



THE WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

September 2008

Volume 32 No. 3
ISSN #0886-1323

From the Desk of the President

WCG is starting off the 2008–2009 season with a bang. We had a productive summer board meeting at which we made several plans, and we already have three big outreach activities (this equals volunteer opportunities!), two meetings, and a symposium all lined up for September and October. I think it is easy to think of summer as a quiet time for WCG because there are no monthly membership meetings, but in fact, the board is hard at work behind the scenes making plans and transitioning duties to new board members.

I hope you will consider volunteering for the WCG outreach events, the first of which is taking place even before our first membership meeting: The Big Flea. This is the DC Big Flea Market, September 20–21, where we will display the WCG outreach booth and answer questions from the public about caring for their antiques and collectibles. We will also sell our publication *Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques*. This is a great opportunity for WCG to reach a wide audience and talk to people about conservation and preservation. Also, every sale of WCG's publication not only gets conservation information out to more people, but also supports WCG activities with the income it brings in.

The next outreach activity will be at the National Building Museum's Festival of the Building Arts on October 11. Our booth will be there and we will be giving hands-on demonstrations of ceramic repair and providing materials for kids to try it for themselves. This is a hugely popular event that WCG has participated in before, and it is a lot of fun. WCG's Outreach Booth Coordinator Nancy Pollak is the contact person for both of these events; see her call for volunteers in the pages ahead.

Finally, WCG's annual Angels Day will take place two weeks later on October 25 at the DC Historical Society, where the Angels will help to rehouse a collection of textiles. See Angels Coordinator Joanna Dunn's call for volunteers in this newsletter.

Also coming up on the WCG calendar: In September we will announce the winners of the Sidney Williston Fund awards at an intern reception at the Lunder Conservation Center organized by Intern Coordinator Kristin DeGhetaldi. Thank you to the supervisors who submitted applications on behalf of their interns and fellows. The Williston Fund provides free WCG membership to five interns, and gets them involved in planning the monthly meetings. The Williston Fund accepts donations on an ongoing basis, so if you would like to support WCG's intern members, please consider donating to this fund, either by mail or online.

In October, WCG will co-sponsor with the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) and the Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) the Third Symposium on Conservation and Preservation of Historic Artifacts.

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As the title implies, this is the third year of this popular symposium, to be held again at the MCI. Registration is reasonable (especially for interns and students-- only \$5) and the talks are wide-ranging.

So, September and October are indeed very active and still being planned for the rest of the year are a continuing education workshop and a special event/tour of interest to our members. We will announce the details of these as they take shape. Take a look at the Highlights from the Summer Board Meeting to find out what else we talked about, including an important decision to make a change to the WCG Bylaws.

WCG Vice President Eliza Gilligan has been lining up venues for our monthly meetings, starting with a new location for our October meeting, Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring. Watch your mailbox for details, and make plans to gather with friends and colleagues at our opening meeting of the season.

See you there – and at the Outreach Booth!

Claire Peachey
President
wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org



Back row: Steve Mellor, Morgan Zinsmeister, Sunae Park Evans, Eliza Gilligan, Erin Blake, Kristin deGhetaldi, Amber Kerr-Alison, Lisa Young, Susan Peckham, Patricia Favero, Hugh Shockey, and Connie Stromberg
Front: Michele Pagan, Claire Peachey, and Joanne Klaar Walker
Not shown: Genevieve Bieniosek, Mary Coughlin, Sarah Stauderman, Jayne Girod Holt, Joanna Dunn, and Nancy Pollak

The Washington Conservation Guild needs you!

The nominating committee is currently looking for an energetic, fun member to fill the position of **Public Lecture Coordinator**, as part of our outreach efforts to raise awareness of conservation and preservation. The position involves responding to requests for speakers on conservation topics and matching the speaker to the event, or actively seeking local opportunities for speakers at events and at venues such as historic societies, small museums, and the like.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, or need more information on these and other volunteer opportunities with the Guild, please send an email to Lisa Young, Nominating Committee Chair, at conserveit@earthlink.net. Don't delay, the time to get involved is now!!

