THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



CEM CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

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2013 IN REVIEW

2013 was a year of both continuity and new projects for the Center for Home Movies (CHM). Representing the organization's stability, Home Movie Day (HMD) entered its second decade of existence with the eleventh annual celebration of amateur film. Exciting initiatives started in 2013 included the Home Movie Registry, a online portal aggregating films from multiple archives; a redesign of the CHM and HMD websites to bring all of CHM's efforts under one umbrella; Home Grown Movies, a curated online exhibit of select films from the previous year's Home Movie Day; and the Richmond Local Digitization Project, which reformatted home movies for the general public in the Virginia Capital for free.

NEW WEBSITE



Fulfilling a longstanding goal, CHM has established a stronger institutional presence on the web with a newly minted website that more fully showcases our activities. The customized Wordpress theme by Zannah Marsh was paid of by our successful fundraising efforts over the past several years, and also included design of the new CHM logo you see in this report. By the summer of 2014 the existing Home Movie Day site will be retired. While HMD remains our most popular and visible ongoing project, it will now take its appropriate place alongside other CHM projects such as the Home Movie Registry, Home Grown Movies (of which see more below) and various other CHM initiatives. The site will also provide general guidelines for the care of home movies, our ongoing listing of Transfer House resources, and a blog of Home Movie related news stories on the Home page.

Essential for any public-facing organization in the 21st century, a strong online identity is crucial for an organization like CHM that has no "brick & mortar" location. The new CHM website will be a place for us to pursue our mission more effectively by making it easier for the public to know who we are, what we do, and why it matters.

HOME GROWN MOVIES

In 2007, the Center for Home Movies brought together 22 films screened at HMD events from around the world as the DVD *Living Room Cinema*. For our post-DVD media landscape, CHM has moved the sequel to *Living Room Cinema* online under the name Home Grown Movies (<u>www.homegrownmovies.org</u>). The concept is the same: select amateur film and videos that played at local Home Movie Days, not to provide a best-of-fest but to show the range of home moviemaking. Films that haven't already had a high-resolution transfer are digitized by the project's sponsor, Movette Film Transfer. Commentary or new music is commissioned, recorded and added to the video, which is then placed online for free streaming, surrounded by text telling the story behind the home movie.

Home Grown Movies debuted in 2013 with twenty amateur films and videos from eight different Home Movie Locations including Tennessee, London, Boston, San Francisco, Tucson, Berlin, Hirosaki, Japan, and Amsterdam. The wide range of home movies included in the first year of HGM include footage of a 1929 romantic meeting in Germany near what was then the largest coal-powered plant in the world; an English teenager spoofing *Doctor Who* and *The Man from U.N.C.L.E* in the



Frame Grab from Walter Barth's 1929 film Fee. Photo courtesy of the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound.

mid-60s; Frank Zach's widescreen look at San Francisco in 1958; Mexican-American farm workers marching for better working conditions in the late-70s; and documentation from 2000 of St. Nick and his blackface-wearing assistants visiting the home of a Dutch family.



Thanks to continued sponsorship from Movette, Home Grown Movies will be an ongoing project with new films being added throughout the year.

Home Movie Registry

HOME MOVIE REGISTRY

If Home Grown Movies is a selective series, than the Home Movie Registry is on the extreme other end of the scale. This ambitious new project by CHM hopes to bring every digitized home movie and catalog record of amateur cinema that is currently online into one central, searchable site. The Registry (www.homemovieregistry.org) is akin to a subject-specific union catalog like WorldCat or a curated search engine for amateur films. It doesn't seek to replace the efforts of film archives or pre-empt their online presence, but is rather a new way to provide greater visibility to the home movies held by participating institutions, and to afford researchers and viewers easy access to home movie footage in a single venue.

The Home Movie Registry is a direct realization of the issues explored in the Library of Congress funded 2010 Digitization and Access Summit (<u>http://www.centerforhomemovies.org/2010-digitization-and-access-summit/</u>) which explored the technical and social requirements in placing analog amateur film and video online for viewing, study, and reuse. The current form of the Registry is a proof-of-concept to show that CHM could pull together the video and metadata from partnering archives into one central website. The Registry currently allows for searches across the home movie collections of our partnering archives. Ideally, future versions of the Registry will allow for more robust searches and the capture of user-generated metadata.

