



# **Washington Conservation Guild**

## **Annual Report**

**July 1, 2010 to**

**June 30, 2011**

**Submitted by Eliza Gilligan, President**

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## **Introduction**

This Annual Report of the Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) summarizes the activities and finances of the WCG for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2010 and ending on June 30, 2011. The purpose of this annual report is to communicate to our membership the activities that the WCG has undertaken during the fiscal year; it is made available on the Washington Conservation Guild website. Highlights from the membership year are presented at the May business meeting. Annual reports since 2003/2004 are available on the website, where members and other interested people may access them to learn about the Guild's activities.

## **Message from the President**

This past membership year has been a busy and productive one for the Guild. We had the usual schedule of monthly meetings, Angels Day, Booth events throughout the metropolitan area and intern gatherings.

Our full list of the year's meeting topics and venues is available later in the report but two highlights include venues that the Guild has not visited in some time. We had our February meeting at the Society for the Cincinnati and a wonderful turnout to hear Lois Olcott Price and Jesse Johnson speak on conservation training in Erbil, Iraq. After many years of having our Annual Business Meeting at Hillwood the Guild tried a new venue. We have had a monthly meeting at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers before but having the May Business Meeting at the IBEW allowed us to take advantage of their rooftop deck with gorgeous views of the city.

In addition to changed venues, this year marked another big change for the Guild. For the first time since 2003 Ernie Robertson did not host the refreshments at the Holiday Party. His spirit, holiday cheer and Santa suit always set the tone for the reception as he was the first thing you saw when you got to the second floor of the National Trust building. Thank you, Ernie for all your generosity and support of the Guild and feel free to drop by a reception any time, we miss you!

Angels Day at the National Park Seminary in Silver Spring, MD (November 2011) was another success for the Guild, providing expert re-housing for the NPS archive and a

fun day in a historic building for all of the Guild volunteers. Angels Day is one of the Guild's most significant outreach programs in that it improves collections care at an institution that cannot provide it themselves, provides a positive learning experience for the site staff, and a fun day for WCG volunteers. The Guild has been very fortunate to receive FAIC support every time we apply for a grant to support Angels Day activities.

This year marked the last year that the Guild sold our publication, Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) at full price. Sales of the CRfAA2 have slowed to a mere trickle and in order to unload the many, many copies we still have in storage we have decided to give the CRfAA2 away as a premium with a \$5 donation. The costs for the second edition were paid for by the advertisements in the book there are no concerns regarding profit. Nancy Purinton as the final CRfAA2 chair has re-keyed the text of the collections care portion of the directory and once we are able to get it into pdf. format we will start selling it from the Guild website as a downloadable pdf. We have not set a price at this time, but it will probably be a modest cost.

Financially, WCG is in good shape. We used some of our assets to co-sponsor a symposium with Association of Preservation Technology (APTDC) "Climate Management in Historic Buildings: the Old, the Cold and the Mold" held March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the Women in Military Service Memorial. The meeting was well attended and the presentations were recorded so APTDC is hoping to build a web-delivery interface for paid access to the recorded sessions, this would make up for the fact that there were no post prints and potentially realize additional funds from the Symposium.

## Highlights of the Year

The main achievements of the last year include:

- Held meetings at two venues we had not visited in many years: Society for the Cincinnati, Anderson House and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- Awarded 5 complimentary WCG memberships to interns/fellows, sponsored by the Sidney Williston Fund
- Held a September welcome reception for WCG intern/student/fellow members

- Held a successful Angels Day at Save our Seminary <http://www.saveourseminary.org/> in Silver Spring (November 2011)
- Displayed the WCG Outreach Booth at several outreach events including the ever-popular Festival of the Building Arts at the National Building Museum plus two new venues, Pioneers of Flight Family Day at the National Air & Space Museum (November 2010) and at our joint symposium with the Association for Preservation Technologies- DC Chapter, held at the Women in Military Service Memorial (March 2011).
- Completed re-keying of electronic version of chapters 1-18 of *Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques* in preparation for selling those chapters from the Guild website.

## 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 antiques 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.

## 2010/2011 WCG Board

The WCG board is a combination of elected and appointed members; details of positions and terms are in the WCG Bylaws. The WCG board usually 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 deemed necessary.

## **OFFICERS**

**President:** Eliza Gilligan

**Vice President:** Hugh Shockey

**Treasurer:** Catherine Dewey

**Membership Secretary:** Joanne Klaar Walker

**Recording Secretary:** Anne Kingery

## **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; 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:** Ana Alba

**Director:** Steven Pickman

**Director:** Amber Kerr-Allison

**Director:** Helen Ingalls

**Director:** Patti Favero

**Director:** Cynthia Silva

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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 13. Any WCG member interested in joining a committee can contact the board.

