

CHAPTER SIX/EXPLORING IDEAS

There should be more historical context in this chapter.

Betty
Kear
9-3-99

There wasn't a dry eye in the White House the day President and Mrs. Clinton hosted the ^{PC} Adoption Event in November, 1998. The President had set a goal in 1996 of doubling adoptions and permanent placements from the child welfare system, where 100,000 children are awaiting homes; over the next year, adoptions increased by ten percent. At the event, held during National Adoption Month, the President was to announce concerted new efforts to facilitate adoptions, to expand the use of the Internet to share information, break down geographic barriers to adoption, and shorten the time needed to find families for children and children for families. The honored guests were twenty-four newly formed families celebrating adoptions made final that day, along with other children's advocates, ^{and} adoption professionals, ^{Other attendees included} ~~and, among others,~~ Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's and one of adoption's great advocates, and Washington's mayor-elect, Anthony Williams, himself an adoptee. The event was held in the East Room, which grew silent that day when Mayor Williams rose to talk about how much his adoptive family had meant to him, and what might have happened to him otherwise. ^{When} ~~As~~ he finished, he introduced 12-year-old Charday Mays, ~~adopted that very day,~~ who spoke with emotional eloquence about what it meant to her to have found her family. She then introduced the President. ^{And so} ~~Thus was~~ the East Room, a room that has so often welcomed

was
kings, queens, and illustrious heads of state, transformed by the primal power of familial love, and the power of policy to foster it.

The White House hosts dozens of such events every year, honoring Americans whose ideas and good efforts have made a difference, Americans who work, so to speak, in the trenches of American life to contribute to a better life for us all. Naturally, the kinds of events held and the breadth of policy, to say nothing of the kinds of ideas, celebrated will vary from administration to administration, and in the case of the Clinton administration, the ideas explored have ranged from children's, family, and health care issues to violence against women, the needs of the disabled, and the essential importance of religious authority as we face the complex challenges of life at the end of this century.

How do such events come about? In some cases, they have a precedent in White House history. First Lady Lucy Hayes, for example, whose husband, Rutherford B. Hayes, was inaugurated in 1877, was the first to introduce morning prayer to the House; much

later, during World War II, the idea of a National Prayer Breakfast emerged, to discuss the problems of the War and pray for peace; this breakfast, which draws in members of Congress, is typically held annually at a hotel or large gathering place in Washington. Mrs.

Clinton, however, a devout Methodist, decided with her prayer breakfasts to bring the idea closer to home. Because she strongly believes that our spiritual life is as important as our secular life leaders, she decided to invite the nation's spiritual leaders every year in September, after the summer holiday, to pray, to bless the People's House, and to engage in a dialogue about the issues of the day. These nondenominational prayer breakfasts are held without the press invited in the State Dining Room, seemed to draw our

to which the press are not invited

was... conference... Mrs. Reagan... large event with... of fashion leaders... re: drug & children

These small... all other... historical... presidents... than Mrs. Hayes is... this is a chapter

this wasn't a public event... it was a small group on 2nd floor... I don't think the press involved as a host?

family

I am sure other president & first ladies pray in WH before 1877. If this is true, it needs more explanation.

are the country (nation) & its leader

wasn't one held in East Room?

~~religious leaders together into our secular lives, and and also signal a new beginning, every~~

~~year.~~ HAVE THEY ACTUALLY BEEN HELD EVERY YEAR?

Other events come about in response to the news of the day, either to celebrate a national triumph such as man's landing on the moon (HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A

TRIUMPH CELEBRATED IN CLINTON YEARS?), or to ^{mourn} share a private moment or a

~~word of condolence with victims~~ ^{both publically and privately.} of a national tragedy, as the Clintons did with the

~~Denny family from~~ ^{of the Denny family} Oklahoma City after two of their four children ^{one of their} were seriously hurt in

the bombing of the Murrah Federal Office Building in 1995. Because ^{Denny's} their ^{injured} child

was having brain surgery, they ^{had been} unable to attend the memorial service over which

President Clinton presided after the bombing. Upon learning this, he invited the family to

the White House ^{at a later time,} and the poignant meeting with the President and Mrs. Clinton

was held some months later.

Most of the ^{pull} "ideas" events, on the other hand, are months in the planning, involve

dozens of staffers, and reflect Mrs. Clinton's longtime commitment to ^{a particular} the cause at hand.

Take the White House Conference on Child Care held on October 23, 1997—the first time

that the White House had showcased this issue, which is so important not only to our

children but also to our national prosperity ^{and our futures}. Both President and Mrs. Clinton had worked

on the issue for years, as had the ^{DC} Domestic Policy team and the First Lady's staff, meeting

with childcare experts and dropping in on childcare centers; holding focus groups with

experts ^{and} setting up roundtable discussions with business leaders involved in childcare ^{and}

~~giving speeches on the subject.~~ ^{many facets of} Yet the subject had never been tied together into one

cohesive conference, and Mrs. Clinton wanted it given the ^a grave imprint of the White

House ^{event} to broadcast the message to the nation--how far we've come, how far we still need to go to assure available, affordable, safe, quality childcare nationwide. Everyone on her staff, from policy experts to those in the social office, ^{worked to make the} ~~began to put together the~~ conference ^{a reality.}

If you talk to anyone who works closely with the First Lady, one word ^{that} comes up over and over again: inclusive. Mrs. Clinton is avid in her desire to bring as many people to the White House as possible, and also to give credit where credit is due--in this case, to childcare workers themselves. ~~As the conference was organized~~ ^{on one of} two panels ^{scheduled} ~~for which a~~ wide variety of experts were asked to participate ^{were set up}, one for the morning session and one for the afternoon session. ^{she} the First Lady ~~would~~ host a lunch in the dining room in between, and a reception on the South Lawn after the afternoon session. In all, there were ~~to be~~ 150 guests, including, ~~among others~~, members of Congress, governors and other state and local officials, experts, businesspeople, economists ^{of course} and childcare providers themselves, whose work is so vital to our nation. ~~By now~~, Mrs. Clinton's Social Office has ^{of contacts} an unbelievably wide network ~~all~~ over the country, and they were faced with the happy (albeit difficult) chance of choosing a number of childcare workers to invite (to a one, all of whom were awed by their invitation to the White House, created with the same care that goes into ~~say~~, an invitation to a state dinner). Several hundred additional people were invited to three ~~federal~~ agencies to watch the proceedings by satellite, and the ^{the} Conference was also broadcast live via satellite to more than 100 locations in at least 48 states.

There is no better platform than the White House to elevate and celebrate issues and ideas in this way, ~~and~~ ^{each} event reaches out to America, and brings America in, in the

same way. Although, strictly speaking, policy is not enacted at an issues event, these White House forums amplify initiatives to the public, sometimes further grassroots movement in a given area, and draw attention to work that remains to be done. In this way, Mrs. Clinton has highlighted [#] such programs as Healthy Families America, which helps at-risk mothers and mothers-to-be; publicized the work the Pediatric Aids Foundation has done to reduce prenatal transmission of the disease; celebrated with a special ceremony the signing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; ~~welcomed Health Security Express participants and endorsed their work toward universal health insurance coverage;~~ hosted a breakfast to draw attention to advances made in breast cancer research; and demonstrated, at a reception, this administration's commitment to reducing teen pregnancy—among scores of other such events. This is democracy at work, welcoming ideas to the ^{white} People's House, and sending them back to the people.

- She has done several "Save Americas Treasures" events & Arts & Humanities awards each year —
What about recent conference on violence/schools after Columbine?

historical precedents:

Lincoln signed the
Emancipation Procl. in his office - what is
now the Lincoln head room.

demonstration of the telegraph in the E Room?

Johnson - 1864 Civil Rights bill - v public ceremony

Wt Conf

ceremonies -

Strategy session on youth violence - wake of shootings in
Columbine, Colorado.

Mtgs - dinner

~~later~~

precedents:

Roosevelt - groups to tea - used Wt as a venue.

Mrs Carter - mental health

Mrs. Ford - brought together adv for ERA

Mrs. Johnson - beautification.

cc of early childhood - 1 1/2 pages

inclusivity: satellite sites - # kept growing, interest grew
behind the scenes

Other WH conf: school ~~safety~~ safety; hate crimes; mental health - (WH reception)

adoption - announcing new policy to improve foster care & promote adoption; sitting w/ adoptive mothers discussion; marking finalization of adoptions
sometimes the power of a single story - Deanna.
bill signing - marking Nat'l Adoption Month

POTUS ^{& VPOTUS} - ss of women roundtable discussion

1993: breast cancer advocates - allowed them to publicly present their ideas & vision for enhanced bc research & for action - continued to highlight issue as in 1996? - unveiled the first ever U.S. Postal stamp to honor & raise ~~the~~ ^{to} awareness of bc research

Purpose: highlight an issue & establish it as a nat'l priority by encouraging & engaging all Americans ^{continuing conversation and action}
comprised of convening - best experts, parents, etc - to check a conversation
information will be communicated to public through a variety of imp media mediums - C-SPAN to radio to & directly thru WH web site & satellite events.

I. Conf - what

II. How do these events come about

dif ways -

- bill signing

- mark an occasion - tree planting

- respond to key national news -

- strategy session

III. What are moments in the planning

using the wit to highlight an issue -

history - list

examples.

→ Think of historic moments —

Start w/ cc & ecd

in East rm —

0-3, c/o

Pres level —

1st plays

how people around the country

natl stage — elevated issues.

of sat. kept growing. — part-directly.
interest grew

receptions at
WH

behind the

1. school
violence.

* Adoption

— radio address

— allude to it.

2. Hate
crimes —

at WH)

3. breast cancer East Rm.

first — grassroots

Winn — first time — w

stamp.

mental
health

1. ~~microcredit~~ (awards)

SS & women roundtable.

→ prayer breakfast. diversity inclusivity
rep of ev. faith.

63 Equal Pay John Kennedy &
Theodore Roosevelt.

Clinton's planted
a tree in
honor of
Oklahoma
City bombing
of the Murrah
Fed office
bldg
in
1995

best natl info - natl priority -
& a conf we could all part

best experts & practitioners
charting a
largest # of people ed part. — local level.

survivors - memorable — part by families.
*

highlight the issue.
set as a natl priority
encourage & engage all American.
crisis
continuing conv & action.

understanding.
benefits -
inf will be
comm
press.

↓
dem the telegraph in
East Room?

C-SPAN to radio.
WH web site

NY Sat night. Sunday all day.

event
scope

impact nationally

1. behind the scenes
2. historical context

curators of c. - venue - publicize project.

preservation chapter -

13th : copy - editing
Oct 6th type - setting

word count.

4

Dolly
Madison
salons
A

emanc. procl. — Ann Lewis — language
use the house — elevate — new

creation

fact ck — adding what's missing

9th →
meeting
conf - adolph
ceremony -
breast cancer
strategy seem on
youth roles

magalna456@aol.com
maxmehl @ anshoku . net.

FMCA Feb. — bill signing
Pres & VP -
roundtable



bill signing

commemorating an event.

Lyndon's efforts

1964 Civil Rights Bill
voter reg bills

public ceremony
account want public

doc in
a painting
in his eye.

Lincoln — emanc. procl. in his eye when
was now the Lincoln Jan 1, 1863

Eleanor R.

groups here to discuss

invited as a group - used as a venue
solos - v. social occasions
any one in city could walk in

Jefferson's dinners - public

Mrs. Carter -

mental health

60s - TV

Kennedy / Johnson

Mrs. Ford - ERA - adv. for - used WH -

WA staff & women to discuss ERA.

Mrs. Johnson - issues -

beautification

• Panama Canal Treaty -

NAFTA -

• past Presidents
here.

get senate to vote on
Pan Canal Treaty 78

media - growth

signing that

Civil Rights Voting Act. - research

lib. - books on Johnson - ceremony room.

grant released

Hotel Sandaniel, Italy

Welcoming the World THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. CLINTON REQUEST THE PLEASURE...

If you've ever watched ^{any} broadcast over C-SPAN, ^{you've seen} the guests at a White House state dinner ~~make their way gracefully through the receiving line, meeting President and~~

~~Mrs. Clinton and their guests, you're seeing much more than~~ world leaders, dozens of familiar (and unfamiliar) faces passing through in their finest clothes, and the pageantry

that accompanies such a formal affair. You're ^{also} seeing the past in two centuries of protocol ~~in the making, and you're also seeing the future, as the President and his guests forge the~~

relations today that will take their countries together into tomorrow. ^{and} What's more, when

~~the Clintons welcome the world, you're seeing history, because every state visit, official~~ visit, working visit, and even private visits will be studied and analyzed by historians and

future Presidents forever.

