Annual Report
May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005

Submitted by Emily Jacobson, President
April 2005
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Executive Summary

This Annual Report of the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) summarizes the activities and finances of the WCG for the fiscal year beginning on May 1, 2004 and ending on April 30, 2005. The purpose of this annual report is to communicate to our membership the activities that the WCG has undertaken during the past fiscal year and is in lieu of the oral recitation that has previously been presented by the WCG Board members at the May business meeting. In addition, by making this document available on the WCG’s website and sending it by e-mail to our members and other interested parties, it will allow a larger audience to learn about the WCG’s activities. The following topics will be reviewed in this Annual Report:

- Message from the President
- Highlights of the Year
- Officers, Directors and Committee Members
- Membership
- Financial Overview
- Meeting Venues and Speakers
- Committees
  - Intern Activities
  - Public Outreach
  - Publications
  - Website
- Funds
- Acknowledgments

Message from the President

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Washington Conservation Guild during the 2004/2005 season and I believe that this past year has been a very successful one for our organization. My main goal as President was to keep up the quality and diversity of our membership meetings. We tried hard to find speakers for meetings that would appeal to professionals in all specialty areas. With attendance reaching to 100 at several meetings, I think we succeeded in our goal.

We continued to find sponsors for refreshments at our meetings in an effort to keep our dues as low as possible. This year we had a total of six companies sponsor meetings. We also remained successful in gently nudging our members to be more consistent and generous in making a small food donation at each meeting. Finally, we have become more firm in asking non-members to share the burden of our expenses. A suggested contribution of $5.00 is now included on all meeting announcements, on our website
and is requested at the door. After all, the WCG’s $25 membership fee only covers a small portion of our meeting expenses.

Good communication is important in any organization. WCG has several ways in which our members can keep abreast of events and information and get in touch with the Board. Details about each meeting can be found on our Website, along with information about WCG projects, events and workshops. Questions can be sent to our e-mail address, which is checked at least once a week by the President. This year I responded to over 90 e-mail queries; half from members, the other half from non-members.

WCG has been striving to become a greater resource and social hub for area interns, fellows and students. Over the past four years we have offered free memberships through the Sidney Williston Fund (see page 15) for intern/fellow members; this year was the second year that we awarded all five free memberships. In September, we held the second annual gathering for interns, fellows and students, this year sponsored by the National Gallery of Art. More information about the events arranged by our Intern Coordinator, Joanne Klaar, can be found on page 12.

WCG continued its strong focus on educational programs and activities. With funding support from AIC/FAIC we held two Angel’s project days at one venue, The National Congressional Cemetery. Additional funding from AIC/FAIC allowed us to hold a lecture for the public at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Finally, with the addition this year of new Outreach Booth Chair, Nancy Pollak, we stepped up the number of events where the booth was set-up. Each of these committees is discussed in more detail beginning on page 12.

The only real issue that the board struggled with this year was whether to continue mailing at non-profit mailing rates. As you know, last year WCG successfully applied for non-profit mailing status. A great deal of time was spent weighing all the benefits vs. the costs. As it turns out, it was impossible to foresee every possible expense and after using the non-profit system several times this year, we discovered several problems. One problem is that non-profit mail is treated as bulk mail and is not delivered in a timely manner. The other is that our printers have to sub-contract out for non-profit mail handling at a cost which then negates any benefits or savings. Membership Secretary E.D. Tully Rambo has invested many hours exploring our options, including the possibility of switching printers. The board will be making a decision in the next six months, but until then, we are back to mailing at standard, first class rates. Even though we are mailing at first class rates we hope to counterbalance this expense by encouraging the use of e-mail communications to our members.

WCG’s membership remained steady this year at 285 members. While the membership has grown over the last several years, the feel of WCG is still that of a small, friendly, informal group. I hope that you will continue as a member of WCG and consider joining
the board. There is a large contingent of members that is actively involved in keeping WCG fresh, interesting and up-to-date and is wonderful to work with. WCG also remains inexpensive to join and offers eight meetings per year that are enjoyable, educational and professional.

