CHM CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

2018 Annual Report

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2017-2018 IN REVIEW

This report covers activities from June 1st 2017 to May 31st 2018, substantially repeating information from the 2017 report, published earlier this Spring, as we bring our Annual Reports into line with the CHM fiscal year. It had previously been our practice to publish annual reports that covered the previous calendar year, a holdover from the days before we realigned our fiscal year to better reflect the natural sequence of our activities.

2018 saw the Center for Home Movies carrying on with our ongoing core activities--such as Home Movie Day, the Home Movie Registry, the Home Grown Movies Collection--while also focusing on the development of the Home Movie Archives Database, a grant-funded web portal. Home Movie Day saw events in 19 countries, including the first ever Home Movie Day in Ukraine. Our year's highlight was receiving an award from the Society of American Archivists, one of our proudest moments in our 13 years as an organization.

PRESERVATION WORK, NEW COLLECTIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

CHM Honored with Prestigious SAA Award

On July 26th, Dwight Swanson was proud to accept the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award on behalf of the Center for Home Movies at the <u>Society of</u> <u>American Archivists</u>' annual conference in Portland, Oregon. Established in 1973 by the Society of American Archivists Foundation, the award "recognizes an archivist, editor, group of individuals, or institution that has increased public awareness of a specific body of documents (which can be a specific archival collection or thematic aggregation) through compilation, transcription, exhibition, or public presentation of archives or manuscript materials for educational, instructional, or other public purpose." CHM was honored for establishing Home Movie Day as an international archival event, as well as our other home movie advocacy projects in the twelve years of our existence. Our award follows recent



awardees such as the South Asian American Digital Archive, the Emma Goldman Papers Project, and the Japanese American Legacy Project, so we were extremely honored to have been included in such proud company, especially as a small grassroots organization working with audiovisual materials.

Home Movie Archives Database



Much of CHM's work during the year was spent quietly behind the scenes developing the Home Movie Archives Database, a directory of home movies and amateur films held in archival collections in the United States. For many years we have envisioned taking on this project, because we are constantly being asked by documentary producers and others where they can find home movies on particular topics. Although we have developed a wide network of archival colleagues over the years we knew that we were only seeing the tip of the iceberg and that there was a vast array of collections out there that were not easily found, since they were either not found in public online catalogs, or were part of manuscript collections. After we were granted financial support from the National Film Preservation Board, the Library of Congress and the Council on Library and Information Resources, we were able to begin the project in 2016. Throughout 2017, Project Director Dwight Swanson and a group of CHM volunteers scoured the online catalogs of more than 200 archives, libraries and museums around the country, extracting information about their home movie collections for the Home Movie Archives Database.

The Database, which went live in April 2018, is at <u>www.homemoviearchives.org</u>. We invite archives to contribute their holdings to the directory.

"Women Behind the Camera" – AMIA 2017, New Orleans

CHM board members Kate Dollenmayer (pictured) and Amy Sloper attended the Association of Moving Image Archivists' 2017 conference in New Orleans, where home movies showed up in many places. Kate represented CHM on a panel entitled "The Woman Behind the Camera: Uncovering an Overlooked Perspective," which profiled the CLIR-funded project by the same name to digitize and put online amateur films made by women. Northeast Historic Film, Chicago Film



Archives, and the Lesbian Home Move Project are partnering to create a web portal to

these works, modeled on the Home Movie Registry and developed with the help of Skip Elsheimer. Home movies also appeared in the panel "Nontheatrical Film & Race: Recent Archival-Scholarly Collaborations," and in a panel highlighting the Great Migration project to digitize African-American Home Movies at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. The South Side Home Movie Project also participated in that panel, showcasing its community-based approach to preserving Chicago home movies. These collections present good opportunities to expand the Home Movie Registry as they come online, as does the collection of the Nashville Metro Archives, presented in a poster session by consulting archivist Kelli Hix.

HOME MOVIE DAY 2017



2017 Home Movie Day image, designed by Tamara Shopsin

A few of the highlights from this year's events, as reported from the hosts...

Tucson, Arizona: Several 8mm works from a teenage auteur who made stop motion and backyard monster movies in Indiana in the 70s. He even played the soundtrack to one from his iPhone into the house microphone. He told great stories about the "Ride-In Movie" in his parents' backyard for kids to pedal their bikes up to.1960s circus footage from Utica, NY, shot by the trapeze artist, providing an insider's view of a small traveling show.

Knoxville, Tennessee: The Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound screened some of its favorite home movie reels, including a 1929 family adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood and an original narrative invented by the family, a River Rat Race circa 1975, a recent acquisition of beautiful color 16mm home movies from the 1970s and 1980. They also showed films from the Minnich Collection, which spans 1928 to 2005, including a 1930 film of a family putting their youngest child in a box and pretending to throw



the box off a cliff, and a 1989 video shot by that same child, Bill Minnich, on his 60th birthday.