^{guests moving through the receiving line behave} The line you see on television today ^{moves} flawlessly, everyone in the right place at the right time, but it wasn't always this way—and ^{some of} the protocol faux pas ^{of the past} make for lively

history. During the winter of 1803-04, for example, Thomas Jefferson caused a scandal when, ^{at} for a planned ceremonial meeting, he greeted Great Britain's minister to the United

States ^{casually} in the hallway at the foot of the grand staircase, wearing ordinary ^{took Jefferson's casual behavior and} everyday clothes. The minister, in full diplomatic dress, ^{recorded it for history as an} insult. Later, at a dinner ^{to which they were invited}, the President also insulted the high-

ranking minister's wife by neglecting to escort her to the table (he took Dolley Madison's arm instead). Even worse, by the protocol standards of the day, was the fact that

Jefferson--the ultimate republican--didn't believe in seating charts, and the minister and his wife had to jostle among the other guests to ^{claim} find a seat. ^{The final outrage?} And it didn't stop there. Jefferson

had also invited the minister from France to the same dinner, at a time when France and England were at war. The reports the minister sent back to England that winter, needless to say, were not very favorable ^{to the young country.}

Clearly, democracy notwithstanding, adherence to prevailing social forms was

called for, and subsequent presidents and their wives began ^{to establish} fashioning the kind of ^{social} behavior and guidelines ^{Even so, there were} they deemed appropriate for a democracy, ^{even though the style of entertaining} still ^{still} ^{unfortunate lapses} ^{Prior to the advent of efficient} ^{overseas} ^{travel} ^{at the} ^{beginning} ^{of the} ^{20th} ^{century} ^{our} ^{state visits by heads of} ^{state seldom took place in the last century, and presidents didn't often go abroad the way} ^{they do now as a matter of course, so the state dinner held for the princess of Spain during} ^{Grover Cleveland's administration (in 1893) for instance, was a rare event, and a social} ^{highlight of his tenure. The princess and her consort were to join the President and First} ^{Lady upstairs in the residence, then proceed together to the East Room; protocol dictates} ^{that one dignitary should never be kept waiting for another. While the President was} ^{waiting upstairs, however, the princess made her way to the East Room alone, and all} ^{ceremonial planning went out the window. By 1928, after a ^{the} disastrous seating plan at} ^{proved to be disastrous [WHY?]} ^{another state dinner,} the need for a Protocol Office was apparent, and President Coolidge established one in the State Department. Today, ^{some} sixty people work in the office, on behalf of American embassies abroad and visitors coming to America, ^{They are} ^{charged with}

welcoming and honoring the nearly two hundred countries of the ^{modern} world. It is almost unheard of now that any detail governing the fine points of protocol for visitors from abroad could be overlooked.

Even with ^{ceremonies and boundaries} ~~much of the~~ protocol now firmly in place, ~~however~~, the manner in which each President and First Lady welcome the world ^{to the White House} is distinctly their own. Like her predecessors, Mrs. Clinton has distinctive ideas about ^{official} ~~entertaining~~ for gatherings both large and small, and from the beginning began to express them in her new home.

SOME
MENTION OF
SIGNIFICANCE
OF DINNER

Indeed, the Clintons waited until they'd been in the White House for eighteen months before hosting a full-scale state dinner, for Emperor Akihito of Japan, ^{initially the President} and Mrs. Clinton ^{on a} preferring to meet with world leaders and domestic policy makers ^{in more intimate ways} and smaller ^{scale} ~~settings~~, to fully understand the challenges ahead of them before inviting the world in state-dinner style, ~~which they've subsequently done many times.~~

^{President and Mrs. Clinton} This isn't to say that the Clintons didn't entertain in those early months, in fact, they learned their way around the House with every event they held. As First Lady, Mrs. Clinton has ^{ed} wanted to open up the house more, and to move ^d some of the events off the state floor ~~into other rooms and all over the grounds~~, in order to convey the sense that the White House is open and accessible. ~~In the same way that a~~ ^{performing actor's} performance fills an entire stage and the White House is in fact America's stage—Mrs. Clinton wanted truly to inhabit her home, and invite her visitors into every room of its history.

^{Chief Usher} To ^{Gary Walters'} initial puzzlement, for example, Mrs. Clinton was enthusiastic about using ^{different rooms in} the White House ~~virtually every room of the house~~ to create intimate settings for lunches and dinners. One day she suggested ^{that} lunch ^{be served} in the Vermeille room ^a.

serene room on the ground floor ^{at one time it was used to} ~~that once displayed the House's~~ ^{collection of} European vermeille pieces collection, until the curators and Preservation Committee agreed it could be put to better use displaying American artifacts and several ^{BUCHANAN} of the collection's portraits of First Ladies.

Lunch in the Vermeille Room Although it had never been done before, with each new idea the question asked is: Is there a way we can do this? Usually, the answer, as it was in this case, was yes. ^{Mrs. Clinton} ~~She~~ has also hosted guests in the East Garden Room, adjacent to the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden; in the Library, to discuss her plans to update the White House Library for the first time since ^(TK) and held dinners in the Cross Hall, which was previously used only as a passageway, and the Map Room. At some of their dinners, the Clintons have had one table set up in each of the ground and first floor state rooms, with designated hosts for each table. The guests choose their table numbers from a goldfish bowl, the President and First Lady visit every room, and there are no protocol considerations ^{about who sits next to whom} ~~whatever.~~

^{Mrs. Clinton} ~~For~~ she and the President began to invite more visiting dignitaries up to the residence, even if protocol didn't require it ^{given the nature of the particular visit} ~~At~~ Mrs. Clinton's ^{hosted} ~~tea with~~ Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina Wajed ^{of} ~~for example,~~ her guest, a Muslim, ^{met} ~~was served a Ramadan breakfast~~ ^{given a meeting with the President,} and a visit to the Residence; ^{for} ~~the tea was held in the Yellow Oval Room,~~ ^{in the residence} ~~the issues to~~ discuss and to celebrate ^{also} ~~carefully worked out beforehand.~~ ^{where the Prime Minister}

A series of intimate lunches ^{the President} ~~hosted~~ paralleled the steps toward peace in the Middle East; that they were held at the White House was truly historic. After the signing of the Middle East peace agreement, which was attended by a huge gathering on

Muslims
fast from
sundown
during
Ramadan -
is
this
accurate?

Palestinian? (Title)

the South Lawn, the President, Yassar Arafat, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin adjourned to lunch in the Family Dining Room of the residence, a lunch heard 'round the world. Subsequent visits marked the event as well.

The President also invited former Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush, all of whom had worked toward peace in the Middle East, back to the White House to demonstrate the continuity of their work toward peace. The late Jordanian King Huessin, a special friend to the U.S. and instrumental in advancing the peace ^{in the Middle East} and his American-born wife, Queen Noor, were lunch guests as well ~~(hamburgers and French fries on the Truman balcony, as~~ was King Huessin's son, King Abdullah, ~~who himself represented continuity in the work toward peace, as successor to his father.~~

Although there are always ^{those} naysayers who want the White House to look back to Europe to define its style, Mrs. Clinton ^{was} ~~was also adamant that she wanted to demonstrate~~ that American style--in cuisine, wines, furniture, art, entertainment--^{has} ~~has~~ truly come into its own in every way, ^{is} ~~and that this was~~ the style she wanted ^{to} ~~to express at~~ the White House, ^{is} ~~is~~ elegant yet friendly, and also informal, both for formal and informal events. ^{Mrs. Clinton} ~~For this end,~~

^{has} ~~she's~~ also tried to make the service, even for state and official dinners, as friendly and easy as it could be. After about a year as First Lady, she noticed that not only did a lot of her guests seem uncomfortable with traditional French service, in which waiters pass the platters with each dish for the guests to help themselves, but also that serving took much longer that way. She ^{to} ~~thus~~ changed ^{the} ~~the~~ service ^{to} ~~to~~ American plated, in which waiters serve plates that have been warmed and beautifully composed for the guests by the kitchen staff.

^{however:} ~~(The exception here is dessert, which is still served the traditional way, because the~~

^{Chef} presentation of Mesnier's desserts is so dramatic.) To combine the awe every guest feels at any event at the White House and a respect for tradition with a comfortable, warm, and easy style of entertaining has worked so well that performing artists have risen spontaneously to sing at Mrs. Clinton's tables, and at one black-tie dinner, for Nelson Mandela, a few of the guests formed a dance line--before the designated dancing.

^{and} News of an upcoming state event doesn't take long to electrify all branches of the government, as Mrs. Clinton and her staff were to learn as they began planning their first state dinner. Invitations to the White House have been highly coveted since John Adams took was in residence. Technically, a "state" dinner is hosted by the President to welcome a ^{such as a President or a king} head of state, while an "official" dinner is one given for a head of government ^{such as} a prime minister ^{or, instead of a king}. On the other hand, the terms have been interchanged so often (and also used casually: Lincoln considered his first state dinner to be one he gave for his Cabinet) that the distinction is rarely made anymore. When Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair was entertained at the White House, no one split hairs over the terminology: state dinner. Working visits and private visits, which the Clintons hosted more often in their first months in office, aren't governed as strictly ^{by protocol} as state visits, but even there, certain rules ^{of protocol} will always apply.

The Social Secretary filters the news of a state dinner first through the protocol office, who will contact the embassy involved, compile the embassy's guest list; ^{note} discern any dietary restrictions, preferences, or allergies, ^{They also take into account any} and cultural issues that may apply--white flowers, particularly chrysanthemums, signify mourning in most of South America, for example, and would ^{thus} not be used in the flower arrangements, nor would one display

for officers from
red flowers at a state event held for a Communist country. In addition, the protocol office
(or sometimes Mrs. Clinton herself) will ~~probe~~ ^{search} a little ~~deeper~~ ^{further} in order to uncover special
ways in which to honor a guest. The king of Morocco, who has ruled for more than thirty
years, had been ~~to state dinners~~ ^{a guest of the White House} many times, and Mrs. Clinton was eager to have the state
dinner she and the President hosted in his honor be as special to him as the very first
dinner he ever attended. Once it was discovered that he was a huge jazz fan, the answer
fell into place: ^{the} his evening's entertainment ~~was jazz~~ ^{would be a performance}. For a head of state might be partial to
a special flower, which Nancy Clarke will then incorporate into bouquets for the tables.

Always, though, a state dinner is an occasion not only to showcase American but also to
honor the guests.

The Social Office Requests
~~Every arm of government is asked to provide a suggested guest list~~ and everyone

~~invited has to have a reason to be invited to this particular affair~~. Lists come in to the

~~Social Office from the Cabinet departments~~, ^{from} the Vice President's office, the State

Department, the National Security Council, the White House offices of political and

congressional affairs, the press secretary, and the Democratic National Committee, if

~~every department had its wishes come true, thousands upon thousands of people would~~
^{suggested invitees accepted}

~~probably be invited each time~~ ^{however} at best the East Room, which seats more people than the

State Dining Room and is the setting for many state dinners, can accommodate 240. The

Social Office winnows the lists, before presenting them to the President and Mrs. Clinton.

This complicated process has been much simplified ^{by the use of computer} ~~as the various branches of government~~

~~couldn't communicate with each other by computer until this administration~~ ^{networking}. The Social

Secretary's office has also computerized past guest lists for cross-checking, and, in order

to be as inclusive as possible, compiled lists of members of Congress and other branches of government who have never before been invited to a White House event.

Some guests are invited automatically, ^{and his spouse} the Vice President, for example, the Secretary of State, and up to a dozen guests in the visiting dignitary's entourage. Members of Congress, people from the suggested guest lists, and certain staffers are also honored with an invitation. ~~From the corporate world,~~ business leaders who do a great deal of business with the country in question are asked to attend, along with people from a broad spectrum of America—artists and writers, media people, people from the entertainment world. Regardless of who's in power, party loyalists have always been included, as have guests with roots in the culture being honored.

Once the Social Office draws up the tentative list, the Social Secretary will submit it to President and Mrs. Clinton, who then personalize it with ideas of their own. When she thinks about her guest lists, Mrs. Clinton, an avid reader, often turns to a file she keeps about interesting people ~~she reads about all over America, people who are doing different kinds of things, and one of these people might well receive, seemingly out of the blue, an invitation to the White House.~~ In any case, drawing up such a guest list is a high art—

weaving together a different tapestry of America to present to the world each time. Much

~~more art (or perhaps you might think it is)~~ later, another high art, call it informed intuition, goes into play as the seating arrangements are

~~determined.~~ ^{decided.} Social Secretary Capricia Marshall uses ~~are executed on big boards, with all the "guests" names attached to the boards with Velcro,~~ to

The more Capricia Marshall and her staff know about ^{each} every guest's interests, then, the better. (For security reasons, the FBI also has to know the birth date and Social Security

mix and match the names until she is satisfied

number of every American guest, in order to run a background check. Before entering the House, the guests will pass through security at the East Appointment Gate.)