I have greatly enjoyed my two-year term as President for the Washington Conservation Guild. This year marks the end of my ninth year on the board of WCG; I began as Membership Chair, became Newsletter Editor, then Vice President and now President. It has truly been a wonderful nine years! I have been able to meet a large circle of people that I wouldn’t have met otherwise. I have learned much about the running of an organization and honed my public speaking skills. It has been great for me and I hope I have been great for WCG. I hope that the hard work of the many wonderful presidents over the last decade will continue to set a standard for the organization. I feel confident that the Washington Conservation Guild is in good shape for the future.

Emily Jacobson, WCG President and Chairman of the Board

Year-end Highlights

The main achievements of the last year include:
- Application for and receipt of an AIC Angels Grant for an Angel’s project at the Historic Congressional Cemetery.
- Application for and receipt of an AIC Lecture grant for a public lecture on conservation at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.
- Five free memberships in the WCG were given to interns sponsored by the Sidney Williston fund.
- This was the 2nd year with a September event for WCG intern/student/fellow members, this year sponsored by the National Gallery of Art.
- Addition of a new website alias that is easier for our members to remember (www.washingtonconservationguild.org). We are still graciously hosted by Stanford University and Walter Henry.
- Two meetings that each attracted 100 attendees.
- Publication of the second edition of Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques with current sales of 147 copies.

Historical Background

The Washington Conservation Guild is a local non-profit organization, founded in 1967 and dedicated to the conservation of cultural property in our area. The goal of the WCG is to provide for the exchange of information among our members who are
conservators, curators, collectors, framers, architects, students and others interested in
the conservation, restoration, preservation and protection of objects of historical
importance. We organize and hold monthly meetings that include social activities and
talks on a variety of conservation-related topics. In addition, we sponsor specialized
seminars and workshops for our members and the community. As part of our public
education programs we participate in local art and antique fairs and cultural events. We
provide conservation information to the public through our Website, a quarterly
newsletter and our publication Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques. WCG
membership is open to everyone and is a great local resource for learning about
preserving your own artifacts, discovering what is happening behind the scenes at local
museums and providing a valuable network for conservation professionals.

2004/2005 WCG Board

The WCG board meets from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the day of our monthly meetings, for a
full day in the summer, and at other times as necessary. WCG prints a handbook for
the board members at a cost of $141.20.

OFFICERS

President: Emily Klayman Jacobson
Vice President: Davida Kovner
Treasurer: Howard Wellman
Membership Secretary: Ellen “E.D.” Tully Rambo
Recording Secretary: Susan Peckham

DIRECTORS

The Directors are responsible for organizing the individual meetings. Their job includes:
all contact with the speakers and host site; setting up for the meeting; bringing
refreshments, food and food supplies; cleaning up; finding someone to summarize the
meetings; and creating the written meeting announcement. Each Director is assigned
at least two meetings a year. In addition, many directors take on other projects. Five
directors are elected, with two-year terms that can be extended by one year. The past
president automatically becomes a Director for two years to help continuity and is Chair
of the nominating committee. The President may appoint up to two additional Directors
during his or her term.

Director: Linda Edquist (Past President)
Director: Scott Brouard
Director: Ann Creager
Director: Rosemary Fallon (Appointed)
Director: Alexandra Dennis Tice
COMMITTEES

Committee Chairs are responsible for organizing events or activities related to the committees listed below. They recruit members for their committees when needed. Committee chairs and other committee members are not elected members, nor voting members, of the Board. They are appointed by the President and have no term limits. More information about their activities may be found starting on page 12.

Archivist: Sarah Stauderman
CRFAA Sales: Lisa Young
Intern Coordinator: Joanne Klaar
Newsletter Editor: Jayne Girod Holt
Nominating Committee Chair: Linda Edquist
Committee Members: Lizou Fenyvesi
Mark Rabinowitz
Connie Stromberg

Public Outreach:
Angels Project Coordinator: Michele Pagan
Public Lecture Coordinator: Rachel-Ray Cleveland
Booth Coordinator: Nancy Pollak

Web Site Guru: Erin Blake

Membership Summary

The total number of WCG members during the 2004/2005 year was 286. Of these, 29 were student/interns and 21 were to honorary members or complimentary to other conservation organizations. The total revenue from memberships was $6,515.00 (236 regular members at $25 each and 29 student/interns at $15 each). WCG attracted 50 new members this year; however our total number of members remained the same as last year.

