



**November 2009**

Not a Member?

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

[VOICES TO ACCESS  
VOLUNTEER PROJECT](#)

[NEW MEMBER DINNER –  
THE MELTING POT](#)

[SECOND SATURDAY TOUR  
– THE UNITED STATES  
BOTANIC GARDEN](#)

[HAPPY HOUR – SPOT  
LOUNGE](#)

[SMITHSONIAN SPOTLIGHT](#)

[RECOMMENDED  
RESIDENT ASSOCIATE  
EVENTS](#)

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

The autumn leaves are falling and the air is crisp. Come inside from the cold and enjoy exciting events at the Smithsonian. Sip a "Sakesonian" cocktail at an Omakase dinner and sake tasting, view awe-inspiring training footage and learn about the Navy SEALs from top officials, attend an all-day seminar on Italian food with lunch and tastings, and tour The United States Botanic Gardens.

Celebrate the holidays in style at the Smithsonian Young Benefactors 20th Annual Jolly Holiday party on Friday, December 4th in the Smithsonian Castle! Enjoy gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts, open bar, music and dancing, a visit from Santa and much more! It will be a fantastic event with Cirrus Vodka, Heineken, Ravenswood Winery, Shiseido, and Washington Life as sponsors. Shiseido will be providing all attendees with gift bags that include new products and a facial massage. Try out Shiseido's products during the evening at a lip-stick touch up station for women and a grooming service station for men. You will also have a chance to purchase many fantastic items at our mystery box fundraiser! [Buy your tickets](#) early and save! Tickets will increase in price on November 23rd.

Take a break from preparing the turkey and purchase your tickets to Jolly Holiday and all of the exciting Resident Associate Programs.

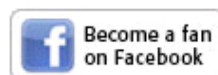
Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,



Katherine G. Stilwill

The Young Benefactors are always seeking volunteers, if you would like to receive volunteer 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 volunteer opportunities listed on the "Get Involved" page of the YB Website.



**CONTACT US**

Kate Stilwill,  
YB Coordinator  
Phone: 202-633-8663  
Email: [StilwillK@si.edu](mailto:StilwillK@si.edu)

Ticketing Box Office  
Phone: 202-633-3030

***Voices to Access Volunteer Project***

**Saturday, November 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)

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,

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allowing the Smithsonian to offer the recordings free to those who need it. This 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 new location is by the gift shop on the first floor, which is straight back from the Constitution Avenue entrance of the American History Museum. (Please note that there are two gift shops and we meet at the largest one on the first floor.)

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

***New Member Dinner***

**Monday, November 2, 6:45 to 9 p.m.**

**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 Second Saturday Tour***

**Saturday, November 14, 2009, 12 noon**

**Location:** [The United States Botanic Garden](#)

The United States Botanic Garden is located at: 100 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20001. The National Garden is adjacent to the Conservatory, with entrances from Independence Avenue, from Maryland Avenue (at 3rd Street), and from the Conservatory Terrace.

**Metro:** The closest Metro station is Federal Center Metro Station (Blue, and Orange lines).

**Members Only! FREE!**

## "Go Green to Discover Flora and Fauna"

This month the Young Benefactors will be going green to explore the United States Botanic Garden.

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. It traces its beginning to 1816, when the constitution of the Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences in Washington, D.C., proposed the creation of a botanic garden to collect, grow, and distribute plants of this and other countries that might contribute to the welfare of the American people. Famous founding fathers George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison also shared the dream of having a national botanic garden but it wasn't until 1820 that the Institute's garden was established by Congress. The Garden was moved to its present location in 1933. Today it has committed itself to educating the public about sustainability and ways to live by supporting the interconnected web of life that is the environment, and in particular, by nurturing the plants that support the life on our planet.

Space is limited! Email [ybsecsat@yahoo.com](mailto:ybsecsat@yahoo.com) by November 11th to reserve your space. **Reservations will be taken by email at this address only and are required to attend.** Please note the Smithsonian Young Benefactor's will be meeting near the Information Desk.

Please provide the following information in your email:

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

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## Happy Hour

Wednesday, November 18, 6 to 9 p.m.



**Location:** [Spot Lounge](#)  
1214 18th ST NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.785.2922

**Metro:** Dupont Circle (Red Line); Farragut North (Red Line)

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

Join fellow Young Benefactors and friends at the newly opened Spot Lounge, located in Dupont Circle.

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.

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## Smithsonian Spotlight

Openings, Events, and Exhibitions of Interest

[Anne Truitt: Perception and Reflection](#)  
October 8, 2009 to January 3, 2010  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Visit the Hirshhorn and view the first major survey spanning Anne Truitt's 40-year career since her death in 2004. In addition to a variety of three-dimensional works -- suggestive of walls, towers, and other architectural forms -- in which she explored the



effects of scale and proportion, the retrospective with over 80 objects presents the column sculptures that became her hallmark. While the geometric shapes of her work resonated with minimal art appearing in the 1960s, Truitt pursued an independent course, incorporating influences from Washington Color Field artists, as well as mid-century abstract painters like Ad Reinhardt and Barnett Newman. Truitt (born in 1921 in Baltimore, Maryland) was based in Washington, D.C., for most of her adult life and has been largely under-recognized for her contribution to post-1960 art.

For more information visit <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/exhibitions/>

### **Public Observatory Project (POP)** **National Air and Space Museum**

Celebrate the International Year of Astronomy and enjoy a new activity at the National Air and Space Museum: a public observatory. Look through the 16-inch telescope to discover craters on the Moon, spots on the Sun (using safe solar filters), the phases of Venus, and other wonders of the universe. Participate in hands-on activities related to astronomy.