Chief Clerk
 Gary Walters is involved in the planning *of each White House event* from the beginning. His years of accumulated White House wisdom are invaluable, because state dinners always grow from a respect for tradition, and the same question is always asked first: How has this been done before? And then: How can we do it differently? *give it a fresh new twist?* Even with ~~these events strictly bracketed by protocol,~~ there's infinite room to vary the details, and all of the twenty-five state dinners the Clintons have hosted to date have felt very different, from the setting and the *setting* ~~way the tables~~ looked to the meals and the entertainment that followed. More than once, the President and First Lady have adjourned to the residence after inviting the guests to continue dancing and stay as long as they like, and stay they do.

To the three White House calligraphers, the invitations they send out for a state dinner (or, for that matter, any White House event) set the stage for the event, and offer the guests the first inkling of the care that goes into the planning. Every invitation is hand engraved, every envelope hand-lettered, all feature the Presidential seal embossed in gold, and many guests have commented that the very arrival of the invitation--on fine Crane's made-in-America stationery--creates the first memory of the occasion.

In the earliest administrations, invitations were written in longhand, often by the *herself* First Lady, who sometimes invited her friends over to help out. *By good luck,* however,

was the first president to use a calligrapher.
 President Ulysses S. Grant had on his staff a man to manage the social end of the *it was the of a staffer who managed the social aspects of* presidency, whose hobby was calligraphy, and the invitations issued from the White House *The president*

began to set a new tone of elegance. Today the scriptorium in the East Wing of the White

from that time on?

House is an integral part of every event, supporting the Social Office ^{with} all its graphic needs. Whether it's an event announcing a new public policy initiative or a state dinner, the calligraphers are involved, designing and creating invitations, programs, menus, place cards, escort envelopes, and the art that distinguishes one event from another, ^{all of these things} all of which are destined to become keepsakes; rarely does anyone leave ^{even} ~~so much as~~ a menu behind after a visit to the White House.

Chief Calligrapher Rick Paulus taught himself calligraphy when he was twelve, and has never wanted to do anything else. ^{that} it's an art that's grounded in history he feels, but also leaves room for innovation ~~and ways to evoke the contemporary, even the future.~~ He and his colleagues always tailor the script to the occasion, choosing, for example, a strong, dark script to announce a visit from the President of Germany, or a light, delicate, even flowery script for an invitation to a springtime tea. One script he particularly likes to use is ^{uniquely} the ~~truly~~ American Spencerian script, which dates to the late 1800s. (Spencer taught the script to Palmer, a railroad record keeper, who simplified it. Palmer's script, in upper and lower case, was then posted, for generations, in every elementary school classroom, the basis for teaching American schoolchildren to write script.) ~~But the hierarchy of scripts gives way to almost endless variation.~~ This is painstaking work. Although Paulus can, in a pinch, do a menu in ninety minutes, he prefers to spend ten to fifteen hours perfecting it before it's engraved and then printed.

In the early planning stages of a state visit, the protocol office sends an advance team to discuss the forms of address to be used, which always show the highest respect ^{to the guests of honor} and standards. If there is to be art embellishing, say, the program, one individual piece is

created, and then reproduced. Paulus and his colleagues will then, in conjunction with the Social Office, begin their design work, ~~invitations, menus, programs, and so on~~, if possible reflecting a particular interest of the guests. ^{The} work which continues until the day of the event, when the place cards are finally laid on the tables. Any last-minute changes in the guest list (or worse, the menu or entertainment—^{it has} and ^{it's} happened), and the work has to be recast ^{in order for the memories the calligraphers have helped create to be correct.}

Meantime, throughout the rest of the House, and even as they're planning and executing any number of other events, the staff is also working full speed ahead on the upcoming state dinner. Even though the ritual of a state dinner is essentially the same—the arrival of the guests, the arrival of President and Mrs. Clinton and their guests ^{of which one} to the sound of the Marine Band playing "Hail to the Chief," the receiving line, drinks, dinner, and then the entertainment, ^{there is nothing perfunctory about such an affair, and even the most seasoned staffers are thrilled every time. Whether the guests emerge with their own security from limousines or walk up to the gate to the East Wing on foot, the sense of} ^{and excitement} magic, of tradition, ~~of the sheer sense of America~~ is palpable every minute of the evening, and a state evening casts a glow over all who touch it that's almost impossible to describe.

It's the American spirit coming alive—and reaching out to touch the world. ~~The spirit~~

~~behind every state event thus seems to build and, if anything, the enthusiasm that goes into~~

~~the planning is redoubled every time, as if America herself is at stake, as perhaps she is.~~

Chief Floral Designer

Some weeks before a state event, Nancy Clarke schedules an appointment,

^{to p. 12} typically in the East Room to review with Mrs. Clinton the selection of tablecloths ^{table settings} and

flower arrangements she has been working on for weeks ^{herself}. Several tables are set up?

Often Mrs. Clinton selects the table settings for several events in one of these sessions (and there may be a few other tables as well, to help Mrs. Clinton select the tablecloths and flowers for other upcoming events) for the First Lady's perusal. (Tablecloths for state affairs are rented, and different each time, it would be unheard of at the White House to repeat them.) Clarke has staged her preview with great precision. By now, she knows, for example, that the flowers for every table must be displayed at their fullest bloom, and she has ordered them one, two, or three days ahead so that her sample displays will show them at their full opulence. Amaryllis, roses, and hypericum take one day after they're delivered to open fully, for example, and Rothschild lilies can take up to three days. Because Mrs. Clinton prefers seasonal flowers, which are also more economical, Clarke will often order her samples ahead of the season, knowing which ones will be in high season and perfect form by the time of the event. Mrs. Clinton brings to these previews a sophisticated eye, intuiting when the vases, the flowers, and the tablecloth work together perfectly to and harmonize a table, and by now, she and Clarke speak in almost a shorthand; if there are changes to be made, Clarke understands how to make them. Then the flowers for the event—which might take four people up to five days to arrange ~~execute~~—are ordered.

Mrs. Clinton also chooses the china for every official or state event, which must complement ~~blend well with~~ the tablecloths, the flowers, the food to be served, and the mood of the event. What's more, there must be enough china for the event in question.

Whereas many First Ladies have left as a legacy a new set of White House china, but Mrs. Clinton, like others of ~~among~~ her predecessors, decided instead to use the money appropriated to her to replenish some of the existing sets of state china. The collection of pieces of which are White House china, displayed behind glass in the China Room on the ground floor and

~~stored elsewhere~~, includes china or glassware used by nearly every President, but by no means holds complete sets of all the china on display. In the nineteenth century, china was routinely thrown out, auctioned off, or replaced, until 1889, when Mrs. Benjamin

Harrison, realizing the historic importance of the collection as a whole, began collecting pieces from earlier administrations and putting together the collection. The choice of china available a complete service is place

for state dinners includes china from the Truman, Johnson, and Reagan administrations, settings

Among the china service replenished that Mrs. Clinton has filled out is that from the Wilson administration, the first state service made in America, in Lenox, New Jersey. Gold-bordered, with a cobalt blue banner and the Presidential seal in the center, the set now contains enough service plates for a state dinner as well. Mrs. Clinton has sometimes used the Wilson [Describe] service plates, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt china for the rest of the meal. When it comes time for a state dinner, the curators will bring out the china from storage, then inventory it before it's put away again after the event.

President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife replenished the Lincoln china and also bought new china, as well they might have. They *needed* a lot of china. At their state dinners, they served up to twenty-nine courses. They also introduced the custom (discontinued immediately after they left office) of a break in the middle of dinner so the guests could stretch and cleanse their palates with a lemonade, brandy, and rum punch, before moving on to the second half of dinner, including a few rounds of dessert at the end. It took more than a century to pare down the number of courses to the four served under Mrs. Kennedy, and ever since: ^athe first course, ^athe entree, ^athe salad course, and dessert. Yet ^{no} one ever complains of leaving a state dinner hungry.

Chief Butler *Executive*
 Early on in planning a state dinner, *Walters* Gary Walters, *Chef* Chef Scheib, Pastry Chef *Renaud*
Social Secretary Mesnier, and Capricia Marshall meet to discuss the menu in broad outline, and to look into
 Walters' records to see what's been done before. Then Scheib and Mesnier begin to
 research the country in question, and to plan a menu that's both thoroughly American and
 yet pays tribute to the Clintons' guests. For the first state dinner for the Emperor of Japan,
 for instance, Mesnier *created* ~~concocted~~ a dessert of cherry sherbet with almond ice cream,
 California "Berkeley" cherries, and wild strawberry sauce, served in a sushi basket. In
 1995, for the Korean state dinner for President Kim Young Sam, ginseng tea truffles
 accompanied Mesnier's dessert, a pistachio and nectarine rose of sharon with strawberry
 sauce. Out of deference to the English custom of a savory to end a meal, Scheib served
 herbed cheese crisps with the salad course for the Great Britain state dinner for Prime
 Minister Tony Blair, and also served kasha as part of the first course when the Clintons
 hosted Russia's President Boris Yeltsin. There's a *Restaurant quality* commercial kitchen on the ground
 floor, in which *Chef his assistant chefs* Scheib, Mesnier, and the extra kitchen staff hired for state dinners will
 cook the meal, and from which the extra butlers hired for the occasion, most of whom are
 state dinner "regulars," will serve it. As the menus evolve, Mrs. Clinton, like her *kitchen*
 predecessors, meets with the kitchen staff to sample the various dishes, *Dependent* *on the* *venue and* *size of the event*

surely one of the
 great perks of the job. Imagine tasting your way through a state dinner, such as this one,

for Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, President of Ghana:

Five Spice Roasted Duck over Marinated Pears and Papaya

Scallion and Vegetable Salad

size of the event
other rooms in
the White House;
such as the Old
Family Dining Room
or the West Garden Room
may be pressed into service
as staging and serving areas.

Gingered Red Pepper Dressing

Grilled Yellowtail Snapper

Butternut, Celeraic, Gold Potato Hash

Truffled Lobster Fricassee

Roasted Pumpkin Sauce

Mache, Spinach, and Winter Greens Salad

Tomatoes and Herbed Goat Cheese Baked in Brioche

Basil Vinaigrette

Dessert?

Working with wine consultants Daniel Shanks and David Berkley, ^{Chief} Walters and

^{Chief} Scheib also choose the wine to accompany each course. Ever since the Carter

administration, all the wines served in the White House have been domestic wines, and

Walters works with vintners all over the country to seek out the best, and also wines that

might be specially suited to a specific state dinner, ^{Chief} he once found an American vineyard

^{Wines each vineyard has to offer. He looks for} from the vineyard was served at a Russian state dinner. TRU

^{for example, a wine} called Russian Valley, for instance. Just as American cuisine is now world class, so, too, is

^{are not surprisingly} the American wine industry thriving, with vintners particularly eager to work with the

White House, even designating special White House wines. (There no recent President has

^{had to resort to the tactics of President William Howard Taft, who sometimes served two}

~~wines at dinner--vintage wines for those he was trying to persuade to his causes politically, and lesser wines for the other guests.)~~

~~of a state visit? but it is only one~~
The state dinner may be the highlight, ~~but a state visit is comprised of a series of~~
events, beginning with the arrival ceremony on the south lawn, ~~and the first appearance by~~
the Marine Band "the President's Own," under the direction, since 1996, of Lieutenant
Colonel Tim Foley ~~plays a large part in the activities of~~
~~the day.~~

~~The Marine Band, which celebrated its 200th anniversary on July 11, 1998, makes~~
~~three hundred appearances at the White House a year, each one featuring different music~~
~~chosen especially for the occasion. There are 142 members of the band, and their~~

~~repertoire is literally universal, at a state arrival ceremony, they play the national anthem of~~
~~the visiting country, and over the years have so honored most of the nations worldwide.~~

~~At a state dinner, they're the first sound you hear upon entering the house. Their music is~~
~~incredibly varied--they play as a group or break down into such smaller groups as a simple~~
~~flute and harp, a string quartet, or a string ensemble, and can change from administration~~

~~to administration, depending on the musical tastes of the First Family in residence. Foley~~

~~remembers that for state affairs in previous administrations, there was usually a large~~

~~group of the band that played in the central foyer all through dinner and up until the~~
~~entertainment. The Clintons prefer smaller, more intimate groups of musicians, ~~placed~~~~

~~the house, or strolling musicians, with the men and women of the Marine Band moving~~
~~throughout the house, playing softly, the women's A-line skirts swaying like bells, as if~~

~~reinforcing the music.~~

Foley, a clarinet player who joined band in 1968, researches the music for every state dinner, with a musical ^{of honor} salutation to the guest ^{his first consideration}. ~~There are other~~ ^{selection} considerations as well. The ~~kind~~ ^{selection} of music will vary depending on the size of the room, the number of people attending, the number of members of the band performing, and ~~will be~~ ^{must be} planned, too, so as to be distinctly different from the entertainment scheduled for after the dinner. The mood of the music also has to match the moment during the evening in which it will be played. ~~To play~~ during President Yeltsin's state dinner, for example, ~~among~~ ^{were to play} Foley's ~~choices~~ ^{choice} was a little known piece of Russian music by the composer Anton Arensky. The piece was exactly twelve minutes long and just the right mood and tenor to play as the receiving line was in progress.

