

# THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **2009 IN REVIEW**

2009 was another successful year for the Center for Home Movies. We opened a new office, and went forward with several preservation projects. Home Movie Day expanded into new countries—Thailand and Finland—and we developed new collaborative projects with our European colleagues. We also brought in several new collections, and began looking ahead to several exciting 2010 projects.

## **BALTIMORE OFFICE**

CHM opened its first office in Baltimore in the summer of 2009. The office, in a historic church that has since been converted into an office space for nonprofit organizations, is located at 1014 W. 36th Street (known locally as "The Avenue") in Baltimore's Hampden neighborhood. Baltimore was chosen primarily for the practical reason that it is the new home of CHM board member Dwight Swanson, but its location also allows for regular trips to CHM's collections at the Packard Campus of the Library of Congress's National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia.



## **TRADEMARKING HOME MOVIE DAY**

After a long process with the assistance of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, CHM was granted a trademark for HOME MOVIE DAY for “arranging, organizing, and conducting events featuring amateur films worldwide; educational services, namely tutorials and symposiums that feature advice and information on storage, care, and use of amateur films worldwide (U.S. CLS. 100, 101, and 107).

## **NEW STANDARDS for HMD TRANSFER HOUSE LISTINGS**

The Transfer House listings on the HMD site got a thorough renovation before the 2009 event. While we continue to have a free and open policy with regard to listing businesses that would

like to appear on the HMD site, we now ask that they read, and subscribe to, a statement of principle respecting intellectual property and privacy rights. We also require that they actively encourage preservation of original materials, removing website language suggesting that DVD's solve the preservation problem by replacing originals -- and that they return originals to clients along with transfer media as a matter of policy. Response to these requests was generally affirmative, and CHM now has greater confidence that business listed on the HMD site are "on board" with our organization's principles.

In further support of the public need for responsible transfer work, a new "Transfer Options and Issues" document has been added to the HMD site outlining the various issues relevant to choosing a transfer service and laying out the various issues of preservation and access relevant to a far-sighted care of family films. The goal is to equip the public with the conceptual and practical savvy to keep them in control of their own preservation process while entrusting their originals to any third party for transfer.

### HELEN HILL'S HOME MOVIES



On May 8th, three reels of home movies of life in New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina preserved by the Center for Home Movies were shown at Philadelphia's International House as part of a three day tribute to the late filmmaker Helen Hill. The films premiered before a screening of Helen's animated films. Becky and Kevin Lewis, Hill's mother and stepfather were guests of honor at the event, as well as the previous night's screening of Lotte Reiniger's film *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*.

The reels were part of a larger group that was preserved at Colorlab, Inc. in Rockville, Maryland as part of a grant from the Women's Film Preservation Foundation, along with the support of the Harvard Film Archive. In addition to her animated films, Helen was a committed home movie maker and for years had been shooting super 8 reels documenting her life in New Orleans. The reels were rescued by Hill from her flooded home in the Mid-City neighborhood of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Several dozen reels had been sitting in

flood waters for weeks while Hill and her family were in exile in Columbia, South Carolina, and the films' emulsion suffered severe damage, and large portions of the image were irretrievably lost. After retrieving them, Hill began fastidiously trying to salvage the films, setting up a cleaning and inspection station in her basement in Columbia.

(Helen Hill, cont.)

The Center for Home Movies had begun working with Hill to preserve the home movies after she had acted one of the main organizers of the New Orleans Home Movie Day event in 2006. The Women's Film Preservation Foundation grant had already been submitted when Helen was tragically murdered by an intruder in her new home in the New Orleans's Marigny neighborhood. The grant was awarded posthumously, and upon completion will result in nine reels of 16mm blowups as well as digital video copies of the home movies. They will be deposited at Harvard, where Helen was an alumna.

## THE NEW ENGLAND HOME MOVIE ROAD TRIP

In early December, CHM board members Katie Trainor and Dwight Swanson hit the road to visit two of CHM's elder advisors, Alan Kattelle and Robbins Barstow.

