No, it was not President Obama’s birthday, but one closer to Key West’s heart. May 8th marked the 125th birthday of the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S Truman. In honor of the occasion, the Little White House hosted a week long series of events culminating with the 7th Annual Harry S. Truman Legacy Symposium.

On Friday, May 8th a free public program was held on the west lawn of the Little White House from 9:30 to 11:00 am. The event featured guest speakers representing three of Truman’s most significant accomplishments as president: The Berlin Airlift, desegregation of the military and recognition of the state of Israel.

The first of our guest was a real American hero, Col. Gail Halvorsen, one of the Berlin Airlift’s most famous pilots. He is famously known as the Candy Bomber. As an airlift pilot in Berlin, Col. Halverson saw a group of hungry German children at the end of the runway and upon meeting them came to the conclusion perhaps we could end wars by winning the loyalty of the next generation. Halverson responded by dropping candy bars attached to miniature parachutes to the children of Berlin. By the end of the airlift, over 25 plane crews had dropped 23 tons of chocolate, chewing gum, and other candies to the war ravaged children of Berlin. In addition to Col. Halverson, the Little White House was honored to have pilots, mechanics and crews from the Berlin Airlift to celebrate with us. Representing the Federal Republic of Germany was Brigadier General Walter Ludwig, who bestowed upon the Berlin
The wonder, the power, and the difference of humankind over all other animals on the planet is the ability to reason. The ability to reason comes from the learning we get in the context of socialization with other humans. We are sacrificing the trueness of social interaction on the false altar of today’s electronic connectivity. It is possible, if not likely, that our new means of communication will change us and the way we do everything. The tail is beginning to wag the dog and I am glumly reminded of the errant computer HAL in 2001: A Space Odyssey.

I was in the airport in Managua, Nicaragua, returning from visiting my brother, Fred. At one table were two Americans madly clicking away on their computers, probably delighted to, once again, be connected to the real world with wi-fi after a stretch in the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Gosh, their e-mail must have been mighty important. You could tell by their intensity, they sure thought so.

At another table sat a family of five. Dad was on his computer, big sister was on her cell phone, brother was “thumbing” on a game-boy, or whatever they call those things this week, and the little girl was doodling on an electronic sketchpad. Mom was staring into space. Not a word was being exchanged and it made me sad. We go away to get in touch, not to bring the world along with us.

Yet, as astonishing as it is, there is a missing piece to its wonder. Yes, you can get information and “communicate”, such as it is. What we get, however, is as two dimensional as a photograph. We do not get the third dimension of a blink, a smile, the sudden perspiration of a lie or the crossed arms of defensive posture. Mark Twain aptly said, “Man is the only animal that blushes, or needs to.” You can’t blush in an e-mail or text the warmth of affection and we need to do these things in person in order to understand each other and internalize the empathy inherent in human relations.

F.Y.I. there is also, now, a whole new e-mail speak that perverts the beauty of language that will surely change our literature into what ... (OMG)? I have no idea! (LOL). BTW if you did or didn’t get this, I have indeed made my point (LOL). Sure, it’s not all bad. In fact, it is the wonder of our age. You know your message got where it was supposed to go without missing calls or having things get lost in the mail, assuming of course that your addressee hasn’t, in the meantime, skipped his cell phone across a pond in a fit of pique with a decision to give it all up. Not likely. Our belief that we are so important is manifested in our new addiction of being in touch. Like most addictions, the more you get, the more you want. It is no wonder they call them “Crackberries.”

The saddest thing about it all is it allows us to do things that will change us as humans and the way we relate to one another. It is easy to rationalize a cowardly statement in an e-mail because there is no confrontation. We can get rid of a problem by electronically dumping it on someone else because ... well, we can. It’s easy to CYA (an oldie but goodie) because you are on record of saying something without the inconvenience of an argument. And, next time you think your Facebook pals are your friends, ask them for a favor.

Boy, I’d like to continue this but we have just landed at Miami International and I need to check my e-mails (LOL).
Airlift veterans an official thank you from the German government and people of Germany.

The Tuskegee Airmen were another group of American heroes in attendance. Prior to the Tuskegee Airman, no military pilots had been African American. Officially known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron of the US Army Air Corps, the Tuskegee Airmen were one of the most highly decorated squadrons in American history. The Harry S. Truman Little White House was truly thrilled to have Tuskegee Airmen Robert Hughes, an instructor; Robert Griffen, who served as a flight engineer for the airmen; and Lt. Col (Ret) Hiram Mann, who was a combat fighter pilot.

The United States was the first country to recognize Israel. Had it not been for the efforts of Eddie Jacobsen of Kansas City, MO, it may have never happened. Eddie Jacobson met Harry Truman when they served in the same unit during World War I. They later became business partners in a haberdashery in Kansas City. Mr. Jacobson had complete access to the president and was a frequent visitor to the White House.

In 1948 the issue of the creation of Israel was a boiling point. Truman wrote, “Top Jewish leaders in the United States were putting all sorts of pressure on me to commit American power and forces on behalf of the Jewish aspirations in Palestine.” The State Department was against the creation of a Jewish state. At the request of Eddie Jacobson, President Truman met with Dr. Chaim Weizmann, leader of the Zionist movement and as a result voted for the creation of Mr. Jacobson died in 1953, but the Little White House had the good fortune to welcome his daughter, Gloria Jacobson Schustermann. Mrs. Schustermann shared wonderful stories about her father and Harry Truman and her memories of the president when she was a young girl.

Kendrick Meeks Visits Key West

Congressman Kendrick Meeks, (D-FL) recently visited the Truman Little White House during a daylong visit to Key West. Congressman Meeks was here on a fact-finding mission regarding health care in the Florida Keys. Congressman Meeks also recently announced his candidacy for the United State Senate. Congressman Meeks was delighted to tour the house with his family and interested to learn President Truman had proposed national healthcare in 1948. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare law at Truman Library in Missouri and Harry and Bess Truman received Medicare cards number 1 and 2. During his visit to the Little White House, Meeks purchased a gift for President Obama, a t-shirt and hat bearing the slogan Key West: Home of Presidential Vacations.

Harry’s Girls

In 2002, when the Key West Harry S. Truman Foundation was formed and began holding educational conferences it was realized that ambassadors and hostesses were needed to meet and greet dignitaries coming for our programs. Mary Haffenreffer, a long time friend of the Little White House, called a group of her friends to accept the challenge. Thus Harry’s Girls and Auxiliary (as there are some gentlemen in the group) was born. Last year as the restoration of the Little White House was in full swing, Harry’s Girls and auxiliary decided to add to their responsibility the adoption of rooms and projects. In recent months they have hosted a fundraiser reception, reupholstered living room and dining room furniture, framed and hung a number of reproduced artworks, purchased new towels and linens for the guest suite and donated a washer and dryer. They are making our house (museum) a home for visiting dignitaries such as Bill and Hillary Clinton, Clifton Truman Daniel and former Senator George McGovern.
St. Augustine Easter Celebrations

BY: SAVANNAH BREWER
Safety Officer, Old Town Trolley Tours® of St. Augustine

At 3 pm on April 12, 2009 the 51st annual St. Augustine Easter Parade stepped off from their staging area at 167 San Marco Avenue. Led by a color guard from the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office the parade snaked its way down San Marco Avenue to Cathedral and Cordova Streets before ending at the Visitor’s Information Center. One of the best features of the parade was its Grand Marshal, M.K. Murphy. Ms. Murphy is a life-long resident of St. Augustine and has been Grand Marshal of the Easter Parade for 50 years, only missing one parade due to illness. In a town with deep roots, the tradition of our parade and its iconic grand marshal is another excellent example of tapping our past to proceed to the future.