Athens, Georgia: Footage of the launch of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Kakizaki, Joetsu City, Niigata Prefecture, Japan: A film of traditional music, dance, eating and drinking, during the harvest festival. They used a greenhouse in the rice field as a venue,

Berne, Switzerland: A holiday trip to Tessin, the Italian speaking part of Switzerland. It showed the house the couple stayed in, and had many shots from the streets, people doing work on roofs, taking care of their animals. It was therefore a bit unusual for a classic holiday film.

2017 Home Movie Day Participating Cities

ALBANIA Tirana

AUSTRALIA Chiltern Melbourne

CANADA

Peterborough Quebec Toronto Wellington Westmount

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague/Praha FRANCE

Veyrier-du-Lac

GERMANY

Bielefeld Frankfurt Leipzig Schleiden

ISRAEL

Jerusalem

ITALY

Bologna Cagliari Dalmine, Bergano Firenze Ravenna Torino

JAPAN

Hirosaki, Aomori (2 events) Azumino, Nagano Itoshima, Fukuoka Hirano, Osaka Kobe,Hyogo Sendai, Miyagi Iizuna, Nagano Kakizaki, Niigata Taketa, Oita Kyobashi, Tokyo Chiyoda, Tokyo Nishi-Ogikubo, Tokyo Yanesen, Tokyo Chofu-city, Tokyo

MEXICO

Ciudad de México (2 events)

THE NETHERLANDS Amsterdam Breda

POLAND Katowice Warsaw

PORTUGAL Lisboa

SPAIN Alegría-Dulantzi Badajoz Cartagena Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife) Salvatierra-Agurain Vitoria-Gasteiz Pamplona SWITZERLAND Berne Windisch

UKRAINE Lviv

UNITED KINGDOM Glasgow London Motherwell

UNITED STATES

Asheville, NC Athens, GA Baltimore, MD Berkeley, CA Bloomington, IN Blowing Rock, NC Boone, NC Boulder, CO Chicago, IL Columbia. SC Des Moines. IA Durham, NC Fort Collins, CO Hanover, NH Hollywood, CA Knoxville. TN Lexington, KY Los Angeles, CA Miami, FL

New Haven, CT New York, NY Northampton, MA Oakland, CA Philadelphia, PA Pittsburgh, PA Provincetown, MA Raleigh, NC Richmond, VA Rochester, NY San Francisco,CA Santa Clarita, CA Somerville, MA Tucson, AZ Washington, DC Waterville, ME Whitesburg, KY

URUGUAY Montevideo

A list of organizers and local event volunteers can be found at the end of this report.

2nd Annual GIF Contest



The Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) once again won over the judges in our second invitation to the public to engage with home movies by crafting these viral gems. GIFS are an ideal medium for capturing the iconic imagery embedded in many home movies, and this years dozen submissions are a delight. They can be viewed, along with the winning submission, on this Tumblr page:

centerforhomemovies.tumblr.com

Home Grown Movies

The Home Grown Movies collection of films from Home Movie Day added two films this year. In 2016, a group of American and European archivists, including current and former CHM board members Kate Dollenmayer, Skip Elsheimer, and Andy Uhrich, traveled to Albania for a series of workshops with Albanian archivists. Building off of that precedent, in 2017 a group of Albanians, led by Shpend Bengu, organized a Home Movie Day at the European University of Tirana. One of the highlights was a series of films shot by Maksim Sallabanda in the



1970s and 1980s. Owning movie cameras at that point in Albanian history, explained Sallabanda's son Armand, "was not illegal, but during the Communist regime you couldn't show this kind of gear in public. I know this may sound strange nowadays but at that time everyone had to be equal in every aspects. It took courage for my father to shoot in public, in the zoo, at the beach and even in the neighborhood." The films were subsequently digitized and we were eager to include two of them--NË PARKUN E

TIRANËS (In the Tirana park), and PASDITE NË SHTËPINË SALLABANDA (Afternoon at the Sallabandas' House, pictured here) in <u>Home Grown Movies</u>.

New Collections

Several years ago, a selection of reels from the Ellwood F. Hoffmann Collection were donated to CHM by Hoffmann's family, including the reel <u>1944 Republican Convention</u>, which was preserved through a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. In 2017 we received the remainder of the collection, with four large boxes coming from Colorado. They entire collection is now in the process of being digitized and posted online at Archive.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITIES

Skip Steps Out ...