**Archivist:** Sarah Stauderman  
**Angels Project Coordinator:** Lisa Young  
**CRfAA 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Sales:** Nancy Purinton  
**Intern Coordinator:** Kristen deGhetaldi  
**Newsletter Editor:** Ann Wilker  
**Nominating Committee Chair:** past president: Claire Peachey  
Committee Members: Nancy Pollak, Nora Lockshin, Andrew Robb  
**Outreach Booth Coordinator:** Howard Wellman  
**Public Lecture Coordinator:** Michele Pagan  
**Refreshments Chair:** Anna Friedman  
**Web Site Guru:** Erin Blake

## Membership Summary

The total number of WCG members during the 2010/2011 year was 215. Of these, 47 were student/interns, 4 were honorary members, and 16 memberships were complimentary, mostly to other conservation organizations. We had 44 new members this year. WCG's members are mostly in DC, MD, and VA, but we also have individual members in Arizona, Connecticut, Maine, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The total revenue from memberships was \$6,855.

Dues are \$30 for regular members, \$20 for students and interns, \$35 for international members. The Membership Secretary compiles an annual membership directory which is delivered electronically and supplies an addendum when necessary.

## Meeting Venues and Speakers

WCG membership meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of the month from October through May. Each meeting begins with a reception featuring light refreshments, followed by a lecture on a conservation-related topic. Seven regular meetings and a student/intern reception were held during the 2010/2011 membership year. Vice President **Hugh Shockey** secured the venues and made all general arrangements. Each meeting had two assigned Directors who were responsible for all

other details of the meeting. Most venues graciously host us at no cost, but we do sometimes have costs for guards, audiovisual, or other needs. WCG does not offer an honorarium for speakers, but we offer a Starbucks card as a token of our appreciation. When a speaker travels from out of the Washington, DC area, we will cover their travel costs. This year, speaker costs totaled \$208.10, which was \$191.90 under budget. Our refreshments costs were \$2,592.20 which was \$192.20 over budget. We allot \$250 per meeting for refreshments which is not a great deal of money so if the costs go over budget in the next year, the board may consider raising this budget figure. Refreshment contributions from the donation jar at our reception totaled \$428.20 this year.

The locations, speakers, talk titles, and attendance numbers for each meeting are listed below; all venues are in Washington, DC, unless noted. Summaries for each talk are available in the Guild's quarterly newsletter.

► Thursday, September 9, 2010 at the **Freer/Sackler Gallery** (Smithsonian)

*Intern tour and reception, announcement of Williston Fund recipients*

Attendance: 17

► October 4, 2010 at the **Museum Conservation Institute** (Smithsonian) Suitland, MD  
*"RTI@MCI: Escaping Flatland Using Computational Imaging"*

**Mel Wachowiak** Senior Conservator and Keats Webb, Imaging Specialist; Smithsonian Institution Museum Conservation Institute

Attendance: 44

► Tuesday, November 9, 2011 at the **Reynolds Center, American Art Museum** (Smithsonian)

*"Rescue, Recover and Restore: Smithsonian's Haiti Cultural Recovery Project"*

**Hugh Shockey**, conservator, American Art and National Portrait Gallery's Lunder Conservation Center; **Corine Wagener**, president of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield; **Stephanie Hornbeck**, principal of Caryatid Conservation Services, Inc.; **Dr. Diana N'Diaye**, cultural heritage specialist/curator, Smithsonian Institution; and **Mike Bellamy**, director, Smithsonian's Office of Engineering, Design, and Construction.

Attendance: 45



► Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

*“Reconstructing the Masters: Historically Accurate Reconstructions of Paintings from Museum Collections”*

**Brian Baade**, Paintings Conservator and **Kristin deGhetaldi** Paintings Conservation Fellow, National Gallery of Art

Attendance: 42

► Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the **S. Dillon Ripley Center** (Smithsonian Institution)

*Three-Ring Circus*

Ring 1:

*“INCCA-NA: The International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art- North America Group”* **Gwynne Ryan**, Sculpture Conservator, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

*“Building Backwards: Forward-Thinking Approaches to Conserving and Installing an Aesthetic Movement Room at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts”* **Carey Howlett**, Founder of Cary Howlett and Associates Inc., Conservation of Historic Furniture and Interiors

*“The Conservation Treatment of the Thomas Jefferson Monument Located on University of Virginia Grounds”* **Lindy Gulick**, Assistant Conservator/Project Manager, Conservation Solutions

Ring 2:

*“The Tale of Two Boxing Gloves: You Want This? When?”* **Beth Richwine**, Senior Objects Conservator, National Museum of American History

*“How to Move a Collection in 10 Easy Steps: The Hirshhorn Paintings Collection Move to Offsite Storage”* **Ana Alba**, William R. Leisher Fellow in Painting Conservation, National Gallery of Art

