



WhistleStop

Preserving the Legacy of America's 33rd President

FALL 2008

TrumanLibrary.org

PREMIER EVENT

THE MEDIA AND THE PRESIDENCY

PLAYING POLITICS



On Sunday, October 5, the Truman Library Institute will present the second annual Howard and Virginia

Bennett Forum on the Presidency. Scott Simon, NPR host of *Weekend Edition*, will be joined by Ted Sorensen and other political experts to discuss *The Media and the Presidency: Playing Politics*. See full event details on page 8.

INSIDE

3

Truman Library to host citizen forums on public policy.

5

New online exhibit shares HST's civil rights legacy.

6

Opening Veterans Day: *Memories of WWII*

7

Members-only event with Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus

Congressman Conyers Delivers Keynote Address for Desegregation Commemoration

Harry Truman's legacy of decisive and principled leadership was in the national spotlight again as America commemorated the 60th anniversary of President Truman's executive order to desegregate the armed forces.

Executive Order 9981, signed by President Truman on July 26, 1948, bypassed public and Congressional opposition to end racial segregation in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The anniversary of the landmark call for "equality of treatment and opportunity for all" was amplified by the historic 2008 presidential primaries, in which the first woman and the first African American were vying seriously for the Democratic nomination. High-profile ceremonies marking the anniversary of Executive Order 9981 were held coast to coast.

To mark the occasion, the Truman Library Institute invited U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr., to speak at the Truman Library on Monday, July 28, 2008.

The long-time Congressman from Michigan, who served our country in uniform from 1948 to 1954, shared his eyewitness account of this remarkable chapter in our nation's history. A veteran of the Korean War and the second most senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Conyers is one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus and considered the dean of that group. His many leadership awards include a Southern Christian Leadership Conference Award, presented to him by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Congressman's remarks underscored the fact that Harry Truman was an unlikely champion of civil rights. When the son of Southern sympathizers was



Top: U.S. Rep. John Conyers delivers keynote address. Bottom: U.S. Congressmen Conyers, Emanuel Cleaver and Dennis Moore applaud remarks by U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton, honorary co-chair for the event.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

TrumanLibrary.org
800-833-1225 | 816-268-8200

MUSEUM HOURS

Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.

MUSEUM ADMISSION

\$8 adults; \$7 seniors 65+

\$3 youth 6-15; 0-5 FREE

Truman Library Institute members
admitted free. Group discounts available.

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In Brief

Truman Bids Farewell to Lincoln

After a successful four-month run at the Truman Library, the dramatic and interactive exhibition *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War* closed on September 14 and will head to Cincinnati's National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The exhibit was expected to be a strong draw, and it delivered. Nearly 40,000 visitors toured the exhibit in the Museum; attendance in August alone surpassed records for the same period in previous years. Originally organized by the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia with support from Lincoln Financial Group, the local showing was made possible by the generosity of our title sponsor, **UMB Bank**. Additional support was provided by our media sponsor, *The Kansas City Star*. Thanks to each one of you who made a return visit or brought friends and family to view this special exhibition.



World's Oldest College Graduate Attends Decision Center

At The White House Decision Center, the Truman Library's flagship educational program, students bring differing perspectives to their roles as they re-enact key decisions in Truman's presidency. But it's safe to say that Nola Ochs had a truly unique vantage point as she and her college classmates re-enacted the Berlin Airlift of 1948. Now 96, Ochs lived through Truman's presidency; when she enrolled in her first college class, Herbert Hoover was president. Nearly 80 years later, she was graduated from Fort Hays State University in Kansas with a bachelor's degree in history; her studies included a visit to the Truman Library and a session in The White House Decision Center. "I came away with a great feeling of admiration for Truman," Ochs said. She is currently pursuing postgraduate studies in history at Fort Hays.