Upcoming WCG Meetings 2008/2009

Monthly meetings for the 2008/2009 season will begin in October 2008 and run through May 2009. The meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Most meetings begin at 5 p.m. with a reception, followed by the guest speaker's presentation. Please check individual meeting announcements for exact times and locations.

October 2

Speaker TBA. Held at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, 8230 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Near the Silver Spring Metro Station (red line).

November 6

Dawn Heller, conservator in private practice and member of the AIC taskforce on Digital Documentation will speak on the new AIC guidelines. Held at the Smithsonian American Art Museum/National Portrait Gallery, 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, DC. Near the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro (red, yellow and green lines).

December 4

Holiday Party and speaker TBA. Held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC.

January 8

Three-Ring Circus, held at Smithsonian's Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC.

February 5

Venue and speaker TBA.

March 5

Intern talks. Venue TBA.

April 2

Venue and speaker TBA.

May 7

Annual Business Meeting. Held at Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave., NW, Washington, DC.



Do you have photographs for the WCG archives?

The WCG archives, held in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, does not have many photographs, so we are appealing to members to provide photographs of people and events from all periods of WCG's history. The archives can accept color and black-and-white prints or digital images. Every photo must have a caption, and ideally every person in the photo will be identified. Please send an email (not the photos!) to wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org if you have photographs to submit.

Highlights of the Summer Meeting

Below are just some of the topics discussed and decisions made at the July 19 meeting of the 2008–2009 WCG board. Members are invited to contact the board for any comments and suggestions about these topics, or to get involved in any activities being planned.

In the morning, after general introductions and some administrative discussions, committee chairs reported on their activities and plans. After a delicious lunch break and the group photo, the meeting continued with officer reports and discussion of director duties, meeting venues, speaker ideas, and new business.

Outreach Booth Coordinator (Nancy Pollak) We still own the old outreach booth structure and would like to find a way to either sell or donate it to another organization that can use it.

We plan to participate in the DC Big Flea Market in Chantilly, VA, September 20–21. This is a large fair with 1000 vendors selling antiques and collectibles. Although there is a registration fee of \$180, we feel it is a good venue for getting visibility and for selling Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques (CRfAA). Other antiques fairs have much higher registration fees, so are prohibitive for WCG. We are compiling a list of other local fairs to investigate.

We have been invited to participate in the National Building Museum's Festival of the Building Arts on October 11, with a hands-on activity. We will bring an activity for kids involving reconstructing ceramic shards (broken flower pots). We did a similar activity about three years ago at this festival, it was a big hit.

Nancy would like to put together a "tool kit" of handouts and activities for the booth, in the same way that we have a selection of photos to choose from, to tailor the booth for different types of events.

Intern Coordinator (Kristin deGhetaldi) Williston Fund winners will be announced at a September reception, venue to be determined. [Update: Intern reception and tour to be held at the Lunder Conservation Center.] The board discussed the possibility of awarding more than five Williston awards per year if funds allow. Kristin will organize various lab tours and social events for interns and fellows throughout the 2008–2009 year.

Newsletter Editor (Jayne Girod Holt) Jayne would like to get more people as regular contributors to the newsletter, to help cover different events and features. Also, after the success of the themed newsletters of WCG's 40th anniversary, she would like to devote at least one issue a year to a particular theme.

Angels (Joanna Dunn) The 2008 Angels project will involve rehousing a collection of textiles at the DC Historical Society. Joanna will make a site visit, recruit textile conservators to help lead the project, set a date for the project, and apply for funding. [Update: Angels Day is October 25.]

