

President's Letter

Susanne Friend

Dear Membership,

Well, here we are again, almost six months to the day that I wrote my last missive. No, I will not weary you with obsessional cheese stories this time. I have another obsession to talk about. Of course it has to do with conservation, you sillies.

But first, let me remind you that we have a meeting coming up! Plans for this year's annual WAAC meeting are moving forward, and I encourage you all wholeheartedly to make the trip to this lively Mecca of fun, good food, and sun in October. The meeting will be held at the newly reopened Getty Villa beginning the morning of Friday, October 24th, and ending mid-day on Sunday, the 26th.

Recently added to the agenda and back by popular demand is Yosi Poseilov's Digital Photography for Conservators workshop, which will be held the two days prior, on the 22nd and 23rd. The workshop will be held at the Getty Center, so those who attend will benefit from a double Getty exposure... Please see the *Newsletter* insert for further details.

I felt we could not have another meeting in Los Angeles without including LACMA in the program. To this end, I have decided that instead of a banquet we will have a second reception at this marvelous museum. This is still in the planning process, but will hopefully be approved in the weeks to come. If so, on the Saturday we will have the opportunity to mingle, eat and drink, see the new Broad Contemporary Art Museum (BCAM), and wander around LACMA's 20 acre campus which is in the process of an exciting evolution.



Photograph by Ellen M. Rosenbery and Tahnee Cracchiola

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The Outer Peristyle at the Getty Villa in Malibu

Talks have already started to flow in, and those of you who are interested in presenting may either send them directly to me or contact your nearest board member. I have asked board members to solicit presentations in their geographic areas as they are better acquainted with the people closer to them, so specialty doesn't really matter. Don't be shy – the talks we always remember are often the ones that seem like they wouldn't fit. This is WAAC – it may be outré, but it's quality. And in case I was too subtle, THIS IS A CALL FOR PAPERS! The meeting schedule is designed to give us time to wander the gorgeous Getty grounds and galleries (love that alliteration) as well as have lab tours and visit the relatively new UCLA/Getty Master's Program on the Conservation of Ethnographic and Archaeological Materials. Because of timing and in the interest of saving everyone some money, we have arranged to have boxed lunches available during the noon break. This is, of course, optional, but since we will be captive up there in the rarified Malibu air, we will have no choice but to eat Getty fare of some kind. The registration form will have a line item for the boxed lunches on it.

A note on accommodations: There are many conservators living in the Los Angeles area who may take pity on those coming from out of town for the extra expenses they will incur. Although WAAC is not set up to broker requests for or offers of accommodation, grapevine transmissions will be much appreciated.

President's letter, continued

You know if you have room and who might benefit from it...

For those of you who will be staying in hotels, the Getty has an arrangement with the Doubletree Guest Suites in Santa Monica (santamonicasuites.doubletree.com). A double room rate has been reserved for us at \$179/night which will hold until Tuesday, September 23rd. A block of 20 rooms has been reserved. If you choose not to rent a vehicle, a 0.2 mile stroll will get you to a public bus that drops you off in front of the Villa in about 15 minutes. There are many other hotel options, of course. If you want to spend more, there is the Ambrose Hotel (ambrosehotel.com), around \$240/night, the Channel Road Inn – very close to the Villa (channelroadinn.com) or The Georgian (georgianhotel.com). Cheapest and closest is the Bay Side Hotel at \$129-169/night (baysidehotel.com) and a bit further away but quite reasonable in Westwood (near UCLA) is the Claremont Hotel (claremonthotel.net) with room rates between \$60-80/night. Because Los Angeles is a major tourist destination at any time of the year, I urge you to make your plans as early as possible.

All of this will be detailed in the registration packet which you will receive soon.

What was I saying about obsessions? Oh, yes. I have been juggling lately. The sort of juggling we all do, not the apples or chain saws kind. While struggling to properly wear the WAAC hat, the mom hat, the conservator hat, and the cheese lady hat, I have been also working out five hours a week with the aim of getting my black belt in Tae Kwon Do. I started doing this about six years ago because it seemed the natural offshoot of sitting and watching my children doing it. What began as something fun and hopefully slimming has turned into a life necessity. It has brought me improved health, sanity, and helps keep the cheese side-effects at bay. It's fun and never boring. For the last ten weeks I have been taking special black-belt preparatory classes with the Grand Master in order to take the test. On June 6th I will stand up with a few others who have worked equally hard and for five hours prove to myself and my family that I have finally earned that symbolic band of cloth. I lied, that didn't have anything to do with conservation, although if anyone out there can tell me how to restore my poor broken body, I'll be happy to listen.

Fondest regards,
Your president,
Susi

(She passed. *Ed.*)