Nola Ochs

Volunteers to Tour City of Brotherly Love

Every fall, Truman Library volunteers pack their bags for a guided tour of one of our nation's most treasured heritage sites. This year, the destination is Philadelphia. The four-day, three-night trip (October 15-18) will include tours of the U.S. Mint, Valley Forge, Betsy Ross House, and other sites, such as the National Constitution Center, Liberty Bell Center, and Independence Hall.

"We've had some really great trips," said volunteer coordinator Donna Denslow. "Volunteers enjoy the chance to make closer friendships while pursuing their passion for history. It's a joy to plan these tours for our volunteers who work so diligently on behalf of the Truman Library all year long." To register for the trip, or for more details, please contact Teresa Lash at The Travel Team as soon as possible at (816) 414-0200 or tlash@travelteam-kc.com.

Remembering S. Lee Kling



S. Lee Kling

On July 26, 2008, the Truman Library Institute bade farewell to former board member and long-time friend S. Lee Kling. A prominent Democratic party fundraiser whose influence extended into presidential elections and foreign affairs, Kling died at 79 in his native St. Louis. Chairman of the board of The Kling Co., which is involved in insurance, consulting and investments, Kling served as finance chairman of the Democratic National Committee in the 1970s and received that group's Distinguished Service Award in 1982. As a member of the Truman Library Institute board of directors, Kling was instrumental in garnering state support for both the Truman Library's 50th anniversary and the preservation of Truman's Working Office. "Lee Kling's 'buck stops here' leadership and generosity helped secure the future of President Truman's library," said Truman Library Institute board chairman William Nelson. "We have lost a good friend and will miss him. Our deepest condolences go to Lee's family and his wife, Rosalyn."

Summer Teacher Institute Connects Educators with Cold War Witness

Thirty-five teachers from nine states attended the Truman Library Institute's fifth annual Summer Teacher Institute at the Truman Library July 14-18. Focused on the theme *1948: A Year of Decisions*, high school educators spent the week with scholars, historians and eyewitnesses to deepen their understanding of the Marshall Plan, the recognition of Israel, the desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces, the 1948 election, and the Berlin Airlift.

Retired Lt. Col. Gail Halvorsen, known affectionately around the world as the Berlin Candy Bomber, participated in the conference and presented a sold-out public program on July 14.

Halvorsen became famous during the Berlin Airlift for dropping candy to the children of the besieged city using miniature parachutes. His personal mission soon brought him international fame and became an unofficial part of U.S. policy, as he received thousands of pounds of candy and other donations from home. Former Berliner Ursula Liggett (pictured

at right) attended the public program on July 14 to meet Halvorsen and thank him personally. "You saved us," she said.

Other conference presenters included Truman Library Institute board members Carol Anderson (University of Missouri – Columbia), Richard Kirkendall (University of Washington), and Susan Hartmann (Ohio State University).



Retired Lt. Col. Gail Halvorsen with teachers in the White House Decision Center (top) and in the Museum's Berlin Airlift gallery (center). Bottom: Former East Berliner Ursula Liggett meets "the Candy Bomber" and tells him, "You saved us."

TEACHER INSTITUTE REPORT CARD

SUBJECT	GRADE
<i>"I have attended several seminars or conferences and this ranks at the top of my list."</i>	A
<i>"It was a wonderful week, containing information that will be extremely useful in my classroom."</i>	A
<i>"I feel revived as a teacher."</i>	A
<i>"A terrific conference that I would highly recommend to all."</i>	A+

Truman Library Hosts National Issues Forum



In collaboration with the National Issues Forums Initiative (NIFI) and the Harry S. Truman Center for Governmental Affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum will host a public forum on the rising cost of health care on October 13.

All 12 presidential libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration, in communities all across the country, are participating in this initiative. "Hosting National Issues Forums at the presidential libraries is consistent with our emphasis on civic education," said Allen Weinstein, archivist of the United

States. "Presidential Libraries are public places, and it is appropriate for citizens to engage in intense discussions of major public policy issues in the midst of a presidential campaign."