The band was playing in the southeast corner of the East Room, ~~now empty~~, and Foley began the ~~piece~~ ^{composition} as the guests were moving through the receiving line in the Cross Hall. Toward the end of ~~it~~ ^{the piece} ~~he~~ ^{Foley} looked over his shoulder and ~~to his amazement~~ ^{saw} found that he wasn't playing background music at all but directing a concert for ~~one person only~~ ^{a single listener}. President Yeltsin, who had managed to slip away from the receiving line. With his jacket over his shoulder, Yeltsin, who in fact did know the piece, was listening intently and, as the ~~piece~~ ^{performance} drew to its close, gave Foley and the band members a thumbs-up.

Music, ~~the universal language~~, has also played a diplomatic role many other times ^{occasions} during the Clinton administration. One of the the liveliest ~~was~~ ^{was} at the dinner for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who had requested transatlantic rock 'n roll—Stevie Wonder and Elton John. ~~Another highlight was lyric soprano Hei-Kyung Hong, who sang at the~~ ^{at the state dinner for President Kim Young Sam} ^{of Korea}

~~Korean state dinner for President Kim Young Sam, introducing~~^{ed} the music of European composers to the guests from Korea, and Korean composers to the Americans assembled. Most challenging, perhaps, was the question of how to honor not one but more than forty countries, at the events scheduled for the 50th anniversary ^{April} in 1999 of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty forming NATO.

~~The series of events~~^{surrounding the anniversary celebration} were months in the planning, think of the protocol and ~~security considerations alone for welcoming more than forty world leaders for a weekend.~~ There would be a lunch on Friday in the Yellow Oval Room of the residence hosted by the First Lady for the spouses of the world leaders, followed by a dinner that evening for about sixty leaders and diplomats held in the East Room. The following night, Saturday, April 24, there would be a gala dinner for 600 in a huge ^{parlor} ~~tent~~ erected on the South Lawn.

For Mrs. Clinton, the first ^{idea} ~~in~~ of how she wanted the weekend to unfold came the year before, in Santiago, Chile, while she was attending a hemispheric conference. The First Lady of Chile had hosted an outdoor dinner in the courtyard of the Presidential Palace, ^{all the guests} ~~and everyone~~ sat at the same table, an elongated, crescent-shaped table, where ^{everyone} ~~all~~ the guests could see each other. ~~There was no head table and therefore no protocol problems, which groups of round tables sometimes present, and the table instilled a cozy, intimate feeling into the occasion.~~ That, she decided, was the kind of table she wanted for Friday's dinner during the NATO weekend. Working with the First Lady of Chile, Capricia Marshall got pictures from that night, along with the dimensions ^{of the table}, and proceeded ^{a similar} ~~to have the table built. A year later, the table worked perfectly.~~ President and Mrs. Clinton

with

with the General Secretary of NATO and

Saturday's dinner was as expansive as Friday's was intimate, extraordinary in an

entirely different way. The setting was magnificent, a massive, beautifully decorated tent.

called it. There were delegations for ~~all the leaders, and, to represent the U.S., former~~ *each of the member countries*

Presidents, Secretaries of State, ^{and} an unprecedented array of officials, ^{representing the} each announced as

~~they made their way to designated tables.~~ After the dinner, though, baritone Thomas

~~Hampson and soprano Rence Fleming gave a performance they had created just for the~~

occasion, which took place in several different languages, ^{that} acknowledged as many

countries as possible, and somehow evoked the spirit of the event in a way that was both

~~serious and lighthearted, evocative, somehow, of the universal, just like the event itself.~~

NEED CLOSING HERE

~~how meeting~~ ~~himself~~ ~~high art~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~most~~ ~~interesting~~ American people she would read

~~about that. They were going to be out of the country, keeping track of who's~~

~~being in the position of a person who is not a member of the~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION~~

50p5 →
(sorry)

Christmas at the White House: An American Tradition

Nicole

[need opening]

Shirley's
rewrite

John Adams was the first President to celebrate Christmas in the White House. Just a month after moving in to the unfinished residence, Abigail Adams hosted the first White House Christmas party – a reception for members of Congress. Unfortunately, even the blazing fires in every fireplace were unable to rid the House of cold and damp, and guests had barely crossed the threshold before they departed. the cold did not deter the guests at Mrs. Adams's second party, held a few days later, however. This children's party, held for the Adams' four-year-old granddaughter was by all reports a lively and festive occasion.

Thomas Jefferson and many of the Presidents who followed continued the Adams' tradition of hosting children's parties at Christmas.

Andrew Jackson, who lost his own mother as a small child, invited area orphans to one occasion, and joined them for a mock snowball fight in the East Room, using balls made of cotton.

Benjamin Harrison brought in the first Christmas tree in 1889, but just a few years later, Theodore Roosevelt banned Christmas trees from the White House, believing the practice of chopping down healthy trees for the holiday to be inconsistent with his views of conservation. (Nonetheless, one of the Roosevelt children smuggled a small spruce into the attic and hid it until Christmas; touched, the

President relented and let the family keep the tree,
rationalizing that selective cutting was vital to
woodland conservation.)

Fast forward to 1929, the year of the stock
market crash. That Christmas Eve, despite the
worry and fear in the air, President and Mrs. Herbert
Hoover lit up the White House and hosted a
children's party at which guests were serenaded
with carols by a group of Girl Scouts. As they were
having their dinner afterwards, the West Wing
caught fire. The men attending the party ran to save
what they could – and in a true Christmas moment,
retrieved a puppy in a cardboard box that one of the
President's secretaries had hidden away in his office
so his son wouldn't see it until the next morning.

The President himself had remembered the little dog
and ordered its rescue.

Perhaps the Christmas tree that shone as the
brightest beacon of hope was the one lit by
President Franklin Roosevelt in 1941, just after
Pearl Harbor and the American entry into World
War II. The plan had been for the President to light
a Community Christmas tree in Lafayette Park,
across the street from the White House, but the
Secret Service was opposed to the plan. Roosevelt
insisted upon having his tree, however, and the
Secret Service finally agreed that a tree could be lit
on the south grounds of the White House. **[note –**
this makes no sense – if the lit up tree is the
problem, why would the Secret Service find it

more palatable to have one closer to the House?].

On Christmas Eve, the Roosevelts, along with Winston Churchill who was there to work on Allied strategy, stood on the south portico and signaled for the tree to be lit. A crowd of 15,000 had gathered to watch, and burst into spontaneous song as the electricians lit the tree. The words of Winston Churchill that night capture the spirit of Christmas in the White House well: "Therefore we may cast aside for this night at least the cares and dangers which beset us, and make for the children an evening of happiness in a world of storm."

Many of today's holiday traditions date from the Eisenhower era. Mamie Eisenhower ordered the decorating of the entire house, using a

record 26 Christmas trees. She held the first party for White House staff, and began the practice of mass-mailing Christmas cards to friends and supports alike.

However, it was Jacqueline Kennedy who initiated the idea of using a decorating theme. She chose "The Nutcracker Suite" as her first theme, for the benefit of her young children. Also during the Kennedy years, television began to beam the White House decorations into nearly every American home, bringing the House closer to the people than ever before.

Hillary Clinton is a First Lady who loves Christmas. Even so, she was surprised to discover that no sooner is Christmas over at the White

House than the planning begins again. Barely had she learned her way around her new home when, just weeks after the President's first inauguration in 1993, Gary Walters and then-Social Secretary Ann Stock approached her to discuss the holidays and decide on a theme for the upcoming Christmas.

The planning for a holiday celebration of this scale is almost unimaginable. Every Christmas is entirely different from the theme of the decorations to the colors that will predominate in every room. The White House has displayed the talents of many different designers, from Ralph Lauren (1994) to Robert Isabell (1998). Except to those executing the First Lady's vision, the holiday theme is a carefully guarded secret. In previous

years, themes have included Santa's Workshop
(1997), Winter Wonderland (1998), The Nutcracker
(1996), and 'Twas the Night Before Christmas
(1995). **[note association partners who help?]**

For their first holiday in the White House,
the Clintons chose to commemorate the Year of
American Craft by calling on craftspeople from
across the country to help execute the holiday
theme, "Angels." With the assistance of Michael
Monroe, Curator in-Charge of the Smithsonian
Institution's Renwick Gallery of the National
Museum of American Art, the White House
contacted over 3,000 American crafts artists –
working in wood, glass, metal, fiber, and clay – who
contributed approximately 7,500 ornaments and

decorations, to be used during the holiday season.

Submissions included a Bill Clinton playing the saxophone, a cherub with Chelsea's long hair, and Socks in ice skates. To compliment the ornaments, Mrs. Clinton initiated the creation of a green velvet handmade tree skirt designed by individuals from each of the 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia.

To add to the experience of White House visitors during the holiday season the Social Office, throughout the year, accepts tapes and applications from musical groups of all backgrounds who are interested in performing at the White House over the holidays.. The more than 2,500 school children, senior citizens, policemen, church choir members,

pianists, and others who are chosen through this process will create a tapestry of American music, adding to the festive air of every room.

In May [?], Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier and his assistant, Franette McCullough, begin their holiday baking. Chef Mesnier's responsibilities include constructing an elaborate and totally edible gingerbread house whose design remains a surprise for the Clintons, baking more than 100,000 cookies and pastries for holiday parties, and preparing 250 dried fruit-laden fruitcakes, which are covered and marinating in the White House walk-in refrigerators by July. The pastry chefs use approximately 500 pounds of sugar and 300 pounds of chocolate for holiday baking,

which occurs throughout the year, whenever there is a slow day. Cookies are frozen as dough so they can be baked and served fresh in December. Like most bakers, Mesnier always prepares his classic favorites, like his Cherry Yule Log, but also tries a few new things each year.

Chief Floral Designer Nancy Clarke is keeper of the official Christmas record, a 25-page plan for the decorations that delineates what must be done and how it much be done year after year, regardless of the theme. She too begins holiday preparations a year in advance, as does the Social Office, which coordinates the execution of the theme and all of the events that occur throughout the season. Menus and guest lists are prepared

months in advance. Volunteer associations – from the Knitting Guild of America to the American Institute of Architects – must be recruited to help with theme-related decorations. And an artist must be selected to design the First Family's holiday card, 300,000 of which will be sent in early December.

Mrs. Clinton carefully oversees every aspect of these preparations – deciding the theme, selecting the artist for the card, approving the schedule of holiday events, contributing menu ideas and other items to make the holiday as meaningful and festive as possible.. **[What else can we say about HRC's role – should this go earlier?]**

Just a day or two after President Clinton is presented with the official Thanksgiving turkey, the Christmas season begins in earnest. The first public Christmas ritual is covered by the news media: the 18 1/2-foot high Official White House tree, designated for the Blue Room, is delivered to the White House on a horse-drawn cart, accompanied by the donor and representatives from the National Christmas Tree Association , and received by Mrs. Clinton. Then the White House closes its doors to public tours for the next three days.

The “elves” responsible for transforming the White House during the holidays wear jogging shoes. They’re a group of [sixty] volunteers who come, at their own expense, year after year to

decorate the People's' House, under Clark's direction, and for three intensive days they work incredibly hard. Everyone has assigned jobs – a certain tree, a certain room, a specific garland on a specific mantle.

The focal point of the East Room becomes the traditional White House creche, made in Naples, Italy in the 18th century, which has been part of the White House Christmas every year since it was donated in 1967. In the Blue Room, the chandelier comes down to accommodate the tree, which is wired to the ceiling and hung with 2700 lights. The furniture is removed from the room, plywood is laid down to protect the floor, and scaffolding is erected around the tree so it may be decorated from the top

down. The ornaments are carefully unwrapped from their packing boxes and wired to one of the 18 trees or nestled into a garland on a mantle. More than 300 wreaths are hung and 720 lengths of garlands strung. The smell of evergreens begins to permeate the house, and the volunteers move about quietly on their rubber soles as every corner of the house is made perfect.

There are other smells, too. Pastry Chef Mesnier is still baking, and now Executive Chef Walter Scheib is cooking as well, making holiday delicacies that will grace the tables for the many receptions ahead. Scheib is also responsible for the 285 gallons of eggnog, which will be served at receptions during the holiday season. With

decorations complete and the kitchen overflowing
with treats, the House is ready. It's officially
Christmas at the White House.