The St. Augustine Easter Parade came about over 50 years ago as the citizens of the city were looking for a way to build up tourism between Christmas and summer. The first parade featured heritage natives portraying the Spanish Royal Family along with local horse-and-carriages, with the horses wearing Easter bonnets. As the years went by, the Royal Family (or Trio as they are popularly known) became an integral part of the fabric of St. Augustine. The Trio consists of the Boy King Carlos, teenage Princess Maria Marguerite and Queen Marianna and is chosen each year from citizens of St. Augustine that can trace their lineage back the first Spanish colonial landing in 1565. The Royal Family presides over many community events throughout the year, as well as their appearance in the Easter Parade.

Due to a lack of volunteers in 2008 there was no Easter Parade downtown last year. As 2009 approached trolley Operations Manager Dave Chatterton contacted Easter Festival President Phil Genovar and volunteered as Parade Director for 2009. Dave has a long history of being involved in parades, especially in Savannah, GA and together with volunteers from all corners of the community managed to put together a varied, interesting parade that tied together both past and present. Entries included marching bands, belly dancers, local churches, car dealerships, pirate re-enactors, red trains, green trolleys, theater groups, local athletes, beauty queens and several Easter Bunnies. The parade lasted just over an hour with cheering crowds lining the sidewalks. Well done to Dave and his entire crew!

In other news, St. Augustine’s season has started and as per usual for this time of year we are up to our necks in fourth graders on their annual field trips. The weather is growing warmer with each passing day and we are looking forward to a busy summer!
To solve a sudoku puzzle, you only need logic and patience. No math is required. Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 with only one occurrence of each number. Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9. Here’s a tip for playing.

We call the 3x3 squares “regions.” With a highlighter, color in all the rows and columns in the large grid that have a 2 in them. We chose 2 because there are several of them in the puzzle.

Now observe. In the middle left region, what is the only possible location for the 2? This technique is called scanning, and you usually do it with your eyes. The difficulty rating on this puzzle is easy.
St. Augustine proudly presents...Miss Jackie Akras. The beloved dog of Head Sales Rep Terry Akras and her husband Freddy, Jackie is a two-year-old long haired Jack Russell terrier. Adopted at two months old, her proud owners described her as “the short, fat runt of the litter and the only one with long hair.” Jackie learned quickly to manipulate her new home and family for treats and petting. She’s very protective of her territory, as her favorite activity is terrorizing new visitors to the Akras home, until she realizes they are also a source of ball throwing and treats.

Jackie’s hobbies include boating (just check out her picture) and playing ball. She loves to try and catch birds, no matter how high they flying over her. Chasing squirrels is also lots of fun but she’s still working on how to climb the trees after them!

PET OF THE MONTH

Miss Jackie Akras
ST. AUGUSTINE

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. Great Northern Beans
1 lb. Ham (diced)
15 oz. can Pineapple Chunks (drained – reserve juice)
2 – 3 Jalapeno Peppers (diced)
2/3 cup each Red, Green, & Yellow Bell Pepper (diced)
2 cups Frozen Corn or 15 oz. Can Corn (drained)
1 cup Tomato (diced) or 15 oz. can of Diced Tomatoes
2 cups Chicken Broth
2 cups Water
4 Tbsp. Chili Powder
2 Tbsp. Cayenne Pepper
1 Tbsp. Dried Oregano
2 Tbsp. Onion Flakes
2 tsp. Minced Garlic
2 Tbsp. Rice Wine Vinegar

DIRECTIONS

Soak beans overnight, rinse and add reserved pineapple juice and all ingredients except pineapple chunks to chili pot. Bring to a boil, lower heat & simmer until mixture begins to thicken. Adjust spices as needed. Add pineapple chunks, simmer for additional 15 minutes.

For slow cooker or crock pot:

Bring beans to a boil, reduce heat & simmer for 1 ½ hours. Drain beans. Add reserved pineapple juice and all ingredients except pineapple chunks. Cook uncovered on high until mixture begins to thicken. Adjust spices as needed. Cover & cook on low 4 – 6 hours. Add pineapple chunks & cook on low for 1 hour.

SAVANNAH BREWER
Old Town Trolley Tours® of Savannah
Rebecca Mayhew made her way to our Nation’s capitol in 1999, from Dallas Texas. She currently works for the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Rebecca has been with the Omni for five years, and loves the way the personality of the hotel changes with each new group to check in/out.

Omni is one of Washington’s premier hotels. It has a large open lobby with spectacular flower displays, and opulent chandeliers, has been host to some of Washington’s most elite parties, galas, and balls, including the inauguration party for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Rebecca can be found most days standing at the concierge desk with her warm smile and sunny disposition. Just waiting to help guest with recommendations for restaurants, shopping, and of course tours of Washington. And She loves to promote Old Town Trolley Tours. Rebecca has been on our tour four times herself and loves the way our drivers can answer questions, maneuver trolleys through the city, and give historic information, all while having a great sense of humor. She especially likes the new on line process of selling tickets for the trolleys.

“You’re never bored in D.C.” she tells me. And I think she’s right. Thank you Rebecca for your service and support these past years!

DAVID ORR
Old Town Trolley Tours® of Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Mayhew
WASHINGTON, D.C.

If You Only Knew...

IRINA BAKALA
Manager, Caribbean Cargo Retail Store

The six people I would like to have dinner with are my mother, father, husband Arthur, brother, sister, and niece.

My five favorite movies of all time are You’ve Got Mail, The Barber of Siberia, Forest Gump, Dick and Jane and Enemy at the Gate.

The four foods I refuse to eat are anything that is moving, that contains dog meat, raw fish or insects.

Three things I am terrified of are war, airplane crashes, and earthquakes.

My two favorite books are War and Peace by Lev Tolstoy and The Forsyte Saga by John Galsworthy.

The one thing I would do to make the world a better place is to have everyone help and care for people around you.
A vacation is a very special and important time and we know that everyone at OTTKW plays a huge part in that. If it wasn’t for our guests, many of whom return year after year, we wouldn’t be here, having fun and living in paradise.

It isn’t as simple however as just sending a trolley out on tour and waiting for them to come back in again. What does it take to keep us all going round in circles day after day? It takes people, a lot of people. It is a little like the case of the “chicken and the egg.” One thing can’t take place without the other – everyone plays a role.