The Membership Secretary is responsible for retrieving all mail from the WCG post office box, and distributing it to the appropriate persons. The secretary deposits all membership dues payments and records all membership information into the database. The membership secretary sends out renewal notices and reminders to our members and undertakes membership drives, when necessary. The cost of membership renewal notices and solicitations was $263.55 ($175.94 for printing and $87.61 for postage), which was $13.55 over budget. This mailing went over budget because it also included absentee ballots and bios for the May election.
The Membership Secretary also compiles the membership directory and supplies an addendum when necessary. The total cost for the WCG membership directory was $957.33 ($630.72 for printing and $326.61 for postage), which was over budget by $132.33. This was due to the increased mailing cost of switching back to first class postage (as discussed in the Message from the President on p. 2). The Membership Secretary is the main contact with our printer, Beaver Press, and supplies them with mailing labels for all announcements, letters and flyers that are mailed to our membership.

Membership Secretary, E.D. Tully Rambo, worked diligently in fine tuning WCG’s fairly new database system, making sure it remained accurate, up-to-date and easy to understand. She has kept the Membership Secretary handbook, which explains how to use the database and describes the membership secretary job duties, updated as necessary.

Meetings

Eight meetings and a student/intern gathering were held during the 2004/2005 membership year. Vice President Davida Kovner secured the venues and made general arrangements for all meetings. Each meeting had two assigned Directors who were responsible for all details of the meeting (see Officers, Director & Committee chairs list for more info). Although WCG does not currently offer an honorarium for speakers, we generally either take the speaker out for dinner or buy them a small token of our appreciation. Occasionally when a speaker travels in from out of the Washington, DC area, we will cover their travel costs. Speaker costs, as well as other meeting costs (guards or projectionists) totaled $693.96, which was $406.04 under budget.

The cost of producing and mailing the meeting announcements totaled $1,352.50 ($788.50 for printing and $564.00 for postage), which was $202.50 over budget. Again, this is due to switching back to first class mailings. The cost of refreshments at the meetings totaled $1397.73, which was $102.27 under budget. Refreshment contributions from our members and sponsors totaled $993.12. The meetings, locations, speakers, talk titles and attendance are listed below:

► Thursday, May 6, 2004 at Hillwood Museum and Gardens
  Annual Business Meeting and Raffle
  Self-Guided tour of Museum and gardens
  Attendance: 30
► September 14, 2004 at the National Gallery of Art
*Intern tour & reception*
Attendance: 25

► Thursday, October 7, 2004 at the US Capitol
*Conservation on the Hill: From Painted Murals to Gilded Frames, Recent and Ongoing Conservation Projects at the US Capitol*
*Barbara Wolanin*, Curator, Architect of the Capitol
*Christiana Cunningham-Adams*, Fine Arts Painting Conservation
*Barbara Ramsey*, Director of Conservation Services, ARTEX Fine Art Services
*Bill Lewin*, William A. Lewin, Conservator LLC
Attendance: 75
Food Sponsor: ARTEX Fine Art Services

► Thursday, November 4, 2004 at the Folger Shakespeare Library
*American Fancy, Exuberance in the Arts, 1790-1840*
*Sumpter Priddy*, American Antiques Dealer
Attendance: 55

► Thursday, December 2, 2004 at the National Trust for Historic Preservation
*Digital Photography 101*
*Steven Puglia*, Preservation and Imaging Specialist, National Archives & Records Administration
*Jerry Smith*, Penn Camera Sales Professional and Freelance Photographer
*A Discussion of Digital Cameras and How to Select the Right One*
*Jason Young*, Vice President of Information Technology, Ameridream, Inc.
*Digital Archiving for the Private Conservator*
Attendance: 100
Wine Sponsor: Ernie Robertson, Museum Glazing Services

► Wednesday, January 5, 2005 at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution
*WCG’s Three-ring Circus* (speaker details below)
Attendance: 100
Food sponsors: Conservation Resources, Museum Glazing Services, University Products and Zpi Paramount/Borroughs Corp.
BOOK, PAPER & TEXTILE