Forums will be guided by moderators trained by NIFI, and attendees will originate a dialog on the timely issues of rising health care costs and American immigration.

The public is invited to participate in "Coping with the Cost of Health Care" from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on October 13, 2008, at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, located at 4801 Rockhill Road in Kansas City, Missouri. Space is limited to 80 participants, and RSVPs are requested no later than October 6 by calling Charles St. Clair, development specialist with the University of Missouri, at (816) 407-3490.

Desegregation Commemoration

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Harry Truman “went through a journey that a lot of people weren’t able to make. [He] grew up in a Southern culture, for all practical purposes. He came out of and grew up in a time when most African Americans who were of any age at all had experienced slavery.”

— U.S. REP. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

elected president, it had been nearly a century since the federal government had addressed racial inequality.

And there was little support to take up the call for civil rights. Polls at the time showed that 82 percent of Americans opposed Truman’s civil rights program. Yet he persisted.

Harry Truman “went through a journey that a lot of people weren’t able to make,” Conyers said. “Harry Truman grew up in a Southern culture, for all practical purposes. He came out of and grew up in a time when most African-Americans who were of any age at all had experienced slavery.”

But when a friend wrote to Truman urging him to drop the issue, Harry responded hotly, “I am going to send you a copy of the report of my Commission on Civil Rights and then if

you still have that antebellum proslavery outlook, I’ll be thoroughly disappointed in you.... When a Mayor and a City Marshall can take a negro Sergeant off a bus in South Carolina, beat him up and put out one of his eyes, and nothing is done about it by the State authorities, something is radically wrong with the system.”

Congressman Conyers’ keynote address was complemented by rousing remarks from U.S. Congressmen Ike Skelton and Emanuel Cleaver, honorary co-chairs of the event. U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore of Kansas also attended the ceremony. Musical selections were delivered powerfully by singer Millie Edwards; saxophonist Matt Carrillo opened the program and then played as part of the Everette DeVan Quartet at the reception that followed.

During his visit to the Truman Library, Congressman Conyers toured the Museum with Michael Devine, director of the Truman Library. Following the program, the Congressman met briefly with friends and premier members of the Truman Library Institute before joining the reception held in his honor in the East Atrium. A long line of attendees—including several Tuskegee Airmen—wound through the upbeat crowd for their chance to meet Congressman Conyers.



Top, l to r: A Tuskegee Airman with Congressman Conyers at reception; Truman Library director Michael Devine presents Congressman Conyers with a framed copy of Executive Order 9981. Bottom, l to r: U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr.; U.S. Congressmen Ike Skelton, John Conyers, Emanuel Cleaver; and Dennis Moore; vocalist Millie Edwards.



REMARKS BY HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

“Truman’s hallmark was doing the right thing.... I think Harry Truman would be proud of how well the armed services are doing.”

— U.S. REP. IKE SKELTON

“The man from Independence, Harry S. Truman, signed this order and I am convinced it changed America. Executive Order 9981 helped accelerate the civil rights movement. It all began with [Truman].”

— U.S. REP. EMANUEL CLEAVER, II



HST Honor Roll

We welcome the following new members and gratefully acknowledge their important role in fulfilling President Truman’s vision to help adults and students alike better understand our democracy, the American presidency, and each person’s power to make a difference. (6/16/08 – 8/28/08)

- Mr. Edmund C. Barnum
- Mr. Robert Brennan
- Mr. and Mrs. Julian D. Butler
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles Christianson
- Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Edwards
- Prof. John Gingles
- Ms. Francie Grossman
- Mr. Terry Haggard and Ms. Vicki White
- Dr. David Hill
- Mr. and Mrs. John Johnston
- The Honorable Chris Keen
- Ms. Rebecca McKeel
- Mr. and Mrs. Norm Laumeyer
- Mr. Larry McMaster
- President Phelps Murdock
- Mrs. India Phillely
- Mr. and Mrs. David Piziali
- Dr. Thomas Purcell
- Dr. and Mrs. David M. Rube
- Dr. Kent Thomas
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Townsend
- Mr. R. B. Townsend
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woolrich

Special thanks to Honorary Fellows who recently upgraded their memberships (6/16/08 – 8/28/08).

