

NEW EXHIBITS HIGHLIGHT SPOUSES' ROLE IN CAMPAIGNS AND WHITE HOUSE PETS

White House "Tails": Pets of the First Families

Through October 24th the very special exhibit entitled "White House Tails: Pets of the First Families" will be on display on the lower level of the Education & Research Center.

This exclusive loan from the White House features nine papier-mâché figures representing the beloved pets of some our nation's First Families.

All of the figures were first used by First Lady Laura Bush in her 2002 White House Christmas



theme entitled *All Creatures Great and Small*. Florists, who were part of the regular White House staff, created over 20 of these special reproductions of pets that once lived in or outside the White House.

Most First Families owned pets when they took up residence in the Executive Mansion, and occasionally more creatures great and small were acquired during each President's administration. Many pets were gifts to the First Families from other

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Team Players: Triumph and Tribulation on the Campaign Trail

Presidential campaigns that celebrate our freedom to choose a leader by election of the people are events unique to our country. It is an expectant, exciting time – a promise kept by the Constitution for a better future. Rituals have developed over time and have become traditions of presidential hopefuls – the campaign slogans and songs, hundreds of speeches, thousands of handshakes, the countless miles of travel across the country to meet voters - all are reported by the ever-present media. The candidate must do a balancing act as leader and entertainer to influence the American voters. Today the potential first spouse is expected to



be involved in campaign issues, and her activities are as closely scrutinized as the candidate's. However, these women haven't always been an official part of the ritual contest.



"Team Players: Triumph and Tribulation on the Campaign Trail" on exhibit through November 23rd in our Education and Research Center, will examine the role played by presidential candidates' spouses.

Campaigning for her husband's run for the presidency is one of the biggest self-sacrifices a First Lady want-to-be can make. The commitment to the campaign and the road to election night are simultaneously exhilarating

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countries. Some gifts, like the Russian dog, Pushinka, lived in the White House. The more exotic ones were given to the National Zoo. Goats, cows, sheep, and horses that lived at the White House were working animals. They pulled carts or carriages, grazed on the White House lawn, or provided milk for the White House residents.

Regardless of how the pets arrived or how long they remained with the Presidential families, each of their stories is fun and interesting.

The National First Ladies' Library is proud to share with our guests the opportunity to see these special pets. We are aware of the distinct honor of hosting our "White House guests" and sincerely thank President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush for this rare loan of historic White House artifacts.



The Heart Truth's First Ladies Red Dress Collection to be featured in *Caring Hearts: Health of a Nation* Exhibit

Many First Ladies throughout our nation's history have championed causes related to health care issues. Lou Henry Hoover was a co-founding member of the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation; Betty Ford's personal struggle with drug and alcohol addiction led her to establish The Betty Ford Center; and Hillary Clinton made it her mission and tried to develop a national health care system. The National First Ladies' Library's upcoming exhibit, *Caring Hearts: The Health of a Nation*, will focus on many First Ladies' efforts to raise awareness of and their continued support of these health-related issues.

The National First Ladies' Library is honored

to be working with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to bring a very special component to the exhibit, *The Heart Truth's First Ladies Red Dress Collection*. Mrs. Laura Bush has served as the national ambassador for *The Heart Truth* campaign since 2003. She has traveled throughout the country raising recognition of women's risk of heart disease, the leading cause of death for women. The *First Ladies Red Dress Collection* brings together seven of America's First Ladies red suits and gowns in the continued support of *The Heart Truth* campaign and awareness of women's heart disease.

Join us beginning November 25th as we showcase our First Ladies' interests in improving the health of our nation.



Photo Courtesy of *The Heart Truth*, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

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and exhausting. In the early social norms of this country, the political activities of a candidate's wife were limited. A Nineteenth-century wife could host public parties and accept social invitations. She might wave a handkerchief from a window during a "hurrah parade" or quietly listen to a campaign speech behind a closed door. She could delight the crowd by sending them a winsome smile from the front porch campaign, but she could not openly show knowledge of politics, and she could not vote. As the wife of a newly-elected president, her media coverage consisted of the description of the

lovely gown she wore to the Inaugural Ball. The 19th Amendment to the Constitution that gave women the right to vote also gave them the opportunity to take a more dynamic role in the political arena. Today a potential First Lady must multi-task while campaigning – she must know her husband's issues and concerns while answering questions about her own causes and activities. The media still scrutinizes the clothes she's wearing, but now they also report on her actions and on what potential assets she brings to the presidency.

An Invitation to Join

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER \$50

- FREE unlimited admission to the Saxton McKinley House and Education & Research Center for one year
- 10% gift shop discount
- Member discount on program reservations
- Newsletter subscription

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$75

- All Individual Membership benefits
- Unlimited admission for two adults and children 18 and under

INAUGURAL CIRCLE \$100

- All Individual Membership benefits
- Two complimentary guest passes

IDA SAXTON MCKINLEY CIRCLE \$250

- All Individual Membership benefits
- Four complimentary guest passes

EXECUTIVE CIRCLE \$500

- All Individual Membership benefits
- Invitations to book signings & symposiums
- Six complimentary guest passes

FIRST LADIES INNER CIRCLE \$1,000

- All Individual Membership benefits
- Invitations to local special events
- Eight complimentary guest passes

HERITAGE CIRCLE \$5,000

- All Individual Membership benefits
- FREE unlimited visits to Saxton McKinley House and Education & Research Center for members of immediate family
- Invitations to national events
- PRIVATE tours (upon request)
- Ten complimentary guest passes

We need you to become part of our history!

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Upcoming Events

April 1 - November 21, 2008

EXHIBIT "Team Players: Triumph and Tribulation on the Campaign Trail" - explores the role played by the candidate's spouse in presidential elections. Education & Research Center

June 7 - October 24, 2008

EXHIBIT "White House 'Tails': Pets of the First Families" - On loan exclusively from the White House, view papier-mache figures representing the beloved pets of some of our nation's First Families, which were first displayed by First Lady Laura Bush in her 2002 White House Christmas theme entitled "All Creatures

Great and Small". Education & Research Center

October 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th

SCHOOL PROGRAM ONLY - "White House Pets"

- This charming program is recommended to help promote reading to your elementary school students, grades 1-6. First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy introduces the pets of the nation's First Families to your students in this interactive puppet show program. Make your reservations early because this one fills up quickly. Four performances, 10 a.m. each day in our Education and Research Center. **Reservations required.**

For more information or to make reservations for any of the events listed, please contact our office at (330) 452-0876. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Tours

We offer guided tours of both the changing exhibits at our Education & Research Center and of the Saxton McKinley House, the restored Victorian home of First Lady Ida Saxton McKinley. Tours last about 1 1/2 hours.

TOUR HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday year-round at 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., plus Sundays in June, July & August at 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. **TOURS BEGIN AT THE EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTER.**

Reservations are required for groups of six or more, recommended for all others. Call (330) 452-0876 or email tours@firstladies.org.

\$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$5 children under 18 - includes both buildings; \$3 Education & Research Center only

Free parking, buses welcome!