Our mechanics ensure that our vehicles run safely with their constant inspections. They rebuild, re-fit and replace to keep our classical fleet looking its best and they do it well. Our detailers present the trolleys every day spick and span, clean and shiny, and they work until late at night so we are ready for our guests the next morning.

Up in the office Mary, April and Sandy keep our paperwork straight. In many cases these are also the ladies that our guests first encounter – they answer the phones, help guests find their way to a stop, let guests know when their trolley will be arriving, help guests find parking (a tough job in season). They do this with unending charm, good humor, and their relentless smiles.

And then we go to the streets where the sun is usually shining, even in January (sorry to our other cities, but I just couldn’t resist). Sales Reps find guests looking for directions, looking for information, looking for Sloppy Joes, looking for advice on what to do today. Questions, questions, questions, busy, busy, busy. And yet, every day, they still arrive back at the barn smiling.

Our drivers have an endless enthusiasm. They go round in circles day after day but yet, every tour is different. Every tour has a different group of guests and a different dynamic. Every tour is what they make it. Wow! What a responsibility. They are born performers with big personalities but, please, don’t tell them that they are working – they might not have such a good time.

I think we all realize how lucky we are to live in this idyllic little corner of the world. We all appreciate what each other does to make this thing called Trolleyland happen and we all understand that it does take a lot of work even if we do have fun doing it! So, which did come first, the chicken or the egg?
**MARCH**

**22 YEARS**
Shawn Ford, HTA

**15 YEARS**
Rick Diaz, SAN
Harold Henson-Dozier

**14 YEARS**
Edwin Sage, STA

**13 YEARS**
Mariola Janick-Williams, HTA

**12 YEARS**
Jeanne Fain, HTA

**11 YEARS**
Erica Frost, SAN
Robert Matchinske, SAN

**10 YEARS**
Peggy Ellis, SAV
John Smart, SDS

**9 YEARS**
Miriam Vega, TSG

**8 YEARS**
Janice Emerson, SAV

**7 YEARS**
Saul Alba, SAN
Oliver Long, HTA
Malcom Spindle, STA
Montgomery Triz, HTA
Richard Ware, KW

**6 YEARS**
Dale Seastrom, DCD

**5 YEARS**
Beth Cohen, BOS
Dell Lundsford, HTA
Robert Norris, WDC

**4 YEARS**
Debbie Hildebrand, SAN
Justyna Janicka, HTA
William Midgley-Adlerz, SAN
Ernest Poore, STA
Kenneth Queale, BOS
Ronald Zorn, SAN

**3 YEARS**
Jackson Barrett, SAV
Silvia Capuano, TSG
Shari Carswell, SAV
Stephen Kent, BOS
Donald Krably, BOS
Sheila Marshall, WDC
Ryan Phillips, BOS

**2 YEARS**
Hildrus Burrs, WDC
Michael Clark, DCD
Jennifer LaBarre, BOS
Patrick Naughton, BOS
Barbara Poole, BOS
Charles Shipp, WDC

**1 YEAR**
Sheila Belser, TSG
Jay Friend, STA
William Hatlett, SAV
Paul Mahoney, BOS
Dean McDuffie Jr., TSG
Grant Miller, TSG
Stephanie Montesino, CTT
Eric Posey, TSG
Gail Price, STA
Barbara Roundtree, SAV
David Thomas, KWAQ
Christina Thornton, CTT

**APRIL**

**34 YEARS**
Gregory Curry, TSG

**28 YEARS**
Lucia Tabag, CTT

**19 YEARS**
Leslie Nagy, BOS

**15 YEARS**
Herschel Hayo, HTA

**14 YEARS**
John McKinzie, CTT

**13 YEARS**
Rebecca Cramer, SAN

**12 YEARS**
Mary Houston, WDC
Glicer, Menacho, BOS
Carmen Thulin, SAN

**11 YEARS**
Mary Houston, WDC
Glicer, Menacho, BOS
Carmen Thulin, SAN

**8 YEARS**
Cecile Bateau, TSG
Kevin Beede, HTA
Veronica Brown, KW
Michael Chandler, BOS
Theodore Galo, BOS
Michael McCay, WDC
William Thomas, WDC

**7 YEARS**
Ava Denise Campbell, WDC
Marc Chidley, KW

**6 YEARS**
Christopher Arden, TSG
Michael Cates, HTA
Charles Holmes, SAV
Steven Johnson, BOS
Kristi Mills, TSG
David Parker, WDC

**5 YEARS**
Laurence Amuso, STA
David Apte, SAN
Timothy Atwell, HTA
Mark Keeler, SDS
Gregory Lopez, CTT
Cesar Moreno, KW
Thomas Pelletier, BOS
Stephan Prudhomme, SAV

**4 YEARS**
Rachael Adame, TSG
Kevin Casey, BOS
Irenette Clarke, SAV
Janise Haman, WDC
Richard Smith, SAN

**3 YEARS**
Adam Avey, SAV
Peter Corcoran, SAN
Djamol Karimov, CTT
Sandra Silver, KW

**2 YEARS**
Sandra Campbell, TSG
Suly Cruz, WDC
Guadalupe Sanders, TSG

**1 YEAR**
Oscar Alfaro, SAN
Pamela Brooks, TSG
April Camarena, KW
Dominic Dyson, WDC
John Egan, BOS
Juanita Gilkerson, STA
Kelly Horan, BOS
Leah Hormanski, LWH
Hannah Ilczuk, CTT
Vitalii Kaliushko, CTT
Sherry Pope, STA
Lenwood Roberts, DCD
Kenneth Rose, STA
Rhonda Stenroos, STA
Evan Whitley, KW
What better site to describe in Washington, D.C. at this time of the year, than the magnificent Japanese Cherry Blossom Trees! Being a Native Washingtonian, I look forward to, and feel so proud that guests come from all over the country to see these beautiful trees blossom. Every year someone asks that very profound question...“Do cherries really grow on the trees?” The answer of course is no.

In case you are wondering, the plantings of cherry trees originated in 1912 as a gift of friendship to the people of the United States from the people of Japan. In Japan, the flowering cherry tree, or “Sakura,” is an exalted flowering plant. The beauty of the cherry blossom is a potent symbol equated with the evanescence of human life and epitomizes the transformation of Japanese culture throughout the ages.

In 1885, Mrs. Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore, upon returning to Washington from her first visit to Japan, approached the U.S. Army Superintendent of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, with the proposal that cherry trees be planted one day along the reclaimed Potomac waterfront. Her request fell on deaf ears. Over the next twenty-four years, Mrs. Scidmore approached every new superintendent, but her idea met with no success.

In 1906, Dr. David Fairchild, plant explorer and U.S. Department of Agriculture official, imported seventy-five flowering cherry trees and twenty-five single-flowered weeping types from the Yokohama Nursery Company in Japan. He planted these on a hillside on his own property in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he attempted to test their hardiness. In 1907, the Fairchilds, pleased with the success of the trees, began to promote Japanese flowering cherry trees as the ideal type of tree to plant along avenues in the Washington area. Friends of the Fairchilds also became interested and on September 26, arrangements were completed with the Chevy Chase Land Company to order three hundred Oriental cherry trees for the Chevy Chase area.