The Home Movie Registry operates on the open source Omeka platform developed by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. CHM scrapes the metadata and video from participating archives and maps them to a common DublinCore schema allowing for interoperable searching and discovery.

Currently, the Home Movie Registry has brought together over 2,500 home movies and catalog records from five archives including the Prelinger Archives, Chicago Film Archives, and the Texas Archives of the Moving Image, and films held by the Center for Home Movies. CHM is looking for new archives and collections to include in the Registry. If you or the institution you work for collect home movies and want to participate, please contact the Center for Home Movies at info@centerforhomemovies.org.

THE RICHMOND LOCAL DIGITIZATION PROJECT



On November 8, 2013 the Center for Home Movies held its first Local Digitization Project in Richmond, Virginia at the University of Richmond Art Gallery. The Local Digitization Project is a sister effort to Home Movie Day, but instead of screening films brought in by local individuals, home movies are digitized, and returned to the family member with either a DVD or a digitized file for no cost.

Over 40 films on 16mm, Super 8, and 8mm brought in from Richmonders and attendees of the concurrent AMIA conference were digitized during the day. Films transferred that day include footage from a wedding from the early 70s filmed in a church only a few blocks from the Art Gallery; an American tourist's experience of Thailand in the 1960s; a 2002 look at a collector of frog memorabilia; documentation of the projection booth at the Byrd movie theatre in Richmond, and the destruction of a downtown Richmond building. When possible, CHM is placing these films online at the Internet Archive and eventually as a specialized exhibit on the Home Movie Registry. Five are up now with more to come. A sampling of films digitized can be see at: https://archive.org/details/1970sRichmondWedding https://archive.org/details/JKittle_The_Frog_Lady https://archive.org/details/AShapiro_Byrd_Projector https://archive.org/details/AShapiro_Building_demolition.

This first Local Digitization Day was in collaboration with Richmond film programmer extraordinaire and co-founder of the James River Film society, James Parrish. Digitization services were donated by A/V Geeks. All thanks go to Skip Elsheimer, Katrina Lamberto, and K. Sean Finch of the A/V Geeks.

ARTHUR H. SMITH PRESERVATION WORK AND SCREENING



Arthur H. Smith enjoying the fruit of his filmmaking labor in his 1979 short Memories on Film.

In 2013 the Center for Home Movies completed preservation work on a second round of films by Arthur H. Smith. The project was funded through a 2012 grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation and the labwork was conducted by Colorlab.

Arthur passed away in 2000 after having a long career making sponsored films for the Pacific Telephone Company and over 50 witty and inventive amateur narratives that he produced over six decades.

CHM previously preserved Arthur's 1950 film, *The Mirror*, which in 1951 received an honorable mention in the Amateur Motion Picture Competition. While *The Mirror* is an amateur take on the kind of thriller later seen in TV shows such as *The Twilight Zone* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, Arthur made these two films later in his life after retiring as an industrial filmmaker when he lived with his wife Blanche in a trailer home in Big

Bear Lake, California. 1979's *Memories on Film* shows Smith looking back at his life as a filmmaker. He starts the film by remembering his first plans to make films as a teenager, then systematically traces all of the cameras and equipment that he used to make his later professional films. *Memories* ends with Arthur amongst his film library at home as he and Blanche watch his first short from five decades earlier. A copy of the restored film can be viewed at



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWhk_DFr1dw.

Though he made more films after *The Last Reel* (1986), it works almost as a filmic last will and testament. The short begins with a brief tour of local landmarks, then his children come for a visit, he repairs a phone (hearkening back to his days as a Bell System technician), then introduces us to his cats. It is the next section, where Smith integrates his life story with his filmmaking process that makes the film unique and of particular interest to scholars of amateur and industrial cinemas. It is a one-of-a-kind look at life from the viewpoint of a retired senior citizen. *The Last Reel* is steaming online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m86b0hRC_yA.



Blanche Smith in a frame grab from *Blanche's Recital*.



The Nashville band lylas.

