapberry or Chinaberry tree are located on the northern lawn and sapodilla, avocado and the individually-registered Truman Mango tree (a Van Dyke mango) are located on the east lawns. Dozens of varieties of palms including coconut, Washingtonian, thatch and date palm intermingle through the gardens.

The original 1890 wrought iron fence was repaired with missing pieces recast at OK Foundry in Richmond, Virginia.

Representatives of your Foundation, Harry's Girls Auxiliary, and the Key West Garden Club



Committee reviewed a 1942 site plan with Carl Gilley, our landscape designer.

met with master landscaper Carl Gilley to develop a master plan to return the gardens to their 1949 appearance. While the trees were intact the shrubs were all replaced with crotons, hibiscus and aralias. The Trophia Butterfly Foundation of Key West awarded us a \$5000 grant as seed money to replicate the gardens. Blue Island Irrigation and Lighting of Key West donated an additional \$20,000 toward a new irrigation system. Edith Amsterdam of the Curry Mansion in Key West donated a number of Adirondack chairs that have been arranged in conversational groupings around the lawn to the delight of our many visitors and guests. More than \$50,000 has been invested in these gardens and make a huge impact upon our visitor experience. Thank you, again, for your generosity. Still, a few projects remain to be completed: the vintage photographs show brick bins around the largest trees on the north lawn and a garden lighting plan is still needed and yet to be developed. The anticipated expense of this lighting system is \$75,000.



Trophia Butterfly Foundation presented a \$5000 gift to launch the restoration.



Harry's Girls Auxiliary

The Next Generation

History often repeats itself. During the 1948 Campaign a corps of young ladies donned Harry Truman newsprint design dresses and carrying Mason jars, collected much needed funds for Harry Truman's re-election campaign. They were called Harry's Girls and are featured in Democracy At Work: The Official Report of the Democratic National Convention.

In 2003 the need arose for a corps of goodwill ambassadors to meet scholars and presenters coming to the first annual Truman Legacy Symposium. A group of women volunteered to serve as our hostesses for these very important guests. They chose the name Harry's Girls as the name of their informal organization.

Original members were Mary Haffenreffer, Kitty Clements, June Gerard, Deborah Mermelstein, and Barbara McConagha. Each year in May or June they volunteer to greet our Symposium guests. On at least one occasion a husband was drafted into service as well.

In 2008, the group greatly expanded as did their role with the Little White House. While their primary function has been hosting our Symposium scholars they have taken an active role in searching antique shops and the internet for missing furnishings for the restoration. They have designated funding for certain projects like the re-upholstery of living room chairs, the framing of paintings and the restoration of the 1949 gardens.

Today they are known as Harry's Girls and Auxiliary and, as can be seen from the photo below, now include a number of men as well. All are dedicated to making the Little White House as presidential and welcoming as possible. Jane Vetter is the current president.



A 1948 photo of Harry's Girls at the National Convention.



Harry's Girls Auxiliary at the LWH, March 2009. From L to R: Bob Wolz, Jane Vetter, Edith Amsterdam, Kitty Clements, Mary Haffenreffer, Jimmy Olson, Marney Heinen, John Buchanan, Polly Daniel, Clifton Daniel, Barbara Corns, Prudence Churchill, Peter Bek-Gran, and Elena Spottswood.



Progress Report

Restoring the House

Circa 1950



Present



History is a process of discovery and the internet allows thousands of resources to be searched in relatively short order. The Little White House opened as a museum in 1991 based upon the best available resources of 1989. Beginning in 2003, The Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation re-examined every detail of the restoration. We had two advantages not available in 1989: the luxury of time and new scientific advances.

A professional paint analysis was conducted by Matthew Mosca of Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Mosca removed 150 samples that were examined under microscopes to identify every layer of paint since 1890. The scientific specifications allowed Glidden Paint and Coatings of Cleveland, Ohio to perfectly match color, shade and sheen. Preferred Painting of

the Florida Keys applied all these coatings at a discounted price and reduced the price even further through a \$20,000 donation. Computer enhanced enlargements of vintage photographs taken by the Navy during their 1949 remodeling for the President brought a level of detail that had previously been unavailable. The wallpaper design in the foyers was redrawn from a photograph, new stencils cut and the original 1949 wallpaper reprinted by Scalamandre of Long Island, New York.

A search on the internet allowed us to locate a sample of the original Waverly fabric used in the living room and dining room. Two hundred yards of discontinued fabric was located and new draperies, cornices, sofa and chairs reupholstered in the original patterns.



Circa 1950



Present



The original artwork used in the Little White House were prints and paintings from the Beverly Robinson Collection and had been loaned by the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. The originals are irreplaceable so high resolution replicas were printed now grace our walls today. Many of these improvements can be seen in the photographs above.

The house is not complete! We still need your help. The economic meltdown of 2008 caused many grants to be elim-

Our Mission, "To Protect and Preserve the building and grounds of the state heritage landmark known as the Harry S. Truman Little White House."

inated and a large donor was forced to withdraw on offer to re-carpet the interior. We need \$25,000 to purchase the carpet. The restoration of the kitchen will cost an additional \$40,000. Additional furniture and objects are needed to replicate the 1949 appearance. Other critical projects include insulation of the attic, capture and recirculation of rainwater for our irrigation system, and a new generator to provide electric power critical for maintaining temperature and humidity control during storms.