Alan Kattelle hosted the two at his home in Hudson, Massachusetts, on the shores of Lake Boon west of Boston. Kattelle, a retired engineer, developed the world's largest collection of amateur film equipment over the course of decades. He also wrote the book "Home Movies: A History of the American Industry, 1897-1979," the definitive history of amateur film equipment.



The three then drove into Boston's Chinatown for a special post-Home Movie Day home movie day screening hosted by Liz Coffey, Amy Sloper, Melissa Dollman and CHM board member Albert Steg. The event was held at the Storefront Library, an ambitious temporary library project by the nonprofit organization the Boston Street Lab.

The following day, Katie and Dwight headed south to Wethersfield, Connecticut, home of CHM advisor and supporter Robbins Barstow and his wife Meg. Barstow celebrated his 90th birthday on October 24, 2009, which the governor of Connecticut declared as "Dr. Robbins Barstow Day" in tribute. The year was another banner year for Robbins, following the naming of his Disneyland Dream to the National Film Registry at the end of

2008. Internet accolades continued throughout the year, especially after actor and comedian Steve Martin saw a fleeting shot of himself (at age 10) in the film. Barstow was also featured in Clive Young's book "Homemade Hollywood: Fans Behind the Camera," which celebrated Barstow's film *Tarzan and the Rocky Gorge* (which can be found on CHM's *Living Room Cinema* DVD) as being the earliest known example of a fan-inspired movie tribute.



Left to right: Katie Trainor, Meg Barstow,  
Robbins Barstow, Dwight Swanson

## WALLACE KELLY'S HOME MOVIES

CHM completed the preservation of four reels of the home movies of Wallace Kelly, under a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. Kelly's films first came to the attention of CHM when his daughter Martha brought several of them to the New York City Home Movie Day event in 2007. His masterpiece, *Our Day*, was named to the National Film Registry that same year by the Librarian of Congress, who noted the film's "uses creative editing, lighting and camera techniques comparable to what professionals were doing in Hollywood."

With the assistance of Martha Kelly, four reels were preserved at Colorlab, Inc., who created new negatives and prints from the 16mm originals, as well as digital video copies. The films, *Wallace Kelly Goes to New York* (1929), *Trip to the Yellowstone* (1937), *The Enterprise Goes to Press* (ca. 1938), *Family Trip West* (1939), are available for viewing and download on CHM's Home Movie collection on the Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)).



The complete films are available for download at:

<http://www.archive.org/details/WallaceKellyGoesToNewYork>

<http://www.archive.org/details/TripToTheYellowstone>

<http://www.archive.org/details/EnterpriseGoesToPress>

<http://www.archive.org/details/FamilyTripWest>

## **SPOTLIGHT ON COLLECTIONS:**

### **THE AMATEUR MOVIE MAKERS ASSOCIATION COLLECTION**

CHM received the bittersweet news that it was to be the repository for the records of the Amateur Movie Makers Association, which folded in 2009 after 53 years. Its first meeting was in the fall of 1956, in the basement of the Tappan, New Jersey home of Sidney and Helen Horitz. Initially begun as the American chapter of the Institute of Amateur Photographers, a British organization, in the 1970s it became the Society of Amateur Cinematographers. Reflecting the changing times and technology, in 1991 it transformed into the Society of Amateur Videographers and Cinematographers. Its final change came in 2002, when it became the Amateur Movie Makers Association.

In its time the AMMA was one of America's largest cine clubs, and had up to 371 members before beginning its gradual decline. As with other clubs, it was a way for amateur filmmakers to stay in touch with other filmmakers and trends in filmmaking. Through newsletters and meetings its members were able to view and critique each others films.

The organization had annual contests in which awards were given for best films of the year as well as the "Magic Moments" contest for films one minute or less. At the last AMMA convention in Buena Park, California in 2008, the Oscar Horovitz Memorial Award for the Best Motion Picture by a member of AMMA was granted to Leo Tallieu of Michigan, who won for his nature film *Kayaking on the Oxbow*.