In 1908, Dr. David Fairchild gave cherry saplings to children from each District of Columbia school to plant in their schoolyard for the observance of Arbor Day. In closing his Arbor Day lecture, Dr. Fairchild expressed an appeal that the “Speedway” (no longer existing, but marked by portions of Independence and Maine Avenues, SW and East and West Basin Drives, SW, around the Tidal Basin) be transformed into a “Field of Cherries.” In attendance was Eliza Scidmore, to whom he referred later as a great authority on Japan.

In 1909, Mrs. Scidmore, decided to try to raise the money required to purchase the cherry trees and then donate them to the city. As a matter of course, Mrs. Scidmore sent a note outlining her plan to the new first lady, Helen Herron Taft. Mrs. Taft had lived in Japan and was familiar with the beauty of the flowering cherry trees. Two days later the first lady responded:

The trees were planted along the Potomac River from the site of the Lincoln Memorial southward toward East Potomac Park. After planting, it was discovered that the trees were not named correctly. The trees were determined to be the cultivar Shirofugen (Prunus serrulata "Shirofugen") and have since disappeared.

On January 6 1910, the two thousand trees arrived in Washington. The trees were...
planted along the Potomac River from the site of the Lincoln Memorial southward toward East Potomac Park.

January 19th, to everyone's dismay, an inspection team from the Department of Agriculture discovered that the trees were infested with insects and nematodes, and were diseased. To protect American growers, the department concluded that the trees must be destroyed. President William Howard Taft granted his consent to burn the trees.

The probable diplomatic setback was alleviated by letters from the Secretary of State to the Japanese Ambassador expressing the deep regret of all concerned. Dr. Takamine and the Mayor of Tokyo, Yukio Ozaki, met the distressing news with determination and good will.

Dr. Takamine donated the money for the trees, whose number had been increased to 3,020. On February 14, 1912, 3,020 cherry trees from twelve varieties were shipped from Yokohama on board the S.S. Awa Maru, bound for Seattle. Upon arrival, they were transferred to insulated freight cars for the shipment to Washington. On March 26, an additional 3,020 cherry trees arrived in Washington, D.C.

March 27, Helen Herron Taft and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese Ambassador, planted two Yoshino cherry trees on the northern bank of the Tidal Basin, about 125 feet south of what is now Independence Avenue, SW. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the first lady presented a bouquet of "American Beauty" roses to Viscountess Chinda. Washington's renowned National Cherry Blossom Festival grew from this simple ceremony, witnessed by just a few persons. These two original trees still stand several hundred yards west of the John Paul Jones Memorial, located at the terminus of 17th Street, SW. Situated near the bases of the trees is a large bronze plaque which commemorates the occasion.

In 1965, The Japanese Government made another generous gift of 3,800 Yoshino trees to another first lady devoted to the beautification of Washington, Lady Bird Johnson. American-grown this time, many of these are planted on the grounds of the Washington Monument. Lady Bird Johnson and Mrs. Ryuji Takeuchi, wife of Japan's Ambassador, reenacted the planting ceremony of 1912.

Between 2002 and 2006, Four hundred trees, propagated from the surviving trees from the 1912 donation, were planted to ensure that the genetic lineage of the original trees is continued.

**PERSONALITY PROFILE**

**STEPHANIE MONTESINO**

Conch Tour Sales Rep

Stephanie Montesino and her family have relocated about as far away from their Denver, Colorado roots as they can get and still be in the United States.

"Every October, when the snow started, my husband Daniel would talk about life somewhere warm. I told him to find a job and a place to live and I’d go. Well, he did, and it was right here in Key West."

She was a nurse's aide in her Mainland life in Colorado, but now she loves relaxing on beaches with her family in her time away from the train. Stephanie loves the sunsets of the Florida Keys, the weather, the beaches and the water.

Stephanie and Daniel have two sons, Anthony, 10, and Dominic, and she says they are a bit different from each other. "Anthony loves being outdoors and the mountains," she says, "While Dominic is my beach boy."

Lady Bird Johnson plants a Japanese flowering cherry tree on the Tidal Basin just a few feet from a tree planted in 1912 by Mrs. William Howard Taft. The ceremony was in April 1965.
And, They’re Off!

BY: QUINN MARTINEZ
Sales Coordinator, Old Town Trolley Tours® of Savannah

It has been just as we predicted, extremely busy. All of our trolleys are out in force in the loop to include our Ghosts and GravestonesSM fleet. You have to know it’s busy in Savannah when it’s not even noon and Joyce Ellis, Groups and Charters Rep., and our Safety Officer, Kenny Gresham are helping out in the loop giving awesome tours. That was the case on a Tuesday at the end of March. All of our new CASTmembers are definitely getting their feet wet and doing very well. It is at this time year with its extreme pace that you see what makes our company and its CAST so great. Way to go team!

Speaking of training, we wanted to extend a round of applause to Kenny Gresham, our Head Conductor and other support staff that helped us achieve such great results with our HUGE 2009 training class. We hired 11 conductors to start the class and ten graduated. Tracey “Sparky” Conradson, David Jenkins, Rich Montuado, Ron Futch, Carl Williams, Corey Schramm, Jim Barone and Priscilla Cassanova. We also welcomed Frank Natal and Teresia Scroggins to our Ghosts & GravestonesSM conductor class.

We are happy to welcome aboard a number of new sales representatives. With this being the year of the Sales Rep and with our Goalie initiative going hot and heavy, we certainly will be counting on Brittany Bordeaux, Joanne Barone, Dennis Morrison and Julie Brinkman, Holli Brunak, and Harry Binkow who join the extremely competitive ranks of team “UNTOUCHABLES” who set the standard for sales performance in the HTA Nation.

A big welcome aboard to Peter Judson our new Mechanic’s helper/maintenance cleaner. He is doing a wonderful job with Fred on all of the beautification projects that are currently underway.

Our Ghost and GravestonesSM team is on the move with an excellent start to their season. This includes new script additions and route changes to increase the level of FrightseeingSM on what is already Savannah’s premier nighttime tour. Charlie and the HCMS crew are continuously coming up with more changes to ensure that our Ghost and GravestonesSM tour stays in the forefront of all of Savannah’s haunted tours. Since the 1st of April, it has not been uncommon for our night operations to be using that elusive fifth trolley and actor. All their hard work from this winter is paying off in immediate returns.

As everyone knows, March is the end our fiscal year. We bid FY 2008-2009 a not so fond farewell and welcome with open arms FY 2009-2010. We have taken advantage of the “economic downturn” to look long and hard at every aspect of our operation and to make strategic decisions that will help us become a leaner, meaner, oranger and greener! We have been looking at a number of initiatives throughout the year that will help us achieve this. Effective January 2009, we started a package initiative which has been hugely successful and are focusing on increasing our already strong depot performance in the year ahead. Look for great things in 2009-2010!