- Ms. Jenny M. Brewer
- Mr. and Mrs. Chester P. Buras
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Davison
- Mr. and Mrs. David E. Ferguson
- Rev. Wilson D. Miscamble
- Mrs. Mary Lois Nevins
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weir

We gratefully acknowledge the following corporations and individuals who recently joined or renewed the distinguished ranks of the Buck Stops Here Society and West Wing Council, the premier membership societies of the Truman Library Institute.

- Rae A. Block
- Mary Shaw Branton
- Centerpoint Medical Center – Carolyn Caldwell
- Commerce Bank of KC – Jonathan Kemper
- Defamco, LP – Sam Devinki
- John Dillingham
- JoAnn Field
- Sam Hamra
- KCP&L
- Allen Lefko
- Bob Lyons
- Marriott Hotel - Kevin Pistilli
- Tom and Jean McDonnell
- Susan and John P. McMeel
- Bill Miscamble
- UMB Bank – Clyde Wendel
- Helen and Frank Wewers
- Ellen and Jerry T. Wolf

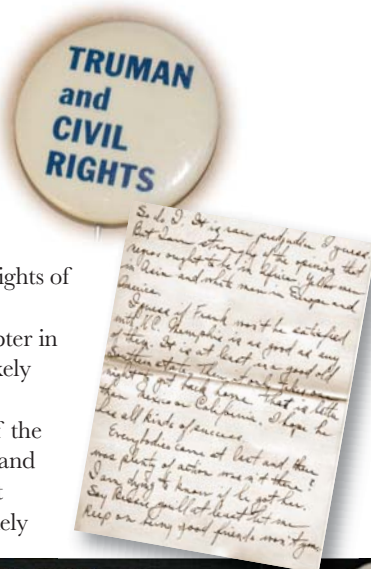
New Online Exhibit

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which provided for equality of treatment and opportunity for all Americans serving in the armed forces. At great risk to his own re-election in 1948, President Truman was willing to raise the civil rights issue and to formulate and promote a reform agenda. His actions demonstrated his determination to correct the abuses of the past and to advance the rights of all Americans.

Now an online exhibit tells this little-known chapter in our nation’s civil rights story—the story of an unlikely champion of racial equality, born to Southern sympathizers less than two decades after the end of the Civil War. The documents, photographs and firsthand accounts in **To Secure These Rights** give insight into the political and cultural climate and the unlikely president who took a stand.

The exhibit was developed and funded by the Truman Library Institute. The Institute is grateful for the assistance of the Truman Library archives staff and for the outstanding assistance from Cassie Mundt, senior intern.

To explore **To Secure These Rights**, visit TrumanLibrary.org. Please note that older computer monitors may require adjusted screen settings for proper viewing.



“Riveting” WWII Photo Exhibit Opens Veterans Day

“You had the same fears as the GIs, but you had to think about the picture. My camera was my shield.” — AP PHOTOJOURNALIST MAX DESFOR, BATTLE OF OKINAWA

Beginning Veterans Day, the Truman Library will honor the service of America’s veterans with a photo exhibit that recalls the achievements and sacrifice of those in uniform. The special exhibition, *Memories of World War II: Photographs from the Archives of the Associated Press*, will open November 11, 2008 and run through January 11, 2009.

Memories of World War II features a spectrum of 126 photos from all theaters of the war and the home front, ranging from AP photographer Joe Rosenthal’s classic Iwo Jima flag raising in 1945 to scores of pictures not seen in decades.

“As far as we know, all of the pictures were transmitted at some time on AP wires, but some probably [had] not been touched since the war,” said Charles Zoeller, chief of AP’s vast photo library and curator of the exhibit and accompanying book.

