



Shine  
GIVE  
Share

HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE 2011



### THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

During the holiday season, examples of this year's White House decorations will be on display at the Visitor Center. The Center is located inside the north end of the Department of Commerce building, between 14th and 15th Streets at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. You will find interesting exhibits, tourist information, and helpful staff to answer your questions.

### IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to the Executive Residence staff, *agencyEA*, Stephanie Jessica Gilliam, Jami Chiang, Emily Thompson, and the many volunteers from around the country for decorating the White House this holiday season. We greatly appreciate the beautiful artwork for this holiday booklet. The featured illustrations were drawn by high school students Olivia Bruce and Brandon Martinez from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, and Meta Carr, Mary Elcano, Aidan Elisabeth Fredericks, Eleanor Graves, Annemarie Heekin, Sarah Miller, Erin Schwartz, and Lois Rothman from the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design.

Thanks to the hard work and creativity of those involved, this year's holiday decorations reflect the spirit of service and common values that define our Nation.

**T**hank you for visiting the White House as we celebrate the countless ways we can lift up those around us, and take time to reflect on the opportunities we have throughout the season to shine, give, and share.

Time and again, our Nation's strength is revealed when we join together in common purpose. This holiday season, we recognize that each of us holds the power to make a difference in our world through service to one another, whether we serve in uniform to protect all that we hold dear, or share our gifts in our classrooms and neighborhoods. Each act of service touches others in ways we may never see, while guiding us toward an ever-brightening future.

May the sparkling brilliance of the People's House, and all it represents, remain with us throughout the year, and may it remind us to reflect the light and joy of this season each day in our service to each other.

We send warm wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy new year.

 *Michelle Obama*





## EAST VISITOR ENTRANCE AND LANDING

Our history has been shaped by Americans who have given of themselves to strengthen our Nation, and this holiday season we celebrate this enduring tradition at the White House. Decorated with silver garland and trees adorned with the *Shine, Give, Share* ribbon, the East Wing Lobby captures the warmth of the holidays and welcomes visitors from across our country.

On the East Landing, the Gold Star Families Tree pays tribute to those who gave their lives in service to our Nation and to the families who continue to carry their proud legacy forward. Photos of these fallen heroes and messages from their loved ones honor their courageous service and remind us of the great sacrifices made for our freedom.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to these heroes, and to all those who serve our country in uniform. By taking a moment to write a note of thanks to a service member, you can show your appreciation to these remarkable Americans.

GROUND FLOOR  
EAST GARDEN ROOM, VERMEIL ROOM, LIBRARY, AND CHINA ROOM

**B**right jewel tones, playful paper trees, and colorful felt garland help set the scene for the charming topiary of the First Family's dog in the East Garden Room. Bo, a rambunctious Portuguese water dog, can often be seen throughout the White House, and this holiday season is no different—if you look carefully you can spot Bo in just about every room.

On the Ground Floor, hundreds of delicate handmade snowflakes nestled between copper, bronze, and plum ribbon create an enchanting canopy. In the Library, a room filled with over 2,700 books, there is a display of original and replicated holiday cards, letters, and seasonal memorabilia dating back to the Eisenhower Administration.

The first holiday greeting issued by a President was in 1927, when President Calvin Coolidge had a Christmas message printed in newspapers around the country. President and Mrs. Hoover sent engraved cards bearing the Presidential Seal as thanks for the hundreds of holiday cards and gifts they received during their time in the White House. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a Christmas card featuring the White House to staff and friends, and in 1944 he expanded the holiday card mailing list to include Heads of State. President Dwight Eisenhower included Ambassadors, Members of Congress, and Cabinet Secretaries. Today, this tradition continues.



In the Vermeil Room, seasonal greenery trims the mantel and the gilded silver, for which the room is named, shines in the light from the trees in each window. The glowing warmth of this room reminds us of the hospitality and remarkable contributions of all our First Ladies, seven of whom are portrayed in the artwork adorning the walls.

The George W. Bush State China is displayed in the China Room, set for a wonderful holiday gathering in celebration of the time-honored tradition of sharing meals with our families and friends.

## EAST ROOM

The East Room, the largest in the White House, has transformed into a wintry scene set with shimmering snowflake ornaments and paper leaves that decorate four Christmas trees.



Since 1835, when President Andrew Jackson created an indoor winter wonderland for children—complete with a cotton ball snowball fight—the East Room has been part of the White House holiday tradition. The first official White House Christmas tree was set up in the East Room in the late 1920s, and during the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, the tree sparkled with silver tinsel between the paintings of President George Washington and First Lady Martha Washington that remain in this room today.

## GREEN ROOM

Handcrafted, glittering gold and silver trees made of recycled aluminum decorate the Green Room, drawing attention to the timeless elegance of this storied space. Throughout much of its existence, the Green Room has served as a parlor for teas and receptions. President Thomas Jefferson used it as a dining room, and President John Quincy Adams named it the Green Drawing Room in 1825 for the color of the draperies and upholsteries.