FY 2008-2009 has its share of bright spots. We came through with many things to celebrate, including that we carried a record
number of people on the trolley, Ghosts and GravestonesSM and the Paula Deen Tour. Our Ghosts & GravestonesSM program finished the year up when everyone else was reporting decreases. We saw great successes in our sales departments. Our Vendor Representative, Mr. Robert “The Colonel” Hunter, had an unbelievable year setting new records. He has been positive and relentless out there in a gloomy market and has yielded nothing but roses. Our Charter Rep, Joyce Ellis also had a wonderful year. Kudos to our Sales Team for making lemonade of a lemon year!

And, if the beginning of April is any indication, (already exceeding last year’s numbers) there is much to celebrate in the year ahead. We are grateful as always for our terrific CAST, front line and Leadagement staff. It is your dedication, pride and hard work that gets us through all the daily challenges, assures our success and gives us the energy and enthusiasm to plan for the future. I am grateful for all you do every day and am blessed to work with a team like you. Also, we would like to take this time and say thank-you for the support we receive daily from the team in Key West. With out you and all you have done, our year would not have gone as smoothly as it did.
Happy Fiscal New Year 2009 from San Diego…

Historic Tours of America, Inc. begins its fiscal new year on April 1st… so Happy New Year! As with the start of any year, the time to reflect on the prior year with an eye to the future becomes a natural process. While still in my first year as General Manager, I am still learning the Trolley Tracks. I am so fortunate and grateful to work with such a wonderful group of CAST and Leadagers. They have great knowledge, history and insight into our business and San Diego. Thank you San Diego Team, you are a joy to work with!

FY 2009 Budget

We spent February and March in a number of extended conference calls with our Chief Operations Officer, Herschel Hayo, to discuss and develop the strategic plan for all of our business units in San Diego. Our formal budget review was held with the executive team in Key West, Florida. With the upcoming challenges ahead this year, we are optimistic and excited about our New Year business action plan. A big “Thank You” is due to the extended budget team both in the Leadagement and Executive CAST on both coasts.

A number of significant changes are forthcoming in our operations beginning with a new Map Brochure for the Old Town Trolley Tour and SEAL Tour. The new map now includes both tour routes and a better perspective of San Diego and Coronado stops and attractions. The Map Brochure combines the San Diego Free Map, Trolley Brochure and the Day Planner, all into one convenient brochure. We also have changed our tour route, adding the new Bayfront Hilton and Little Italy.

For the SEAL amphibious tour operation, we are increasing the frequency and consistency of our departures through the summer, adding new departures from the Old Town Market. At our Seaport Village stop, we are in the final stages of building our new depot ticket booth. This new information ticket depot will give us a strong presence at Seaport Village and also be our ‘Silent Sales Rep’ in the evenings once it is closed for the business day.

At all of our sales ticket depots, we have spruced up each depot with new signage, marketing posters, repainting and repairs, all ready for the new busy season.

In March, we offered our business partners FREE tours, showing off our new Trolley Tour route. Over 180 business partners, their employees and one guest, took up our offer and enjoyed a ‘DAY-CATION’ in San Diego either on the Trolley Tour or SEAL amphibious tour. We wanted to say Thank You to our good business neighbors but also to keep their employees informed of who and what we are in San Diego; our Nation’s Storyteller®, ambassadors of San Diego. We received many phone calls and comments of thank-you and “Great Tour, we’ll recommend Old Town Trolley and SEAL Tours to our own guests.”

Though the upcoming year will be challenging, we are all excited and optimistic about the new business year.

Safety First!

by Bob Ross; Safety Officer

Congratulations to Old Town Trolley Tours of Washington, D.C. for being recognized as the safest HTA operation for the calendar year ending Dec. 31, 2008. San Diego came in a very close second, but our goal for 2009 is to be #1 in safety. We are already off to a great start. This is in part due to our entire CAST embracing an attitude of “Safety First” as well as the strategy of retaining as many Trolley Conductors &
SEAL Captains as possible through our “slow” season. Congratulations to Washington DC for their achievement last year but watch out, we’re hot on your tail.

Service Pins

Congratulations to William Midgley-Adlerz, Deb Hildebrand, and Ron Zorn, who celebrated their four-year anniversary with our San Diego Company. A special recognition also goes to Bob Matchinske and Erica Frost for celebrating 11 years with our San Diego Operations!

SEAL Amphibious Sea and Land Operation

We are getting ready for SEAL season with returning CASTmembers, additional tour times and the re-appearance of our SEAL in Old Town! Starting in April, we will be running 7 days a week out of Seaport Village in addition to weekends in Old Town. Just to get things started, we offered free SEAL Tours out of each location for our business partners – sort of like when you get free tickets for a dress rehearsal of a play. It’s our chance to show them what we do and hopefully, they will have so much fun, they will recommend us to their patrons. On another note, we have added interest in the tour thanks to a visiting (“lost”) California Gray Whale who seems to want to make San Diego Bay his home. We have spotted him on several of our tours.

Happy New Year from the San Diego Charter and Group Sales Department!

The end of March has brought a successful year-end to the charter department. New programs were implemented and we developed new forward-thinking strategies born from out-of-the-box brainstorming sessions. In the tough times ahead we know that we will have to work harder than ever and try things we haven’t tried before to book new business. One new program that I am really excited about is the e-mail blast of a marketing piece that Monica created for me (thank you Monica!) and it’s a direct marketing campaign to the Group Tour Operators, Senior Centers, Community Services Directors and Parks and Recreation Departments out of our drive-markets including Los Angeles, Anaheim, Orange County, Arizona & Nevada. The response so far has been incredible with group sales bookings as well as generating a ton of interest! Looking forward to the year ahead...

Depot Sales Team

The sales department recently welcomed back Mark Lohman to the team and are happy to have him back. The Sales Reps have been working hard selling all of our tours and packages and have been doing a great job despite the economy. Everyone is waiting in anticipation for the new Seaport Village ticket booth to be completed sometime in April. It is going to fit in with the unique style of Seaport Village and attract visitors requesting information about our tours as well as Seaport Village and San Diego. Carol Harrison our “Goalie” is excited about the new Sales Program and is looking forward to the busy months ahead.

Trolley Operations

March was a very busy month for the Trolley! Not only did we do well with our numbers of guests we carried, but we were able to complete a new tour and route and train nearly all of our conductors to drive and learn the new script narration. Everyone seems excited about the new route and especially the addition of Little Italy to our tour. The roll out date is April 1st. I’m not sure if April Fools’ Day is the best choice but it is the first day of our new year in Trolleyland!

The most amazing part of the new route is it is actually five minutes shorter than the old one and we added two stops! I have to give a lot of thanks to Bob Ross, our Safety Officer, for bringing our script up to date and researching all the facts. He also went along for all the training due to all the new areas we are driving through. He and I covered a lot of ground on our own, trying to find the best route. Kudos to all the conductors for their valuable input and suggestions. The new route and script was a whole team effort. THANK YOU!

We also added new sound bytes to the tour. Bob Ross did the bulk of that job too, although we got everyone’s input into what choices we actually used. We even tried our first “ambient” sound byte. We chose a turn of the century gambling hall music soundtrack to play while telling the story of Wyatt Earp and his gambling halls. Very exciting!