*“Treatment of Paul Thek’s Fishman (1968-9): A Compensation Technique for Degraded Latex Rubber”* **Kate Moomaw**, Objects Conservation Fellow, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Ring 3:

*“Planning to Move the National Space Suit Collection to the Udvar-Hazy Center”* **Lisa Young**, Objects Conservator, National Air and Space Museum

*“From Scrunched to Scrumptious: Treatment of an Evening Gown from the National Museum of African American History and Culture”* **Laura Mina, Stephanie Spence, and Cathleen Zaret**, Interns in Textile Conservation at the Museum Conservation Institute

*“Oscar the Grouch’s Been Re-formed with Archival Materials”* **Sunae Park Evans**, Senior Costume Conservator, National Museum of American History, and **Michelle Harbeson**, Graduate Student in Textile Conservation at the University of Rhode Island

Attendance: 90

**Vendors: University Products, Optium/Tru-View, Dorfman Museum Figures, Keepsafe Microclimates, Hollinger-Metal Edge, O’Brien Systems, Borroughs Corp.**

► Thursday, February 3, 2011 at the **Society for the Cincinnati, Anderson House**  
*“It’s Complicated: Teaching Cultural Heritage in Iraq”* **Lois Price**, Director of Conservation for the Winterthur Museum and Advisor for the Iraq Cultural Heritage Project and **Jessica Johnson**, Program Director for the Collections Conservation and Management Program at the Iraq Institute for the Conservation of Antiques and Heritage (May 2009-January 2011)

Attendance: 64

► Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the **Postal Museum** (Smithsonian)  
Intern Talks: *“Treatment of an Oversized Rare Book: Research and Decisions on Rebinding”* **Eve Mayberger**, National Museum of the American Indian;  
*“The Wheat Gown: An Artifact Study”* **Christine Klepper and Michelle Harbeson**, National Museum of American History  
*“Print or Painting: the Treatment of a penschilderijin by Willem van de Velde the Elder, Kristin deGhetaldi*, Fellow Paintings Conservation National Gallery of Art

Attendance: 30 (estimated)

► Thursday, April 7, 2011 at the **Phillips Collection**  
*“Preserving the Gods: Early Twentieth Century Debates in the Conservation of South Indian Bronze Icons in the Government Museum, Madras”* **Sanchita Balachandran**, Curator/Conservator, The Johns Hopkins Archeological Museum

Attendance: 55

► Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**  
*Annual Business Meeting and Raffle*

Attendance: 45

## Financial Highlights

The chart below summarizes our income and expenses for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. Our actual **overall expenditures totaled \$**, while our **overall income was \$6,290.85**. Our dues do not cover all expenses, but income from donations and the vendor fee at the January 3-Ring meeting do help offset costs.

### July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2011

#### Income

Line Item	Actual	Budget	\$ + over/-under
Donation jar	\$428.20	\$500	-71.80
Membership Dues	\$6,135.10	\$6,000	+135.10
Vendor Sponsorship	\$525	\$750	-225
CRfAA2 Sales	\$137	\$250	-113
Donations	\$220	100	+120
Interest, Checking	\$.98	\$.60	+.38
Interest, Money Market	\$11.31	\$15	-3.69

#### Expense

Line Item	Actual	Budget	\$ +over/ -under
Speaker Expense	\$208.10	\$400	-191.90
Meeting Refreshments	\$2592.20	\$2400	+192.20
Angels Event	\$115.29	\$100	+15.29
Booth fund	0	\$100	-100
Pay Pal transaction fee, membership	\$109.38	\$100	+9.38
Taxes/filing fees	\$12.25	\$125	-112.75

## Committee Activities

### Intern Activities

Intern Coordinator **Kristen deGhetaldi** organized several events specifically geared toward WCG's intern/fellow/student members this year. These included a September welcome reception, laboratory tours, and happy hour get-togethers. WCG is grateful to the laboratories who hosted the tours.

We voted to give an additional membership "scholarship" to Saachi Hirono an intern at the Lunder Center who was nominated by her supervisor Helen Ingalls. The funding for Ms. Hirono's internship fell through but she decided to come to the U.S. anyway, self-supporting her time in the U.S.

This year was Kristen's last as intern coordinator as she has been accepted to the PhD program at the University of Delaware, Winterthur. Since 2008 she has done a wonderful job of welcoming interns to the DC area, organizing events and integrating them into the Guild community. Thank you so much Kristen, and best of luck!

### Archives

WCG's archivist **Sarah Stauderman**

The WCG Archives is part of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7577. A finding aid is online at <http://siarchives.si.edu/findingaids/FARU7477.htm>

Members are encouraged to submit photographs of WCG people and events to the board to be included in the archives.