## BLUE ROOM

The spirit of service and selflessness we see in our troops, veterans, and their families represents what is best about America. Their strength and commitment to our country inspire us all, and this holiday season we celebrate the contributions of these heroes and honor their sacrifice.

The centerpiece of the Blue Room is the official White House Christmas tree—a breathtaking 18-foot-6-inch balsam fir from Neshkoro, Wisconsin—which features holiday cards from military children. Collected from United States military installations around the world, these thoughtful and poignant cards honor their parents serving in uniform. Medals, badges, and patches from all of the military branches are displayed on ornaments, and ribbons inspired by the Armed Forces colors represent the brave women and men who protect our Nation and defend our freedom.

In communities all across our Nation, our service members and their families are heroes living among us. During this season of giving, each American can find ways to support our military families. To connect with service members, veterans, and military families in your community, please visit: [www.JoiningForces.gov](http://www.JoiningForces.gov).

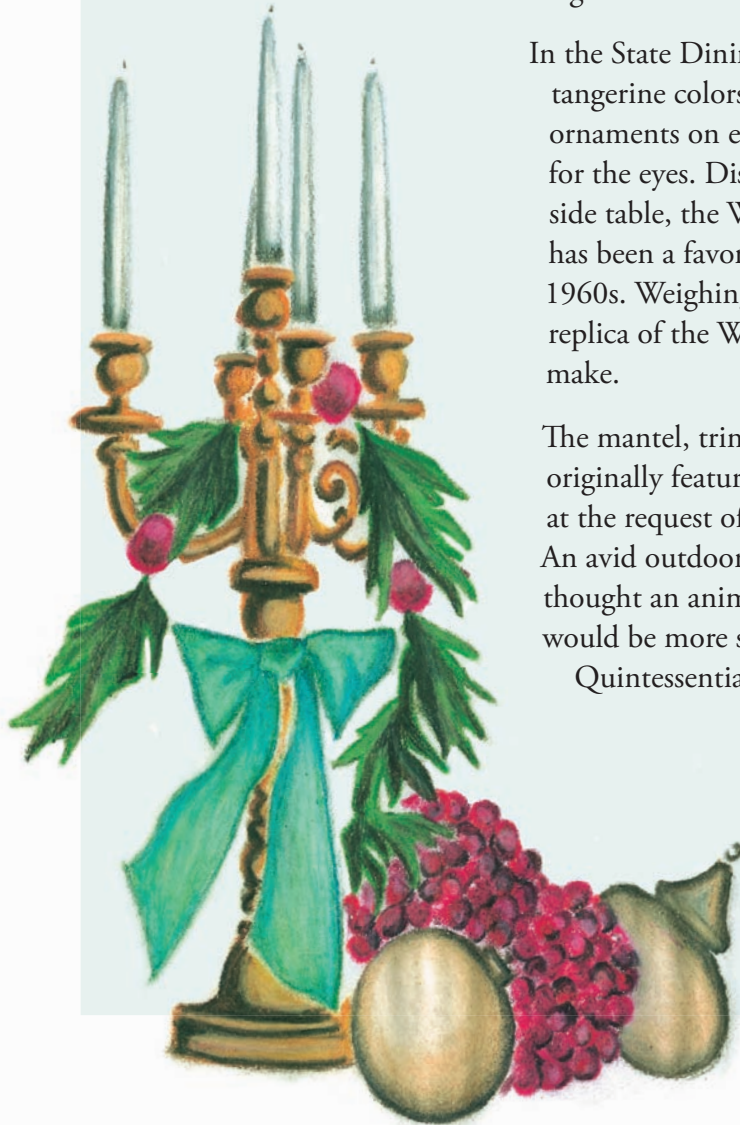






## RED ROOM AND STATE DINING ROOM

A lush arrangement of seasonal flowers, fruit, and foliage, set in a handmade cranberry-covered vase, continues the holiday tradition of including cranberries in the Red Room.



In the State Dining Room, vivid coral and tangerine colors, along with shimmering ruby ornaments on each of the trees, offer a feast for the eyes. Displayed on the eagle-pedestal side table, the White House gingerbread house has been a favorite holiday tradition since the 1960s. Weighing 300 pounds, this accurate replica of the White House took six weeks to make.

The mantel, trimmed with frasier fir garland, originally featured lions until it was replaced at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt. An avid outdoorsman, President Roosevelt thought an animal native to the United States would be more suitable for this stately room.

Quintessential American bison now frame the fireplace, which is especially fitting in the very room where Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis planned the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1802.



More than a century later, President Herbert Hoover was hosting a special holiday party on Christmas Eve for young people in the State Dining Room when a fire broke out in the West Wing. Upon learning of the fire, he directed the Marine Band to strike up a lively tune and rushed out into the frosty night to oversee the removal of important papers from the Oval Office. First Lady Lou Hoover stayed behind to keep the festivities going in the house. President Hoover later invited the children, who had attended the gathering, back to the White House and presented them each with a toy fire truck as a keepsake.