Stalwart CHM board member Skip Elsheimer stepped off the board after several years of invaluable service. Chief among his contributions has been the creation of the Home Movie Registry, which reflected his philosophy of implementing inexpensive functional prototypes and then refining them rather than engaging in long years of planning and investment before attempting a fully realized solution. Skip's expertise in film digitization and providing fulfillment of stock footage requests has also established a small but meaningful income stream for CHM, placing the organization on a more sustainable financial foundation. Skip will continue his film-oriented activities (of course), particularly in collaboration with Raleigh's new Alamo Draft House.

... And Pamela Steps in ...

CHM is once again fortunate to gain the talents of a passionate home movie archivist for its board of directors. Pamela Vadakan has hosted Home Movie Days in the Bay Area since 2007. She manages California Revealed, an endeavor to digitize and preserve archival collections related to California history – including hundreds of home movies – from partner libraries, archives, museums and historical societies. She also teaches audiovisual preservation workshops and assesses archival collections for a variety of institutions across California for the California Preservation Program. She volunteered at her first Home Movie Day at Anthology Film Archives in 2005 when she was a student in the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation program at New York University, and has loved opening up, inspecting and sharing home movies and their hidden lives ever since.

... And Albert Steps out.

Albert Steg joined the board in 2008 as part of CHM's initial expansion beyond the founding members. His initial focus was on clarifying ethical standards for the transfer houses listed on the Home Movie Day resource pages, requiring that vendors agree to CHM standards of film handling and conservation of original materials. Albert was a strong advocate for developing a substantial website for CHM that would boost professional and popular recognition of the organization's identity and mission, and he shepherded the process of website development leading to our current site's launch in 2014. Albert's interest in database design and cataloguing led to his chairing of the committee charged with developing "A Taxonomy for Home Movies" as part of the 2010 Digitization and Access Summary, an effort that provided a framework for characterizing various kinds of amateur productions, including the identification of recurring "tropes" in home movies. Albert will continue his association with home movies through his film collecting activities while also pursuing notoriety in the world of competitive backgammon.



CHM Board of Directors 2018 annual meeting and retreat

CHM held a particularly ambitious Annual Retreat in Petaluma, California, with a view to deliberating more intently than usual on the scope of CHM's activities and identity looking forward over the next 5 or 10 years. To that end, we encouraged past Board members to attend, and we delighted that Katie Trainor, Brian Graney, Molly Wheeler, and Andy Uhrich were able to attend. In order to generate ideas and perspectives outside our usual circle, we also invited a number of San Francisco-area individuals with a stake in home movies for a special Saturday afternoon and dinner brainstorm session. Attendees were Adrianne Finelli, Jennifer Miko, Kathy O'Regan, Anne Smatla, Kathleen Maguire, and Kristin Lipska. Also in attendance for much of the weekend was Rick Prelinger, in his ongoing role as CHM muse and enabler.

The most significant outcome of the weekend deliberations was a determination that as an exploratory step toward incarnating CHM as a "Brick and mortar" institution, we would attempt a short-term (3 month?) "pop up" residency in an available short-term property that might be secured for free, probably in the San Francisco area, and aiming for implementation in early 2019. The idea would be to staff an office on a shoestring budget for perhaps 2-3 days a week in an area rich in historical, cultural, and media activism, injecting awareness of and active use of home movies into this community by means of screenings, collaborations, workshops, digital transfer services, and various other bridge-building activities. The pop up would provide a learning experience for CHM in the mechanics of acting as a brick & mortar entity and perhaps serve as a template for similar residencies in other locations around the country.

In board elections, Amy Sloper and Katrina Dixon were re-elected to their posts as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, and Dwight Swanson was installed as President in place of Albert Steg, who stepped off the board at the conclusion of the retreat.

Other Board Activities

Board member Katrina Dixon organized two screenings of films from her other nonprofit organization, the Kentucky Amateur Film Archives. In July and December, she co-organized programs at the Mini Microcinema in Cincinnati and at Institute 193 in Lexington, Kentucky. The program included an 8mm home movie of the Kentucky Derby from the 1950s, a 16mm home movie of Mammoth Cave in the 1944, a 16mm home of the University of Kentucky in 1951, and an 8mm home movie from Hungary in the 1950s.



Amy Sloper gave three home movie-related presentations in 2017. First, she co-presented with former board member Andy Uhrich at the Midwest Archives Conference. In the panel, called "Our Community as Gateways," Amy and Andy explained the history and purpose of Home Movie Day in the context of archival advocacy and outreach, as well as how the event can be run by archivists. Next, she gave the presentation "Your Family Films are Important, and Not Just to You: Home Movie Day & Personal Archiving as a Model for Preserving Amateur Moving Image

Heritage" at the 2017 World Records Symposium, presented by the Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture. Finally, she co-hosted a workshop called "Collections Carpentry," based on the popular Library Carpentry and Data Carpentry, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Information School for area professionals, UW-Madison campus librarians, and iSchool students. This hands-on workshop, based on the successful Library Carpentry workshop materials, taught basic skills and tools to collect and manage web data via an example dataset from the Home Movie Registry.