### Public Outreach

#### Angels Project

**Lisa Young** coordinated a wonderful Angels Day with the group Save Our Seminary <http://www.saveourseminary.org/> which is the umbrella organization dedicated to the preservation of the National Park Seminary in Silver Spring, MD. The site is the home of a former school for girls which was later annexed to Walter Reed during World War II. The National Park Seminary is home to several unique historic buildings which are on the National Register of Historic Places but have also been incorporated into a

modern living community with new apartments and homes. The SOS has an archive, mostly dating from the girls school which was the focus of the Angels Day project.

Lisa worked with the site coordinator Chris Maines to organize supplies and logistics and on Saturday November 6, 2011 nineteen WCG volunteers spread out into the various balconies in the Seminary's gorgeous ballroom to sort, clean and re-house over twenty cabinets worth of archival material.

### **Outreach Booth**

- Festival of the Building Arts, National Building Museum (October 2010)
- Pioneers of Flight Day, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (November 2010)
- Climate Management in Historic Buildings: the Old, the Cold and the Mold, Women in Military Service Memorial (March 2011)
- Treasured Heirloom Event, Historical Society of Frederick County, MD (April 2011)
- Literary Hill Book Fest, Eastern Market- Capitol Hill (May 2011)

WCG is grateful to the many members who devoted their time to volunteer at these events!

### **Public Lecture Coordinator**

We had no requests for lectures within the 2010-2011 membership year, although **Michele Pagan** did coordinate a follow up event at the National Park Seminary for September 2011.

## **Publications**

### **Newsletter**

**Annie Wilker** took over as newsletter editor and has updated the look and format. She is always interested in "people news" and short articles from the membership, so if you have something to contribute, please let her know.

### **Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques, Second Edition (2004)**

The directory being too out of date and the tendency for the general public to look for resources on line makes this the right time to transition the Resource Guide to a

downloadable pdf for sale off of our website. The information in chapters 1-18 presents comprehensive information that is still current and by selling the chapters in electronic format we will be able to realize some profit without any capital investment.

At the Festival of the Building Arts this past November, WCG began giving away the CRfAA2 as a premium for a \$5 donation as a way to unload the many, many remaining copies of the print edition. We will continue to do so at booth events until we run out.

### Website

**Erin Blake** continues to do a wonderful job as our web guru, making sure that all information is up to date, and that our flickr.com gallery works seamlessly with the photo albums on our website.

### Refreshments Chair

The year began with **Anna Friedman** as our Refreshments chair, but she had to step down after the December Holiday party as she started a new graduate program that met on Thursday nights. We were able to muddle through with the help of interns, in particular Saachi Hirono an intern at the Lunder Center, but the position is currently open.

## Special 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. The Williston Fund was created after his passing in 2000 to recognize his contributions to the Washington area conservation community and to the Guild in particular. This year, WCG awarded five memberships to the following fellows and interns in honor of Sidney Williston:

- **Im Chan** from the Buffalo Art Conservation program. Mellon fellow in paper conservation at the National Gallery of Art

- **Evan Knight** from the University of Texas at Austin. Book conservation fellow at the Library of Congress
- **Alisha Chipman** from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Photograph conservation intern at the Library of Congress
- **Gwen Manthey** from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Painting conservation intern at the Walters Art Museum
- **Briana Feston** from the Institute of Fine Arts Conservation Center at New York University. Objects conservation intern at the Walters Art Museum

## Kendra Lovette Fund

This 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 U.S. Capitol. Later she worked as a paper conservator at the Baltimore Museum of Art, and then 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. The fund currently contains \$350.00

## Contact Information

Address: Washington Conservation Guild  
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E-mail: [wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org)

## Acknowledgments

WCG is grateful to all the institutions that hosted our monthly meetings this year. We are also very grateful to Hillwood Museum and Gardens for hosting the Business meeting for so many years. Since 2004 Hillwood was a wonderful venue for our Business meeting and generous with their support of our raffle and after hours tours of the mansion and grounds.

We would like to thank the vendors **University Products, Optium/Tru-View, Dorfman Museum Figures, Keepsafe Microclimates, Hollinger-Metal Edge, O'Brien Systems, Borroughs Corp.** for their financial support of the reception at the January 3-Ring meeting. Acknowledgement of their support is on the Guild's web site, click on the "Visit Our Supporters" link on our home page.

We would like to thank FAIC for their support of the Angels Day project. Every grant we have applied for on behalf of an Angels site has been approved with full funding.

The Guild would like to thank Ernie Robertson for his seven years (2003-2009) of supporting the WCG Holiday Party, not only by providing the wine for the reception but also for his tremendous good cheer and of course, the Santa Suit.