In the exhibit, familiar scenes of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor, along with British and American troops hitting Normandy beaches on D-Day and marching through newly liberated Paris, are juxtaposed with hidden surprises sure to evoke strong memories among older Americans. Visitors will see photographs of Hitler and Mussolini at the peak of fascist power, Winston Churchill in unmistakable silhouette, actor James Stewart being inducted into the military, Nazi SS troops herding defiant Jews after the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943, and Russian women laying flowers at the feet of four dead GIs who helped liberate them from a slave-labor camp.

Despite censorship that delayed the release of pictures and restricted caption information, the

wartime cameras recorded dramatic close-ups of power and pathos, the leaders and the lost. CNN called the exhibit “riveting.”

In the forward to the accompanying book, former U.S. Senator Bob Dole asserts that the photos have even greater impact because they are black-and-whites.

“The causes and objectives of the United States and our Allies in World War II were just that, black and white, good against evil,” wrote Dole, who was severely wounded in Italy in 1945. For “the postwar generations, who know the war only as distant history, these images will serve as a record of a shared and shaping era in our nation’s history.”

The temporary installment of the exhibition at the Truman Library is part of an 18-city national tour; it opened in Washington, D.C., in 2004, just prior to the ceremonial christening of the National World War II Memorial.

“If there were no...photographers who went to war, what would the folks at home know...of the heroism, the suffering, the brave deeds, the crippling challenges?”

—WALTER CRONKITE
From the introduction of
the exhibit’s companion book

Left: The burning of St. Paul’s Cathedral
Right: The infamous Times Square kiss



Upcoming Events Honoring Veterans Day

FREE PUBLIC PROGRAM

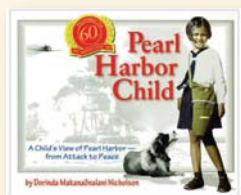
Eyewitness Panel: Memories of WWII

Friday, November 7, 2008

7 p.m. Truman Library, Whistle Stop Room

Please use Special Events Entrance

Join us for an intimate discussion with U.S. veterans of World War II and Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson, author of *Pearl Harbor Child: A Child's View of Pearl Harbor from Attack to Peace*, the first civilian personal account of the attack through the eyes of a child. Nicholson was 6 years old on December 7, 1941, when Japanese planes flew over her home—so close she could see the pilots' goggles. Most moving is her child's viewpoint: Nicholson is frank that it was exciting and fun at times, even as she remembers the terror, the tragic mistakes made by friendly fire, and the suffering.



Educators Conference (1 CEU)

November 7-8, 2008

Secondary teachers will gain new expertise and a wealth of classroom resources for interpreting the stories of WWII. Presenters include education staff of the Truman Library and Eisenhower Presidential Library and faculty from the University of Missouri – Kansas City and the University of Central Missouri. Limited to 50 participants. To register or learn more, visit TrumanLibrary.org

MEMBERS ONLY

Through the Lens: Memories of World War II Preview & Program

Featuring Pulitzer Prize Winning Photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus

Sunday, November 9, 2008

6 p.m. Truman Library

Members: watch for your formal invitation by mail.



Don't miss this powerful program, paired with a members-only preview of *Memories of World War II*. Pulitzer Prize winner Anja Niedringhaus will share her firsthand account as an AP photojournalist working in a war zone. Her program will feature a slideshow of more than 200 photos from the war in Iraq and the 2003 invasion of Fallujah. One of only a few photojournalists privileged to report on the invasion, Niedringhaus's images underscore the dangers faced by photojournalists. "I would do it again, but I would think twice now. It was very, very dangerous," she said. "Sixty percent of my unit died getting into Fallujah."

