



www.trumanlibrary.org

## Teacher Talk

January 2008

The summer teachers conference in 2008 will look back at one very special year: 1948.

### Summer Teachers Conference *1948: A Year of Decisions*

A close examination of the year will allow teachers to learn more about topics such as the Marshall Plan, the recognition of Israel, the Berlin Airlift, the desegregation of the armed forces, and the 1948 Presidential Election.

A number of very impressive speakers have already agreed to participate. These include Richard Kirkendall (University of Washington); Carol Anderson (University of Missouri); Bruce Craig (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada); Kari Frederickson (University of Alabama); and Susan Hartmann (Ohio State University).

In addition to hearing from the top scholars in these topics, teachers will have the opportunity to research from the archives of the Truman Library. Teachers will then work together to generate educational materials. For more information and to register for this conference see page 2.



Gail Halvorsen, the infamous "candy bomber" during the Berlin Airlift, will speak at this summer's teacher conference at the Truman Library.

#### The Candy Bomber story

Berlin Airlift pilot Lt. Gail Halvorsen was so struck with the friendliness and excitement of the Berlin children that he wanted to do something special for them. Lt. Halvorsen decided to start his own operation and named it "*Operation Little Vittles*." He practically bought out all the candy available where he was based. He created miniature parachutes and attached the candy to them. The American Confectioners Association sent tons of candy and gum to Westover AFB for processing. Lt. Halvorsen's squadron and others helped drop the candy and gum. By January of 1949 Lt. Halvorsen had dropped more than 250,000 parachutes loaded with candy on the city of Berlin during the blockade.

Gail will make a presentation to teachers during the summer teacher conference.

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# 1948: A Year of Decisions

## Summer Teacher Conference

### July 14 - 18, 2008

#### Harry S. Truman Library & Museum

#### Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching assignment(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade level(s) you teach: \_\_\_\_\_

Two hours graduate credit from UMKC is available for an additional fee for this conference.

To apply for this FREE teacher conference you also need to include the following:

- A professional resume
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a supervisor)
- A two page essay describing why you should be selected for this conference and how you would apply it in your current teaching position
- Any additional information you deem relevant to the application

**Postmark deadline: March 1, 2008**

Send to:

Mark Adams, Education Director  
Harry S. Truman Library & Museum  
500 US Hwy 24  
Independence, Mo 64050

Questions? Email: [mark.adams@nara.gov](mailto:mark.adams@nara.gov)



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# The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education White Rose Student Essay Contest

Open to students in grades 8-12 throughout Greater Kansas City!

## Contest Theme: Life in the Ghettos

Part A: Choose one ghetto established by the Nazis between 1939 and 1944. Describe how and why it was formed, how it was organized and governed, and how someone forced to live in that ghetto responded to the living conditions. Part A should constitute the majority of your essay.

Part B: Reflecting on the ghetto experience, what do you value more in your own life as a result of what you have learned? Explain why.

Postmark entry deadline – March 26, 2008

Teachers are encouraged to utilize this writing opportunity as a classroom assignment and to meet Kansas and Missouri state education standards, especially those regarding use of primary sources!

Complete contest information and entry forms are available at [www.mchekc.org](http://www.mchekc.org).  
For more information contact Jessica Rockhold at 913-327-8195 or  
[schools@mchekc.org](mailto:schools@mchekc.org).

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Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

I anticipate submitting \_\_\_\_\_ (number) White Rose Student Essays this year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am planning to introduce this essay contest to my students. Please send me a free resource to help my students with their research.**

To receive your free resource please mail this form to:

MCHE 5801 West 115<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 106 Overland Park, KS 66211  
or fax it to 913-327-8193

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## Upcoming Exhibits at the

### **Portrait 2000: Survival and Resilience** **February 15—April 13, 2008** **Truman Library & Museum**

Portrait 2000 contains fifty black and white framed portrait photographs of Holocaust refugees and survivors who settled in the Greater Kansas City area. Each portrait is accompanied by a narrative profile describing the individual's pre-Holocaust life and ultimate journey to Kansas City.

