



## VCA NEWS

# NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

September 2015 Volume 25, No. 1

### *FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Welcome to a new year with the VCA! I am excited to be the president and I look forward to working with all of you to continue the hard work so many members have put into the VCA and to move forward with your new ideas. We also have several new board members so please check the newsletter for the complete slate of officers. And if you have any suggestions regarding the VCA please feel free to give me a call anytime!

The programs committee has been hard at work this summer working on plans for the upcoming year of programming. We will start the year with our September meeting at the Mariner's Museum where member, Will Hoffman, will give us a presentation on the Worthington Steam Engine reproduction project. In November, we will be at the Virginia Historical Society to learn about the Hoffbauer Mural Restoration by Cleo Mullins' Richmond Conservation Studio.

This summer the board met to discuss new ideas and directions for the VCA. One area of change that you may notice on the membership form is a box to check if you would like to serve as a mentor for new members or if you are in need of a mentor. Several members have pointed out that sometimes it can be intimidating to be new to the VCA and maybe a mentor program could help new members become acquainted with the organization a little easier. If you are willing to be a mentor, one role that you would serve is to help introduce your mentee to members at the meetings. It is also an opportunity to help some of our new student members who may need some advice on how to apply for a conservation program or the best person to contact for an internship. We all have a wealth of knowledge that we can use to help the next generation continue in their career path. If you are interested in being a mentor or being mentored, please check the appropriate box on the membership form and the board will match up members as the need and interest arises.

(continued on page 2)

## VCA Members' Meeting September 24, 2015

5:30 P.M.

**Note: This is a change from our usual Third Thursday**



*Photo courtesy of the marinersmuseum.org*

### **Pumping You Up! Reproducing a Worthington Steam Pump from USS Monitor**

**Will Hoffman  
Senior Conservator  
USS Monitor Collection  
Mariner's Museum  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606**

*(See Page 3 for More Details and Directions)*



***Please Bring an Appetizer to Share  
Drinks Will Be Provided***

*From The President continued from Page 1*

This year the board would like your opinion on whether the organization needs the services of a consultant. Some members feel that the organization could benefit from a neutral person to meet with the board and willing members to discuss several issues including board and member apathy, and board reorganization. The proposal is that a consultant may be able to assist the board with reorganizing board positions and help the organization create planning for our future. It is thought that the organization has become a little stagnant and that fresh eyes may help us grow and find ways to reenergize the organization. Due to the potential costs involved of hiring a consultant I would like to ask each of you to vote on this issue at the September members meeting. I, and the rest of the board, will try and answer any questions you may have regarding this proposal before we vote. If you do not plan to be at the meeting we would still like to hear from you. We will send out a link to vote online that will be available on the VCA website ([virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://virginiaconservationassociation.org)) and on our Facebook page. In addition if you have further questions or comments regarding this proposal please feel free to contact me or any other members of the board.

Lastly, we are going digital!! The VCA is stepping into 2015 with a new online membership renewal. If you go to the website you can now renew your membership and pay through PayPal. PayPal does charge us a small fee for each transaction and so we would like to ask members who are paying online to please consider adding \$1 donation to their member fee to offset the cost of the transaction. We are in the transition phase of this so please forgive any hiccups as we work out all of the glitches. Hopefully this will allow us, in the future, to register for field trips and workshops a lot more smoothly. Which leads me to...I hope all of you have renewed your membership for the year and I look forward to seeing you in September!

Best,  
Kathy Garrett-Cox

*Guests are welcome at our  
Members' Meetings.  
Bring a friend or colleague.  
Help the VCA Grow!*

## Alliance for Response Forum



*Photo Courtesy of Valinda Carroll*

This national program on cultural heritage and disaster management was held at Hanover Tavern on July 28th. This day-long event was the first forum in Virginia and was an opportunity for museum staff and volunteers to meet with first responders to learn from and develop partnerships to improve local planning efforts to protect heritage resources. The Crisis Communications panel discussion (Photo above) was held on the set of a Virginia Rep play. The participants also had a chance to see Historic Hanover Tavern's newly constructed education and events center.