Brenda Bernier, Senior Photograph Conservator, National Archives
*The Nature of Gelatin Silver Prints during Treatment and Tips*

Renate Mesmer, Assistant Head Conservator, Folger Shakespeare Library
*The Halliwell-Phillipps Album Collection- Artistic Records of the Life of Shakespeare: A Preservation Solution?*

Jayne Holt, Paper Conservator, Private Practice
*Failure is Impossible: The Cartoons of Nina Allender*

Susan Peckham, Paper Conservator, National Archives
Tips: *Demonstrating a Dot Application of Rhoplex N580*

PAINTINGS

Cathy Metzger, Senior Painting Conservator, National Gallery of Art
*Prayers and Portraits; Research for an Exhibition*

Joanna Dunn, Assistant Painting Conservator, National Gallery of Art
*Zooming in on Zoffany: The Treatment of the Lavie Children and the Search for Their Father*

OBJECTS

Sara Rivers, Curator of Federal Collections, Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
*“Demolition by Neglect” Applies to Artifacts, Too: Planning to Conserve Collections at Historic St. Mary’s City*

Beth Richwine, Object Conservator, National Museum of American History
*The Mystery of Wrinkle Finishes*

Patty Miller, Conservator, Conservation Solutions, Inc
*One Giant Leap: Saving the Saturn V Rocket, Johnson Space Center*

► Thursday, February 3, 2005 at the Baltimore Museum of Art

*Discussions of Ongoing Projects in the Conservation Laboratories at the Baltimore Museum of Art*

Ann Bolton, *Matisse Sculpture techniques*

Thomas Primeau- *The Collecting and Conservation of Old Master Prints*

Lauren Ross- *Case Studies on the Framing of American Modern Paintings*

Kimberly Schenck- *The George Lucas Collection: A Resource for the Study of 19th Century French Art*

Attendance: 35
Thursday, March 3, 2005 at the National Archives and Records Administration
WCG’s *Intern Talks* (speaker details below)

**Sarah Pinchin**, Paintings Conservation Fellow, Smithsonian Center for Materials Research & Education
*Testing Portable X-ray Fluorescence Spectrum Analyzer Applications on a Reverse Glass Painting*

**Megan Emery**, Third Year Intern, Walters Art Museum
*Renaissance Curios: The Examination of Four Wax Objects at the Walters*

**Susan Costello**, Third Year Intern, Walters Art Museum
*A Late 17th Century Portable Sundial: Its History and Conservation*

Attendance: 65

Food Sponsor: Conservation Solutions, Inc.

Thursday, April 7, 2005 at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens

**Self guided tour of Museum, Library and Gardens**

**Lecture:**  **Martin Frost**, Book Artist
*The Curious Art of the Secret Fore-edge Painting*

Attendance: 61

**Financial Highlights**

Elected Treasurer Polly Willman resigned in October 2004, and in keeping with the WCG bylaws, the WCG Board elected **Howard Wellman** as her replacement until the May 2005 election. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the books for WCG and issuing all checks for payments and reimbursements. The Treasurer provides our accountant with information for the completion of various tax forms. He makes sure that the appropriate sales tax forms are filed for our sales of *Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques*. Howard prepared summaries of current income and expenses for every board meeting. The Treasurer makes sure that the budget is being adhered to and creates a preliminary budget for the coming year.

The charts below summarize our income and expenses for the 2004/2005 fiscal year. Our actual overall expenditures totaled $22,756.70, while our overall income was $15,404.42. This deficit of $7,352.28 is due to the publication of the second edition of *Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques*, on which we spent $14,782.27, but should not be viewed as a liability. This amount will be recouped by publication sales in the coming years. While we went over budget in a number of categories, we were under budget in several others, leading to a successful year overall. We surpassed our goal in membership dues, refreshment donations and income from our publication (CRfAA2).
### Income

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### Expenses

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▲ = over budget        ▼ = under budget
Committees

Intern Coordinator

Intern Coordinator, Joanne Klaar, organized several events specifically geared towards our intern/fellow/student members. She also recruited intern members to write meeting summaries for the newsletter. None of these events cost anything for WCG to host. We plan to add money to the budget for intern events in the future. Events included:

- September 14, 2004 at the National Gallery of Art- Intern/Fellow tour and reception (see under Meetings for more information). Attendance: 25
- October 21, 2004- Happy Hour at Jaleo. Attendance: 20
- November 18, 2004- Happy Hour at Andale. Attendance: 8
- January 27, 2005- Tour at Freer/Sackler Galleries and Happy Hour at 201 Lounge. Attendance: 12
- March 17, 2005- Tours of the Suitland Conservation labs of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and the National Museum of Natural History. Attendance: 6

Public Outreach

Outreach Booth:
Nancy Pollak joined the WCG Board this year as the Booth Coordinator. She identified numerous events that were perfect venues for the display of the booth. The first occasion was on November 6, 2004 at the Treasured Heirlooms event sponsored by the Frederick Historical Society. Five WCG members manned the WCG booth throughout the day of the event. Volunteers included: Lizou Fenyvesi, Emily Jacobson, Joanne Klaar, Loa Ludvigsen and Nancy Pollak. A second venue was at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) headquarters in Silver Spring from February 7 through February 11, 2005. Twelve conservators volunteered to man the booth and answer questions about conservation and preservation during NOAA's first biannual Heritage Week. Volunteers included: Eileen Blankenbaker, Tom Chase, Lizou Fenyvesi, Anne Marigza, Ed McManus, Esther Méthé, Michele Pagan, Claire Peachey, Susan Peckham, Nancy Pollak, E.D. Tully Rambo, and Hanna Szczepanowska. WCG carries general liability insurance and insurance for the booth at a cost of $381.00 per annum.

Public Lecture:
Rachel-Ray Cleveland continued to organize successful events in her position as Public Lecture Coordinator. Through this position, the WCG arranges lectures, demonstrations, and lab tours for the public. Our purpose is to connect with other allied
organizations interested in conservation and to provide speakers who will tailor presentations to the needs and interests of those groups. In this way, we hope to increase knowledge about the conservation profession and develop closer ties with allied professions and the public.

This year, Rachel-Ray organized two events. The first was a lecture on October 20, 2004 given by Frank Mowery, Head of Conservation at the Folger Shakespeare Library to twenty members for the Washington Rare Book club. The second event was a lecture, open to the public, at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. On Monday, November 8, 2004, Costume Conservator, Polly Willman gave a lecture entitled “A Costume Conservator as Detective.” The meeting was attended by 63 people and was sponsored by a grant from the AIC/FAIC Lecture fund. WCG received $300.00 from AIC/FAIC; $250.00 was used as a speaker stipend and the remaining funds for fliers and postage. The National Museum of Women in the Arts did the majority of the advertising for this event.

Rachel-Ray continues to look for capable speakers for future public speaking events. We hope to apportion money in the budget to support this effort.

**Angels Project:**

Michele Pagan continued in the position of Angel Project coordinator. This year she applied for and received funding from AIC to support an Angel's project at the National Congressional Cemetery. The Angels event was held on October 31, 2004 and 26 local conservators volunteered for the event. Volunteers included: Michael Belman, Chantal Bernicky, Brenda Bernier, Julie Biggs, Erin Blake, Kathryn Campbell, Claudia Chemello, Mary Coughlin, Rhea D'estefano, Catherine Dewey, Eliza Gilligan, Sean Habgood, Gale Harriman, Jayne Holt, Grace Igot, Connie McCabe, Michele Pagan, Claire Peachey, Susan Peckham, Sarah Pinchin, Francoise Richard, Beth Richwine, Martha Smith, Georgia Southworth, Sarah Stauderman and Howard Wellman. A biocide solution and mortar were donated by Cathedral Stone Works of Hanover, MD.