Mrs. Clinton hosts the first party – a
reception to thank the volunteers who once again
have decked the White House halls for Christmas.
Next, the Clintons host a reception for those
attending the Kennedy Center Honors.

Only then are the decorations – the holiday theme;
the surprise gingerbread house – unveiled to the
public at the press preview. [Note – when is the
Pageant of Peace – does it need to be mentioned?]

During the holiday season, 150,000
thousand visitors tour the White House, including
5,000[x] who take the special candlelight tours, a

tradition begun by Mrs. Nixon in an effort to enable the working people of Washington to see the White House at Christmas. Mrs. Clinton expanded the candlelight tours to include early evening times preferred by many senior citizens.

An additional 15,000 thousand people attend one of the dozen or more holiday parties -- including the traditional Congressional Ball, parties for the Secret Service, press corps, and White House staff, and **[any other that needs to be mentioned?]**. The Clintons have also started a new tradition, a public version of a family ritual. The President always read "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" to Chelsea when she was a little girl. Now children from the Washington, DC, area are invited to the

readings and the President, comfortably seated in a rocking chair in front of one of the threes and accompanied by the First Lady reads the story to the young children. Then there's singing of Christmas carols, a visit by Rudolph and Frosty, and a visit by Buddy and Socks.

The Clintons began another new holiday tradition, lighting a Hanukah menorah in the West Wing lobby. The first menorah, lit in 1993, was crafted by metal artist Zach Oxman and is now traveling as part of the White House Crafts Collection. In subsequent years, menorahs have been loaned by the Gomez Mill House in Marlboro, New York, the earliest surviving Jewish homestead in North America, and by Mayrim Baram, a father

who lost his young son in the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. Public parties end the weekend before Christmas so the staff and First Family can enjoy their own private celebrations. The White House is where the Clintons celebrate their own family Christmas. They decorate the tree in the family quarters with the ornaments they've collected over the years. There's the excitement of having a child home from college for the holidays, and the joy of having young nieces and nephews join in the celebration. On Christmas Eve, the President does his last minute shopping, and Mrs. Clinton and Chelsea bake cookies, a tradition started by Mrs. Clinton's mother in order to give Dad time to set the tree up, with overenthusiastic children out of the

way. The family reads the Christmas gospel together and sings carols, acting out the parts. In the morning, like many American families, the Clintons attend church services and open gifts, followed by an elaborate brunch – one time that health conscious cuisine is definitely not on the menu.

Just after New Year's the White House is closed again for another three days as the ornaments are recorded and packed up and the rooms are put back to their pre-holiday state. What you hear then is the hum of vacuum cleaners, picking up the stray traces of pine needles. Holiday topiaries and poinsettias are replaced with colorful traditional arrangements.

[need closing].

Nicole

CHAPTER FOUR/CELEBRATING AMERICAN ARTS AND CULTURE

When the Lewis and Clark expedition returned from the West in 1806, ^{President} Thomas Jefferson, who ~~as President~~ had followed their exploits with keen interest, promptly took the souvenirs they brought back with them--pelts, Indian costumes, stuffed animals, and the like--and displayed them in the White House, which he'd opened up to the public, ~~for visitors to see~~. The next year, when Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike returned from his own exploits out West, Jefferson again put the artifacts, including, ~~incongruously enough~~, examples of the arts ^{of} in the Spanish missions and two caged grizzly bears, out for display. None of this was high art, to be sure, but it exemplified American culture as it was evolving, and showcased it in the White House. In another ^{interesting} ~~curious~~ footnote to history, one administration later John Quincy Adams danced the Virginia reel at his son's wedding--a dance that ^{is chronicled} ~~still turns up~~ in most White House histories. Why? Because our culture now had a dance to call its own, and it had been danced at the White House. Ever since, ^{each} ~~every~~ administration has made it a mission to bring America home, to the People's House.

At the end of this century, there's more ^{showcase} ~~of~~ American culture to ~~bring home~~ than ever before. The America that President and Mrs. Clinton see is rich, diverse, unique, drawing in flourishes from all over the world, and thriving. And that's the wide range of art and culture--from crafts to gospel, from ballet to rock, from ^{outdoor sculpture} ~~educational programs of~~ ^{exhibitions} all kinds to the unique Millennium Evenings, which, via the internet, bring the immediacy of a White House event all over the world--that Mrs. Clinton has brought to ^{the} ~~her~~ White

House, events designed to usher us into the future and make the People's House even more accessible to more people both in America and beyond.

Mrs. Clinton has taken an energetic role in pursuing the more than twenty-five important paintings, prints, and engravings have been acquired since 1993, including "Sand Castles at Sunset, Atlantic City" by Henry Ossawa Tanning (c. 1885), the first painting by an African American artist to be part of the permanent collection of the White House, and Georgia O'Keeffe's "Bear Lake, New Mexico" (1930), the first painting by a twentieth-century American woman artist to be exhibited in the state rooms. She also assembled the White House Crafts Collection to celebrate the diversity of this American art form, and the breathtaking collection, which has toured all over the country, became the basis for the White House Historical Association's newest book, *The White House Collection of American Crafts*.

During the Clintons' two administrations, literally hundreds of performing artists have been invited to perform at the White House (and it's a sign of what an honor it is to be asked that so many of them get an acute case of stage fright: "But this is the *White House!*"). Mstislav Rostropovich, Isaac Stern, Jessye Norman, Pinchas Zukerman, Kathleen Battle, and dozens of others have graced White House stages, including Van Cliburn, who has performed before every President since Truman. Mrs. Clinton has also showcased young artists and dancers, drawn attention to the central role the arts play in children's lives, and initiated new awards to honor artistic achievement by those whose contributions to our cultural life have made a difference. It's the First Lady's belief that

arts are not a luxury, but as central to us all as the air we breathe, and she has brought this belief with her to the White House.

SCULPTURE GARDEN

Mrs. Clinton still remembers her first date with the President well, down to the sculpture that brought them together--British sculptor Henry Moore's "Draped Seated Woman," then on exhibit in the sculpture garden at the Yale University Art Gallery. The two had gone to the gallery to find it closed, the result of a labor dispute, but the ^{future} First Lady's quick-thinking date managed to gain their entry into the empty gallery by volunteering to pick up trash. Inspired ~~perhaps, by echoes of the memory, along with her own~~ love of sculpture, she was determined to bring twentieth-century American sculpture to the White House, and set the plan in motion the first year she arrived.

There's a long-standing rule at the White House that no art can be exhibited in the state rooms until the artist has been dead for twenty-five years (or ten years? I have heard two versions), both to insure the enduring quality of the work and also so as not to affect a living artist's market values, as ^{a place} ~~display~~ in the White House surely would. Thus the idea of exhibitions by contemporary artists was innovative--and a suitable location on the grounds had to be found. Working with designer Kaki Hockersmith, the Committee for Preservation of the White House, and J. Carter Brown ^{then} ~~treasurer~~ of the White House Historical Association, the idea began to take form, and enthusiasm for the program began to build, ~~here was another new way to showcase America at the People's House.~~

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answer P^E

The grounds of the White House encompass eighteen acres, but Mrs. Clinton wanted to make sure that as many visitors to the White House as possible would be able to see the sculptures, not have them tucked away somewhere out of sight. The perfect place--the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, named after another First Lady to whom the arts meant so much--presented itself at once. This graceful, formal space is one of the first things that every visitor sees on his or her approach through the polished brick-paved East Colonnade, the windows of which overlook the garden, ~~in which~~ ^{on the Garden} Mrs. Clinton had spent many peaceful hours; it's a favorite spot of hers, and one where she has often entertained. The ~~simple lines~~ ^{of the garden and its} classical rectangular form seemed perfectly suited for displaying sculptures, which otherwise might be lost in a bigger or less well defined space. Framed by boxwoods, which are evergreen, the garden also keeps its lines throughout the winter months, assuring that the sculptures would be anchored in their settings regardless of the season, for visitors to admire.

Any "extra-curricular" program like this requires the energy, patronage and efforts of any number of people, in a kind of pitch-in American spirit, and Twentieth Century American Sculpture was no exception. Iris Cantor and the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation generously supported the project. Museums all over the country were eager to participate, and it was decided that the first four exhibits would have a regional focus, highlighting sculpture from public museums representing ^{each} the regions. Unbelievably, considering the logistics involved, the first exhibit opened in October, 1994. Today, it is hard to envision the garden without sculptural embellishment.

By creating each exhibit around a theme, the curators succeeded in creating an experience in which the works can be viewed individually, and then in a larger context, ^{as}

⁶ a whole. Even the regional exhibits--demonstrating the vitality of the Midwest, the Southeast, the Southwest, and the Northeast--conveyed the remarkably different ways in which artists approach and absorb their native landscapes. The fifth exhibit drew together pieces from the public collections in Washington, D.C., so that they could be unified in the garden, rather than viewed in isolation in their usual sites; the visual impact was striking.

Honoring Native America was the theme of the sixth exhibit, which opened to the traditional blessing offered by Phil Minthorn, a ^{Nex Perce?} Nex Perce Indian. For the seventh exhibit, Mrs. Clinton and her collaborators turned to first to France, then back to America.

Auguste Rodin's work, late in the 19th century and early in the 20th, has influenced contemporary American sculptors in ways both subtle and dramatic and, under the direction of Arnold L. Lehman, Director of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, those influences were realized in the garden. ^{including his "The Thinker"} (Three of Rodin's works were included as well.)

By now, some 7 million visitors to the White House have begun their tour before the tour, by admiring these pivotal contemporary works, and the response has been extraordinary--convincing affirmation that this century's complex sensibilities, like those of the two centuries before, have been recorded for all time by the skill, grace, and passion of our artists.

IN PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Mrs. Clinton, who claims to have no musical talent whatever, has a great appreciation for music ~~even so~~, enhanced, no doubt, by her husband, (whose knowledge of music has become legend, even among the members of the Marine Band) While in her tastes, she leans toward the classical, she also likes popular music, ~~the Americana of the~~ ~~last two centuries~~, and the best show tunes of American musicals. Music is ^a ~~thus~~ the constant accompaniment to the ~~Clinton~~ ^{activities of} White House, but Mrs. Clinton wanted more--she wanted music to emanate *from* the White House as well, to all of America.

The White House has always invited musicians to perform, but until recently, the ~~guest list didn't include all of America~~ ^{included only those invited to the House for a performance}. President and Mrs. Nixon were able to entertain ^{people} three hundred at a time in the East Room, in a series they called "An Evening at the White House." The format that excited Mrs. Clinton, however, was begun by President and Mrs. Carter, and was already in place, a series called *In Performance at the White House*--another means of bringing more people to the White House, in this case to celebrate music. Working with WETA, the public broadcasting station in Washington, D.C., the White House stages a musical event which is then taped, ^{and} ~~to be~~ broadcast over all the PBS stations some weeks ^{or months} later. There is no cast-in-stone number of such events held each year, ~~and the series has sometimes languished~~, but Mrs. Clinton was so enthusiastic, she vowed to do several every year. She began working with Sharon Rockefeller, the president of WETA, and Americatech, the company that agreed to underwrite the programs.

From the beginning, Mrs. Clinton wanted to use the series to reflect the diversity in American music, and open up the White House to that diversity as well. (In so doing, it's fair to guess that the series also brought new audiences to PBS.) Early performances

included "A Salute to the Newport Jazz Festival," "Cabaret," "Aretha Franklin," "Women of Country," and, (performing together) Grammy winners Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville, accompanied by the mariachi band Los Camperos De Nati Cano.

Mrs. Clinton's Social Secretary, Capricia Marshall, remembers the night, after one stunning performance, when she knew that *In Performance* was going to take a decidedly unconventional turn. At the end of a stellar evening, after rounds and rounds of applause, the President and First Lady turned to Ms. Rockefeller and said, "Okay, we want to do gospel." Gospel at the White House? ~~Gospel on PBS?~~ This was ^{going} ~~destined~~ to be a first.

~~As with all events, the Social Office reached out to all of America for this one with the question: Who should be invited to hear gospel at the White House? And the House was opened up.~~

This *In Performance* was to be held and telecast in a ^{Pavilion} ~~huge tent~~, so Ms. Marshall's office scheduled it around a series of White House events that were also to be held in ^{the Pavilion} ~~tents. (For reasons of economy, tents are erected at the White House, during the warmer months, to coincide with clusters of events for which the same tent is used.)~~ The Clintons have many friends who are ministers, preachers, religious leaders, many of whom were invited. Further digging revealed journalists who write about gospel music, and a magazine devoted to gospel music, and these people were issued invitations to the White House as well. There was corporate America, Congressional America, and cultural America drawn together in celebration of this indigenous American music ^{all form}.