Congratulations to VCA board member **Keri Ragland** for being awarded The Master of Arts in Historic Preservation Alumni Prize. The award is given each year to encourage and reward an outstanding first year historic preservation graduate student, and in 2015, it was Keri! She was awarded the prize based on her term paper "Sea Level Rise and Historic Structure Salvage" in which she evaluated historic structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places along the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and how they could be affected by the rising sea level. She proposed a matrix to assist with the



decision of which properties should be saved and which could be condemned to the sea. The matrix placed heavy consideration and preference on properties of local, cultural and income

driving significance and addressed properties based on a point system.

*Congratulations, Keri!*

**Please share any articles, photos, upcoming conferences, internships, etc. that you think would be of interest to our members.**

**The next newsletter deadline is Monday, Oct. 19th  
[dotrob327@verizon.net](mailto:dotrob327@verizon.net)  
[lizzibeck@gmail.com](mailto:lizzibeck@gmail.com)**

## *VCA Members' Meeting* *September 24, 2015*

In 2010, Mariners' Museum conservators began an ambitious project to create an operational replica of one of USS *Monitor's* Worthington steam pumps using multiple molding methods, laser-scanning, computer-aided-drafting, fused-deposition-modeling, and several casting and machining techniques.

The presentation will provide an overview of the methods and challenges in reproducing the steam pump and highlight how the replication process has aided in the conservation of the original artifacts as well as show the potential of a project like this to be an avenue for conservation outreach.

VCA Members arriving for the meeting should use the **\*\*business entrance\*\* (framed by large bronze doors)** to the Mariners' Museum and wait at the security desk for a staff member to lead you back to the *Monitor* Center Classrooms. There is another event at the Museum that night and those attendees will be using the main entrance.

**Parking:** Park in the lot next to the Peninsular Fine Arts Center and it is a short walk to the business entrance.

To view the live web cam of conservation work on the *USS Monitor*, go to:

[www.marinersmuseum.org/uss-monitor-center](http://www.marinersmuseum.org/uss-monitor-center)

(Photo courtesy of marinersmuseum.org)



### *Upcoming Programs*

November 19, 2015

**Confederate Murals Conservation and Tour of the  
New Galleries of the Virginia Historical Society  
Cleo Mullins, Beth Fulton, Stacy Rusch**

January 21, 2016

**Sailor Jerry Tattoo Art  
Samantha Sheesley  
VCU Library**



2015-2016

## VCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### *OFFICERS*

**President:** Kathy Garrett-Cox  
**Vice President:** Marla Curtis  
**Secretary:** Dianne Roland  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Beck



### *COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

**Bylaws:** Heather Logue Emerson  
**Disaster Response:** Katherine Ridgway  
**Education:** Keri Ragland  
**Membership:** Bill Ivey  
**Outreach:** Patricia Selinger  
**Programs:** Mary Scott Andrews  
Co-chair, Karri Richardson  
**Publications:** Dotty Robinson  
Co-chair, Haley Beck  
**Refreshments:** David Shakibnia  
**Web Management:** Valinda Carroll



Have you been looking for a way to get more involved with the VCA? Think about joining one of our committees. The chairs cannot do it all alone and would love a few additional members to help with their committee work. If you are interested in one of the committees you can now indicate that on your membership form or contact the committee chair.

**Thanks! Kathy**

## *VCA Member Profile*

*Will Hoffman*

*Conservator—Mariners' Museum*

Will Hoffman knew in college that he liked working with objects. He had always enjoyed visiting museums and art galleries, and this helped him gain interest in conservation and preservation. He is currently a senior conservator at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.