WCG members also volunteered for two additional work dates at the cemetery on April 23 and April 30, 2005. April 23 focused on survey work of all previous repairs, their methods and materials, and the degree of success of each. The April 30 work day was postponed due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled at a later date. It was to focus on more advanced hands-on treatment of damaged Memorial stones. Guy Munsch, of the Architectural Specialty Group of AIC coordinated the project with Bill Fecke, the Site Manager at the Congressional Cemetery. Howard Wellman and Michele Pagan were the WCG contacts.
Publications

Newsletter
Jayne Girod Holt continued doing a wonderful job in her position as Newsletter Editor. Four newsletters were produced during the 2004/2005 season: in September and December of 2004 and March and June of 2005. Although the June issue of the newsletter is ostensibly published during the 2005/2006 season it contains information about the 2004/2005 season and is considered one of the four newsletters produced for the season. The total cost of producing the newsletters was $1,598.67 ($541.85 was for postage and $1,056.82 for printing), which was over budget by $48.67. The newsletters contain several regular and occasional columns including:

Upcoming WCG Meetings
From the Desk of the President
Meeting Summaries
In the Media (appearances in other media of interest to our members)
People
Courses and Conferences
Job Listings
News from the Editor
How to Reach WCG
Membership

Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques- First Edition
Two books were sold this year as we wound down sales of the first edition. A total of $419.12 came in for payments of outstanding invoices, while $25.48 was spent for postage. Lisa Young continued her efforts as Chair on the Fulfillment Committee and she was able to close out the books on this first edition. We have a small number of copies left, which will be used as door prizes until we run out. Ed McManus, who had stored the stock of books and mailed out all orders, finally cleared his basement of boxes and is, at last, free of all mailing duties. Many thanks to Ed for being in charge of mailings for the first edition orders.

Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques- Second Edition
The second edition was published in September of 2004 with a printing of 1000 copies. Lisa Young continued to act as Fulfillment Chair and Emily Jacobson took on the duty of storing and mailing the books. Museum shops and bookstores carrying the book include: The Corcoran Museum of Art, The Smithsonian, Hillwood Museum & Gardens, Jefferson Patterson Park Museum, Historical Society of Frederick, The American Association of Museums catalog, the Alexandria City Museum and University Products. We have sold 147 copies of the second edition for a total of $2,998.67, while $94.05 was spent in postage and packing. $2,921.00 came in this year for advertising and entry fees, while publication costs totaled $14,782.27 for the year.
Website

The WCG website is hosted by Conservation OnLine, a project of the Preservation Department of Stanford University Libraries at http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/wcg and can also be reached by typing www.washingtonconservationguild.org. This website alias was added this year to create an address that might be easier to remember. Website guru, Erin Blake, keeps our website up to date with current and correct information on WCG meetings, events, publications, job postings and workshops. Membership forms can be downloaded from the website, as well as forms to purchase Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques.

Funds

Sidney Williston Fund

This fund was started in honor of Sidney Williston, a private conservator in Washington DC for over forty years. His studio, Mario’s Conservation Services, provided training for dozens of conservators, many of whom head their own labs today around the country. Sidney was a Fellow in the AIC and was an honorary member of the Washington Conservation Guild. He has been greatly missed since his death in December 2000. The Williston Fund was created to recognize his contributions to the Washington area conservation community and to the Guild in particular. WCG awarded five free memberships to the following fellows and interns in honor of Sidney Williston:

- **Donna Smith**, Archaeological Materials, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab
- **Joanne Klaar**, Paintings, National Gallery of Art
- **Loa Ludvigsen**, Paintings, National Gallery of Art
- **Mary Coughlin**, Objects, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution
- **Nina Owczarek**, Objects, Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art, Smithsonian Institution

Kendra Lovette Fund

A new fund was started in December 2003 to honor Kendra Lovette, a long time Washington area conservator. In 1977, she began working at the Library of Congress where she was the conservator in charge of treatment for the architectural drawings for the US Capital. Four years later she accepted the position of paper conservator at the
Baltimore Museum of Art where she worked for five years. After that Kendra was in private practice until the mid 1990s when ill health forced her into early retirement. Kendra died March 6, 2003 after a prolonged struggle with multiple sclerosis. Donations will be used to sponsor continuing education activities in her honor. At this time we have received $250.00 and are soliciting further donations before we sponsor any programs.

Contact Information

Address: Washington Conservation Guild  
PO Box 23364  
Washington, DC  20026

Website: http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/wcg  or  
www.washingtonconservationguild.org

E-mail: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org (new and preferred) or  
washingtonconservationguild@hotmail.com

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