

# VCA News

P.O. Box 4314  
Richmond, VA 23220

Newsletter of the Virginia Conservation Association

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## Upcoming Members' Meeting January 18—Science Museum of Virginia

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### Upcoming Members' Meeting

**Speaker:** Chris Novelli,  
Architectural Historian

The next members' meeting will be held in the Discovery Room of the Science Museum of Virginia. Chris Novelli will speak on "Richmond's Grand Avenues of the Nineteenth Century".

A Richmond native, Mr. Novelli holds a master's degree in architectural history from the University of Virginia. He has done research for the Branch House; for Rau & Associates, Architects and Designers; and for the Department of Historic Resources. He recently completed the expanded National Register nomination for Battersea in Petersburg, elevating it to national prominence. Mr. Novelli is a frequent guide and lecturer in Richmond—expounding on the architectural highlights that are so much a part of the city's unique character.

**Date:** January 18, 2007

**Place:** Discovery Room, Science Museum of Virginia

**Time:** Refreshments, 5:30 pm

**Brief business meeting and program, 6:30 p.m.**

The Science Museum of Virginia is located in mid-town Richmond, Virginia, at 2500 West Broad Street in the historic Broad Street Station designed by renowned architect John Russell Pope.

The Science Museum of Virginia is easily reached via Interstate 95 and Interstate 64.

### Location

Science Museum of Virginia  
2500 West Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220  
(804) 864-1400

### Driving Directions

#### From the north or west

Take I-95 south or I-64 east to Richmond (I-95 and I-64 run together through Richmond). From I-95, take the Boulevard exit (#78), bear right onto Boulevard. Take Boulevard to West Broad Street (US 250) (4th traffic light). Turn left onto West Broad Street and go two blocks. The Science Museum is on your left.

#### From the south or east

Take I-95 north or I-64 West to Richmond (I-95 and I-64 run together through Richmond). From I-95, take the Boulevard exit (#78) and bear left onto Hermitage Rd. Take Hermitage south for 1.3 miles to West Broad Street (US 250). Turn right onto West Broad St. and proceed for one half mile. The Science Museum is on your right.

### Parking

There is ample free parking adjacent to the museum.

Enter the museum through the main entrance and turn right to reach the Discovery Room.

The VCA News is published five times a year and is distributed free to members of the Virginia Conservation Association. The next newsletter will be published in late February 2007. If you have any information (employment opportunities, articles, events) you would like to include in the newsletter, please forward to Tracy Bryan at [tbryan@vahistorical.org](mailto:tbryan@vahistorical.org) by February 20.

The VCA is open to anyone with an interest in the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts. Membership includes conservators, curators, historic house directors, collectors, dealers, students, and non-specialists with strong interest in the growing field of conservation.

Bi-Monthly meetings, scheduled from September-May, feature speakers within the VCA and from outside the state, speaking on topics ranging from basic techniques for storage and preservation to the elaborate conservation of some of the most important art and historic artifacts in Virginia.

Meetings are held at many museums and historic sites in Virginia, providing members rare opportunities for behind-the-scenes tours of these prominent institutions. In addition, the VCA sponsors fieldtrips and short courses on conservation topics, enabling members to study and learn in a friendly, collegial setting.

**SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 15, 2007**

### **DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF CERTIFICATION FOR CONSERVATORS**

At the March members' meeting Terry Drayman-Weisser, objects conservator at the Walters Gallery and chairman of the AIC Committee on Certification, will be present to talk with VCA members on the progress and implications of plans to implement a certification process for conservators in the U.S. This is a process that will impact all of us. Plan to be there to join in the discussion on what certification is and what it will mean both to the field and to the individual conservator.

You can access up-to-date grant opportunities and deadline information through the AIC web site at: <http://aic.stanford.edu/news/grantandfellowship.html>. The site includes many direct links to applications and grant-providing institutions.

## The VCA Spotlights AIC Certification

In the mid 1990s the concept of a certification program for professional conservators in the United States once again became a major topic of deliberation for the AIC. Several years of discussion eventually led to a majority vote by the AIC membership in favor of certification. Accordingly, the AIC Board then established a committee to develop the framework for a certification program. Since 2004, the Certification Development Committee (CDC) has worked towards this goal, with steady input from various other AIC committees and the AIC specialty groups. CDC activities are directed by Terry Drayman-Weisser, who previously served as chair of the AIC Certification Task Force, which initiated and energized new debate about the possibility of certification by completing an in-depth investigation into the topic.

