

CHM CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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2015 IN REVIEW

2015 saw the Center for Home Movies (CHM) hit the little screen in a big way, with a featured slot on *CBS's Sunday Morning* show. Our featured project for the year was the Home Movie Registry, an ambitious venture which was introduced to the archival world after several years in the making. Home Movie Day continued to grow in its 13th year, with events taking place in a record 21 countries around the world. We revived our preservation program, thanks to a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation, which allowed us to preserve a home movie of the 1944 Republican Convention. We also saw a change in our Board of Directors, with two members stepping off, and a new one stepping up.

CHM ON CBS SUNDAY MORNING

On September 6th, *CBS Sunday Morning* broadcast "Bringing the Importance of Home Movies into Focus," a story about home movies that prominently featured the Center for Home Movies and Home Movie Day, in addition to a history of early amateur film equipment at the collections of the George Eastman House. Reporter David Turecamo, guided largely by his own personal interest in home movie history, had contacted CHM earlier in the year about our work. Through lucky timing, it was just before Skip Elsheimer was getting ready to host a Home Movie Day at the Durham County Library in Durham, North Carolina, so the Durham CBS affiliate was able to send a camera crew to the event to interview Skip and other attendees in the audience.



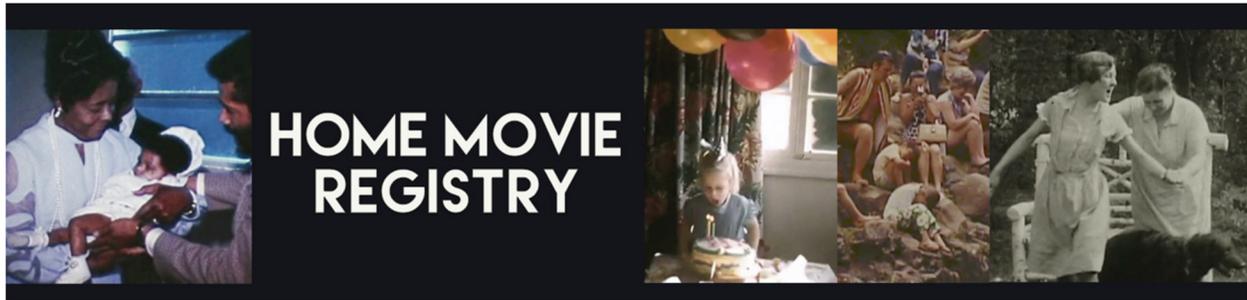
Within seconds of the piece beginning, our inboxes and Facebook pages were flooded with messages, comments and "Likes" from viewers across the country. Although it



CHM Board Member Skip Elsheimer

took us, as an all-volunteer organization, a few weeks to dig out from all of the emails, the end result was the national attention that we had been hoping for for many years, new audiences for our organization, but most importantly, some exciting new exposure for the home movies themselves.

HOME MOVIE REGISTRY



www.homemovieregistry.org

This was the year that CHM unveiled the Home Movie Registry to the wider archival community and public. The Registry is a project that has been in the works for several years, and which promises to be one of our largest and most exciting projects ever.

The Registry grew out work we had done in 2010 at the Home Movie Summit meeting at the Library of Congress, as well as the fact that for years we have been regularly getting requests from filmmakers who asked us where they could find home movies on a particular subject. Too often we didn't know where to send them, so we came up with the idea of creating a single site where we (and they) could go to search for films.

The Home Movie Registry is an online portal that aggregates the catalog records and digitized files from participating archives, providing a central, curated search engine for amateur film and video. With a current tally of 4700 records drawn from 9 participating institutions, the Registry has now achieved a critical mass of materials that make it a genuinely useful online resource for introducing researchers, scholars, and other visitors to the collecting institutions holding these often hidden materials.