We will have to wait to see the guests’ response to all the changes.
documentary was made several years on the island of Key West. In the film, titled “Key West, City of Colors,” locals talked of the things that made the island so special. One older woman, a Conch, a native-born islander, summed up the prevailing attitude here: “This is a small island,” she said, “We had to find ways to get along.” We still do.

Despite the current economy, we are fortunate on this island. Cruise ships still discharge thousands of passengers each week to throng our narrow streets, peering into the recesses of a hundred shops and choosing excursions and attractions to introduce themselves to the fascinating history and cultures of Key West and the turquoise waters which surround us.

We all wear different hats at our Conch Tour Train operation. We are sales reps, mechanics, First Impression desk personnel, drivers and harried dispatchers all struggling to keep our show on the road. When it comes to the bottom line, everyone is willing to do anything needed to get our visitors on our Trains. Continued on the next page...
Mechanics are pressed into service as shuttle drivers, sales reps help load the trains as efficiently as possible, drivers work the sidewalk to send guests to our sales reps, and office staff members direct the mayhem on a shuttle day.

When cruise ship passengers fill our streets, the crackle of our radios and the news that “We’re sending this Train!” is a welcomed sign that the Train was filled earlier than scheduled and that we have eager passengers still standing on the sidewalk. It can be a scramble. “You’re next at Front Street,” means a quick survey of the Train, a dash to the powder room and a gulp of cold water before pulling the Train down the street to a crowd barely held in check our Miss Daisy, Evelyn Derreth.

For sales reps, eyeing the crowd at the counter and the passengers already on the Train requires a trained guess at when another Train will be needed. For Miss Daisy, the drivers and any other CTT staff dragooned into service, it is a constant litany of “We sit four to a seat!” “Slide over! Seating next to someone weird is part of the Key West experience!”

We work together here, because not one of us could do it alone.

We work together, “That’s not my job!” doesn’t work here in Key West at the Conch Tour Train.

Bone Island Shuttle driver Burt is a valuable asset to our Conch Tour Train team, lending a hand wherever needed to move cruise ship passengers and to provide transportation for riders from our Roosevelt Blvd. station on the far end of the island.

Bryan Lewis, our mechanic’s assistant, has been a terrific help transporting our Mole Pier cruise ship passengers to our downtown station. He is usually observed with a slightly bemused expression as fun-loving spring breakers cavort in the streets of our island around his train.

Warren Patick is a veteran Bone Island Shuttle driver and can always be counted on to pick up the slack when we are hammered with shuttles from the Mole Pier. He drives the butterfly conservatory tours, shuttles to the far reaches of the island, and collects the happy spring breakers for returns to their ships on the Navy’s Mole Pier.

CTT Mechanic Stormy McCall is Mr. Cool before he heads to the Navy’s Mole Pier with a load of happy, happy cruise ship passengers.

Hank Amole and Christie Thornton are among the CTT personnel who ignore any “That’s not my job!” statements and jump in to help us make our cruise ship passengers transport to the Mole Pier as painless as possible.

The Conch Train in on the Right Track! continued...
Imagine if you were born with a natural talent and love for music, but could not play an instrument nor read music. And, despite this “minor” setback, became one of the most prolific American songwriters and singers of his time. This was the case of Johnny Mercer.

John Herndon “Johnny” Mercer was born November 18, 1909 in Savannah, Georgia, to Mr. George Armstrong Mercer and his second wife, Lillian Ciucevich. The Mercer Family was established firmly in Savannah and American history well before Johnny came along. His great grandfather was General Weedon Mercer, a Confederate General and a direct descendant of Revolutionary War General Hugh Mercer, a Scottish soldier-physician who valiantly gave his life at the Battle of Princeton. This legacy allowed him a life of privilege and would help him feed his lifelong love of music.

Family members often said that from the age of six months Johnny could hum a tune. His mother and aunt would take him to minstrel and vaudeville shows that where he fell in love with ragtime music. While summering at “Vernon View” he would be exposed to the music of the “Geechee” fishermen and the African American church services that he would attend with his playmates and servants. This would be where Johnny would hone his singing skills and find that he had a talent for writing music. He would pour through the black sections of Savannah looking for records from such greats as Ma Rainey and Louis Armstrong. He would take this knowledge with him to school where he was involved with all aspects of the arts. He was also involved with the local “hop” committee that booked the entertainment on campus. Johnny was already noted for his knowledge with what was hot or not.

In 1928, his family faced a financial setback and Johnny was forced to return home. But his dream of being a part of the music scene began to take hold and in 1929 at the age of 19 he moved to New York. He worked by day in a brokerage house and used his singing skills at night. But his first love was always writing music. On a quirky note, Johnny never had a formal education in music and could not read music. His whole career was spent using a special notational system he used to put his words to music. Johnny published his first song in 1930 and later would travel to California to start writing lyrics for the movie industry. It was not until he wrote Lazy Bones did he receive recognition from his idols and peers such as Gershwin, Berlin, and Porter. He soon left New York for Hollywood and the rest is history.

Before his death in 1976, he would receive four Oscars for his songs with one of the most notable Moon River for Audrey Hepburn for Breakfast at Tiffany’s. He was responsible for writing over 1500 songs. All of them were memorable like Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive, I’m an Old Cowhand from the Rio Grande, and Jeepers Creepers. Always a protector of the song writer, he was chosen to help create the National Academy of Popular Music’s Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1969. It is to this day a thriving institution. Johnny was also a co-founder and president of Capitol Records. He wrote six hit Broadway shows to include St. Louis Woman and Li’l Abner.

Before Johnny succumbed to an inoperable brain tumor in 1976, he became fond of Barry Manilow and his musical style. After his death, his widow, Ginger, gave Manilow a selection of unfinished lyrics. One of these was When October Goes. Barry Manilow put his own melody to it and issued it as a single in 1984. It became a posthumous hit for Johnny and a jazz standard that is still sung today.

Johnny was laid to rest in his family plot in Savannah at Bonaventure Cemetery. Hundreds flock to see his grave every year. 2009 is Johnny Mercer’s Centennial year celebration. Join us in celebration of his life and his achievements.

SAVANNAH BREWER
Old Town Trolley Tours® of Savannah
If You Only Knew...

TANYA AZEVEDO
Manager, Caribbean Cargo Retail Store

The six people I would like to have dinner with are Tom Brady, C.S. Lewis, Mark Twain, Barack Obama, Susan Webb, and my cool Key West family.

My five favorite movies of all time are A Christmas Story, Home Alone, True Romance, Kill Bill and Jaws.

The four foods I refuse to eat are peas, mushrooms, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts.

Three things I am terrified of are spiders, sharks, and doctors with needles.

My two favorite books are A Tramp Abroad by Mark Twain and To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

The one thing I would do to make the world a better place is to cure cancer.
hile all of our monthly CASTmeetings in Boston are important (and usually a lot of fun), the April CASTmeeting holds special significance and excitement, as this is the time that we unveil for the entire CAST our plans and strategy for the coming tourist season. We roll out new sales programs and ticket depots, show off updates to the tour route, and share any operational or logistical improvements that are in store. Our CASTmeeting this April of ’09 included all of the above and much more!