Main decisions:

- **The board will propose a Bylaws change to make the WCG fiscal year run from July 1 to June 30. The present fiscal year is May 1 to April 30. The membership vote will be held at one of this year's meetings, to be announced.**
- **May 2009 will be the final monthly meeting announcement to be sent by postal mail; after that, all announcements will be sent by email.**
- **A WCG workshop on CAP Survey training is being organized for 2009.**

Website Guru (Erin Blake) Erin reported on the visitation statistics of the newly designed website, showing graphs of site traffic. A spike in June was due to publication of the newsletter. There have been more than 1010 unique visitors (computers) to the website since May 1, when the new site was launched. Key searches leading people to the site were “What is conservation” and “Washington Conservation Guild.” Most activity is from the Washington DC area and the U.S., though visitors have come from 62 different countries.

Erin also gave an overview of WCG’s Paypal account, which we set up when the website was updated. Visitors can now join or renew, make donations, and buy CRfAA online through Paypal. Although there is a small fee for each transaction, we hope that the ease of use will encourage more members to renew on time, and more people to donate to WCG or purchase CRfAA, thereby saving/earning money for WCG.

CRfAA Fulfillment Chair (Michele Pagan) Michele will continue to look for shops and other venues at which to sell CRfAA. It is already sold at some local historical sites and at outreach events. Book stores are more difficult as they require more of the profit or only stock it on consignment rather than buying it outright. Other ideas are to market it to local educators and conservation clinics. The book is an important source of income for WCG.

Nominating Chair (Lisa Young) Several positions will be open for the May 2009 elections: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and three Directors.

Public Lecture Coordinator This position is still open.

Membership Secretary (Joanne Klaar Walker) Joanne will experiment with different ways to make the Membership Directory less expensive to publish; it will be published in October, after announcing a last chance to join or renew at the October 2 membership meeting. The board decided to phase out the use of postal mail for sending monthly meeting announcements, to save money and be more environmentally friendly. May 2009 will be the final meeting announcement sent by postal mail.

New Business: Organization of a Workshop for 2009. Several workshop topics were suggested and discussed. It was decided to hold a workshop on Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Survey training, which will be particularly beneficial for private conservators and museum conservators. Susan Peckham and Lisa Young will take the lead on organizing this. We will seek outside funding and also use WCG’s Kendra Lovette Fund, which is for continuing education. The topic of digital photography was also considered an important one that would appeal to many WCG members, and may be considered for a future workshop.

New Business: Special Events for WCG Members. We discussed ideas for holding additional special events for WCG members. One event already planned for October is the Third Symposium on Conservation and Preservation of Historic Artifacts to be again co-sponsored with NACE and the Smithsonian’s MCI. Other ideas to investigate: a tour of Lincoln’s Summer Home, the Star-Spangled Banner, or the Treasury building. [Update: another suggestion is a tour and presentation about the conservation and restoration of the stained glass windows in a local church.]

New Business: Changing the WCG Operating Year. The board discussed and then voted to change the WCG fiscal year to July 1 to June 30. The current fiscal year runs from May 1 to April 30. This change was proposed because it better reflects the way WCG operates: the membership meetings take place from October through May, and the June newsletter is thematically related to this period, and so more logically belongs in the same fi-

nancial and membership year. This change will require a vote by the membership. The proposal will be presented to the membership in writing, comment will be invited, and a vote will be scheduled for one of the regular membership meetings. The membership renewal date will change to July 1.

New Business: Sources of Income/Website Sponsors. To pay for the website update, and to bring in income for future programs, the board will approach sponsors for the website's Sponsors page.

Website Update

WCG revealed a new website design at the May 1 business meeting, just over a decade since the original website's debut in late 1997. The original website, designed by Mark Knight, served us well for many years, but it was time to take advantage of new technologies to make the website even better. We wanted to incorporate drop-down menus for easy access, a photo gallery, and online membership renewals among other things, but all without making the site harder for an all-volunteer force to maintain.

The idea of a website redesign began in 2005, under Lisa Young's presidency, as "part two" of a process that would begin with the logo redesign. Settling on a new logo, letterhead, and business card first would give us a head-start on website design, since a color scheme and certain graphic design elements would already be in place. In 2007, with Claire Peachey now president, we were ready for part two: the website.