The Observatory is located outside on the National Mall Building's east terrace.

**Hours:** Tuesday through Sunday from 10am-2pm, weather permitting, for daytime observing. Schedules are subject to change and will be posted at Observatory entrance and at the Museum's Welcome Center.

For more information visit: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/exhibitions/POPobservatory.cfm>



## ***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](http://ResidentAssociates.org) or grab a copy of the monthly *Smithsonian Associate* catalog for a complete program listing and ticket information.



### **Barack Obama: 365 Days** **Wednesday, November 4, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.**

Few would argue that the election of Barack Obama as the nation's first African American president in November marked a historic moment. Obama, a one-term senator from Illinois, swept a new party into power in the White House, backed by strong Democratic majorities in Congress.

But history does not stand still. In the grind of daily politics, there is only one question: What have you done for me lately? After one year, the promises and hope give way to concrete deeds: laws passed, appointments made, and crises tackled.

For a meticulous examination of how the Obama presidency is faring, we have assembled a panel with varied perspectives. White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs brings his insight as a member of the administration and a key player from the campaign. Chuck Todd, chief White House correspondent for NBC News, offers a newsman's outlook. Kellyanne Conway, CEO and president of polling inc./WomenTrend, and political commentator, offers a Republican perspective. Author Robert Dallek, who has chronicled the lives of presidents, presents the view of a presidential historian. Moderator Kenneth Walsh, chief White House correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, has covered the presidency, presidential campaigns, and national politics since 1986.

**BUY TICKETS**



### **On the Brink of Extinction: Journeys with the Rarest Animals in the World** **Thursday, November 12, 6:45 p.m.**



Conservationist **Jeff Corwin** was inspired to set out on a yearlong odyssey to document the world's vanishing species by biologist E.O. Wilson's concept of the Hundred Heartbeat Club—species with 100 or fewer animals alive in the wild.

From the plight of the last remaining orangutans of Sumatra to the imperiled black rhinos of Africa, Corwin provides us with a riveting firsthand look at species that are on the verge of extinction. Along the way, he unfolds tales of heroic adventures and battles in defense of Earth's most threatened creatures. Corwin shares prerelease footage from his MSNBC documentary about these endangered animals.

Corwin is a biologist, Emmy Award-winning producer, and host on Animal Planet and the Travel Channel. His book *100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species* (Rodale) is available for signing after the program.

[+ BUY TICKETS](#)



### [Sake: From Rice to Ritual](#)

With an Omakase Dinner

**Thursday, November 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Leave it to the chef! That's what omakase means, and it's the approach to this dinner and sake pairing: the chef's choice of the freshest ingredients presented in a series of innovative small dishes. Chef Boonrod Yotmanee of Asia Nine restaurant demonstrates his love for gastronomy in a menu created to showcase premium sakes. As you sip your "Sakesonian" cocktail, historian Constantine Vaporis sets the stage with an account of the historical and cultural roots of sake in Japan. Sake expert Michael Simkin conducts a sake tasting, guiding us through the intricacies of five premium sakes, drawing on his travels and experience in Japan's sake breweries.

Vaporis is a professor of Japanese and East Asian history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Simkin is proprietor of MJS Sake Selections, a sake consulting company. Coordinator Gail Forman is a freelance food and travel writer.

[+ BUY TICKETS](#)



### [For the U.S. Navy SEALs, the Only Easy Day Was Yesterday](#)

**Tuesday, November 17, 6:45 to 9 p.m.**

On April 12, U.S. Navy SEAL snipers shot and killed the three Somali pirates holding Capt. Richard Phillips hostage, ending a tense standoff that began several days earlier when the cargo ship Maersk Alabama surrendered to the pirates.

This mission was all in a day's work for the SEALs, whose motto is "The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday." SEALs take their unusual name from "sea, air, and land" because they operate on and in all three elements. With ghostlike stealth and clandestine methods of operation, they conduct missions under extreme conditions, against targets that larger forces cannot approach undetected.

Tonight we hear from men at the top of this elite force, who offer a glimpse into their daily life. A senior officer who directs global naval special warfare discusses worldwide operations: the many teams at work, SEAL missions, and their impact in Afghanistan and around the globe. He traces the origins of the SEALs and explains the evolution of unconventional warfare.

A senior enlisted SEAL shows awe-inspiring film footage and delves into the intense training, including Basic Underwater Demolition training, Arctic and desert survival, SERE (Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape) training, and static line and free-fall jumping.

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### [Savory Stories of Essential Italian Foods](#)



With Tastings and Luncheon

ALL-DAY SEMINAR

**Saturday, November 21, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

Americans know and love Italian food, but few of us understand the nuances of history and culture that the ingredients represent. In this all-day seminar, we focus on signature staples of Italian cuisine: wheat products, cheese, olive oil, and cured meats. Each Italian region's foods reflect distinct geography, cultural influences, and traditions. Using historical examples, food historians reveal the connection of farming practices and cooking traditions to Italian regional identity and cultural history.

Participants enjoy a seasonal, Italian-inspired luncheon with wine, prepared by Chef Alex Bollinger of Urbana Restaurant.

Ken Albala is a professor of history at University of the Pacific and has written several books about food. Nancy Harmon Jenkins writes books about Mediterranean cultures and cuisines, the latest of which is *The New Mediterranean Diet Cookbook* (Bantam).

[+ BUY TICKETS](#)

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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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