



Smithsonian *Young Benefactors*

MAY 2008

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CONTACT US

Katharine Reishman,
Director
Phone: 202-633-8604
Email: ReishmanK@si.edu

Jaclyn Reimann,
Coordinator
Phone: 202-633-8663
Email: ReimannJ@si.edu

Ticketing Box Office
Phone: 202-633-3030

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Dear %%FIRST_NAME%% %%LAST_NAME%%,

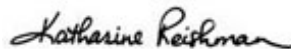
Spring is here and with it the beginning of many new arrivals. This spring we will be rolling out several new membership campaigns to welcome newcomers to the DC area and introduce them to the Smithsonian Young Benefactors. May also marks the kick-off for all things equestrian, and as such, we will be kicking off ticket sales to the [2nd Annual Smithsonian Young Benefactors Cup](#) this month! We hope you will join us while sporting your polo chic, so please keep an eye on your inbox for the pending invitation for the **Polo Kick-off Thursday, June 5th!** It will be a party—not to be missed!

To successfully implement and execute our new membership programs, we appreciate your support in assisting us to collect contacts. We believe these programs will not only better connect our members, but increase the awareness of the aims of the Smithsonian Young Benefactors. One of the programs the YBs will be implementing is a [YB Ambassador Program](#), where we will have the opportunity to share information about the Young Benefactors in various organizations in the area during new hire orientation and training sessions. The second is a [Link Program](#), which will assist new members with friendly introductions at various YB events. We are aiming to connect busy young professionals with culture, the community—and each other. Please read further in this month's newsletter for additional information on the program, and thank you in advance for your support.

Finally, don't forget to attend our monthly Happy Hour, Second Saturday Tour, Voices to Access Project, and New Member Dinners to meet other YBs while giving back to this great Institution.

Encourage your friends to join! Please forward this newsletter and bring a friend to our monthly Happy Hour events. For membership or event information, go to www.YoungBenefactors.org or email yb@si.edu.

Sincerely,



Katharine Reishman

Get Involved-Volunteer Opportunities

YB Ambassador Program

The Young Benefactors are creating a YB Ambassador Program to increase awareness and membership. Through this program, YB Ambassadors will visit organizations and companies and give a short presentation about the Smithsonian Young Benefactors to employees at opportunities such as employee orientation, training sessions, etc. We are currently looking for YB members who would like to get more involved by volunteering to serve as an ambassador.



Candidates need to consider their work schedule and job location, before committing to the YB Ambassador Program. Since many of these presentations will occur during business hours, we are seeking individuals who have the opportunity to duck out of work for a brief moment to present on behalf of the YBs. We will provide all volunteers with appropriate materials, details and information. For more information and to sign up, contact Jaclyn Reimann at ReimannJ@si.edu.

YB Link Program

The YBs are beginning a Link Program to provide new members with immediate contacts in the organization and are currently looking for volunteers to serve as "links." Links will be responsible for attending one new member dinner throughout the year and serving as a liaison for the new members in attendance. The Link is meant to essentially be a mentor for new members, invite them along when you plan to attend a YB Happy Hour or event. We believe the Link Program will not only introduce members to one another, but has the capacity to further connect our members with the aims of the Young Benefactors and the Institution.

If you would like to get involved and support the Young Benefactors, please email Jaclyn Reimann at reimannj@si.edu.



YB New Member Dinners

Monday, May 12, 6:45 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: [Tallula](#)

2761 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA – 202.778.5051

(Clarendon Metro, Orange line)

See [Menu](#)

Calling All New Members!

The Young Benefactor Leadership Committee invites you to attend our New Member Dinners at Tallula. These dinners provide a perfect opportunity to meet other new Young Benefactors as well as current members and chairs of our committees. There is no charge to attend the dinner; however, attendees are responsible for their food and drink costs along with any applicable gratuities.

At Tallula, you will enjoy use of their semi-private wine room and separate checks.



Reservation Policy: New Member Dinners are designed to provide new members with an opportunity to meet each other and learn about the organization in a small group setting (10 to 15 people per dinner). Therefore, we require that all interested attendees RSVP. Seats for each monthly dinner will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If the available seats have been filled for the dinner you request, your name will be placed on the waitlist, and you will be confirmed for a seat at a future dinner.

To RSVP: Send an email to ybnewmembers@yahoo.com with the following information: "New

Member Dinner" (Subject Line), your name, email, phone, date of dinner you would like to attend, month/year you joined, and your YB member ID.

YB Second Saturday Tour

Saturday, May 10, 12 noon

Location: Smithsonian American Art Museum

Intersection of 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, D.C

Metro: Chinatown/Gallery Place Metro Station (Green, Yellow, and Red lines)

Members Only! FREE!