In November, the website redesign committee of Eliza Gilligan, Jane Norman, Claire Peachey, Lisa Young, and me, Erin Blake, met to consider three competitive proposals. We decided on Vico Rock Media, a local company that specializes in working with small businesses and non-profits. Things moved incredibly quickly after our initial meeting with Vico Rock's Jill Kianka in mid-December. Armed with a new site architecture drafted by Emily Jacobson in 2006, the committee spent the first few months of the new year revising content and finding images for Jill to use in her design, and Jill regularly sent back drafts for our evaluation.

Preparing for the new website prompted us to examine where our website traffic comes from. We had always assumed our audience was mostly local WCG members wanting to know when and where the next meeting would be. We started gathering anonymous statistics, and learned that while about 75% of our traffic comes from the US, mostly from the DC area, we actually had people reaching the site from over forty different countries. The list included China, India, Korea, Belize, Kuwait, and Ghana. Moreover, the number-one search engine phrase that brought people to the site wasn't anything to do with DC or the guild as such, but "What is conservation?" It turns out that a significant number of people go to our website specifically for that information, which is now found under "Outreach" (or by entering "What is conservation?" in a search engine, of course).

Finally, none of this could have been done without the help of Walter Henry, the mastermind behind Conservation OnLine (CoOL) at Stanford. CoOL generously hosts our website and others like it at no cost as a service to the profession. We are especially grateful that Walter was encouraging about using new website technology. We're proud of the redesigned website, and hope that you find it a useful way to keep up with the Guild and conservation-related activities in the DC area. The point of the website is to serve the membership, so please let us know what you think, and how we can make the website even better.

Erin Blake
WCG Website Guru

Booth Update

The Outreach booth kicks off the Fall season at the DC Big Flea Market, a huge weekend-long antiques show held at the Dulles Exposition and Convention Center, Chantilly VA, September 20-21. WCG will have the outreach booth at the event, where we will be selling copies of our book, *Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques*, talking to the public about conservation, answering questions about their new-found treasures, and offering free conservation information. Come and be the face of conservation! We are looking for volunteers for two shifts each day: Saturday, September 20, from 9 AM to 1 PM, or 1 PM to 6 PM, and Sunday, September 21 from 11 am to 2 PM or 2 PM to 5 PM. Contact Nancy Pollak if you would like to volunteer for a shift. If you would like to help, but cannot work a full shift, please let us know; all volunteers are needed and appreciated.

Our second major event will be geared towards the conservation future. The outreach booth will be at the 2008 Festival of the Building Arts, with conservation outreach materials and a hands-on activity for children. The Festival will be held at the National Building Museum, 401 F Street, Saturday, October 11. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth and help with the children's activity from 9 AM to 5 PM. Don't miss your chance to introduce conservation to children and their families, and see construction vehicles and ballerinas perform the "Pas de Dirt"! This promises to be a very busy event and we will need many hands to keep things running smoothly. Please let us know when you can help.

Contact Nancy Pollak at 301-845-1010 or nr-pollak@aol.com if you would like to help with either of these outreach events.

Nancy Pollak
Outreach Booth Coordinator
301-845-1010
nrpollak@aol.com

Calling all Angels! 2008 Angels Project: DC Historical Society October 25, 2008

WCG is soliciting volunteer participants for our upcoming Angels project. The history of the Angels Project dates to the 1980s when WCG collaborated with AIC to incorporate Angels projects at historic sites near AIC annual meetings. WCG has continued the tradition locally. Projects are completed in one day and have included rehousing collections, backing paintings, rolling textiles, and preserving daguerreotypes. Last year volunteers examined and rehoused over 30 objects of Washington, DC, memorabilia from the Peabody room at the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library. As many members will remember, the library was heavily damaged in a fire in April 2007. The Angels project allowed the items to be safely stored until the Georgetown branch of the library reopens.