Dwight Swanson organized and introduced the session, "The Languages of Home Movies" at the 11th Orphan Film Symposium at the American Museum of the Moving Image.

Financial Activity

In FY18, the CHM finances remain healthy: income was close to double operating expenses and current fund balances are \$18,375.71.

The annual operating budget, which is largely comprised of managing the CHM web presence (including the Home Movie Registry), managing Home Movie Day, board insurance, and offsetting the costs of the annual board retreat had a slight increase this year, close to \$7,000 total - an approximately \$2,000 increase from FY17. The increase was due to the costs incurred to host the more expansive annual retreat. Administrative costs continue to hover around \$2,500 per year, even with additional web presence, so the organization continues to cover expenses at our current fundraising rate.

The organization brought in \$1,200 in stock footage sales, a largely hands-off source of funding that is increasingly sustaining low annual operating costs. Consistencies are emerging in our annual stock footage sales, enough that the organization can conservatively expect a yearly amount of somewhere between \$1,000 - 2,000. Additionally, donations for the year reached \$5,763, nearly doubling last year's figures. Similar to last year, the efforts of the fundraising committee and more coordinated outreach efforts among the board, including a successful Facebook fundraising campaign, are contributing factors. Overall donations were up over \$2400 from FY17 and up \$1300 from FY16.



THE CHM BOARDS

Executive Board

Antonella Bonfanti Katrina Dixon Kate Dollenmayer		Amy Sloper Dwight Swanson Pamela Vadakan
Past/Honorary Members		
Snowden Becker		
Brian Graney		Katie Trainor
Chad Hunter		Andy Uhrich
Albert Steg		Molly Wheeler
		Skip Elsheimer
Advisory Board		
Ray Edmondson Mona Jimenez Gregory Lukow Mike Mashon		Rick Prelinger Melinda Stone Dan Streible
Advisors in Memoriam		
Robbins Barstow	Alan Kattelle	William O'Farrell

Partial List of 2017 Home Movie Day Even Organizers and Local Volunteers

Ruta Abolins Lauren Algee Vrej Allah Mayumi Arai Ina Archer Olubunmi Bakare Oscar Bataglia Snowden Becker Amber Bertin Shiraz Bhathena Stefano Boni Shane Brown Cordelia Bucher Matt Burroughs Erica Calderon Jasmyn Castro Dan Chaffey Margie Compton Eric Dawson Shannon Delvin Katrina Dixon Kate Dollenmayer Brian Drischell Megan Edgecombe Kelly Egan Dino Everett Amy Fatzinger Rich Fedorchak Kate Fitzpatrick Adam Foster Emily Foster Walter Forsberg Brian L. Frye Eva Fuessel Klaus Fuessel Janine Gericke Jon Goff Eloy González Jere Guldin Savaka Hayami Heather Heckman Fritz Herzog

Gregor Hochguertel Staci Hogsett Callie Holmes Amanda Howard Sadanobu lida Kae Ishihara Jackie Jay Elwood Jones Kakizaki Cinema Club Malin Kan Stephany Kim Yuko Koide Veronika Köppel Alison Kozberg Francesca Krampe Saul Kutnicki David Landolf Heather Aiton Landry Trisha Lendo Rebecca Leung Katie Lind Kristin Lipska Chris Lott Rui Luis Kim Luperi Laura Mahon Jon Marquis Russell Martin Eliane Maurer Blake McDowell Amy Meaney Mary Miller Madison Moore Nerea Moreno John Morton Kristen Muenz Eri Muraki Emily Nabasny Nozomi Nakagawa Ryuuji Nakayama Jon Naveh Bob Nichol

Jenny Noble Chris O'Kane Lydia Pappas James Parish Chloe Patton Brigitte Paulowitz Sigrid Peterson Bruce Posner Sukdith "Sukie" Punjasthitkul Trent Purdy John Quirk Lorena Ramirez-Lopez **Bradley Reeves** April Rodriguez Ricardo Rodriguez Martha Rosson Caroline Rubens Clara Sánchez-Dehesa Mariah Sander Sean Savage Ryan Savoy Stephan Schoenholtz Jon Shibata Keiichi Shima Yun Shin Amy Sloper Anne Smatla Herb E. Smith Lauren Sorensen Rachael Stoeltje Brianna Toth Trent Valley Archives Andy Uhrich Pamela Jean Vadakan Robert Vaszari Yukio Watanabe Tim Wilson Susanne Wisskirchen-Jachnik Hans-L. Wisskirchen Wolf Wisskirchen