The Center for Home Movies continued its work to make the films of Arthur H. Smith better known through submitting his short *Blanche's Recital* (1977) to the Orphan Midwest film symposium held at Indiana University in September. The film was included in a music-related screening were it was accompanied by the Nashville

"dronepoem trance" band, lylas. *Blanche's Recital* is exactly that – Blanche Smith plays the organ in the trailer home she shares with Arthur and a seemingly endless number of pet cats and dogs. lylas' sonic textures filled in the spaces of Blanche's unique style of organ playing, finding common ground between a senior citizen filmed in 1977 and a rock band in 2013. lyas backed up Blanche on three songs including "Joy to the world," before launching into a spacey drone to end the collaboration. A copy of *Blanche's Recital*, without the accompaniment of lyas, can be steamed or downloaded online at



One of the Smith's many pets in Blanche's Recital.

https://archive.org/details/ArthurH.Smith-BlanchesRecital.

HOME MOVIE DAY 2013

On Saturday, October 19 the 11th annual Home Movie Day was held at 87 different locations in 81 cities spread across 18 countries! This wasn't the largest Home Movie Day; that honor goes to the decennial HMD in 2012 that was held in over 100 cities worldwide. However, it was the second largest one, which for an entirely DIY event entering its second decade of existence is an achievement to be proud of. This accomplishment is entirely thanks to the amazing efforts of all of the local hosts, the people who spend a Saturday in October helping out, and all of the folks who bring in their family memories to be screened for their friends and neighbors. The Center for Home Movies thanks everyone who put on or attended Home Movie Day in 2013. Thanks, all!

Snapshots from Home Movie Day 2013:

• Montgomery Clift's nephew screened footage of the actor and his family from the late 1920s at the first ever HMD held in Ashland, Oregon.

• The

Bloomington, Indiana HMD took place at a rock club with a DJ



Threading up a home movie in La Paz, Bolivia.

spinning soul and 60s garage over films showing the destruction from a 1965 tornado and 1936 recital of avant-garde dance.

• Besides having a talk on how to deal with flood-damage home movies, the Boulder, Colorado event screened amateur footage from an American pilot during the Vietnam War during bombing runs, shots of Boulder from the early 70s showing mountain views now obscured due to new construction, and a film from 1977 depciting the attendee's grandchildren as young kids which brought her to tears.

• The La Paz, Bolivia HMD screened locally made films from the 1930s and 40s accompanied by 78 rpm records of Bolivian music.

• The co-director of the must-see 2013 film built off of home movies, *Our Nixon*, held the first HMD in a private home in Lexington, Kentucky.

• The London HMD held at the Cinema Museum screened a number of films showing ex-pats and colonial life in 1960s Lagos, 1930s Morocco, and 1970s Dayton, Ohio. They held a special screening of the home movies of composer Benjamin Britten in honor of his centenary.

• A 1954 film of the local football team winning a match to advance to the premier league was shown at the HMD in Pamplona, Spain.

• The Raleigh, North Carolina HMD had what might be the largest audience at any HMD with close to 200 people in attendance.

• The St. Louis HMD screened a film by George T. Keating that features author Ford Madox Ford and which was preserved through the assistance of the National Film Preservation Foundation.

• The Toronto HMD was held in an antiquarian bookshop, gave a home movie repair



Volunteers setting up the check-in table at the HMD LA held at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

clinic and screened 1920s footage of a northern Canada mining town, 1940s Jewish life in the Bellwoods neighborhood of Toronto, and Kodachrome slides of a flood.

• HMD Warsaw put on a filmmaking workshop for small children and screened a film made on the first amateur film camera made in Poland, the OKO from 1914!

Two Center for Home Movies board members were interviewed for Home Movie Day. Skip Elsheimer, who helps run the Raleigh HMD, talked to WUNC's Frank Stasio on October 16th. The interview, which also included Skip's HMD co-hosts Marsha Gordon and Devin Orgeron, is up at <u>http://wunc.org/post/home-movie-day-returns-raleigh</u>. Dwight Swanson, who co-organized HMD events in Baltimore, was interviewed by Rhonda Vigeant of Pro8mm for her podcast on all things amateur, *Home Movie Legacy*. The episode featuring Dwight can be found at http://www.homemovielegacy.com/show-39-dont-throw-films-bring-home-movie-daydwight-swanson-oct-9/.