**Partnership with Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox**

Although summer of 2009 will be the second year in a row of our dynamic promotional partnership with the Red Sox, this year’s arrangement has some new facets. As usual, Old Town Trolley’s status as “Official Trolley Tour of the Boston Red Sox” will be prominently featured on all our signage and promotional materials (and on the trolleys themselves). However, we have a new Fenway Park/old Town Trolley package to sell this year, called the “Fenway Twilight Tour.” The Twilight Tour is a guided tour of Fenway Park during the summer months at a special 5:00 pm time that is set aside EXCLUSIVELY for guests of the Old Town Trolley. Guests will be able to experience the magic of sunset at “America’s Most Beloved Ballpark”, and at a special discount price. Then in months of October through April, we’ll sell and promote the regular daytime Fenway Tour. Our sales reps are practically chomping at the bit to start selling these new package tickets in conjunction with the trolley. It’s sure to be a home run!

**New Sales Depots**

At the April CASTmeeting, Depot Sales Manager Ed Doerr introduced some exciting new sales locations. The original Cheers Bar, which inspired the world famous television show, will become our newest sales depot, with our Gateway ticketing system installed right inside the Cheers Gift Shop’s main entrance. With our trolleys stopping directly in front of this popular tourist destination, the Cheers ticket depot has great potential!

We’re also adding two new ticket booths in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, located on the east end of the property where there is heavy tourist pedestrian traffic. And in another exciting development, it was announced that the Trolley Stop Store across from the Boston Common would be converted into a ticketing depot that will focus almost entirely on attraction packages, and possibly theater tickets as well.

**New Tour Route with Optional Seaport Loop**

We’re always looking for ways to improve our tour product, whether it’s revamping the tour content, or evaluating the tour route for efficiency and safety. The new Boston tour route for 2009 season features a significant change that we believe will be beneficial to both the guests and to our tour conductors. Head Conductor Ted Galo and Operations Manager John Welby put a great deal of thought and planning into this new tour route, which divides the tour into two different loops that intersect at our Stop #1 on the Boston Waterfront. The primary tour route covers all the major sights in Boston, with a total tour time of approximately 90 minutes; then an optional Seaport Tour, 25 minutes in length, is available specifically for those who want to visit the exciting new Seaport area, featuring the Boston Convention & Exposition Center and the Institute of Contemporary Art. We’ve patterned this tour-part loop approach after the changes that our sister operation in Washington DC made to their tour loop a couple years ago. Following DC’s example, we believe that this new two-part loop will be much more efficient and enjoyable for all concerned. My cap is tipped to Welby and Teddy for doing a great job of improving our core tour product!

*Continued on the next page...*
Ghosts and GravestonesSM Tour Gets New Twist

Our Ghosts & GravestonesSM tour returned from the dead this month, but this time with an exciting new twist: we’ve added an entirely new second tour to the G&G repertoire. As detailed in the previous issue of the Nation’s Storyteller, over the winter our G&G managers Evan O’Brien and Kat Kingsley put together a new alternative tour that visits the Phipps Street Burying Ground in Charlestown and the King’s Chapel Burying Ground in Boston. This new tour route will be put into effect on busy weekend nights, thereby allowing us to increase attendance AND offer guests an exciting new tour product. All the returning gravediggers have done a great job of learning the new tour, and lead actor Steven “Anthraxicon” Johnson has played a very big role in training everyone on all the new and scary stuff. Joining the fabulous G&G CAST this year is Kasey Collins, to whom we offer a spine-tingling welcome.

New CASTmembers

We were fortunate to get a head start this year on hiring and training new tour conductors, in order to be better prepared for what we hope is a busy tourist season. Among the recently certified conductors attending our April CAST meeting were: Charlie “Papa” Cirrone, Brian “Buck” Buckley, Ted “Mr. T.” Tompkins, Michael “The Warden” Schluetter, and Joe Driver (and yes, that is his real name). The current training class is, at this writing, well on their way toward certification: Bethany “Betty” Lee, Andrew “Oz” Rhodes, Jeff Duesel (who naturally will go by “Diesel”), and Andre “The Wicker” Wicker. Training Officer Sue Pye and Safety Officer John “Huck” Cronin have been doing a terrific job of training all these new folks in “the HTA way” of doing things, always with safety first and courtesy a close second. Thanks, Sue and Huck!

New sales reps have been joining the ranks at a quick clip as well, thanks to Ed Doerr’s tireless auditioning efforts. We offer a hearty “welcome aboard” to: Amanda Brown, Chip Poole, Fred Gefteas, Steven Sorensen, Mike Hogan, and Paul Sullivan. It’s an impressive group, and they’re eager to get out there selling package tickets on their own!

With so many exciting new things going on, all we need now is a whole lot of tourists to come to Boston and take advantage of all the great things that Old Town Trolley has to offer!

The Excitement is Building continued...

If You Only Knew...

MAGDALENA WITCZAK
Manager, Conch Tour Train Gift Shop

The six people I would like to have dinner with are my family members from Poland. My four favorite movies of all time are The Fifth Element, Pretty Woman, Star Wars series, and Erin Brockovich.

The four foods I refuse to eat are hot or spicy food, spinach, mushrooms, and shellfish.

Three things I am terrified of are roller coasters, roller coasters and roller coasters.

My two favorite books are The DaVinci Code by Dan Brown and the Polish-English dictionary.

The one thing I would do to make the world a better place is to help create world peace.
Secure Flight Program

SA Secure Flight Begins Vetting Airline Passengers

Airport security on March 31 began assuming watch list matching responsibility to screen airline passengers as part of the Transportation Security Administration's Secure Flight Program.

TSA officials said in a press release that, to date, the agency has assumed the responsibility for passengers on domestic commercial flights with four volunteer aircraft operators, and will add more carriers in the coming months. Formerly, all airlines were responsible for checking passenger lists.

Under the Secure Flight Program (http://www.tsa.gov/what_we_do/layers/secure-flight/index.shtml), airlines will gather a passenger’s full name, date of birth and gender for TSA to determine if the passenger is included on the No Fly or Selectee lists. The additional data elements are intended to prevent misidentification of passengers with similar names on the watch list, TSA officials said.

Secure Flight Overview

Secure Flight is a program developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in response to a key 9/11 Commission recommendation: uniform watch list matching by TSA. The mission of the Secure Flight program is to enhance the security of domestic and international commercial air travel through the use of improved watch list matching.

Secure Flight conducts uniform prescreening of passenger information against federal government watch lists for domestic and international flights. TSA is taking over this responsibility from aircraft operators who, up until now, have been responsible for checking passengers against government watch lists. Secure Flight passenger watch list matching will eventually apply to all domestic and international passengers traveling on covered aircraft operator flights into, out of, within or over the United States. Secure Flight will also apply to point-to-point international flights operated by U.S.-based aircraft operators.