The exhibit, funded by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Kansas City, illustrates Jewish life in Europe prior to World War II and documents personal stories of resettlement and resilience by those whose world, as they once knew it, was destroyed by the Nazis. Photography was contributed by Gloria Baker Feinstein and David Sosland.

By emphasizing the pre-war and post-war experiences of this population of witnesses – most of whom were teenagers or younger during the war years – rather than on the atrocities they suffered, "Portrait 2000" personalizes the overwhelming scope of the Holocaust. The exhibit focuses on the beauty of the culture that was lost - the traditions it sustained, the values it taught, and the strength it provided - and the heroic resources that enabled its survivors to cope with personal dilemmas and rebuild their lives after World War II.

In this way, "Portrait 2000" allows all of us to reclaim an era that affects more than just Holocaust survivors and their descendants and to connect personally with those who lived through it, teaching us about this inspiring immigrant group and their contributions to our Greater Kansas City community.



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## Truman Library & Museum

### Truman and Israel: Behind the Decision February 15 – April 13, 2008

On May 14, 1948 President Harry Truman announced that the United States would offer de facto recognition of the new State of Israel. His decision, coming only eleven minutes after the new government was formed in the former British mandate of Palestine, gave immediate legitimacy to a country that existed only on paper and in the hearts of the world-wide Jewish community.

Truman's decision to recognize Israel was one of the most difficult decisions of his Presidency. Many on his staff and in his Cabinet argued against recognition, in part because it would anger the surrounding Arab nations and threaten access to the vast oil reserves they held. In the end, though, Truman decided to recognize Israel to provide for a Jewish homeland. The decision was largely personal, stemming from his understanding of the Bible and from his interpretation of historical texts. He was also swayed by the advocacy of longtime Jewish friends like his fellow World War I soldier and early business partner Eddie Jacobson.

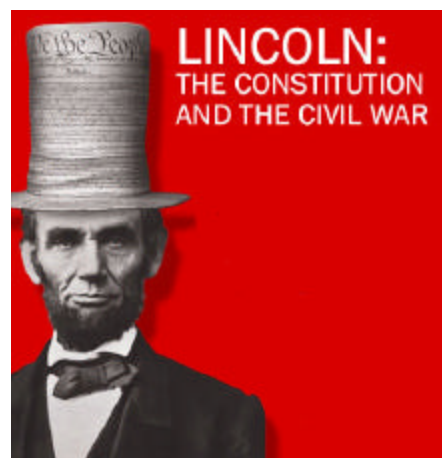
In this exhibition marking the 60th anniversary of Truman's decision to recognize Israel, his decision is examined through his own letters and handwritten diary entries, through correspondence he had with his Jewish friends, and through the recollections and oral histories of people around him who were in one way or another involved in the decision making process.

### Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War May 16 - September 14, 2008

Abraham Lincoln's election as the first anti-slavery president brought the nation to the brink of civil war. Seven states left the union even before the 16<sup>th</sup> president was sworn into office and other slave states pondered their future. "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" traces Lincoln's struggle to resolve the issues that divided Americans during one of the most perilous times in our history. The exhibition was produced by the Lincoln Museum of Fort Wayne, Indiana and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia.



President Truman and Israeli President Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Truman is holding a blue velvet mantle embellished with the Star of David. The mantle was a gift symbolizing Israel's gratitude for American recognition.