A partial list of formats screened during the 2013 Home Movie Day:

8mm: 137 Super 8: 108 9.5mm: 7 16mm: 109 28mm: 1

Edmonton

Video (unspecified): 26 Video8: 1 DVD: 10 Digital Streaming/YouTube: 2

The following is a list of 2013 Home Movie Day cities. A partial list of organizers and local event volunteers can be found at the end of this report:

Argentina	Ottawa	Japan
Buenos Aires	Toronto	Agui-cho
	Vancouver	Nagoya
Austria	Wellington	Hirosaki
Vienna		Matsuyama
	Colombia	Kobe
Belgium	Bogotá	Takarazuka
Gent		Hitachi
	Finland	Sagamihara
Bolivia	Vaasa	Kyoto (2 locations)
Nuestra Señora de La		Sendai
Paz	France	Kamiminochi-gun
	Brest	Niigata
Brazil	Douarnenez	Tokyo (5 locations)
Curitaba	Paris	Netherlands
Rio de Janeiro		Amsterdam
	Italy	
Canada	Brindisi	Philippines
Calgary	Bologna	Manila

Poland

Warsaw

Spain

Canary Islands (4 locations) Cáceres Murcia San Sebastián Pampiona Salamanca

Switzerland

Bern

Thailand

Phutthamonthon

United Kindgom

Cardiff London Motherwell, Lanarkshire

United States

Asheville, NC Ashland, OR Athens, GA Austin, TX Baltimore, MD Bloomington, IN Boston, MA Boulder, CO Chicago, IL Cleveland, GA Columbia, SC Dallas, TX Fitchburg, MA Hanover, NH

Ithaca, NY Lexington, KY Lone Tree, CO Los Angeles, CA Madison, WI New Albany, IN North Adams, MA New York City, NY Oakland, CA Pittsburgh, PA Portland, OR Raleigh, NC Rochester, NY San Francisco, CA St. Louis, MO Seattle, WA Tucson, AZ Washington, D.C. Wilmington, NC

OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

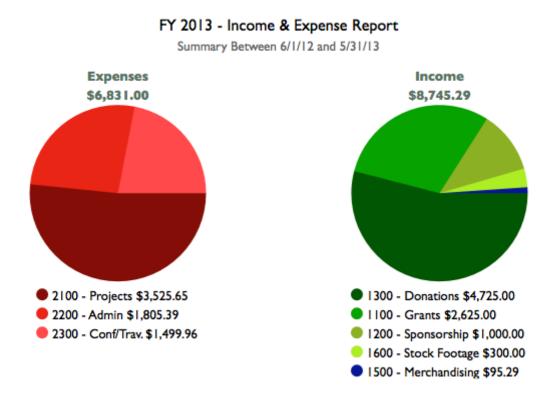
4th Annual End-of-year Fundraiser

Donations are still being accepted online through the Network for Good for US residents at the following shortened URL: <u>http://bit.ly/1tiWPlv</u>. The executive board of the Center for Home Movies thanks all who donated, which makes our work in preserving and promoting home movies possible.

CHM Fiscal Health and Budget

CHM continues to carry out its mission largely through the volunteer efforts of its active Board members and the volunteer efforts of Home Movie Day hosts all over the world. CHM has no employees and so is able to operate on a frugal budget.

The chart below provides a snapshot of our sources of income and the broad categories of expenses they enable.



We are optimistic that categories such as Stock footage will benefit as our own home movie holdings become more visible via the Home Movie Registry, and that we will be able to attract further sponsorship support from transfer houses and institutions (without resorting to banner ads) as our new website establishes itself as a year-round home movie destination. CHM will also continue to pursue its successful efforts to appropriate grants to preserve films of particular significance. Annual donations from CHM-friendly supporters will continue to be an essential part of our fiscal picture.

Our projected budget for 2014 is \$4,657.50 and covers only the essential operating needs of the organization. This figure provides a sense of the income required to remain a viable organization but excludes funds we will require in order to, for example, develop the more robust encoding for the Home Movie Registry that will be required to make that project truly sustainable. For such improvements we have some reserves available to deploy, but will look to more concerted grant and fundraising efforts as appropriate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITIES

Conference presentations/publications/interviews

Amateur Night, a 2011 compilation of home movies programmed by board member Dwight Swanson, played on December 6th at the Family Fiction Film Project in Porto, Portugal. For more information on the short films included in Amateur Night, or to find out how to book it, please go to the film's website at <u>www.amateurnightmovie.com</u>. Dwight received the same font-size billing as Péter Forgács on the promotional poster for the festival!