This year's Angels project will be held at the DC Historical Society on Saturday, October 25, 2008. Volunteers are needed to rehouse the library's textile collection, which contains many historic costumes. The collection is currently stored in a closet next to a wall with visible water damage. Most of the textiles are being stored on wire hangers without any support. The Angels will rehouse these items so that they can be stored and handled safely in the future. The project is expected to last most of the day and lunch will be provided.

WCG members and interns are needed to sign up immediately so that a firm list of participants can be included in the Angels grant application being submitted by the September 15th deadline to FAIC.

Please contact Joanna Dunn if you would like to volunteer.

Joanna Dunn
Angels Project Coordinator
j-dunn@nga.gov
202-236-3103

Upcoming Deadlines

For more details about the individual grant or scholarship funding organizations, please consult their websites. This list is intended only as a reminder and is not a complete list of available grants, scholarships or events. If you know of an upcoming deadline for grants, papers or other events that should be added to this list, please contact the Newsletter Editor. Also, check the WCG web site for further notices.

Grants for Conservation-related Projects

Bank of America/IMLS American Heritage Preservation Program

For conservation related projects. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website.

Deadline **September 15**.

FAIC Lecture Grants

Support for “public lectures to help advance public awareness of conservation”. Deadline is **September 15**.

Conservation Project Support

For conservation and research. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website.

Deadline **October 1**.

Connecting to Collections: Statewide Planning Grants

For conservation related projects. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website.

Deadline **October 15**.

Conservation Assessment Program

For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline **December 1**.

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

Includes a conservation component. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline **December 15**.

National Leadership Grants

Categories include Advancing Digital Resources, Research, Demonstration and Library and Museum Collaboration Grants. For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline

February 1.

Save America's Treasures

For more info go to the Institute of Museum and Library Services website. Deadline **May 20**

Michele Pagan, head of marketing efforts for the 2nd Edition of the CRfAA, is looking for suggestions from WCG members for retail outlets for the 600 copies still available for sale. Michele can be reached via email (michele_johnpagan@yahoo.com) or by phone: 202-546-5439. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Deadlines for Papers and Posters

AIC Poster Session 2009

For the 2009 annual meeting in Los Angeles, May 19-22. The conference theme is “Conservation 2.0: New Directions” but other topics are welcome. For more info, go to the AIC website or email aicposter@gmail.com. Deadline is **October 20**.

AIC Specialty Group Papers 2009

Architecture: deadline **September 15**.

Electronic Media: deadline **September 26**.

Paintings: deadline **September 22**.

Research and Technical Studies: deadline **September 30**.

Textiles: deadline **September 15**.

Wooden Artifacts: deadline **September 15**.

Meetings

AIC 2009 Annual Meeting Registration

Special “Preview Rate” valid until **December 31**.

Attention:

To WCG members who have opted **not to receive e-mail** meeting announcements:

May 2009 will be the **final** monthly meeting announcement to be sent by postal mail; after that, all announcements will be sent by email.

Also, WCG occasionally sends additional e-mails about special WCG events, upcoming conferences, job openings and other conservation news of interest. If you have opted **not** to receive meeting announcements by e-mail, you will **not** receive these additional e-mails. We recommend that you to check our website (www.washingtonconservationguild.org) frequently to remain abreast of all WCG news.

If you would like to change your e-mail status please contact Membership Secretary Joanne Klaar Walker at wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org.

People

Lizou Fenyvesi is now in private practice after retiring from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her new practice, Lizou Fenyvesi Textile Studio is open for textile conservation, consultation, treatment, documentation, and surveys on site or at the studio. She can be reached at 301 972-8974 or at lizouf@aol.com

In April 2008, **Emily Jacobson** joined the Department of Conservation & Scientific Research at the Freer & Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian Institution. Emily will be working with the Freer & Sackler Galleries Indian miniature, Islamic manuscript and American collections. Prior to the Freer & Sackler, Emily worked at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.

Letter to the Editor

Hello,

I was on the first Conservation Angels project team in 1988 at the Cabildo in New Orleans and later at the VHS in Richmond. I'll never forget the energy of Lisa Mibach in particular. She was a great leader.