**Extensive lesson plans for pre-visit, on-site and post-visit activities will be sent to educators who book guided tours for students.**

**For guided tour reservations, call: 816-268-8221.**

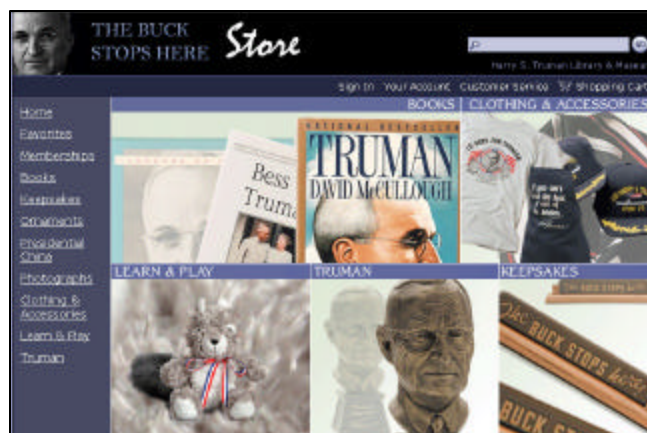
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## "The Buck Stops Here" gift store

The Truman Library launched a new online gift store in November.

The new store contains hundreds of items for you to order online. Categories include books, clothing, china, ornaments, keepsakes and learn & play.

Popular items include a replica Buck Stops Here desk sign, "I'd vote for Truman" t-shirt, and the poster print of the official portrait of President Truman.



To view the gift shop online visit [www.trumanlibrary.org](http://www.trumanlibrary.org) and click on "gift store".

### College and High School Intern Program - A Unique Opportunity!

The Truman Library is looking for students with a love for history to apply to participate in our college and high school internship program. Students have an opportunity to work with either the education staff or archivists. Your help in letting students who might be interested in a hands-on history experience would be appreciated. Detailed information can be found at: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/voluntee/>.

### Primary Sources and Elementary Students - a Winning Combination

Invite a Truman Library educator to talk to your students about primary sources and guide them through a document analysis activity. Presentation topics include: how to differentiate between a primary and secondary source, how historic materials are preserved and why keeping historic artifacts matters. Students will work with a document from the Library archives that will be grade level and content appropriate. The primary source presentation requires about 30 minutes and provides a nice introduction to President Truman and the Library before a tour of the galleries. This is a free service to area teachers.

To book a presentation, call Judi O'Neill: 816-268-8247

### History Day deadline approaching

**Deadline for entries: Friday, February 15, 2008**

**Contest: Saturday, March 8, 2008, Truman Library**

- The state finals are at the University of Missouri-Columbia on April 12, 2008
- The National Contest is June 15-19, 2008 at the University of Maryland-College Park.

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## Harry S. Truman and a Red Poppy

On November 1, 1918, Captain Harry Truman sent a letter to his cousin, Mary Ethel Noland. Enclosed with the letter was a pressed flower, a red poppy. Ethel mounted the poppy on a piece of paper and kept it for many years. The pressed red poppy is now part of the Truman Library's World War I collection. Captain Truman was not the only soldier who found the appearance of multitudes of bright red poppies on the battle fields of Northern France and Flanders amazing. The poppies inspired Lt. Col. John McCrae, a Canadian surgeon, to write a poem in honor of the men whose lives he tried to save. His *In Flanders Field*, published in 1915, forever linked the red poppy and the Great War in peoples' minds. The American, British and Canadian Legions eventually adopted the red poppy as a symbol of the sacrifices of fallen battlefield warriors.

Excerpt from Capt. Truman's letter to Ethel Noland:

*I took a walk out to my new O[bservation] P[ost]. the other day about 7 kilometers (4 miles in real distance) the way I had to go Zig zag through the trenches and a way out, not far from the German lines I found a little poppy coming [sic] up through the rocks. I am sending it to you. It certainly had its nerve to try to grow right under the framing walls of Ft. Douamont the impregnable and most famous one of this war but there it grew and pretty it looked in that shell torn place (more sobsister stuff) and I thought you might like to have it. I sent Bess the other one. Say people if the censor opens this letter or you let the contents of it outside the family, I'll be jugged or jimmed or bobtailed to say the least but I'm hoping he won't open it and I've nothing worth writing about if I don't tell you some of the things I've seen.*

IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

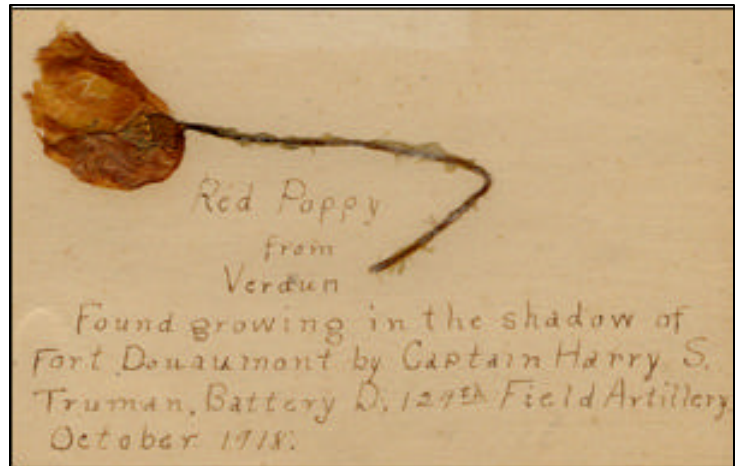
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae, *In Flanders Field*, 1915

To view the library's extensive World War I collections online visit:

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/ww1/](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/ww1/)



1. What clues about Captain Truman and his World War I experience are found in the letter?
2. What are the most important things revealed in this excerpt of his letter to his cousin?
3. How do you think he would feel about other people reading his letter to Ethel Noland?
4. What information can you learn about Harry Truman by reading the card with the pressed flower?
5. What questions would you like to ask Captain Truman?
6. Why do you think Ethel Noland kept the letter and the pressed flower for many years?
7. Why is it important for the Truman Library to keep the letter and the poppy?



## Harry S. Truman Library & Museum Educational Programs

Grades	Program	Description
8-Adult	<b>White House Decision Center</b>	Students role play President Truman and his advisors as they face major decisions in post WWII history. A five module experiential curriculum with a day in the White House Decision Center. A unique, skill building experience. An adult version is also available on request for companies, agencies, and civic groups. (contact Tom)
K-12	<b>Footlocker (Free)</b>	The footlocker contains Truman-related artifact replicas, documents, photographs and teaching activities. It is available for a two-week loan period and maybe picked up on weekends & evenings by arrangement. (contact Judi)
4-Adult	<b>Website (Free)</b>	The award-winning site ( <a href="http://www.trumanlibrary.org">www.trumanlibrary.org</a> ) contains 27,000 pages of primary sources, photographs, & teaching activities for many audiences. (contact Mark)
4-9	<b>Truman Places Map (Free)</b>	A cooperative group or individual activity where students locate KC area sites linked to Harry Truman on a colorful map. An outstanding map interpretation skill lesson conducted in your classroom. A set of maps and activity templates sent upon request. (contact Judi)
4-12	<b>Guided tours</b>	Arrange a docent led tour and receive a museum curriculum guide. The admission fee for school groups is \$2.00 per student with one free adult per 10 students. You must call four weeks in advance to book a guided tour. (contact Nancy Myers at 816-268- 8221 or 1-800-833-1225 x88221)
6-12	<b>National History Day (Free)</b>	Missouri students compete regionally each March at the Truman Library. Finalists in the four categories proceed to the state and national levels. (contact Mark)
8-12	<b>Spy's Dilemma (Free)</b>	In this classroom exercise students serve as members of a 1945 Soviet spy ring reading and analyzing once secret U.S. documents. Teaching guide and student templates available upon request. (contact Judi)
8-12	<b>Top Secret: WWII (Free)</b>	Students in this activity act as U.S. World War II intelligence agents as they classify documents related to U.S. actions in the war. Teaching guide and templates available upon request. (contact Judi)
8-12	<b>Presidential Decision Making Kit (Free)</b>	Students receive a synopsis of a critical situation. Using primary sources, students analyze the crisis from several points of view and make a recommendation to "President Truman." (contact Judi)
Teachers	<b>Video Library (Free)</b>	More than 120 videos related to Truman, WWI, WWII, the Cold War, and the 1940s & 1950s are available for a two-week loan. A list of available videos is online at: <a href="http://trumanlibrary.org">trumanlibrary.org</a> (contact Judi)