The word "gospel" comes from the word Godspell ¹ ~~for~~ glad tidings ² and that was the spirit that evening, the spirit of glad tidings. The level of talent, combined with the

level of emotion, and ~~surely heightened~~ by the setting, the ~~White House~~, had people waving their arms, tears running down their faces, rising from their chairs spontaneously-- and, for many of them, participating in ~~the American experience~~ ^{a uniquely art form} in an entirely new way. And they were able to relive the experience ~~a few weeks later~~ ^{several months}, along with all of America, on PBS. The show was a stunning success.

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WE ARE A LITTLE SHORT HERE IN WORD COUNT...IS THERE PERHAPS A MILLENNIUM CONCERT TO BE TELEVISED? OR SOME FUTURE HIGHLIGHT PLANNED?

MILLENNIUM EVENTS

When the year 2000 is ushered in, the American people will have more to celebrate than simply the birth of a new century. The year 2000 also marks the 200th anniversary of the completion of the White House and the Capitol Building, and ~~also~~ ^{as well as} the opening of the Library of Congress: seminal events in the life of our country. To commemorate these milestones of history, in 1997 Mrs. Clinton launched a multifaceted set of initiatives to celebrate the accomplishments of this American century and to usher us into the century before us. Under the auspices of the newly formed Millennium Council, headed by Ellen Lovell, Mrs. Clinton, who serves as the council's Honorary Chair, has asked all Americans to "honor the past--imagine the future,"

And provided ways for us all to do so. It was Mrs. Clinton's idea, for example, to initiate Save America's Treasures. She and Lovell had long been concerned, for example,

that the original Star Spangled Banner needed painstaking (and expensive) ^{restoration} restoring if it would survive into the millennium. They began to learn, too, of other historic artifacts, sites, and documents that were in ^{poor condition} ~~dismal repair~~. Save America's Treasures, a public/private partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the public side, and private and corporate donors on the private side, ^{was created} in order to establish a concerted program of preservation. In a parallel project, the National Archives has proposed a three-year preservation plan to ensure that such irreplaceable documents as the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights survive the next century.

To draw attention to the program, the President and Mrs. Clinton hosted a reception at Washington's Museum of American history, announcing a gift from Ralph Lauren and other private donors that would ensure the repairs to the flag, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write The Star Spangled Banner. The First Lady then began a highly publicized bus trip, the first trip in her series of touring sites that are ^{touchstones of} ~~vital to~~ our national heritage and also the monuments to the religious, artistic, and literary pioneers who have shaped our history. ^{Her first stop was} ~~She began the trip at~~ Thomas Edison's laboratory in West Orange, New Jersey, where she announced \$5 million in funding for the lab from the General Electric Fund. On subsequent trips she visited such sites as the home and archives of American jazz legend Louis Armstrong in Queens, New York, ~~where again she announced a gift to enable the archives to continue to preserve the music, so central to our heritage,~~ and (in Boston) the home of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and the African Meeting House, ~~also central to our culture.~~ Crisscrossing the nation's landmarks, she also visited

the Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles, California, to announce further endowments for America's treasures bestowed by the J. Paul Getty Trust.

One grassroots movement proposed by the committee and embraced by communities nationwide is competing for the Millennium Council awards, an honorary designation awarded by the White House to recognize communities who have acted upon the millennium in a committed way. How does a community become involved? By honoring the past, or imagining the future. By saving a monument, for example; recording the stories of the people who shaped a community; organizing volunteers to improve the library or assemble a group of tutors for local schoolchildren. To announce another millennium initiative, the First Lady also traveled to Severna Park, Maryland, to draw attention to the B&A Trail there. The creation of new Millennium Trails nationwide will reinforce the connections between people, their land, their history, and their culture.

and
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information

Perhaps the most extraordinary--and electrifying--events to have emerged from the Millennium Council are the Millennium Evenings, a series of lectures and cultural evenings hosted by the President and First Lady to highlight the creativity and inventiveness of the American people and others from around the world. Held in the East Room, these evenings have truly transformed the way in which the White House can be used to reach out to all of America, and beyond.

Just as Franklin D. Roosevelt's legendary fireside chats, broadcast from the Reception then Diplomatic Room, used radio, the latest available technology available ^{to him} ~~to him to broadcast~~ his messages from the White House, Mrs. Clinton has also relied on technology to bring the White House to America. State dinner receiving lines are broadcast over C-span, for

like what?
example, sporting events over ESPN, *In Performance* over PBS, and the Kennedy Center evenings over CBS. Yet to see the unmistakable glare of computer screens refracting their light over the classical lines and fixtures of the East Room, so that, with the help of Sun Microsystems, these interactive evenings could be broadcast over the internet to the world, crystallized the concept of the millennium--~~honor the past, imagine the future~~--in a way that was nothing short of thrilling.

The first evening, at which the featured guest was historian Bernard Bailyn of Harvard University, was a nod to history; the subject was "The Living Past--Commitments for the Future." The ^{cybercast} format was untested. The guest list had, as always, been carefully chosen, in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities, who co-sponsors the evenings, and the Department of Education, which promotes the events. For this first evening, there was perhaps the largest gathering of historians ever assembled at the White House. Mrs. Clinton would introduce the speakers or, in this case, speaker, who would then make his or her presentation, not to last more than thirty minutes. After the presentation, the President would make a few ~~unprepared~~ remarks in response, and then Lovell would moderate the discussion--fielding questions from the guests, and also questions that arrived over the internet. She remembers ^{everyone's} ~~their~~ nervousness that first evening: What if no one in cyberspace responded? As it turned out, questions came in, for this and all the subsequent evenings, from all over the world. Following this unprecedented worldwide dialogue, there would be a reception in the State Dining Room, though no one could have guessed just how late the receptions would run, nor how high the level of excitement would be.

Having met Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel in Switzerland, Mrs. Clinton invited him to be her guest for another Millennium Evening, and to speak on the subject of "The Perils of Indifference," and the lessons to be learned from a violent world. Here, too, the e-mailed queries that came into the White House were extraordinarily moving, and reflected the universal concern for victims of oppression and genocide everywhere. One woman from Canada e-mailed a question at once simple and profound: "Elie Wiesel, Mr. President, First Lady," she wrote, "I am the mother of a three year old daughter and my question to you is 'How, in your view, is the best way to teach our young people to love each other, when there is so much violence in the world?'" Perhaps the best answer to that is ⁱⁿ dialogues such as these.

FAPE, KENNEDY CENTER, PRITZKER TK

MAKING THIS HOUSE A HOME

When the President, Mrs. Clinton, Chelsea, and Socks moved into the White House after the President's first inauguration in 1993, Mrs. Clinton wanted her new house to echo not only with the resonance of history, but also with a true sense of home (and some measure of privacy against the echoes).

The work of maintaining, renovating and restoring the White House is an on-going project. The Clintons spent their first several years living alongside scaffolding, raised during the Carter years to help workers remove some forty coats of paint, restore the stonework, and repaint the exterior of the House. This work is now complete, except for a small patch of plaster where burn marks remain from the War of 1812. The President decided to leave those scars as they were, a reminder of history.

Perhaps the biggest change a visitor who knew the residence would notice is the bookcases on the third floor. Whereas other recent Presidents moved into the residence while leaving parts of their lives at the homes to which they would one day return, the Clintons left nothing behind in the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. This was to be "home home", as the First Lady puts it, not just the place they were living because her husband was President. And to the President and Mrs. Clinton home means books, thousands of books reflecting their eclectic tastes in everything from history to popular fiction to art. And not just put away on shelves, either, but referred to and read, often loaned to friends. Left to their own devices, if the President and Mrs. Clinton aren't reading, they're very happy playing librarians in their own library.

Even in the more formal rooms of the residence—the Yellow Oval Room, for example, where state visitors are hosted—the First Family has found places for personal collections and keepsakes. The President and First Lady love having framed photographs around them. Family photographs of Chelsea growing up, of earlier Christmas celebrations, of their nephews, and clusters of these memories are displayed all over the House. They also have a fondness for whimsical turtles, pretty boxes, and the needlepoint pillows Mrs. Clinton has been give to commemorate her moments in the White House. One of her prized possessions is a pillow on which the jacket for her bestselling book, *It Takes a Village*, is replicated in needlepoint. Over their years in office, the Clintons have had the opportunity to personalize the residence with gifts they've received. The President and First Lady have also surrounded themselves with American crafts from the White House collection, as well as paintings and furniture on loan from several museums and from the collection that reflect their taste.

From the beginning, there was every evidence that a child was in residence. Chelsea Clinton was twelve when she moved in, the first child to live in the House since Amy Carter. Mrs. Clinton had chosen Chelsea's quarters during her first visit to the White House after the election, when Mrs. Bush had invited her to tour the residence and have tea. Working with Chief Usher Gary Walters, she had made sure that Chelsea's rooms would be ready, with some of her familiar things in place, when she arrived at her new home on Inauguration Day. That night, Chelsea was treated to an inaugural party of her own. A few of her friends from Arkansas and new acquaintances from Washington went on a "History Mystery Tour", a scavenger hunt to find historic treasures all over the

House.

The Clintons wanted to be able to eat informally as a family, so they turned what had been a butlers' kitchen on the second floor into a family kitchen. Until the time President and Mrs. Kennedy were in residence, the First Family had usually dined on the State Floor in the Old Family Dining Room. Mrs. Kennedy created President's Dining Room in the residence, and the butlers' kitchen. By removing a big butcher-block serving station, the Clintons were able to add a kitchen table, and use their own pitcher to pour the lemonade. When Buddy joined the Clinton family, a bed was placed in the kitchen for him.

Working with designer Kaki Hockersmith, the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, and with private funding, the Clintons also refurbished a number of rooms in the residence. These projects included the sitting room in the Lincoln Bedroom suite, several guest rooms on the third floor, the Treaty Room, which serves as the office and setting room for the President and the President's Dining Room. The dining room was originally papered with a mural of a battle of the Revolutionary [?] War which had historic significance but was a little grim. In order to preserve the integrity of the mural, Hockersmith and Mrs. Clinton hung the celadon moire silk wallpaper on battens which can be removed without damaging what is underneath. One Christmas, as a surprise for her husband, Mrs. Clinton created a music room to house his collection of old albums, CDs, musical instruments, sheet music, and photographs of composers. A little room with a staircase and a balcony leading go to the roof, (in other administrations people have put on plays there) it works perfectly as a music room. The President has entertained guests,

including state visitors, there for hours. In addition, there is now a piano on every floor of the White House.

Another favorite gathering place for the family is the solarium, a beautiful sunroom on the third floor with expansive views on all three sides. There is a balcony just outside the room, where Mrs. Clinton grows tomatoes in the summers. Decorated in cheerful blue, raspberry, and white floral prints, this room, along with the new kitchen, is perhaps the most lived-in room of the residence. Buffet breakfasts are set out when there are guest, and occasionally buffet supper. It is the setting for games, like Scrabble, Boggle, Upwards, and cards. If Chelsea is home from college there is often an unfinished jigsaw puzzle that she and her father are working on.

The Clintons love to entertain, and have held many private parties for friends and family celebrating birthdays, reunions, baby and wedding showers. The wedding of Mrs. Clinton's brother, Tony Rodham, to Nicole Boxer, daughter of Senator Barbara Boxer, took place in the Rose Garden. The President and Mrs. Clinton also love theme parties and costume parties. The First Lady's staff and friends have surprised her with costume parties, which are paid for privately, every year: a '50s sock hop complete with poodle skirts, a French Revolution party, a country and western party. There was a party everyone dressed up in all the guises of the First Lady they could think of; reading, as a young lawyer, a new mother, a bride, and their interpretation of Mrs. Clinton as First Lady.

The President shares a summer birthday with Tipper Gore, and they've often celebrated together. Often with parties held on the White House grounds. The guests

include celebrations for these political appointees and many of the White House employees, along with friends and family. One year the theme was nostalgia, and Motown group the Four Tops was invited to play. They were accompanied at one point by the President and his saxophone and Mrs. Gore on the drums. Another time the theme was Western, with all the chiefs of staff attending mounted on horseback. And Pastry Chef Mesnier honors each milestone with a birthday cake.

The President and Mrs. Clinton also like to entertain with movie nights. These evening make take place in the White House screening room which can hold up to sixty people, often with an informal supper afterward. One of the smallest such gatherings held there was the night of the 1996 election, when Mrs. Clinton elected to watch a movie with a couple of friends rather than the earliest election returns.

Living among the artifacts of history as its stewards, the Clintons, like the First Families that came before them, have also made this house their home. They've watched their daughter grow up in the residence, marked births in their family, and deaths, come to feel a part of the larger, extended family of the White House, and a part of its history as well. When the Clintons depart the White House for their next home, and the next occupants move in, they'll also leave a part of themselves behind for history.

