



# Smithsonian *Young Benefactors*

February 2009

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Dear %%FIRST\_NAME%% %%LAST\_NAME%%,

Inauguration has come and gone and we welcome our new President, Barack Obama to D.C.! While you may feel February is the calm after all the excitement in January, there are still lots of events happening around town and at the Smithsonian. Several are highlighted in this month's newsletter, and we hope you will join us.

If you're like many who are still identifying your New Year's resolutions—you're not alone. Always a standard on everyone's list... "Get out and meet new people". Well, the Young Benefactors can help with this one! A great opportunity to meet other Young Benefactors is to become a YB Volunteer. We are constantly seeking volunteers for our monthly Happy Hours and special events throughout the year. If you would like to receive notices via email, please send us an email at [yb@si.edu](mailto:yb@si.edu) and include "Seeking Volunteer Opportunities" in the subject line. You may also find ongoing occasions as well as Smithsonian events listed on the "Get Involved" page on the YB Website for opportunities.

This year the Young Benefactors hope to mix things up a bit and explore new cultural opportunities offered in the city. If you have ideas or suggestions as to what you would like to explore, please send us an email at [yb@si.edu](mailto:yb@si.edu). We would love to hear from you.

Be sure to become a fan of the Smithsonian Young Benefactors Facebook page! We will be posting events and updates to this page throughout the year. <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Smithsonian-Young-Benefactors/8592292165?ref=mf>

Katharine Reishman

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](http://www.YoungBenefactors.org) or email [yb@si.edu](mailto:yb@si.edu).

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## *Voices to Access Volunteer Project*

Saturday, February 21, 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)

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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 American History Museum has now re-opened, you many now enter the museum through the main Entrance. If you arrive before the Museum opens, please check in through the Staff Entrance in the parking tunnel. 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 *Communities in a Changing Nation* exhibition.

For information or to sign up, e-mail [voicestoaccess@yahoo.com](mailto:voicestoaccess@yahoo.com).

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## *YB Second Saturday Tour*

Saturday, February 14, 12 noon

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

10th Street and Constitution Ave., NW

Metro: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza Metro (Blue and Orange Lines)

**FREE** for Members Only

### The Sant Ocean Hall and the Hope Diamond

The YB Second Saturday Tour will combine two pivotal exhibitions. First we will visit The Sant Ocean Hall. The Sant Ocean Hall is a one-of-a-kind interpretive exhibit, extraordinary in scale which presents the global ocean from a cross-disciplinary perspective, highlighting the biological, geological, and anthropological expertise and unparalleled scientific collections of the Museum, as well as ongoing research in marine science. The exhibit shows how the ocean is intrinsically connected to other global systems and to our daily lives. Next we will visit the Gem and Mineral collection which is home to the infamous Hope Diamond and contains celebrity jewels such as Marie Antoinette's Diamond Earrings.

Space is limited! Email [ybsecsat@yahoo.com](mailto:ybsecsat@yahoo.com) by February 11th 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:

- "February Tour Reservation Request" in the subject line

- Your name and your YB Member ID

## *YB New Member Dinner*

Monday, February 9th, 6:45 to 9 p.m.

NEW Location: [The Melting Pot](#)

1220 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metro: Dupont Circle (Red Line)



### Calling All New Members!

The Young Benefactors Leadership Committee invites you to attend our New Member Dinners now at The Melting Pot. 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 The Melting Pot, the YBs will enjoy a prix fixe menu of a salad and two fondue courses for \$20 (plus tax and gratuity), wine specials, and use of a private room.

**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 (15 to 30 people per dinner). Therefore, we require that all interested attendees RSVP. Seats for each 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 a waitlist, and you will be confirmed for a seat at a future dinner.

To RSVP: Send an email to [ybnewmembers@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Happy Hour*

Wednesday, February 18th, 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: [Liberty Tavern](#)

3195 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201

Metro: Clarendon Station (Orange Line)



**Nonmembers Welcome! \$10 Suggested Donation for the YB Culture4Kids Fund**

This month the Young Benefactors head to the Liberty Tavern, housed in an historic Masonic Lodge building in trendy Clarendon. Touted by the Washingtonian as "smart and unexpected" this spot is a classy and fun locale for YB's to meet and mingle. In addition to a terrific atmosphere, YBs will enjoy \$3 beer, and \$5 wine. Be sure to bring your friends as our monthly happy hours provide nonmembers with a great venue for learning about our organization. And, as your mixing and mingling, don't forget to make a donation to the YB Culture4Kids Fund (suggested amount \$10), which provides support for local area schoolchildren to attend the educational and cultural programs presented by The Smithsonian Associates, such as, Smithsonian Summer Camp and Discovery Theater performances.

For more information, please contact [yb@si.edu](mailto:yb@si.edu).

## YB Spotlight

### Openings, Events, and Exhibitions of Interest



#### [Gorilla Born at the Zoo!](#)

On January 10, a western lowland gorilla was born at the Zoo's Great Ape House to 26-year-old Mandara and 16-year-old Baraka. The newborn represents the seventh successful gorilla birth for the Zoo since 1991. Both mother and baby appear to be doing well.

The newborn joins siblings Kigali, Kwame and Kojo, as well as group member Haloko at the Great Ape House. All of the Zoo's gorillas will remain on exhibit.