Grades	Program	Description
8- College	Student Research Files (Free)	These primary documents cover 53 topics. Twelve student research files are available online and all are available at the Truman Library, UMKC, Longview Community College, Graceland University- Independence Campus, and the Mid-Continent Library System. For more information contact <a href="mailto:truman.education@nara.gov">truman.education@nara.gov</a>
9-Adult	Special Presentations	Presentations are available on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Thomas Hart Benton's Mural</li> <li>· Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb</li> <li>· Truman and Boss Tom Pendergast</li> <li>· Harry Truman: A Man of Character</li> <li>· Captain Harry Truman in WW I</li> <li>· Truman's Planes, Trains, and Automobiles</li> <li>· Harry S. Truman and civil rights</li> <li>· Give 'Em Hell: The 1948 Election Upset</li> <li>· Behind the Scenes Tour of the Truman Library</li> <li>· Truman and Atomic Energy</li> <li>· Truman in Retirement</li> <li>· Truman Places around Independence and Kansas City</li> <li>· The Love Story of Harry and Bess Truman (a one act drama)</li> <li>· Truman's Senatorial Campaigns</li> <li>· The Boy Who Would Be President: Harry Truman At School 1892-1901 (contact Tom)</li> </ul>
Teachers	<i>Teacher Talk</i> (Free)	This printed newsletter, containing education related news, is published twice during the school year. To add your name to the list contact <a href="mailto:Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov">Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov</a>
Teachers	E-Talk (Free)	This e-mail bulletin presents the latest educational news, exhibit openings, upcoming public programs and more. To add your name to the list contact <a href="mailto:Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov">Lisa.sullivan@nara.gov</a>
Teachers	In-Service	We offer teacher in-service programs. Presentations at the Truman Museum include activities using our exhibits. We are available to share our resources at school district in-services and resource fairs. (contact Mark)
Teachers	Workshops	See our Summer Teachers Conference information on pages 1 & 2

Mark Adams ([Mark.adams@nara.gov](mailto:Mark.adams@nara.gov)) 816-268-8236 or 1-800-833-1225 x88236

Tom Heuertz ([Tom.heuertz@nara.gov](mailto:Tom.heuertz@nara.gov)) 816-268-8241 or 1-800-833-1225 x88241

Judi O'Neill ([Judi.o'neill@nara.gov](mailto:Judi.o'neill@nara.gov)) 816-268-8247 or 1-800-833-1225 x88247

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## **Upcoming Conferences Professional Development Opportunities**

### **Missouri Council for Social Studies Conference 2008 Social Studies Education in Missouri: An Exciting Past, A Promising Future February 22-23, 2008, St. Joseph, Missouri**

Join us in St. Joseph for the Missouri Council for the Social Studies annual conference February 22 and 23, 2008.

A variety of break out sessions will be offered to accommodate the interests of elementary through college-level social studies educators. Special events include a keynote address by Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson, an eye witness to the attack on Pearl Harbor, an outing to the Power Plant, and a presentation by local historian, Jim Conlon. For more information visit the MCSS website at [www.mosocialstudies.org](http://www.mosocialstudies.org).

### **Missouri Council for History Education - Kansas Council for History Education Changing Political Power: Democracies, Monarchies, Dynasties September 26 – 27, 2008 Courtyard by Marriott/Adams Pointe Convention Center Blue Springs, Missouri**

The Kansas and Missouri Councils for History Education will pool their resources to offer an extraordinary opportunity for history educators in both states. The conference theme capitalizes on the 2008 election to focus on the political process in a democracy and political transitions in countries with other political systems, both past and present.

Sam Wineburg, Professor of Education and Professor of History at Stanford University, and H. W. Brands, Professor of History at the University of Texas, will be the featured speakers.