I saw the article in your recent newsletter by accident and wanted to let you know I have never forgotten the experience. My career path never took me to conservation school but I had a large amount of hands on training before and after my Angels experience. I have become a champion of conservation in my museum career and was partly responsible for moving a WWII German submarine in Chicago indoors and out of a harsh climate.

One important lesson I learned in my Angels experience is the sense of leadership, setting a good example, commitment and service to the communities we serve. Yes it is a job, but it is a passion, a sense of deep caring, a need to understand history, connections, and significance, and to share it with others maybe indirectly by extending the life of an artifact or directly by talking to our communities in lectures, media, or our neighbors. If we can infuse this passion into the work of others, make the administrators more aware and WANT to make positive change, then we are doing a good job.

I have been out of touch with the Angels projects and am glad to know they continue. I'll have to get to an AIC meeting soon and volunteer again. It's worth it!

Sincerely,

Keith R. Gill
Director of Museum Operations
Cantigny First Division Museum

Two programs at the Lunder Conservation Center

Smithsonian American Art Museum & National Portrait Gallery 8th and G Streets NW

Early Art Conservation at Harvard: Technical Research and the Care of Art Works at the Fogg Art Museum (ca. 1900--1950)

Thursday, October 30, 6 p.m.

In 1928, the Fogg Museum of Art established the first research and conservation department for a U.S. museum. But even before that, the Fogg was pioneering modern U.S. conservation practices and integrating research into artists' techniques and materials, as well as advancing art preservation. In this talk, Francesca G. Bewer, research curator at the Straus Center for Conservation, Harvard Art Museum, will give a brief overview of how and why the museum promoted a more scientific approach to the restoration and preservation of works of art, and how this affected the education of museum professionals, restorers, and artists during the first half of the twentieth century.

The Basics of Image File Management

Dawn Heller; Paper Conservator in Private Practice, Bala Cynwyd, PA; Supplemental Faculty, Winterthur/University of Delaware

Thursday, November 6, 6:30 p.m.

Image file management is an important aspect of digital photographic treatment documentation. There are many different software programs and workflows that can be adopted for the purpose of image file management. This presentation will outline some of the options outlined in The AIC Guide to Digital Documentation for Conservators for image management and archiving digital image files; providing practical suggestions for conservators without IT support in their studio or institution. Though this program is directed toward professional conservators, anyone curious about image file management is welcome.

(Note: This event is the program for WCG's November meeting.)

These programs are free and open to the public. First come, first seated.

Program information: ReynoldsCenter.org

Conservation Center: Lunderconservation.si.edu

Membership

WCG dues are \$30 per year, \$20 for students and interns, payable to the Washington Conservation Guild or WCG.

The membership year runs from May 1st through April 30th. Membership forms can be requested by mail from the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 23364, Washington D.C. 20026 or can be filled out and submitted on our web site. Changes of address or telephone numbers, corrections to the directory, and dues payments should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address listed above or to:

wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

The membership schedule is as follows:

- Late March: membership renewal notice mailed
- Mid-Late May: 2nd and last renewal notice mailed
- August 30: Deadline for membership renewals*
- Sept/Oct: Publication of membership directory

*Members who join after August 30th will not be included in the membership directory, but in an addendum to be mailed out in December.

Disclaimer: The Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, products, services or conservation treatments. WCG's Newsletter and Web site are simply vehicles for presenting information from various sources. The publication of such information in either medium should not be construed as an endorsement of it by WCG. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of WCG, its Board of Directors or membership.

How to reach WCG

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WCG Newsletter is printed quarterly (September, December, March, June). Items for inclusion in the WCG Newsletter should be directed to:

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Email submissions are preferred. Please note that articles should be sent at least two weeks before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit copy to fit available space. Special thanks to proofreaders Brett Holt and Claire Peachey.

Next issue: December 2008
Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2008

WCG Board of Directors 2008/2009

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