#### [“The Scurlock Studio and Black Washington: Picturing the Promise” Exhibition](#)

Opens at the Smithsonian January 30

Nearly a century's worth of photographs from the Scurlock studio form a vivid portrait of black Washington, D.C., in all its guises—its challenges and its victories, its dignity and its determination. The exhibition features more than 100 images created by one of the premiere African American studios in the country and one of the longest-running black businesses in Washington. Highlights include

cameras and equipment from the studio and period artifacts from Washington.



#### [First Ladies at the Smithsonian: National Museum of American History](#)

New Permanent Exhibit

This exhibition highlights the role of the first lady and features 14 First Ladies' gowns, as well as portraits, White House china, and personal possessions from the Smithsonian's collection. A section discussing the tradition of the First Ladies' inaugural gown answers some of the most frequently asked questions about the gown collection. The final section focuses on the contributions of the first ladies, the country's expectations of them, and the ways in which they have supported the

most powerful office in the country.

Gowns on view include those worn by Martha Washington, Dolley Madison, Sarah Polk, Mary Todd Lincoln, Lucy Hayes, Frances Cleveland, Florence Harding, Grace Coolidge, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy, Rosalyn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Laura Bush.

For other new and upcoming events at the Smithsonian, [click here](#).

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## 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.

#### [History in a Glass: Famous New Orleans Cocktails](#)

Tuesday, February 10, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.



You might not be surprised to learn that the Hurricane cocktail was born in New Orleans, but did you know it's the product of wartime rationing and resourcefulness? Did you also know the city on the bayou claims one of the world's oldest cocktails—a blend created by a 19th-century ancestor of cocktail historian Phil Greene? Join Greene and Chris McMillian, a master mixologist from the Big Easy, both of whom are founding members of the Museum of the American Cocktail, for a literal taste of New Orleans via the libations it made famous. Learn and taste how the underappreciated Vieux Carre cocktail represents the history and demographics of the French Quarter of the 1930s. Learn (and shake your way through) the history and assembly of a Ramos gin fizz, following directions from the “Louisiana Kingfish” Huey Long. From the Sazerac to the mint julep, you will see how history lives on in the ways we eat and drink.

[→ BUY TICKETS](#)

## [The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks: The New Jazz Standards](#)

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 p.m. (Full Orchestra)



The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra (SJMO) was founded in 1990 with an appropriation from Congress in recognition of the importance of jazz in American culture. In the fourth year of its series with The Smithsonian Associates, SJMO has been hailed for its “vitality and skill” *Jazz Times*, “crisp ensemble work,” and “many gifted soloists” *Washington Post*. This season looks back five decades to reflect the importance of 1959 as a time of transition in the jazz world. Under artistic and musical director David N. Baker, the SJMO delves into those vast changes.

In an era of musical innovation, new creative approaches were taken to the orchestration of the jazz ensemble as new harmonic concepts created vehicles for longer, freer improvisation. This music came straight from the source: the jazz musician. Highlights included John Coltrane’s “Giant Steps,” a hallmark of virtuosic jazz, and the subtle, modal “So What” that helped define the musical voice of Miles Davis.

[→ BUY TICKETS](#)

## [An Evening of Chili with Jane Butel](#)

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.



Whether it’s all beef and no beans, spiked with 5-alarm peppers, topped with cheese, stirred into spaghetti, or spooned over a hot dog, chili is a fun, all-American dish rich in history. Chili fueled the cattle drives coming out of Texas and northern Mexico and fed the Confederate Army coming out of Texas. Though sometimes it is called chili con carne, the dish—surprisingly—is not the least bit Mexican or Spanish.

Tex-Mex doyenne Jane Butel, author of 18 cookbooks, TV host, and founder of the cooking school bearing her name, shares her knowledge of both chiles and chili and provides tips and techniques for cooking this national dish and its many variations. Following her talk, participants enjoy tastings of three different chili recipes and accompanying dishes in the National Museum of Natural History’s Atrium Cafe.

Butel’s new cookbook, *Chili Madness (Workman)*, is available for signing after the program.

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## [Form and Narrative in Photography](#)

Wednesday, February 25-March 18, 6:30 p.m.



Every photograph has two parts: form and narrative. Form is pure visuals—line, shape, color, value, planes, etc. Narrative is storytelling—what the subject matter is about.

This class helps photographers understand and master the spectrum between form and narrative. At the extremes, fine art photographers emphasize form over narrative; documentary photographers emphasize narrative over form. However, most of us work somewhere in between.

During our four weeks together, we'll look at the work of hundreds of fine-art, documentary, and commercial photographers who balance form and narrative differently, and in the process, clarify and improve our own photographic expression. Assignments are given in class and work is reviewed the following week.

Both digital and filmbased photographers are welcome. All work is processed outside of class time. Students should have good working knowledge of their cameras (including digital procedures if applicable) and know the basics of exposure, especially how to modify shutter speed and aperture settings.

Instructor Shannon Ayres is a Northern Virginia-based fine-art photographer.

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In order to purchase tickets online, you will need to login to our website. Only current Young Benefactors members are able to purchase tickets at the member rate for both Young Benefactors and Resident Associate programs/events.

If you have not yet used your Temporary Login, which is linked to your Smithsonian account, please use the information that appears below:

%%\$temp\_login%%

%%\$temp\_password%%

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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 <http://youngbenefactors.org/ticketing/contact.aspx>.

For more information on the Young Benefactors of the Smithsonian Institution, visit [www.YoungBenefactors.org](http://www.YoungBenefactors.org).

For more information on the Smithsonian Resident Associate Program, visit [www.ResidentAssociates.org](http://www.ResidentAssociates.org).

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