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CHAPTER SIX/EXPLORING IDEAS

There wasn't a dry eye in the White House the day President and Mrs. Clinton hosted the Adoption Event in November, 1998. The President had set a goal in 1996 of doubling adoptions and permanent placements from the child welfare system, where 100,000 children are awaiting homes; over the next year, adoptions increased by ten percent. At the event, held during National Adoption Month, the President was to announce concerted new efforts to facilitate adoptions, to expand the use of the Internet to share information, break down geographic barriers to adoption, and shorten the time needed to find families for children and children for families. The honored guests were twenty-four newly formed families celebrating adoptions made final that day, along with other children's advocates, ^{and} adoption professionals, ^{Other attendees included} ~~and, among others,~~ Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's and one of adoption's great advocates, and Washington's mayor-elect, Anthony Williams, himself an adoptee. The event was held in the East Room, which grew silent that day when Mayor Williams rose to talk about how much his adoptive family had meant to him, and what might have happened to him otherwise. ^{When} ~~As~~ he finished, he introduced 12-year-old Charday Mays, ~~adopted that very day,~~ who spoke with emotional eloquence about what it meant to her to have found her family. She then introduced the President. ^{And so} ~~Thus was~~ the East Room, a room that has so often welcomed

kings, queens, and illustrious heads of state, ^{was} transformed by the primal power of familial love, and the power of policy to foster it.

The White House hosts dozens of such events every year, honoring Americans whose ideas and good efforts have made a difference, Americans who work, so to speak, in the trenches of American life to contribute to a better life for us all. Naturally, the kinds of events held and the breadth of policy, to say nothing of the kinds of ideas, celebrated will vary from administration to administration, ^{and} _{in} the case of the Clinton administration, the ideas explored have ranged from children's, family, and health care issues to violence against women, the needs of the disabled, and the essential importance of religious authority as we face the complex challenges of life at the end of this century.

How do such events come about? In some cases, they have a precedent in White House history. First Lady Lucy Hayes, for example, whose husband, Rutherford B. Hayes, was inaugurated in 1877, was the first to introduce morning prayer to the House; much later, during World War II, the idea of a National Prayer Breakfast emerged, to discuss the problems of the War and pray for peace; this breakfast, which draws in members of Congress, is typically held annually at a hotel or large gathering place in Washington. Mrs. Clinton, ~~however~~, a devout Methodist, decided with her prayer breakfasts to bring the idea closer to home. Because she strongly believes that our spiritual ^{life is} ~~leaders~~ are as important as our secular ^{life} ~~leaders~~, she decided to invite the nation's spiritual leaders every year in September, after the summer holiday, to pray, to bless the People's House, and to engage in a dialogue about the issues of the day. These nondenominational prayer breakfasts ^{are} ~~held~~ without the press invited in the State Dining Room, ^{and} ~~seemed to draw our~~

to which the press are not invited

~~religious leaders together into our secular lives, and and also signal a new beginning, every~~

~~year.~~ HAVE THEY ACTUALLY BEEN HELD EVERY YEAR?

Other events come about in response to the news of the day, either to celebrate a national triumph such as man's landing on the moon (HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A

TRIUMPH CELEBRATED IN CLINTON YEARS?), or to ~~share a private moment or a~~ ^{main}

~~word of condolence with victims of a national tragedy,~~ ^{both publicly and privately.} as the Clintons did with the

~~Denny family from Oklahoma City~~ ^{of the Denny family} after two of their four children ~~were~~ ^{one of their} seriously hurt in

the bombing of the Murrah Federal Office Building in 1995. Because ~~their injured child~~ ^{Dennis's}

was having brain surgery, they ~~had~~ ^{had} been unable to attend the memorial service over which

President Clinton presided after the bombing. Upon learning this, he invited the family to

the White House ~~at a later time,~~ ^{the} poignant meeting with the President and Mrs.

Clinton was held some months later.

Most of the "ideas" events, on the other hand, are months in the planning, involve dozens of staffers, and reflect Mrs. Clinton's longtime commitment to ~~the cause at hand~~ ^{a particular}

Take the White House Conference on Child Care held on October 23, 1997—the first time

that the White House had showcased this issue, which is ~~so~~ ^{and our futures} important not only to our

children but also to our national prosperity. Both President and Mrs. Clinton had worked

on the issue for years, as had the Domestic Policy team and the First Lady's staff, meeting

with childcare experts and dropping in on childcare centers; holding focus groups with

experts; ~~setting up roundtable discussions with business leaders involved in childcare~~ ^{and}

~~giving speeches on the subject.~~ ^{many facets of} Yet ~~the subject had never been tied together into one~~

cohesive conference, and Mrs. Clinton wanted it given the ~~grave~~ ^a imprint of the White

House ^{event} to broadcast the message to the nation--how far we've come, how far we still need to go to assure available, affordable, safe, quality childcare nationwide. Everyone on her staff, from policy experts to those in the social office, ^{worked to make the} ~~began to put together the~~ conference ^{a reality.}

If you talk to anyone who works closely with the First Lady, one word ^{that} comes up over and over again: inclusive. Mrs. Clinton is avid in her desire to bring as many people to the White House as possible, and also to give credit where credit is due--in this case, to childcare workers themselves. ~~As the conference was organized~~ ^{on one of} ~~two panels~~ ^{scheduled} ~~for which a~~ wide variety of experts were asked to participate, ^{were set up,} one for the morning session and one for the afternoon session; ^{panels} the First Lady would host a lunch in the dining room in between, and a reception on the South Lawn after the afternoon session. In all, there were to be 150 guests, including, ~~among others,~~ members of Congress, governors and other state and local officials, experts, businesspeople, economists, ^{of course} and childcare providers themselves, whose work is so vital to our nation. ^{of contacts} ~~By now,~~ Mrs. Clinton's Social Office has an unbelievably wide network ^{all over the country,} and they were faced with the happy (albeit difficult) chance of choosing a number of childcare workers to invite (to a one, all of whom were awed by their invitation to the White House, created with the same care that goes into ~~any~~ an invitation to a state dinner). Several hundred additional people were invited to three Federal agencies to watch the proceedings by satellite, and the Conference was also broadcast live via satellite to more than 100 locations in at least 48 states.

There is no better platform than the White House to elevate and celebrate issues and ideas in this way, ^{and each event} reaches out to America, and brings America in, in the

same way. Although, strictly speaking, policy is not enacted at an issues event, these White House forums amplify initiatives to the public, sometimes further grassroots movement in a given area, and draw attention to work that remains to be done. In this way, Mrs. Clinton has highlighted [#]such programs as Healthy Families America, which helps at-risk mothers and mothers-to-be; publicized the work the Pediatric Aids Foundation has done to reduce prenatal transmission of the disease; celebrated with a special ceremony the signing of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; welcomed Health Security Express participants and endorsed their work toward universal health insurance coverage; hosted a breakfast to draw attention to advances made in breast cancer research; and demonstrated, at a reception, this administration's commitment to reducing teen pregnancy—among scores of other such events. This is democracy at work, welcoming ideas to the People's House, and sending them back to the people.

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CHAPTER ONE/PRESERVING THE HOUSE FOR HISTORY/INTRO

Why should the Blue Room be blue?

If you were to eavesdrop on a meeting of the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, this is precisely the kind of question you'd hear debated among the Committee members, a distinguished panel of historians, curators, interior designers, and experts on every aspect of American furniture, art, and the decorative arts. You'd learn that, in fact, the Blue Room was originally crimson, once had yellow draperies, and wasn't predominantly blue until 1837, when Martin Van Buren chose the color by which the room would be known. Redecorated any number of times since (in various shades of blue), this formal oval room once even featured lion-skin rug, a gift to Franklin Roosevelt. So when Mrs. Clinton and the Committee set about refurbishing the Blue Room, which badly needed it, their starting-point question was: which Blue Room do you go back to use as?

It's a question that resonates with every change proposed for the State rooms of the White House, and it's only fairly recently that the process to answer it has been firmly in place. When Jacqueline Kennedy arrived at the White House in 1961, she was concerned that the history of the White House, as reflected in its furnishings, art, and artifacts, wasn't being protected, the way it would be in a museum. Indeed, early presidents had routinely auctioned off unfashionable furnishings and, until Mrs. Kennedy's arrival, there was no curatorial staff to catalogue and maintain what was, in fact, priceless collection of American art and furniture, and decorative objects. At her

urging, in 1961 Congress passed a law to preserve the museum quality of the public rooms; that same year, again at her urging, the White House Historical Association was formed, to enhance appreciation of the house nationwide, and to publish a guidebook. Since then, the Association has created a thriving publishing program, the proceeds of which are poured back into the White House. In 1964, under executive order, the Preservation Committee was established as well. In this way, the systems for restoring and renovating the White House, as well as making it home for the future, were set in place.

Working closely with the Committee, Mrs. Clinton has immersed herself in the history of the House, and the related history of American furniture, fabrics, wallpaper, art, and interior design--a steep (and sometimes daunting) learning curve, the gleaming results of which will leave a lasting legacy throughout many of the historic rooms in the White House. In 1995, she oversaw a complete renovation of the Blue Room, the first in more than twenty years, replacing the worn carpet with an new carpet of 19th century design, and replacing the soiled, worn, and sun-damaged draperies and upholstery in sapphire blue, replicating fabrics from the 1800s. In addition to her work in the formal rooms in the residence, she has also overseen the restoration of the Entrance Hall, Cross Hall, and Grand Staircase, their first redecoration since 1973, of the State Dining Room, and of the East Room—achievements that are meant to last for the next twenty-five years.

Endowment Dinner

Such improvements as these are funded by publishing proceeds from the White

House Historical Association, and also from private donation; collectively, these funds comprise the White House Endowment Fund, founded in 1974 under the Johnson (I THINK) administration. The Fund's goal had long been to reach \$25 million, and stood at \$12.5 million when Mrs. Clinton began serving as honorary chair in 1993. Under her passionate leadership that goal has been met—by all accounts, a stunning achievement. Today, with all the recent restorations and improvements, including the completion of those begun in earlier administration, the White House stands prouder than it has in years.

Only those deeply involved in caring for this living museum can truly understand the hundreds of details that must be considered before contemplating any change. In a room like the State Dining Room, for example, the carpet must be chosen to withstand the 50,000 invited guests who will dine there (some of whom will also, inevitably, spill there) every year. The carpet chosen has to be historically accurate, in keeping with the colonial revival style of the room. Because the function of the room comes into play with design decisions, and the room is often used during the day, the carpet can't be too dark, which would make the room appear gloomy. And it can't be too light--consider the traffic. While it might be historically correct to feature a medallion design on the carpet, that won't work, either, because tables have to be arranged in many different ways, depending on the event being held there. The pattern must also be forgiving of spills and stains. The new carpet ultimately chosen, a field pattern in warm colors, satisfies all these needs. The new carpet for the East Room had to meet these standards, plus an additional condition: Because events in the room often open to the press and television cameras, this carpet one would often have to be rolled up. The size of the room made the task of rolling

up and removing a carpet a daunting task. The solution? Three carpets, only one of which needed to be removed at a time.

When the Endowment reception and dinner were held to celebrate the Fund's having reached its goal, Mrs. Clinton wanted to include everyone involved from previous administrations, regardless of their affiliation, since the Fund's inception—and she did. Bolts of fabric from the Blue Room and other decorating projects (later packed away, to be used, as needed, for mending), decorated tables, and three former Presidents chatted with President Clinton in the Treaty Room in the residence. The evening was metaphor for the White House itself, bringing the past and present together, always on behalf of the future.

Note

CHAPTER ONE/PRESERVING THE HOUSE FOR HISTORY/INTRO

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When the Endowment reception and dinner were held, then, to celebrate the
Fund's having reached its goal, Mrs. Clinton wanted to include everyone involved from
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did. Bolts of fabric from the Blue Room *and other decorating projects* *(later packed away, to be used later, as needed,*
for mending) decorated the tables, and three former Presidents mingled with President
Clinton in the Treaty Room in the residence, ~~which also has been refurbished.~~ The evening
was a metaphor for the White House itself, bringing the past and present together, always
on behalf of the future.