Hoffman attended State University of New York College at Buffalo, where he double majored in Anthropology with a concentration in Historic Archaeology, and Art with a focus on sculpture centered around metal fabrication and bronze, iron, and aluminum casting. As he neared graduation, though, he was still unsure of what he wanted to do. "I never really thought about conservation until I participated in an archaeological field school at Old Fort Niagara," Hoffman said. "During the excavation we had the opportunity to go to the conservation lab and work with an object conservator who was cleaning the freshly excavated artifacts. While working in the lab, I found out that I enjoyed working more with the artifacts after they were out of the ground than in it."

Hoffman was able to blend his interests in art and archaeology through conservation. His work at the Mariner's Museum allowed him to work on steam engines recovered from the USS *Monitor*. He developed a method for safely disassembling components that have the consistency of hard chalk, what he considers one of his most challenging projects. One of the more fun aspects of his job involved the use of Nd:YAG lasers to remove corrosion products off a copy of Alfred Gilbert's "Eros" fountain from Sefton Park in Liverpool. Hoffman says he is not sure what the future holds but that there is always something enjoyable to do at the museum, especially when it comes to working on the *Monitor*.



An exhibit for the USS *Monitor* at the Mariner's Museum  
Photo courtesy of [marinersmuseum.org](http://marinersmuseum.org)

# VCA BOARD RETREAT

July 18, 2015  
Maymont

## Attendees:

Kathy Garrett-Cox  
Patricia P. Selinger  
Bill Ivey  
Rick Vogt  
Kate Ridgway  
Valinda Carroll  
Nancy Beck  
Haley Beck  
Dotty Robinson  
Dianne Roland  
Marla Curtis  
Beth Fulton  
Keri Ragland  
Heather L. Emerson  
Karri Richardson  
David Sakibnia

Current and outgoing Board members met in a retreat to create better continuity and to discuss the current state of the VCA and its future direction.

One of the main points of discussion was whether or not to move forward with hiring a consultant to help the VCA with a strategic plan to increase membership and to look at restructuring the Board itself. Outgoing President Rick Vogt expressed his belief that whether or not to hire a consultant is one of the most important decisions this Board will make as it may require changing the VCA mission itself. Pros and cons of hiring a consultant were discussed at length.

**Recruiting new members:** Main points of discussion centered around efforts to recruit new members from the ranks of conservators, students, and others who have an interest in conservation of material culture. The current membership is about 80. It has been around 100 in some previous years.

Historically the VCA was to help conservators stay in touch with one another and present programs of interest. This was before the internet made this type of interaction easier.

A decision was made for the Board to review the current membership roster at the October meeting and decide the best way to contact past members who have not renewed. It was also felt by most members that promoting conservation as a career is an important goal of the VCA. Some of the ideas for increasing membership included: 1. Institutional memberships in addition to individual memberships

and ask their directors to encourage VCA Membership; 2. speakers designed to draw in a general population audience such as Ron Hurst, Director of Collections, Conservations, and Museums at CW or directors of major house museums to discuss the need for preservation and conservation; 3. Marketing the VCA to historical based professionals and preservationists. Concern was expressed about the difficulties and expenses involved in programs open to the general public. There might be a problem finding a venue that the VCA could afford and the cost of publicity; and it might require a fee for attendees. Also, this would mean that the Program Committee might need additional help in arranging for more general programming; 4. Encourage members to bring colleagues to meetings—members meetings free to guests; 5. Make sure programs also held outside Richmond; 6. Explore pod casts of programs for 1 year; 7. Advertise programs through VAM; 8. Encourage student involvement by starting a scholarship program for workshops, conferences, etc; 9. Ride sharing sign-up online.

Reasons for new members to join the VCA include: Networking, social, professional growth, connecting with others in conservation fields, and continuing education. To help new members the VCA will ask current members to consider becoming a mentor and this will be added to the membership application. Also, remind Board members to introduce new members and visitors to the group and make them feel welcome. Patricia will explore getting name tags.