PUBLIC PROGRAM

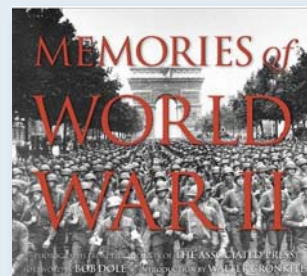
Musical Memories of World War II

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 | 10 a.m. Truman Library, Francis Families Theater

Michael Lasser, long-time host of the nationally syndicated public radio program "Fascinatin' Rhythm," will be on hand to offer his sparkling commentary on the history and themes of American popular music from World War II. Presented as part of *Memories of World War II*. Free with museum admission.



Memories on Sale at Museum Store



For a limited time only, the Truman Library Museum Store will offer the companion book to the AP photo exhibit, *Memories of World War II*. A wonderful gift or addition to your own library, the beautiful hardbound edition features essays by both former U.S. Senator Bob Dole and Walter Cronkite. Be sure to show your membership card to receive your in-store discount.

Presidential Election Trivia Contest

On October 20, 2008, the Truman Library will host a presidential election trivia contest for students in grades 9-12. Participating school teams will go toe to toe on questions from five categories: Name That Candidate; Defeated Presidential Candidates; Vice Presidential Candidates; Slogans, Campaign Ads & Speeches; and Potpourri. For guidelines and registration forms, visit TrumanLibrary.org/triviacontest.

Membership Matters

Join or renew your membership and enjoy free Museum admission, access to members-only receptions and exhibition previews, Museum Store discounts, and more. For more information, please visit TrumanLibrary.org or call (816) 268-8237.



Roger Williams 84th Birthday 12-Hour Piano Marathon

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008
Truman Library
Missouri Auditorium

The Truman Library is throwing an 84th birthday bash for legendary pianist Roger Williams, and he's providing the entertainment!

Known as the "Pianist of the Presidents," Williams has played for nine Chief Executives, beginning with Harry Truman. Still performing across the country, Williams has recorded 118 albums, 18 of them gold and platinum. With hits like "Born Free" and "The Impossible Dream," Roger Williams is *Billboard Magazine's* top charting piano recording artist in history. The 12-hour music marathon is designed to raise public awareness for the importance of music programs in schools.

In celebration of Roger Williams' birthday, admission is free for both the piano marathon and Museum exhibits. Cake will be served beginning at noon, and while it lasts.

PREMIER EVENT

Bennett Forum on the Presidency Takes on the Media and Politics

As the historic 2008 presidential election draws near, the Truman Library Institute will present a powerful forum on the timely topic of the media and the presidency with moderator Scott Simon, host of NPR's *Weekend Edition*. Political experts Ted Sorensen, Costas Panagopoulos, and Timothy Naftali join Simon as he explores America's so-called crisis of integrity and asks, "Who's playing politics?"

This program is offered as part of *The Howard & Virginia Bennett Forum on the Presidency*. Established in 2006 by Mary and Michael Johnston, the series commemorates Howard Bennett's role in the founding of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum while helping tell the complex story of our nation's highest office, an office unique in world history: the American presidency.

Last year's inaugural forum with Bill Moyers attracted a sold-out crowd of nearly 1,300.

General admission tickets are on sale now for \$15 through Central Ticket Office. Truman Library Institute members can purchase tickets for only \$10 (limit 4). Advance reservations are strongly recommended. Call (816) 235-6222 or visit www.trumanlibrary.org to purchase tickets. To take advantage of this member benefit, please place your ticket order by phone.



Scott Simon | Moderator
NPR Host of
Weekend Edition



Ted Sorensen | Panelist
Former speechwriter and
Special Counsel to JFK



Costas Panagopoulos | Panelist
Historian and leading
campaign analyst



Timothy Naftali | Panelist
Historian, author, and
director of the Nixon
Presidential Library

"The Forum on the
Presidency was one of
the best—if not *the*
best—intellectual
program in Kansas City
that I can remember.
Thank you for
including us."

— NANCY LEE KEMPER

For Tickets, Call Central
Ticket Office at 816.235.6222
TrumanLibrary.org

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discount, order by phone.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
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www.trumanlibrary.org

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