The initial implementation phase of Secure Flight which began on January 27, 2009 will result in the complete transfer of responsibility for passenger watch list matching to TSA from aircraft operators whose flights operate within the United States. The second phase of Secure Flight will result in the transfer of responsibility for passenger watch list matching to TSA for flights into, out of, and over the United States to TSA.

By assuming watch list matching responsibilities from the airlines, TSA:

• Decreases the chance for compromised watch list data by limiting its distribution.
• Provides earlier identification of potential matches, allowing for expedited notification of law enforcement and threat management.
• Provides a fair, equitable, and consistent matching process across all airlines.
• Reduces instances of misidentified individuals.
• Offers consistent application of an expedited and integrated redress process for misidentified individuals via the Department of Homeland Security’s Travel Redress Inquiry Program (DHS TRIP).

How it Works

Secure Flight matches the name, date of birth and gender information for each passenger against government watch lists to:

• Identify known and suspected terrorists.
• Prevent individuals on the No Fly List from boarding an aircraft.
• Identify individuals on the Selectee List for enhanced screening.
• Facilitate passenger air travel
• Protect individuals' privacy

After matching passen-
In 2006, DHS directed CBP and TSA to align the pre-departure APIS and Secure Flight concepts and systems to provide "One DHS Solution" to the commercial aviation industry and the traveling public. Since then, CBP and TSA have worked together closely to align the two programs and plans for implementation.

During the first stage of implementation, the scope of Secure Flight includes only flights within the United States. Watch list matching for international flights will continue to be performed by the Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS), a program implemented by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or the aircraft operators. As Secure Flight begins implementation, TSA will continue to work with CBP to ensure consistency with APIS. CBP and TSA have coordinated their respective rule-making processes to facilitate consistency across the APIS and Secure Flight programs.

Under the Secure Flight Final Rule, TSA is assuming responsibility for watch list matching for both domestic and international passengers to promote consistency across airlines. TSA is working closely with CBP to align its testing process and to plan for the transition of watch list matching for international flights to TSA. Transitioning this function to TSA allows CBP...
to more effectively focus on its core mission of border enforcement and protection, while allowing TSA to more effectively fulfill its mission of ensuring aviation security.

**Background**

Section 4012(a) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA) required DHS to assume from air carriers the comparison of passenger information to the Selectee and No Fly Lists and to utilize all appropriate records in the consolidated and integrated watch list that the Federal Government maintains. The final report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission Report) recommended that the watch list matching function "should be performed by TSA and it should utilize the larger set of watch lists maintained by the Federal Government."

Secure Flight published its Notice of Propose Rule Making (NPRM) in conjunction with the release of the APIS Pre-Departure Final Rule August 2007. From August 2007 through November 21, 2007 TSA accepted comments from the public an industry on the NPRM. The comment period for the Secure Flight NPRM closed on November 21, 2007. During preparation of the Final Rule, TSA tested the program and considered public comments on the Secure Flight NPRM. It took these comments into consideration while modifying and eventually issuing the Final Rule.

Consequently, TSA announced the final rule to implement the Secure Flight program on October 22, 2008. The final rule went into effect on December 29, 2008. Under the program, TSA receives passenger and certain non-traveler information from aircraft operators. After conducting watch list matching, TSA transmits boarding pass printing results based on watch list matching results back to aircraft operators.

The tough talk is despite disagreement over cellphone risks by leading academic and industry researchers. "Unlike with seat belt and drunk-driving legislation, there’s no consensus as to what an effective cellphone law entails and also no evidence that these ... approaches have any impact," says Barbara Harsha of the Governors Highway Safety Association.

**Calling All Members: Pledge to Drive Safely**

The National Safety Council has teamed up with the makers of Claritin® for the "Clear to Drive™" campaign, intended to educate the public about the importance of reading medicine labels for warnings about drowsiness before getting behind the wheel. Do your part and commit to safe driving by signing the Claritin® "Clear to Drive™" pledge at http://www.claritin.com/claritin/cleartodrive/home/. For every pledge, the makers of Claritin® will donate $1, up to $30,000, to the National Safety Council.

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**Puzzles, Games and Trivia Answers from Page 5**

**TRIVIA TEASER**

*Answers to 'First Ladies'*

1-c, Barbara Bush
2-a, Claudia
3-c, Jackie Kennedy
4-b, Betty Ford
5-d, Lou Hoover
6-c, Rutherford B. Hayes
7-c, Edith
8-d, Franklin Pierce
9-a, Dolley Madison
10-d, Mary Todd Lincoln
Whether you are the boss, the programmer or the assistant's assistant, being more important than you think you are is pleasant to think about.

What’s nice about it is that you don’t have to get a promotion or get reassigned in order to reach that goal. Even better, the organization would love to have you be indispensable.

That might be the case right now, but to increase your importance even more, consider this advice:

1. **Get visible.** Small stuff counts, such as face time. Arrive a little early, leave a few minutes later than everyone else, and speak up at a meeting. Big stuff counts more. Volunteer for an assignment no one wants.

2. **Be a problem solver.** Search for ideas that help the company or the company’s clients. When you can help customers or clients, you will be indispensable.

3. **Don't complain.** If you have in the past, get an attitude adjustment to the positive side now, says Alexandra Levit, author of *How’d You Score That Gig: A Guide to the Coolest Jobs and Careers*. Your manager has enough problems and you shouldn't be one of them. Complaining definitely won’t make you more important.

4. **Give the true information.** During difficult times, the boss needs to know the truth about how the business is running. Tell it very carefully.

5. **Take a class.** Consider an area in which the organization needs help, such as running a 'green' business.

In these times, being a faithful employee, though marginal, is not enough. We all have to do more.

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**If You Only Knew…**

**MELINDA CASSIS**
Manager, Key West Handprint Fabrics Retail Store

The six people I would like to have dinner with are Gilligan, Skipper, the Professor, Ginger, Mary Ann, and the Howell’s.

My five favorite movies of all time are *Crash, Independence Day, Pulp Fiction, E.T.*, and *Transformers*.

The four foods I refuse to eat are turkey franks, turkey bologna, turkey sausage, and turkey burgers.

Three things I am terrified of are heights, poor health, and loss of a loved one.

My two favorite books are any books by John Grisham or Stephen King.

The one thing I would do to make the world a better place is to try and make people laugh. I think everyone needs to laugh a little more.

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**FIVE STEPS TO BEING MORE IMPORTANT ON THE JOB**

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**FUN PHOTOS**

**Traveling Snowman**
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Yesterday, while shoveling my driveway for what seemed like the hundredth time this winter, I decided to make a little snowman and put him on the roof of my car. Like the saying goes...when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. This morning when I left for work he was still there. So, I got in the car and began my 20 mile commute on the Masspike. All the way I was sure the little guy would succumb to the 60 mph winds on the roof and meet his demise. However, when I got off the highway I started noticing pedestrians and fellow motorists pointing at my roof and waving and I knew the snowman was still there. Not only was he still there but he still had his arms, nose and eyes!

Photo Submitted by: John Welby, Operations Manager