**Consultant:** Several Board members talked about the need for a consultant to help re-energize the VCA. Sue Kindred is one consultant who has been proposed and she spoke to the group at the May meeting about some of the things she could do for the VCA. After much discussion and a review of the survey by the Board, it was decided to ask the membership to vote on hiring a consultant. This will be done at the September meeting and perhaps on-line. If we proceed with hiring a consultant, we will formulate a scope of work and a time frame, and the Board will seek to interview several consultants and get a cost for this work.

*Continued on Page 5*

## Other Business:

### **Disaster: Kate Ridgway. Upcoming Events:**

Museum Emergency Support Team meeting in August.  
Alliance for Response Conference at Hanover Tavern.

**Education: Keri Ragland.** Welcomes more ideas for workshops. Ideas: Tufting Workshop, Fit Testing for Vapor Masks, Mount Making, Box Making, and Fake Food are just some suggestions. Contact her with any others.

**Membership: Bill Ivey.** Produce Excel Spreadsheet for Members, List of Lapsed Members for October Board Meeting. Dues by first meeting in September.

**Outreach: Patricia Selinger.** Patricia will serve on the Top 10 Endangered Artifacts committee in her role as Outreach Chair. She will meet with Christina Newton from VAM to discuss how VCA can be further involved in the organization. Patricia got feedback from VAM that the display at the annual meeting needs to have more pizzazz. The VAM annual meeting will take place in Williamsburg March 12-14, 2015. Patricia's ideas for outreach include: publicity flyers for meetings that members can post, meeting publicity, name tags, and establishing a mentor program.

**Programs: Karri Richardson and Mary Scott Andrews.** Working on programs for this coming year, September meeting night to move. May program may be more informal and in conjunction with a Spring party or house tour, and change format of meetings to have program first and business meeting after as a courtesy to speaker.

**Publications: Dotty Robinson and Haley Beck.** Deadlines for this year's newsletter, ask for calendar input from members as well as photos and write-ups from conferences, workshops, etc. Will continue member spot-light features by Haley—let her know if you have someone to suggest. Suggestion made to submit Chair reports to Publications and Secretary.

**Refreshments: David Shakibnia.** Will bring drinks and paper products to meetings. Ask members to bring a dish/appetizer to share. Consider an on-line sign up for members to keep everyone from bringing similar dishes—SignUpGenius is one option. Start looking for Holiday Party venue—need suggestions.

**Website: Valinda Carroll.** Working on Pay Pal and on-line sign up.

**The October Board meeting is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> in Williamsburg**

**Treasury Balance as of  
August 17, 2015**

**\$4,118.78**

## **Minutes of the Members' Meeting May 21, 2015**

The May members' meeting was held on May 21, 2015 at Agecroft. The program theme was Preserving the Iraqi Jewish Archive.

The business meeting began with the **treasurer's report and budget proposal** by Nancy Beck. Nancy announced the new post office box: PO Box 7023, Richmond 23221. The proposed budget was accepted.

Next, Kate Ridgway discussed the upcoming "Alliance for Response" conference. Interested members should register through VAM. Valinda will put a link to their website on the VCA website.

Mary Scott Andrews asked for ideas for upcoming **programs**. We need 5, and they can come from anywhere in the state.

Patricia Selinger spoke about **Careers in Conservation**. The last event at the VCU library, which was also broadcast on YouTube, went the full 2 hours and had lots of good conversation and questions.

Outgoing VCA President Rick Vogt announced that he plans to continue working with the VCA after his term as president ends.

Dianne Roland read the ballot for **new officers and chairs** aloud. After each nomination, membership voted yes or no. The proposed slate passed unanimously.

Next, Vice President Marla Curtis suggested that the old board and the new board meet over the summer for a **retreat** to ensure a smooth transition.