CHM is working with members of the AMMA to develop a repository for the organization's records and a selection of the members' award-winning films.

### **THE CHAD HUNTER COLLECTION**

CHM board member donated his collection of home movies and audio to CHM in 2009. Largely amassed in Rochester, NY from flea markets, estate sales and the Internet between 1998 to 2004, one highlight is the 16mm film collection of Julius Simon, a Kodak employee, whose two dozen plus reels show the lives of a Jewish Rochester family in the late 1920s through the 1940s, including his late 1920s honeymoon trip to "Hollywoodland," CA, neighborhood paper drives, Hanukkah celebrations, etc. The Elsie Barrett collection contains films and accompanying 1/4" audio with narration that she made in the 60s and 70s around Rochester and on vacations across the US. She brought them to the first Home Movie Day in Rochester and said she was throwing them out. The collection is in storage along with the other CHM collections at the Library of Congress's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound collections in Culpeper, Virginia.

## PRESENTATIONS AND SCREENINGS

### **“To Save and Project”**

Katie Trainor, in her role as Film Collections Manager at the Museum of Modern Art, organized the program “Mama, Don’t Take My Kodachrome Away! A Celebration of Home Movies,” with two screenings in MoMA’s Titus Theaters. This was the first time that MoMA’s annual “To Save and Project” series of recently-preserved films dedicated an entire program to home movies. The program included Wallace Kelly’s *Our Day*, Robbins Barstow’s *Disneyland Dream*, George Ingmire’s *Think of Me First as a Person*, and Helen Hill’s New Orleans home movies, as well as home movies of Alfred Hitchcock and Joan Crawford and amateur gems from Nashville’s Country Music Hall of Fame.

### **"My Face / Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World"**

CHM Board Member Snowden Becker presented the paper "Handle With Care: Respecting Other People’s Pictures in Collections and Online" as part of the panel "My Face / Public Space: Privacy Issues for Photographs and Film in the Web 2.0 World" at the Society for American Archivists' conference in Austin, Texas. The session explored “the challenges inherent when putting images of individuals online, starts a dialogue about best practices, and provides practical tips for handling these materials with care and respect.”

### **New York University**

In November, Dwight Swanson and Katie Trainor discussed Home Movie Day, the Center for Home Movies and amateur film preservation in professor Dan Streible's advanced seminar in Moving Image Archiving and Preservation.

## THANKS

At the 2009 Board of Directors Annual Meeting and Retreat, it was agreed that the board would send letters of thanks to Dan Streible, Robbins Barstow, Liz Coffey and Jennifer Accardo, all of whom have been unwavering supporters of the Center for Home Movies over the years.

Dan Streible has supported CHM through the Orphan Film Symposium, which brings together most of the leading archivists and scholars interested in home movies year after year. Dan, through Orphans, also arranged for the donation of laboratory work for the preservation of *Think of Me First as a Person* and *Our Day*.

Robbins, who has been one of the most vocal supporters of CHM as a member of its advisory committee, also became the face of Home Movie Day by filming a Public Service Announcement about Home Movie Day, which was distributed online.



(Thanks, cont.)

Liz Coffey has hosted a Home Movie Day event in Boston every year, as well as several years where she put on more than one event. She was also the author of the "Home Movie Day 101" document which is an invaluable guide for new Home Movie Day organizers.

Jennifer Accardo, the wife of Dwight Swanson, has been one of CHM's key financial supporters and friends.

#### **CHM AND ARCHIVIO NAZIONALE DEL FILM DI FAMIGLIA**

Karianne Fiorini of Home Movies, the National Amateur Film Archive (Archivio Nazionale del Film di Famiglia) in Bologna visited the Center for Home Movies office in Baltimore in August 2009. Karianne and CHM board member Dwight Swanson discussed potential collaborations between CHM and our Italian counterparts. As part of the visit, Karianne and Dwight visited the Lombardi family in Philadelphia, where they recorded an interview in preparation for a long-term project on Italian American home movies.