## PUMPKIN CAKE

with Orange Cream Cheese Frosting  
*A recipe from the White House Pastry Kitchen*

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>2 cups all-purpose flour</i>    | <i>¼ teaspoon ground cloves</i>                                  |
| <i>2 teaspoons baking powder</i>   | <i>1¼ cups dark brown sugar</i>                                  |
| <i>1 teaspoon salt</i>             | <i>4 eggs</i>  |
| <i>2 teaspoons cinnamon</i>        | <i>¾ cup vegetable oil</i>                                       |
| <i>1 ½ teaspoons ground ginger</i> | <i>7 ounces of pumpkin puree (either homemade or from a can)</i> |
| <i>¾ teaspoon baking soda</i>      | <i>¼ cup whole milk, warmed</i>                                  |
| <i>½ teaspoon nutmeg</i>           |  |

Pre-heat the oven to 340° Fahrenheit.

Sift the flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, ground ginger, baking soda, nutmeg, and ground cloves into a large bowl. Put this aside. Whisk together brown sugar and eggs with a mixer. Beat in the vegetable oil and then the pumpkin puree. Add the dry ingredients mixture alternating with the whole milk in three parts. Mix well and scrape the sides and bottom of bowl between each part.

Grease and flour bundt pan.

Bake for about one hour. Let the cake cool in the pan and then turn out onto a cooling rack. For the finishing touch, pour the orange cream cheese icing over the top of the cooled bundt cake.

*Makes one cake from a 2 quart bundt pan*

## FROSTING

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>1 cup confectioners' sugar</i>                    | <i>2 tablespoons heavy cream</i>                   |
| <i>1 tablespoon orange zest</i>                      | <i>1 pound cream cheese, room temperature</i>      |
| <i>1 vanilla bean or 2 teaspoons vanilla extract</i> | <i>Pinch of salt</i>                               |
| <i>6 ounces butter, softened</i>                     | <i>½ cup fresh squeezed orange juice, strained</i> |

Place cream cheese and confectioners' sugar in bowl and use a mixer until it becomes a smooth cream. If you are using a standing mixer, use the paddle attachment for the best results. Add the softened butter to the bowl. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl with a plastic spatula and then add the orange zest, vanilla bean or extract, heavy cream, pinch of salt and orange juice. Set the frosting aside until you are ready to pour over cake.

## ENTRANCE HALL AND CROSS HALL

The season's splendor surrounds the glittering Entrance Hall. Translucent crystal snowflakes drift from the ceiling and silver ornament clusters dangle from the trees, bringing to mind the beauty of a winter landscape and encouraging us to give thanks for nature's simple inspirations.

Music fills the air, and the magnificent grand piano, with gilded scenes of American music and dance, reminds us of our proud cultural traditions and the countless holiday melodies shared over the years in this great hall.





## Create your own "East Garden Room" Mini-Tree

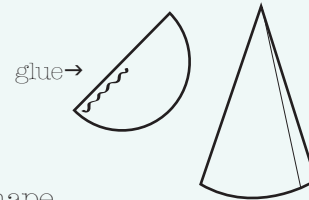
### Materials:

8 1/2" x 11" text weight paper:  
2 sheets of bright green  
1 sheet of dark green  
1 sheet of a bright, contrasting color

scissors  
glue stick  
pencil  
1 toothpick (optional)

### Assembly:

1. Download the half-circle template from:  
<http://WhiteHouse.gov/2011HolidayTour>,  
and cut it out from the bright green paper.



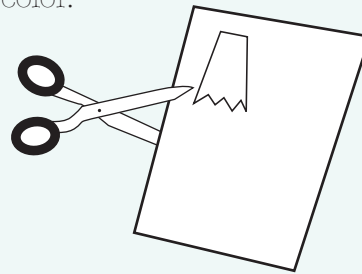
2. Apply glue to one edge and roll into a cone shape.

3. Using the leaf template, trace and cut 15 leaves in dark green, 10 in bright green and 4-6 in a bright color. Using the tree top template, trace and cut 5 tree tops in bright green and 1-2 in the bright color.

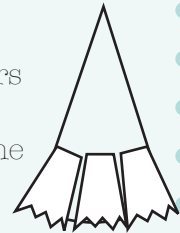
leaf  
template →



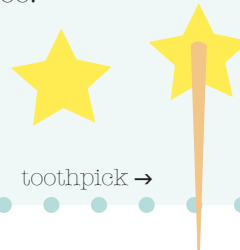
tree top  
template →



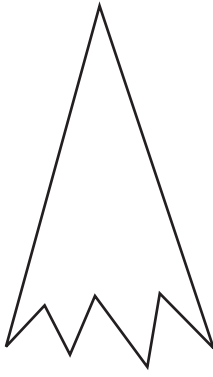
4. Starting from the bottom of the cone, glue the leaves around the cone layering the leaves as you go up. Our sample shows bright colors under a few leaves with edges rolled up a little for the color to peek through. Continue layering until you reach the top of the cone. On the top layer, use the tree top pieces to complete the tree.



5. Optional tree topper: Cut 2 small stars out of the colored paper of your choice. Glue stars on either side of a toothpick and poke through top of the tree.



tree top  
template



half circle  
template



leaf  
template