"Color as Field: American Painting, 1950-1975"

This month the Young Benefactors experience the Color Field Movement. Color Field is one of the crowning achievements of postwar American abstract art and the show "Color as Field: American Painting, 1950-1975" is the first ever full-scale examination of the sources, meaning, and impact of this movement. Color Field painting, which emerged in the United States in the 1950s, is characterized by bright, vibrant, and expansive pieces. Using pouring, staining, spraying, or painting techniques, artists applied thinned paint onto raw canvas to create vast chromatic expanses.

This exhibition includes thirty-nine beautiful and impressively scaled paintings by such major figures as Gene Davis, Helen Frankenthaler, Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, and Jules Olitski. "Color as Field" presents a remarkable opportunity for viewers to fully comprehend the aims of these artists, view their finest works in close relation to each other, and experience the beauty and visual magnetism of their pictorial handling of space and color. However, this exhibition ends on May 26th so be sure to see it before it's too late!

Space is limited! Email ybsecsat@yahoo.com by May 7th to reserve your space. **Reservations will be taken by email at this address only and are required to attend.** The Smithsonian Young Benefactors are planning to go to lunch following the event. Attendees will be responsible for their own lunch and any applicable gratuities. All are invited to attend.

Please provide the following information in your email:

- "May Tour Reservation Request" in the subject line
- Your name and your YB Member ID

Voices to Access Volunteer Project

Saturday, May 17, 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: [National Museum of American History](#)

14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metro: Federal Triangle or Smithsonian Metro (Blue and Orange lines)

The Voices to Access Project provides cassette recordings of the *Smithsonian* magazine and other printed materials to more than 800 people monthly who are visually impaired. YB members volunteer in the packaging and mailing process, allowing the Smithsonian to offer the recordings free to those who need it. It is a wonderful way to give back to the Smithsonian while meeting other YB members in a small group setting. The group may go to lunch afterwards.

Since the museum is now closed for renovation until fall 2008, you will receive instructions on how to enter the museum upon signing up. The Voices to Access Project takes place in the Accessibility Office (Room 2100A) on the second floor. The office is situated near the end of the *Communities in a Changing Nation* exhibition.

For information or to sign up, e-mail voicestoaccess@yahoo.com.

Special Event – Keep an eye out for your invitation! 2nd Annual Young Benefactors Cup Kick-Off Event

The Young Benefactors are planning to celebrate the beginning of the polo season and officially kick off the **2nd Annual Smithsonian Young Benefactors Cup**. Dust off those sundresses and be prepared to trot your polo chic at this not-to-be missed event! An invitation is forthcoming, so keep an eye on your inbox.

The **2nd Annual Smithsonian Young Benefactors Cup** is Saturday, September 6th - a fabulous afternoon of polo on the National Mall! Players include several of our very own Young Benefactors, as well as, amateur and professional players, such as actor John Walsh and one of Argentina's famed players, Ignacio "Nacho" Figueras, who also happens to be the face of Polo Ralph Lauren men's line. Tickets coming soon, so be sure to keep checking our website for event details.

An invitation to this exclusive Young Benefactors event will follow. For tickets and event information call 202.633.8667 or visit www.youngbenefactors.org.

YB Spotlight

Openings, Events, and Exhibitions of Interest

[The Honor of Your Company is Requested: President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball at the National Portrait Gallery](#)

Travel back 143 years to the revelry of Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural ball. This small, focused exhibition celebrates the president's second inaugural ball, held on March 6, 1865 in what is now the museum's historic home. The ball took place as Lincoln's second term began, with the Civil War in its final stages, and only six weeks before Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater nearby. From pomp and politics to feasting and fights over food, this was one night destined for the history books. [Click here](#) for more information.

[The Peacock Room at the Freer Gallery of Art](#)

The Peacock Room was once the dining room in the London home of Frederick R. Leyland, a wealthy shipowner from Liverpool, England. Leyland commissioned the American-born artist James McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) to paint the dining room. Between 1876 and 1877, Whistler brightened the room with golden peacocks, painting every inch of the ceiling and walls to create an elegant setting in which Leyland could display his blue-and-white porcelain as well as Whistler's painting, *The Princess from the Land of Porcelain*. Purchased by Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919) in 1904 and installed in the Freer Gallery of Art after his death, the Peacock Room is on permanent display; however, don't wait to view this exquisite space. [Click here](#) for more information and an online brochure.

[click! photography changes everything](#)

Organized by the Smithsonian Photography Initiative as a series of integrated programs, *click! photography changes everything* invites the public to consider ways in which photography enables us to see, experience, and interact with the world.

click! invites experts from a spectrum of professional worlds—innovators, image makers, writers, and public figures—to survey the ways photography has influenced the history, progress, and practice of each of their fields of interest. These commentaries and their related images reveal how photographs are encoded with information and values, and how the meaning of images depends on the needs and perspectives we bring to them.