#### **HOME MOVIE DAY 2009**

"Home Movie Day is important because our lives, our recollections, and our truth is recorded in home movies. One day, what the heck, c'mon!"

**Steve Martin**



Steve Martin (highlighted bottom center of frame) from Robbins Barstow's *Disneyland Dream*

## HOME MOVIE DAY AMSTERDAM

At the request and invitation of Simona Monizza, CHM sent a Board member in the person of Albert Steg to contribute an hour-long presentation to the Netherlands Filmmuseum's extensive 2009 HMD program. The Amsterdam event is perhaps the most elaborately staged HMD event, and easily the most highly attended in 2009, with an audience of 325 and screening activities taking place in four distinct rooms: (1) an inspection room where visitors sit with volunteers who enable them to view their films on individual editing devices, (2) a theatre in which attendees have their films screened publicly after inspection if they so desire, (3) a Film Tent with several projectors set up to handle overflow from the main theatre, and (4) a second theatre offering a daylong program of "curated programs" of home movie material brought by archives and laboratories. The CHM presentation was one of these curated programs and included an overview of the CHM organization and mission enlivened by screening of passages from several films transferred for the "Amateur Night" project: Fairy Princess (1955), the famous home movies of Alfred Hitchcock (1934), Atom Bomb (1953) and Helen Hill footage of New Orleans after hurricane Katrina (2005). The CHM presence at the event is emblematic of CHM's desire to be engaged with a broader international community in promoting home movie preservation.



Home Movie Day Amsterdam  
photo by: Albert Steg

**The following is our list of 2009 Home Movie Day Cities, Organizers and Volunteers**

**HMD 2009 CITIES**

**Argentina**

Buenos Aires

**Australia**

Sydney

**Canada**

Calgary

Edmonton

Ottawa

Toronto (2 events)

**Finland**

Malakka

**Germany**

Berlin

**Italy**

Bologna

Milano

Sesto Fiorentino

Vicenza

**Japan**

Hirosaki

Kodaira

Misawa

Nagoya

Nishifunabashi

Osaka Hirano-ku

Sangenjaya

Sendai

Senju

Yanesen

**Netherlands**

Amsterdam

**Thailand**

Nakornpathom

**U.K.**

Bradford

London

**U.S.**

Atlanta, Georgia

Austin, Texas

Baltimore, Maryland

Bellingham, Washington

Berkeley, California

Bloomington, Indiana

Boston, Massachusetts

Boulder, Colorado

Chicago, Illinois

Denver, Colorado

Duluth, Minnesota

Greenville, North Carolina

Huntington, New York

La Jolla, California

Los Angeles, California

Louisville, Kentucky

Miami, Florida

Naperville, Illinois

New Orleans, Louisiana

New York, New York

Orlando, Florida

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Portland, Maine

Portland, Oregon

Providence, Rhode Island

Raleigh, North Carolina

Rochester, New York

San Francisco, California

San Luis Obispo, California

Seattle, Washington

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

White River Junction, Vermont

## **HMD Organizers:**

Ruta Abolins, Oe Akiyo, Kaveh Askari, Antonella Bonfanti, Philip Borgnes, Janet Ceja, Wesley Chenault, Liz Coffey, Liz Czach, Ryan Daly, Pat Doyen, Brian Drischell, Jon Durkovic, Karen Eberhart, Skip Elsheimer, Paula Félix-Didier, Brenda Flora, James Fox, Lia Friedman, Joe Gardner, Maija Howe, A. Howel, Tom Hurter, Martin Johnson, Lisa Kerrigan, Ieyasu Kimura, Martin Koerber, Britt Kootstra, Tony Kurtz, Gypsye Legge, Jeanne Liotta, Leandro Listorti, Julie Lofthouse, Evangelina Loguercio, Pablo Marín, Anne Marquis, Tim Massett, Lindsay Mattock, Genevieve Maxwell, Megan McCooley, Simona Monizza, Nozomi Nakagawa, Julia Nicoll, Stephen O'Riordan, Terry O'Riordan, Eri Ono, James Paasche, Hannah Palin, Stephen Parr, Jennifer Peterson, Joanna Poses, Bruce Posner, Monica Rossi, Hideki Sakamoto, Sean Savage, Gwen Scherer, Jean-Pierre Sens, Keiichi Shima, Yuko Shiota, Dylan Skolnick, Lucy Smee, Pamela Jean Smith, Asako Takemori, Satoe Tamura, John Tariot, Charles Tepperman, Katie Trainor, Anne Wells, Tim Wisniewski