CHAPTER TWO: BEHIND THE SCENES

If there's any doubt that the White House is, above all else, the First Family's home, then Buddy's playful barking, echoing up and down the halls after his daily walks on the grounds, will convince you otherwise. To the Clintons' brown Labrador ^{and} to Socks, their cat, as much as to the Clintons themselves, this is home. ^{to Making This House a Home} And there's the domestic heart of the White House: the First Family always comes first. At the same time, however, the White House opens its doors to America and the world with tours and special events nearly every day of the year, and the behind-the-scenes effort, not to mention the public scrutiny, that goes into every such visit is almost unimaginable. Despite the pressure, and ^{the pace} ~~perhaps~~ surprisingly, the White House is as remarkably friendly and happy a place to work as it is awe-inspiring to visit. "How can I put it?" reflects Gary Walters, Chief Usher since 1976. "I just love coming to work every day." Indeed, most people who sign on to work on Walters' staff ^{stay until retirement} ~~sign on for life~~, and their reverence and affection for the House, its history, and its occupants is thrilling—and contagious. ^{It was} ~~You can feel it.~~ Like every

The notion of a chief usher (or any usher, for that matter) would surely have relieved John and Abigail Adams, the first occupants, who moved in with their two servants from home late in the autumn of 1800. ^{White House} The place was unfinished, sparsely furnished, and bitterly cold, with firewood scarce. Mrs. Adams was forced to string the East Room with clotheslines, and use it to dry clothes. Even so, both President and Mrs. Adams felt the promise of the place, and the power it would one day represent. ^{It was} ~~Like every~~

John Adams who said

family that followed, they left an imprint on the House, fittingly in Adams' well loved

benediction: "I pray Heaven to bestow the best blessings on this house, and on all that

shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof!"

President and Mrs. Adams departed

Ever since their departure, a short four months after their arrival, Adams having lost the well:

election to Thomas Jefferson, but continued to grow

the House has been growing in stature and splendor, its routines and systems being developed, tested, fine-tuned, updated, and, finally, sanctified as White

House ritual.

Ritual that changes with each administration, that is. It's the staff's job first and

foremost to adapt to the needs and preferences of the First Family is residence, and those

preferences change with the arrival of every newly elected President. President and Mrs.

Clinton remembers, being awakened by, for example, a knock on their door at 5:30 the morning after the

President's first inauguration, and after they'd attended some thirteen inaugural balls. It

was a butler bearing coffee. The Bushes, notoriously early risers, had always had their

coffee at 5:30, while watching the earliest news programs, and then walked their dog out

on the grounds. The Clintons, however, prefer breakfast a little later. Another time early

on, Mrs. Clinton recalls a early in their residence and Mrs. Clinton remembers that one day when Chelsea wasn't feeling well, she wanted

scrambled eggs and applesauce, so she called downstairs to ask if the

ingredients could be sent upstairs to the residence. More accustomed to making eggs and

applesauce than to delivering the raw ingredients, the kitchen staff went on full alert and

called Capricia Marshall, then the First Lady's personal assistant, asking was anything

wrong? Why would the First Lady want eggs and apples? Marshall assured them that all

was fine; the First Lady was simply more accustomed to the more informal atmosphere of the Governor's Mansion.

It may come as a surprise learn how many people actually work in the house itself, but when you consider its size and the functions it serves in American life—home to the First Family; guest quarters to visiting dignitaries; a museum open to the public; ^{the} repository of a major collection of American furniture, art, and artifacts; ^{the} site of up to a dozen events ^{1/4} a week; and office of the President and First Lady—then the ninety people who tend the

house, tucked away in offices just out of public view, seem a modest staff indeed. Ushers, butlers, housekeepers, electricians, plumbers, painters, curators, calligraphers, florists, and the chefs bring the house to life every day as they go about their business, which is keeping the nation's home in perfect order. At 50,000 square ^{feet} per floor, and four

stories tall, this is a house that could easily echo—but it's ^{always filled with people} simply too busy. The First Lady's social office, located in the East Wing, and the offices of her national security and domestic policy staff, two buildings away in the Old Executive Office Building, are also an integral part of the White House, and these people—who research policy and plan the myriad events to highlight it—are regular fixtures as well in Walters' office, a paneled room, with the feel of a captain's stateroom, right near the kitchen with a study behind (OR IS IT UPSTAIRS?) it: White House central.

Just SA

From early morning on, this household is arguably the busiest in the world. On one given spring morning well before eight, for instance, a butler awaits the elevator in the kitchen to take him upstairs to the residence, bearing a cart with breakfast for Mrs. Clinton and her guest, Kaki Hookersmith, a longtime ^{friend} associate from Arkansas and member of the

9 The Chief Usher's job combines the duties of running a home, a hotel, and a museum all at the same time. From the moment President Clinton was elected (even as he continued to oversee the Bush White House) Walters worked with Mrs. Clinton, reviewing the White House briefing book to help her choose the paintings, desks, carpets, and other furnishings she would choose for her new home. He supervised setting up rooms for Chelsea, reviewed the Clinton's dietary preferences, and found out everything he could to assure their comfort from the moment they moved in after the inauguration.

That the House looks perfect every day, down to the neatly aligned grids of logs in every fireplace, for the tours is his Chief Usher Walter's responsibility, and he is involved in every event that takes place in the White House. His encyclopedic knowledge of how things have been done before is essential to planning how things might be-- or can be--done next time.

and decoration
who has played a major role in the renovation of the House
 Committee for the Preservation of the White House. The hallway carpets on the state floor are being rolled up, as they are every day, in readiness for the tours; some 30,000 visitors pass through the House each week during the busiest season, 1.24 million every year. This particular day, as it happens, another carpet has just arrived, the beautiful, long anticipated carpet for the newly *decorated* State Dining Room, which weavers in Grand Rapids, Michigan, have been working on for a year and a half. *the carpet* *It* *and polished* *overscen by Ms. Hockersmith*
Hockersmith, will be rolled out *later this morning*.

compact *Executive*
 In his gleaming (and amazingly *tiny*) kitchen, *compact* Chef Walter Scheib, the first American-born White House chef to have trained at the esteemed American Culinary Institute in Hyde Park, New York, is talking on the phone. He's been here since six. *Chef Scheib*
 estimates that he serves ten or fifteen thousand dinner and reception guests a month (not including Christmastime, when he serves far more), and also *supervises* all the First Family's private *meals* dining and entertaining. When Mrs. Clinton hired him in 1994, *out of* among the thousands of chefs who applied for the job, her *goal* mandate was to make the food as good, and as American, as that in the best American restaurants, *reflecting the ascent in recent decades of American food to world-class cuisine*.

This was almost a revolutionary (and, at the time, controversial) *decision* mandate, particularly since White House *offerings* cuisine had traditionally *been heavily influenced* *cuisine* *Chef* *to the challenge* *inspiration* *drawn from cuisines all over the world--yet remains thoroughly American. To Scheib's* *delight, growers and purveyors all over the country have responded, and are eager to*

present the White House with their best ^{products and produce} creations, often before they're presented to the rest of the country. ^{Chef Mesnier has} Thus ~~has~~ the chef initiated a culinary dialogue (not to mention

(tastings) with all of America, and been able to track down such indigenous boutique

ingredients as American caviar, ^{for salads} the first miniature greens, seasonal fish and foods of all ^{wild} kinds, American "Japanese" mushrooms, specialty cheeses, even American-bred bison.

In the pastry kitchen, ^{they} a ^{mezzanine} space just above Chef Schelb's and tinier.

Pastry Chef Roland Mesnier and his assistant, Franette McCullough, are researching the dessert for a state dinner some months off—every dessert for a state occasion is an original creation, some raspberry tarts are already baking in the oven, for a small dinner the

President is hosting this evening. In the White House, which epitomizes all that's

American, Mesnier, down to his accent, is ^{as} the one decidedly French grace note, and a beloved member of the household. He started as an apprentice baker at age fourteen, and came to the White House during the Carter administration; Mrs. Carter hired him after just one interview. The first pastry chef in America to receive France's prestigious Pastry Chef of the Year Award, Mesnier is utterly gifted, ^{and the} ^{simply} ~~and the~~ desserts he creates aren't just baked, ^{they} They're built or sculpted or spun or molded or crafted, combining textures and the subtle distinctions in sweetness, ~~and usually they're prepared in honor of someone; these~~

creations tell a story, and the honor is always apparent. Mrs. Clinton's "lighter fare" ^{for the White House kitchen} ~~mandate extends to dessert as well—sometimes,~~ Mesnier often prepares enticing fruit

sorbets or light pastries garnished with fruit, ^{and} with just a drizzle of sauce. ^{to} Other times,

^{for Mrs. Clinton's} ~~dessert is dessert,~~ ^{Chef Mesnier might} ~~and for an all-out birthday celebration, for example, the lighter fare~~ ^{prepare} ~~mandate doesn't apply.~~ a luscious Hotcha Cake, displayed

on an exquisite stand crafted entirely of sugar.

As she does every morning, Nancy Clarke, the Chief Floral Designer, is passing through each of the state rooms, checking the flower arrangements the public will see when the tours begin. Spent blossoms are removed and replaced, ^{fresh} water added, the flowers recycled and the arrangements made to last as long as they can. Clarke and ^{at hand} depending on the occasion, up to three other White House florists work from a fully equipped flower shop ^{located} down a maze of hallways on the ground floor, where a poster on the wall reads: LINE, MASS, FORM, ROSE, FILLER, the principles of floral design. The shop (a far cry from the lavish conservatories and greenhouses the White House used to have, which were torn down to accommodate the West Wing) is wonderfully functional, with ^{room-sized} florist's refrigerator filled from wall-to-wall and drains in the cement floors and a huge, chilled ^{room} to hold the flowers as they arrive.

Clarke, ^{She and her staff} who first signed on as a volunteer during the Carter administration, ^{are} responsible for all the flowers in the state rooms, the residence, the West Wing, and the flowers that adorn every event held at the White House. ^{The arrangements} flowers that ^{they} sometimes serve ceremonial purposes, arrangements to honor the visitors and guests, and to complement the rooms, not serve as a distraction. With every upcoming event, she works very closely with Mrs. Clinton, who ^{she} tends, she says, whether it's a state dinner or a press picnic, "to prefer a very American arrangement, one of sophisticated simplicity, not as rigid or complicated as an old master's look, which years ago defined White House style." Over the years, ^{and air shipping has made a greater variety} as Americans have taken increasingly to the garden, she has seen the availability of fresh flowers increase, and has wholesalers nationwide, eager to help the White House ^{Each First Lady puts her individual} stamp on the White House flowers in any way they can. Whereas Barbara Bush leaned toward blues, pinks, and lavenders,

wall-to-wall and floor to ceiling with color and fragrance flower.

of flowers available

and Nancy Reagan before her toward red and white, Mrs. Clinton tends to prefer flowers and arrangements in a warm color range: peach, pale yellow, shades of orange, and rusts.

Throughout the House, too, representatives from the National Parks Service care for the potted plants, and the White House gardeners look after the extensive gardens,

where the Clintons, perhaps more than their recent predecessors, especially like to hold ^{outdoors} events in the warmer months. Indeed, a ^{pavilion} tent will be set up later today, and used to host

about five different events and ceremonies in the coming week. When potted plants or shrubs are used to decorate the tents, to give them the enclosed sensibility of a beautiful room, the Parks Service ^{is responsible} is behind it, while Clarke and her staff supply the accompanying flower arrangements ^{that decorate the tables.}

Downstairs on the ground floor, in the Diplomatic ^{Reception} Room (known as the "Dip Room" to staffers), one of the House's three curators ^{turns} is turning an early nineteenth-century chair upside down, as he did when Mrs. Clinton first arrived and asked for a guided tour from the curatorial perspective. Looking closely, you can see dozens of tiny nail holes on the square frame supporting the seat, indicating how many times the chair has been reupholstered. Because the frame is weakened every time a chair is reupholstered, most museums would have upholstered this chair in period fabric long ago, then ^{placed} placed it

^{in perpetuity} in perpetuity behind protective glass to prevent wear, tear, and fading. Because the White House is a living museum, however, and these chairs are used every day (particularly in this room, the first room that visiting dignitaries see upon being welcomed to the White House), curators had to devise a means to protect the frames. ^{Thus, ingeniously,} Thus, ingeniously, these chairs are supported either by copper plating, ^{is} as on this chair, or canvas webbing, ^{is} as on

the facing chair. Similarly, the valuable nineteenth-century table between the chairs has a protective glass top on it, ~~which enables the "living" to enjoy, and live in, the "museum."~~

^{where duties were}
The curatorial staff, ~~which was formalized under Mrs. Kennedy,~~ oversees the possessions in the House that belong to the American people, everything from the ~~extraordinary~~ collection of White House china to the Gettysburg Address that hangs in the Lincoln bedroom. Closely involved with the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, as well as with Mrs. Clinton, they, too, are involved with preserving the past as well as bringing the future into the mansion, ~~all the while keeping the perspective of the past alive.~~

Up until sometime in the Eisenhower administration, the White House was virtually closed down between Memorial Day and Labor Day, ~~the season over.~~ Today, ~~the season is never over.~~ Even when President and Mrs. Clinton are traveling on state business or on holiday, the House is alive, with planning, with the next scheduled event, with the maintenance of the house that, more than any other emblem of our democracy, holds pride of place in the hearts of every American.