The focus of the CDC is to create a feasible and fair structural format for certification, and to devise the most effective, appropriate means of bringing it to reality. Designed appropriately, the program will encourage participation by a majority of qualified conservators, and allow for those persons to successfully complete the certification process without compromise of the standards that define professional competency.

The AIC certification program is the featured topic of the March 2007 VCA meeting. What kind of examination will be administered and how will it be created? What will be the criteria to qualify for certification? How will certification impact my work and my ability to earn a living? Such questions and other related issues will be discussed to better educate ourselves about impending certification and help dispel myths and misinformation. AIC-CDC members Terry Drayman-Weisser and Frederick Wallace will be in attendance to open the forum, answer questions and provide an update on the status of program development.

Fred Wallace, Member VCA

Member, AIC-CDC

## Fundamentals of Book Repair

### Solinet Class—Virginia Historical Society

Wear and tear on books is inevitable, and most libraries perform minor repairs on their damaged materials. Despite good intentions, some materials and procedures used for repairing books can shorten the useful life of an item and make it hard to open and use. Done properly, book repair is an effective preservation strategy that can extend the useful life of a collection and reduce replacement and binding costs.

This two-day class teaches staff members how to perform simple, economical, preservation-quality repairs on materials on circulating and reference collections. It focuses on techniques that do not require expensive equipment and supplies, and can be performed successfully after a short training period. The class does NOT teach techniques for repairing materials that are special, rare, or archival. The following procedures are taught in small-groups through demonstrations and practice:

- tightening hinges when text blocks are pulling away from the cover
- replacing torn endsheets
- replacing torn or damaged spines
- mending paper
- tipping and hinging pages into bound volumes

The class provides context for the repair work. Lectures and discussion address preservation principles, treatment decision-making, and organizing and equipping a repair unit. Included with the registration fee is a book repair kit containing a variety of tools, samples of paper, cloth and adhesives provided by support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Date** February 7 & 8

**Time** Day 1 8:15—5:00  
Day 2 8:30—5:00

**Location** Virginia Historical Society

#### **Intended Audience**

Designed for staff members who actually perform book repair in libraries, but also useful for those who supervise repair units. NO prior preservation training will be presumed. Because of support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access, ALL SOLINET members are charged the Governing Member rate for Preservation classes and non-members are charged the Affiliate Member rate. Any institution within the hosting state qualifies for the member rate.

For workshop details or to register, visit <http://www.solinet.net/workshops/>

## Virginia Conservation Association 2006-2007 Board Members

### Officers

President	Carol Boyers Givens	cbgivens@comcast.net	804.364.2096
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Minutes from the VCA Board meetings will be published on the VCA website. Visit [www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)

## AIC's 35th Annual Meeting

April 16-20, 2007  
Richmond, Virginia

### Location:

Marrriott Richmond/Richmond Convention Center

Rates: \$159-single/double; \$169-triple; \$179-quad

### Tentative Schedule:

April 16 - Workshop

April 17 - Workshops and Tours

April 18 - General Session, Specialty Group Sessions, Exhibits, and Opening Reception

April 19 - Specialty Group Sessions, General Session, Exhibits, and Party<sup>2</sup>

April 20 - Specialty Group Sessions

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit [www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org) for details on fieldtrips and workshops!

January 18th—Members' Meeting—Science Museum of Virginia

January 26th—Metro Richmond Emergency Response Team Meeting (in association with VAM), Library of Virginia. Contact Margot Carlock, VAM executive director, at 804-788-5821, for more information.

February 7 & 8—Solinet Workshop, Fundamentals of Book Repair—Virginia Historical Society

March 10-13—VAM Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA [www.vamuseums.org](http://www.vamuseums.org)

March 15th—Members' Meeting—*Certification for Conservators*—location to be determined

April 16-20—AIC 35th Annual Meeting



VCA

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#### Next VCA Members' Meeting

Thursday, January 18

5:30 p.m.—  
Refreshments

6:30 p.m.—Program and  
brief business meeting

Location: Discovery  
Room, Science Museum  
of Virginia

See page one for  
details!