## **HMD Volunteers:**

Rommy Albers, Johnny Alexander, Hisashi Ando, Bernhard Andre, Glenn Andreiev, Larry Arbeiter, Shigeki Arimitsu, Binny Baker, Bo Baker, Franco Balducci, Fozia Bano, Matt Barats, Jacob Barreras, Massimo Benvegnù, Sarah Biagini, Anna Bigelow, Cassie Blake, Jessica Bockelman, Catrien Boettger, Stefano Boni, Michele Bonelli, Jonathan Borthwick, Suzanne Bos, Shaun Boyd, Steve Bromage, Guido Bruin, Andreas Busche, Josh C. , Adrienne Cardwell, Robert Cargni, Maria Fuentes Carrasco, Ed Carter, Misato Chikayama, Megan Clement, Nick Colin, Danny Contant, Suzan Crommelin, Kim Cumber, Daniela Currò, Amy Jo Damitz, Shana David-Massett, Nico de Klerk, Peter Dekker, Melissa Dollman, Jane Donnell, Nino Dzandzava, Guy Edmonds, Dino Everett, Germaine Fodor, Paulo Fonseca, Axel Fransberg, Klas Fransberg, Jessie Frey, Yoko Fukada, Patricia Gaetano, Joe Gamble, Anne Gant, Lyudmila Genkova, Rabia Gibbs, Karen Glynn, Mariko Goda, Maja Granstubb, Brittany Gravely, Jata Haan, Joel Haertling, Ayumi Hara, Nobuaki Hara, Michael Harvey, Yoji Hasegawa, Joe Hepworth, Tony Heriza, Fritz Herzog, Eva Hielscher, Matt Hoffman, Saiko Horiuchi, Jessica Hosford, Laurel Howard, Sue Howard, Marike Huizinga, Sadanobu Iida, Keiko Imai, Kae Ishihara, Asen Ognyanov Ivanov, Maria Janus, Rixt Jonkman, Nancy Kauffman, Mari Kawamoto, Sean Kelly, Jim Kietzman, Sean Kilcoyne, Sakiko Kimura, Lynne Kirste, Masako Kitamura, Kate Kluttz, Jonathan Knapp, Andrew Knight, Yuko Kodama, Annike Kross, Valentine Kuypers, Anthony L'Abbate, Lucy Laird, Maike Lasseur, James Layton, Samantha Le Blanc, Jenn Libby, Janine Lieberman, Raymond Liefjes, Diana Little, Yvonne Loiselle, Idle Man, Yoko Matsuhashi, Janice Maxwell, Alexis Mayer, Kevin McCarthy, Brian Meacham, Miriam Meislik, Margaret Mello, Kristen Merola, Akiko Miura, Takeo Mochizuki, Ruud Molleman, Taz Morgan, Ai Moriyama, Francesca Morselli, Chie Nagai, Ryuji Nakayama, Esther Nam, Sarah Nelson, Satoko Ohashi, Johnathon Olsen, Ty Ono, Devin Orgeron, Marsha Orgeron, Stefan Palko, Jerry Pemberton, Stefano Pesce, John Pettit, Gemma Perretta, Onno Petersen, Veronica Pino, Kate Pourshariati, Bertil Pouw, Sukie Punjasthitkul, Jukka Rajala-Granstubb, Crystal Rangel, Ronald Reinds, Meredith Rimmer, Charles Rogers, Elif Rongen, Uli Ruedel, Keiko Saito, Hidenori Sakamotoi, Jason Sanford, Hidetoshi Sase, Ole Schepp, Jan Scholten, Dorette Schootemeijer, Jay Schwartz, Paul Shackleton, Eric Scherer, Karan Sheldon,