Sam Wineburg is well known for his book, *Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past*. His extended session, "Reading Like An Historian," will appeal to teachers who struggle with improving student reading of history and other non-fiction material.

H. W. Brands has written twenty books. His books include *The Money Men: Capitalism, Democracy and the Hundred Years' War Over the American Dollar*, *TR*, *The Strange Death of American Liberalism*, *What America Owes the World*, and *The Devil We Knew*. *The First American*, a biography of Benjamin Franklin was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in biography. Sam Wineburg and Bill Brands are made available to the KCHE-MOCHE Joint Conference by the generosity of Holt Rinehart Winston and the Olathe Public Schools Teaching American History grant.

The twenty break out sessions will feature sessions on technology use in the classroom, teaching about the American Presidential election and the political process, significant elections of the past as well as sessions useful for teachers of world history.

The conference will be held at the Adams Pointe Conference Center in Blue Springs, Missouri. The adjacent Courtyard by Marriott will offer a special conference room rate of \$79.00 per night. To take advantage of this rate, conference participants will need to reserve their room by September 10. To do so, call 816-228-8100. Registration information and a complete program will be available before the end of this school year. For more information on the conference or to submit a proposal for presenting a breakout session, contact [or brunerm@usd413.org](mailto:or brunerm@usd413.org).

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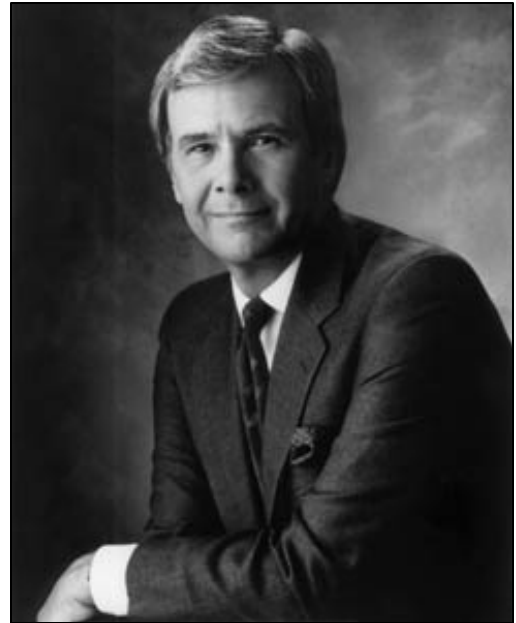
## Wild About Harry! With Special Guest Tom Brokaw

Thursday, April 10, 2008  
The Muehlebach Tower of the Marriott Hotel Kansas  
City, Missouri  
6:15 - 9:00 p.m.

Wild About Harry is the annual fundraising event for the Truman Library Institute. The evening will include cocktails, dinner and entertainment.

This year's event will feature legendary NBC newsman and author Tom Brokaw. Individual tickets will go on sale in February 2008. Sponsorships are currently available.

Please contact Kim Rausch at 816-268-8237 or [kim.rausch@nara.gov](mailto:kim.rausch@nara.gov) for additional details.



### New feature online: The Truman Library podcast!

The Truman Library recently added to its website a new podcast feature. Most of the podcasts are historic speeches by President Truman and link to related documents and photographs.

To subscribe to the podcast visit [www.trumanlibrary.org/audio/podcasts.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/audio/podcasts.htm)

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“ The papers of the presidents are among the most valuable sources of material for history. They ought to be preserved and they ought to be used. ”

Harry S. Truman

## Harry S. Truman Library & Museum *Free Admission for Educators*

One coupon required for each educator.  
**Must show valid school identification** and complete the information on the reverse of this coupon. Non-educator members of party will be required to pay museum admission.

500 West U.S. Highway 24  
Independence, Missouri 64050-1798  
816-268-8200

**Museum Hours**  
Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
Sundays: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

**Museum Admission**  
Adults: \$7 Seniors: \$5 Children (6-18): \$3 Under age 6: *Free*

*Duplicate Coupons Accepted*

Expires December 31, 2008