Board member Molly Wheeler gave birth to her amazing daughter Miriam in March. This is the best publication of them all.

2013 Letters of Appreciation



A volunteer at the London Home Movie Day held at the Cinema Museum London helps a couple with their family heritage

Every year the CHM mails out a small number of thank you letters to those who went above and beyond for Home Movie Day. This year four letters were sent.

Sean Savage, who volunteers at Home Movie Day Los Angeles, was rightfully lauded for creating amazing trailers for HMD that local hosts could repurpose. Sean's trailers are also fantastic examples of the breadth and wonder of home movies as an

art form. An example of his work can be found online at <u>http://vimeo.com/73830688</u>.

Lucy Smee was commended for the amazing enthusiasm of the London Home Movie Day at the Cinema Museum. They mix fantastic costumes (see the above photo), homemade cookies and cakes, and curated home movies by luminaries such as Alfred Hitchcock and in 2013, Benjamin Britten.

Nancy Watrous and Anne Wells of the Chicago Film Archives were thanked for their long-term and constantly growing enthusiasm for Home Movie Day. Nancy and Anne

have moved beyond just a singular HMD to creating neighborhood-specific Home Movie Days across the varied and unique communities of Chicago. In 2013 the two focused on home movies from the South Side neighborhood of Bronzeville.

The fourth letter of appreciation was sent to Chalida Uabumrungjit of the Thai Film Archive. Chalida participated in a HMD panel at the AMIA conference and the Thai Film Archive has played an important part in the growth that HMD is experiencing in South Asia.

Sean, Lucy, Anne, Nancy, and Chalida: the Center for Home Movies thanks you for making Home Movie Day a special and friendly time!

CHM Board of Directors 2013 annual meeting and retreat

The Center for Home Executive Board held its yearly meeting from the 11th through the 14th of January in Baltimore, Maryland. CHM co-founders Chad Hunter and Brian Graney stepped down from the board to pursue their exciting new jobs. Chad is now



the managing director at the Hollywood Theater in Dormont, Pennsylvania, an independent neighborhood theater seen in the feature film The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012). He has been instrumental in helping the theater face the transition to digital projection necessary to survive in this difficult time

for movie theaters. Brian Graney is the head archivist and assistant director of the Black Film Center/Archive at Indiana University where he received a 2013 NEH grant for a symposium on digitizing the films and artifacts of African American film history.

Otherwise, the meeting was concerned with charting the future of the organization, with the decision made to engage in new projects. The outcome of these discussions

later resulted in the Home Movie Registry, the Local Digitization Project, and Home Grown Movies. Hopefully, along with the continuing Home Movie Day, these projects will shape CHM's efforts and identity for the near future.

CHM covers the cost of room and board for the retreat while board members pay for any transportation costs.

CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES 2014 ACTIVITIES

CHM Board of Directors 2014 annual meeting and retreat

The Executive Board will hold its annual meeting on the Connecticut coast near New Haven from March 14th-19th. Discussions will focus on maintaining the momentum started up in 2013. Other topics to consider include new funding opportunities and the feasibility of expanding the executive board.

Home Movie Day 2014

The 2014 date for Home Movie Day is Saturday, October 18th. The Executive Board of the CHM expects everyone reading this report to host, volunteer at, or attend a HMD in your local town or city!

THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES BOARDS

Executive Board

Skip Elsheimer	Molly Wheeler
Albert Steg	Snowden Becker (honorary member)
Dwight Swanson	Brian Graney (honorary member)
Katie Trainor	Chad Hunter (honorary member
Andy Uhrich	

Advisory Board

Ray Edmondson Mona Jimenez Gregory Lukow Mike Mashon Rick Prelinger Dan Streible Russ Suniewick Robbins Barstow (in memoriam) Alan Kattelle (in memoriam) William O'Farrell (in memoriam)

HOME MOVIE DAY EVENT ORGANIZERS AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Shashi Abayasekera Ruta Abolins Desiree Alexander Luke Alie Edward Anderson Mark Lynn Anderson Kelle Anzalone Javier Asín Grover Askins

Francesca Baird Michael Baker Anna Banaś Snowden Becker Carlos A. Bedoya Dan Bidwa Sue Bigelow Walter Biggins Carol Bishop Cassie Blake Phil Borgnes Molly Bragg Anthony Buchanan David Caicedo Henry Caicedo Carolina Cappa Alison Carrick Cat who wanders into the Cinema Museum Rachel Chabra Simon Chan Louis Cherry Jeffery Chong Robert Clift Michael Coffey Margie Compton Mark Cooper Samuel Córdoba Matthew Cowan Kim Cumber Matt Cunningham Mat Darby **Michael Davis** Hillary Demmon Graham Deneen Kike Diaz Paul Dimmick Kristy Dixon Melissa Dollman

María Dominguez Brian Drischell Dennis Duffy Taylor Dunne Guy Edmonds Kelly Egan Skip Elsheimer Dan Erdman Dino Everett Rich Fedorchak Mia Ferm Mary Fessenden K. Sean Finch Tianna Fischer Michael Fisher Kristin Flachsbart S. Fowler Sarah Freeman Brian L. Frye Brady Fullerton Melissa Geppert Nadia Ghasedi Louise Gibbons Felicia Glatz Małgorzata Godzisz Brian Gollum Katia Gónzález Heather Gordon Marsha Gordon Paul Gordon Brian Graney Jere Guldin Jennifer Gunter Joel Haertling Christine Hagemoen Paulina Haratyk Marcus Hardy Asia Harman

Genevieve Havemeyer-King Alison Helzer Miłosz Hermanowicz Tony Hernandez Fritz Herzog Satoe Hibino Piotr Hływa Staci Hogsett Athena Holbrook Kristin Hole Callie Holmes Jim Hone Sarah Hutt Tessa Idlewine Randall Ioder, Jr. Andrea Johnson Martin Johnson Chris Jones Lucy Jones Malin Kan Maqda Kaucz Paula Kaucz Barry Kelley Jennifer Keyser Eric Kinsev Melinda Kowalska Mark Koyangi Kelly Kreft Yuriko Kurimoto Marta Kuszyk John Lafirira Katrina Lamberto Jack Lee Philip Leers Aurora Lema Trisha Lendo Jason Lesage Paulina Leszczynski

Mel Leverich Jeanne Liotta Diana Little Catalina López Chris Lott Kim Luperi Jon Marquis Thomas Matlock Lindsay Mattock Genevieve Maxwell Dana McCallum Kevin McCarthy Jay McClurg K. McKean Josephine McRobbie Seth Mitter Chelsea Mohr Esther Nam Amy Nguyen Hanna Nowak-Radziejowska Julia Odnous Chris O'Kane Devin Orgeron Hannah Palin Stephen Parr Graham Peat N Pelletier Shira Peltzman Chris Pepus

Angela Piccini **Greg Pierce** J. Porter **Bruce Posner** Colin Preston Sukdith "sukie" Punjasthitkul Kirsten Purvis K. Raudoja **Rich Remsberg** Isaac Rivera Sol Robayo Martin Robinson Tom Robinson Marie-Helene Robitaille Janell Rohan **Diego** Rojas Charlie Rosenberger Chantaal Ryane Stephen Salisbury Sean Savage Sabrina Sbarzella Dorette Schootemeijer Bill Selbert **Dooley Shane** Ben Simington Rudolph Simon Monika Skrzypczak-Pisarska **Amy Sloper**

Sean Smalley Andrew Smee Michelle Smolkin Albert Steg Eric Stewart Jessica Storm Charles Story Mabel Suárez Juana Suárez Ricardo Suárez Peter Sutton Justyna Szela Asako Takemori Irene Taylor Jen Taylor Julien Testa Hobert Thompson Josephine Torio Rob Tygett Andy Uhrich Veronica Vichit-Vadakan Salvi Vivancos Leah Wagner Kasia Waletko Rob Webber **Rockwell White** Steve Wright Ela Wysocka John Yemen Pedro A. Zuluaga