Jon Shibata, Satoshi Shibata, Toshiko Shimokawa, Kazuo Shinato, Emily Shurtz, Erika Sillander, Amy Sloper, Joshua Smith, Rachel Smith, Lauren Sorenson, Alex Southern, Vittoria Squitieri, Stephanie Stewart, Deb Stoiber, Jeff Stoiber, Jessica Storm, Ed Stratmann, Walter Swagemakers, Yasuhide Takanashi, Masafumi Takebayashi, Miyuki Takeda, Yuko Tamo, Saki Tanaka, Z Hobert Thompson, Frédérique Urlings, Troy Vadakan, Anuj Vaidya, Dan Varenka, Janneke van Dalen, Anne van Es, Heleen van der Molen, Arvid van der Rijt, Simone Venturini, Rhonda Vigeant, Lloyd Williams, Eri Yamaki, Kana Yamamoto, Hiroki Yamashita, Sachiko Yamashita, Leah Wagner, Charlotte Erwin Verbruggen, Charlotte Walton, David Weiss, Amy Wensing, Kyle Westphal, Rich Wexler, Ineke Wiegers, Tim Wilson, Ian Wood, Steve Wright, Mikio Yamazaki, Dave Zahn, Renee Ziemann, Danuta Zoledriewska,



Home Movie Day Amsterdam  
Photo by: Asen Ognyanov Ivanov



Home Movie Day Los Angeles  
Dino Everett and Fritz Herzog

Photo by: Brian Drischell



Home Movie Day Los Angeles  
Leah Wagner  
Photo by: Brian Drischell

## SPONSORS

We would like to once again thank our generous 2009 national sponsors:

- Colorlab
- Cineric
- The Orphan Film Symposium
- The National Film Preservation Foundation
- The Library of Congress

There are many additional sponsors who have supported local HMD events with cash and in-kind donations.

For information about contributing to Home Movie Day or the Center for Home Movies, contact [film@homemovieday.com](mailto:film@homemovieday.com) or any of the CHM board members.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2009 CHM Financial report is available upon request

## LOOKING AHEAD: 2010 ACTIVITIES

### Home Movie Summit

CHM is organizing a summit meeting about digitization and online access to home movies and amateur films to take place at the Library of Congress's Packard Campus of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia.

### *Amateur Night*

Dwight Swanson is putting the finishing touches on *Amateur Night*, a feature-length compilation film comprised of sixteen amateur films and home movies from United States' film archives. The project has been made possible by support from the National Film Preservation Foundation, Cineric, and Eastman Kodak. Once completed in the fall of 2010, the film will be screened nationwide.

Contributing archives include the San Francisco Media Archive, the Orgone Archive, the Academy Film Archive, the Walker Art Center, the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Japanese American National Museum, Northeast Historic Film, the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound, Duke University Archives, the National Center for Jewish Film, the Walter J. Brown Media Archives & Peabody Awards Collection, the Chicago Film Archives, the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, the Harvard Film Archive and Paul Gailiunas, and the collections of the Center for Home Movies and Martha Kelly.

### CHM Board of Directors 2010 Annual Meeting and Retreat

The CHM Board will meet for its annual retreat in Port Angeles, Washington from May 21st to 24th. Agenda items include board development and governance, fundraising and a mission statement review.

### Home Movie Day 2010

Home Movie day 2010 is scheduled for Saturday October 16th. We look forward to new cities and countries participating.

#### The Center for Home Movies Board

Snowden Becker

Chad Hunter

Albert Steg

Dwight Swanson

Katie Trainor

Molly Wheeler