Patricia Selinger mentioned that she has contacted a consultant who can make suggestions on how to grow our membership. The **consultant**, Sue Kindred, works with non-profits and looks at their structure to give them business strategies and organizational sustainability. Ms. Kindred told the members about some of the things she has done for other groups. Rick Vogt brought up the theorem that in any given organization, 20 percent of the members do 80 percent of the work. Sue said that has shifted to 3 percent doing 97 percent of the work. Sue also mentioned she would start by training the board. She works on a six month contract at \$2,500. Fred Wallace asked how to get people involved and participating. He mentioned that some members had left, and we needed to get them interested again. Sue mentioned letting people know the benefits of VCA membership.

A discussion ensued about getting the word out about programs which may appeal to other groups, or collaborating with other groups.

The meeting was adjourned and the program presentation began.



## *Iraqi Jewish Archive Conservation Project*

*Presented by Conservator Katherine Kelly*

*May 21, 2015*

*(Photos courtesy of The National Archives)*



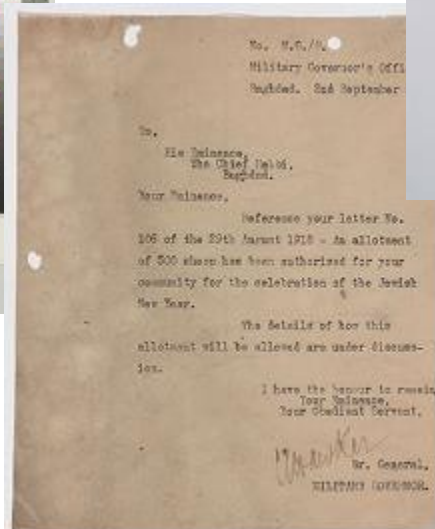
On May 6, 2003, the 16 American soldiers from Mobile Exploitation Team Alpha, a group assigned to search for nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, entered the flooded intelligence headquarters. The basement housed thousands of documents and books that were under four feet of water. A room in the basement was devoted to materials related to Iraq's Jewish community. Many soon realized the importance of this unlikely survival of books and manuscripts, which are part of the legacy of Iraqi Jewish experience.

The wet materials quickly became moldy despite efforts to dry them. The Coalition Provisional Authority arranged to store the materials in a freezer truck to stop further mold growth. They also requested the assistance of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, which sent preservation experts to Baghdad in June 2003.

Local options in Baghdad to dry and care for the materials were limited, so with the agreement of Iraqi representatives, the books and documents were shipped to the United States for preservation and exhibition, after which they will be returned to Iraq.

A catalogue of all materials with digital images of unique items will be available online and accessible internationally through the National Archives website. [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

### **Before and After Photos of a 1918 Letter Regarding the Allocation of Sheep for the Jewish New Year**



### **Before and After Photos of a 1902 Haggadah Manuscript**



**Join / Renew Today!**

# The Virginia Conservation Association 2015-16 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Title/Institutional Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_ 'Kco 'y kmpj 'vq'lt xg'qp'vj g'aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaEqo o kwgg''

- |   |   |                                    |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator                | <input type="checkbox"/> Curator   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Technician      | <input type="checkbox"/> Collection Manager/Registrar | <input type="checkbox"/> Appraiser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate (Intern/Fellow) | <input type="checkbox"/> Framer/Preparator            | <input type="checkbox"/> Collector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter |
- Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Objects | <input type="checkbox"/> Furniture              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Objects                | <input type="checkbox"/> Textiles              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books & Paper          | <input type="checkbox"/> Paintings              | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic Objects   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Materials | _____  |

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you willing to serve as a Mentor? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Would you like to have a mentor? \_\_\_\_\_

**Practicing Conservators / Consultant Conservators Only:**

Would you like your contact information included in our website VCA Services Directory? \_\_\_\_\_

The Virginia Conservation Association is open to all interested individuals. To become a member, complete this form and return it with your dues payment of \$30.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student; enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by September 24<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the 2015-16 VCA Directory.

NOTE: If you are renewing after September 24<sup>th</sup>, please apply a \$5.00 late fee to your payment.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the following address:

Treasurer  
The Virginia Conservation Association  
P.O. Box 7023  
Richmond, VA 23221