



THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Holiday Book Festival Friday, December 5, 2025

(Washington, D.C.) – The White House Historical Association will hold its annual [holiday book festival](#) on Friday, December 5. Free and open to the public, the event will feature book signings with nearly 30 of the Association's best-selling authors.

WHEN: Friday, December 5, 2025, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

WHERE: The White House Historical Association, Carriage House, 1610 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

NEW BOOK LAUNCH

To celebrate the first day of sale of his new memoir, former White House Chief Usher **Gary J. Walters** will be on hand to sign [*White House Memories, 1970–2007: Recollections of the Longest Serving Chief Usher*](#). The first memoir by a White House chief usher since J.B. West's best-selling *Upstairs at the White House* was released in 1973, *White House Memories* presents for the first time the history behind the scenes witnessed by Walters, the longest-serving chief usher in White House history. Walters tells the stories of life as lived in the White House by seven presidents and their families, from Richard Nixon to George W. Bush. He remembers State Dinners, Congressional Picnics, Peace Treaties, 9/11, a helicopter crash, and Inaugurations, as well as assassination attempts, ping-pong competitions, surprise birthday parties, movie nights, and the birth of puppies.

Also at this year's Book Festival:

- The public will be welcomed by **President Thomas Jefferson** (as portrayed by actor-interpreter **Bill Barker**). He will also sign his book, *Becoming Jefferson*.
- Artist **Peter Waddell** will discuss his monumental painting *The Indispensable Plan*, which depicts the City of Washington as Pierre Charles L'Enfant laid it out in his 1791 plan. Of special interest is Waddell's vision of how the White House would have looked had it been built at five times its actual size as designed by L'Enfant. The painting is featured in *White House History Quarterly* #79 "The White House That Wasn't."

- **Dr. John Hutton** will provide attendees with drawing lessons from his latest book, [*How to Draw the Presidents and First Ladies*](#), and sign nine other children’s books featuring his work.
- **John Wroty Ficklin** will sign bookplates for his forthcoming book *An Unusual Path: Three Generations from Slavery to the White House*. Now on presale, the book will be released in February 2026.
- **Pastry Chef Mark Ramsdell** will sign two books he co-authored with Chef Roland Mesnier—*The White House in Gingerbread: Memories & Recipes* and *Creating the Sweet World of White House Desserts*.
- **Adrian Miller**, winner of two James Beard Awards, will sign his latest book *Asian Heritage Chefs in White House History: Cooking to the President's Taste* as well as *The President's Kitchen Cabinet*, *Soul Food*, and *Black Smoke*.
- **William Allman** will sign the new edition of *Official White House China*.
- **Former White House Curators William Allman, Lydia Tederick, and Melissa Naulin** will sign *Furnishing the White House*.
- **Anita McBride and Gigi McBride** will be on hand to sign their award-winning children's book, *First Ladies Make History*.
- **Diana Carlin, Anita McBride, Nancy Kegan Smith** will sign *Remember the First Ladies*.
- **Mary Jo Binker** will sign *If You Ask Me: Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt* and a collection of her articles featured in *White House History Quarterly*.
- **Stewart McLaurin** will be available to sign his new book *The People's House Miscellany: A Treasury of White House History, Fun Facts, and Things to Know*.
- **Christi Harlan** will sign *Mr. President, The Class is Yours: Jimmy Carter's Sunday School Lessons in Washington, D.C.* and *Normal Lives*.
- **Melinda Dart** will sign *A Glimpse of Greatness: The Memoir of Irineo Esperancilla*, which captures the amazing experience of her grandfather a Filipino American who quietly served his family, his country and four presidents of the United States.
- **Bruce M. White** will sign *At Home in the President's Neighborhood: A Photographic Tour*.
- **Christina Ewald** will sign her article about tailor Martin Greenfield in *White House History Quarterly* #77 “The White House and World War II.”
- **Jonathan Pliska** will sign *A Garden for the President* and two children's books, *Kid's Play* and *President's Play*.

- **Rocco Smirne** will sign *Rocco Keeps the Beat!*, his fourth book on White House history. He takes us on a musical journey to explore how music has been used to welcome and entertain thousands of people to the White House for more than two hundred years.
- **Christy Bowe** will sign *History in the Making: A Focus on Five U.S. Presidents*.
- Special tables featuring the published work of late White House Curator **Betty C. Monkman** and the late historian **William Seale**.

Since 1962, the White House Historical Association has produced award-winning books on subjects related to the history of the President's House—from its architecture, gardens, fine and decorative arts to the presidential families and those who have worked there over the years.

Books are also available at shop.whitehousehistory.org.

For more information about this event, contact press@whha.org.

About The White House Historical Association

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy envisioned a restored White House that conveyed a sense of history through its decorative and fine arts. In 1961, the White House Historical Association was established to support her vision to preserve and share the Executive Mansion's legacy for generations to come. Supported entirely by private resources, the Association's mission is to assist in the preservation of the state and public rooms, fund acquisitions for the White House permanent collection, and educate the public on the history of the White House. Since its founding, the White House Historical Association has contributed more than \$115 million in fulfillment of its mission. To learn more about the White House Historical Association, please visit www.whitehousehistory.org.

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