Eventually, over one hundred project contributors will explore the ways photography has impacted and continues to change everything—from anthropology to astrophysics, media to medicine, philosophy to sports, war to love. The goal of *click!* is to argue for a broader, more inclusive social and cultural history of photography, and a deeper understanding of the role photographs play as active agents of change.

[Click here](#) to explore this interactive site and learn about the site's future plans.

Recommended Resident Associate Events

As a Young Benefactors Member, you receive member discounts to the nearly 1,200 Resident Associate programs offered each year. Visit ResidentAssociates.org or grab a copy of the monthly *Smithsonian Associate* catalog for a complete program listing and ticket information.

[Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark: Masters of Mystery](#)

Wednesday, May 7, 6:45 p.m.



Mystery runs in this family, which boasts two authors of the mystery suspense writing genre—Mary Higgins Clark and daughter Carol Higgins Clark. Each has her own style: Mary writes about psychological trauma that her female characters eventually overcome, while Carol creates lighter crime stories featuring feisty heroine Regan Reilly. In addition, the two find ways to collaborate and still speak to each other at the end of the day.

In an interview with Bill Thompson, host of Metro Radio Network's Eye on Books, the duo reveal a few of their trade secrets but not too many because then they would have to find a way to silence you! .

[Architectural Olympics in Beijing - Free for YB and Resident Associate Members](#)

Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m.



World-class athletes aren't the only star attractions at the upcoming Beijing Olympics. Two superstars are the National Stadium (the "Bird's Nest") and the National Aquatics Center (the "Water Cube"). The Bird's Nest stadium boasts a capacity of 100,000 seats and is made of gray mining steel covered with a transparent membrane. The sustainable design of the adjacent Water Cube is based on the natural formation of soap bubbles. The structure is clad in 4,000 inflated plastic bubbles.

The Smithsonian Associates is honored to present Li Xinggong and Fu Xueyi, two leaders on the Chinese teams in the international consortiums that created these stadiums. Li Xinggong is Chinese general designer, the National Stadium, and deputy general architect, China Architecture Design and Research Group. Fu Xueyi is chief structural engineer, National Aquatic Center, and general engineer, China Construction and Design International. Their illustrated talk focuses on the design, construction, and influences of these extraordinary structures.

[Working with Digital Cameras](#)

Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.



Digital cameras have become popular for use in all types of photography because of their combination of convenience, immediacy, and high-quality images. Despite the wide range of cameras available, there are many common characteristics which, when understood, allow better control of the picturetaking process.



This hands-on workshop covers topics such as obtaining a good exposure using various shooting modes; making exposure adjustments on an image that is too light or too dark; controlling color and tone as files are captured; understanding resolution, picture quality, and file formats such as JPEG and RAW; transferring files to the computer; and organizing files with a browser. A brief discussion of Adobe Photoshop and Photoshop Elements for browsing and editing purposes is included, as is a discussion of options for printing digital files.

There is not prerequisite; students do not need to own a digital camera to benefit from the class. However, they are welcome to bring a digital camera, charged battery, and instruction manual to class.

[Maori Culture: Seeing Beyond the Warrior Image](#)

Co-Sponsored with the Embassy of New Zealand

Thursday, May 22, 7 p.m.



More than 1,000 years ago, the Maori arrived on New Zealand in canoes from their ancestral homeland of Hawaiki. There they established a rich indigenous culture while maintaining their ancient beliefs through centuries-old oral traditions.

In an illustrated presentation with video clips, art historian and native Maorian Jo Diamond focuses on her culture's artistic raranga, or weaving. She explains this highly developed art shaped by Maori women in terms of its spiritual, political, and technical meanings. Diamond also draws a contrast with the warrior aspect of the culture, often stereotyped as the hallmark of the Maori.

Diamond is a visiting Fulbright lecturer at Georgetown University's Center for Australian and New Zealand studies. A light reception follows the presentation.

Please share your thoughts and/or questions. The YB Committees value your input and welcome all volunteers — Contact information and Committee descriptions are available at www.youngbenefactors.org/contact.shtm.

For more information on the Young Benefactors of the Smithsonian Institution, visit www.youngbenefactors.org.

For more information on the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program, visit www.residentassociates.org.

You have received this email because you subscribed to the service or submitted your name and e-mail address to be added to the distribution list for the young professional membership group of the Smithsonian Institution. If you no longer wish to receive this e-mail, please visit www.youngbenefactors.org/email.htm to unsubscribe or send an email to CustomerService@ResidentAssociates.org.