The Registry is built on WordPress, an open source platform with a strong development community that has allowed us to create this portal at minimal cost. Future versions of the Registry will allow for more robust searches and the capture of user-generated metadata. It is also our hope that participation in the Registry will provide archives with added motivation to have amateur films digitized and made available to the public, given the increased visibility these materials, and institutions, will gain from being included in what we expect to become a "destination site" for such searches.

The Center for Home Movies is always looking for new archives and collections to include in the Registry. If you or the institution you work for collects home movies and wants to participate, please contact the Center for Home Movies at info@centerforhomemovies.org.

PRESERVING ELLWOOD HOFFMANN'S HOME MOVIE OF THE 1944 REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

CHM's 2014 Annual Report included a write-up of our acquisition of the Ellwood F. Hoffmann home movie collection. The collection is full of fascinating reels of Hoffmann's work (he owned a silk stocking factory in Philadelphia), travels, and hobbies.

After reviewing the collection, we decided that the home movie that he shot at the 1944 Republican Convention was so unusual and so significant that it was worthy of its own preservation grant. The National Film Preservation Foundation agreed, and awarded us funds to create a new 16mm negative and print and digital copy from the original 16mm Kodachrome film. The laboratory work was done by Cinema Arts, Inc., one of the country's leading film preservation laboratories.



President Herbert Hoover

Dewey supporters

Hoffmann was a skilled home movie maker, and his films of his silk mills are of particular interest, but the reel of the Republican National Convention is truly a unique historical document. The national presidential conventions had been televised beginning in 1940, but 1944 was still in the era of the newsreel, and the floor of the convention included dozens of newsreel cameras. Home movie cameras were extremely rare (if not entirely unique to Hoffmann), particularly since it was so difficult to film indoors, given the limitations of the amateur cameras of the time. Nevertheless, Hoffmann managed to film the convention's speakers and delegates with stunning clarity. He also was able to stake out a spot directly below the speakers, far closer than the professional cameramen. He captured all of the major participants, including Thomas Dewey, President Herbert Hoover and singer Kate Smith performing "God Bless America." In addition to the interior shots of the convention, he also went outdoors to film the delegates outside, as well as a (presumably) recreational visit to view a horse race.

The Hoffman film also exemplifies one of the important roles of the home movie maker: to offer a supplement or corrective to the official views of history, providing images that more fully flesh out the historical record. The black and white newsreels of the convention also lack the inevitable personal touches (and the color) that a home movie maker brings to the images, showing the perspective of a convention delegate, as opposed to a member of the media.

2015 HOME GROWN MOVIES

2015 marked the third year of the "Home Grown Movies" project, in which we post digital video versions of some of the more intriguing films that had been shown at the previous year's Home Movie Day event. As always, the goal is to show the variety of reels (and one home video) that people bring to Home Movie Days around the world, and to allow audiences beyond the local events to see some of the films.

Films were digitized by HMD hosts and the project's sponsor, Movette Film Transfer of California, who once again provided stunning new high-resolution scans. The project's videos were then supplemented with commentaries and essays by filmmakers or their family members. Three of the films were accompanied by new musical scores composed for the project.



The 2015 Home Grown Movies are:

Halloween, 1958 is Morton Savada's home movie of his family's Halloween night, featuring son Eli in his shiny, though short-lived Sputnik costume. The movie includes a commentary by Eli.



Love Pageant Rally documents the 1966 countercultural event staged in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, featuring Ken Kesey's "Further" bus and shots of performance by Janis Joplin with Big Brother and the Holding Company.

Parmer Leroy Miller – Parmer & Roose Miller's Family Reunion Trip to Illinois, 1930 shows a cross-country road trip by the Miller family back to their family's farm in Kibbie, Illinois, where we see scenes of daily farm life along with some lively dance numbers.



Mary Ancel – Happy Birthday Jack is a Hi-8 video of a one-year-old's birthday party, showing baby Jack's (and his family's) singular attention on his cake eating.

Midtown Hi-Jinx, an unidentified orphan film, is a series of scenes shot by some young people on the streets of New York City in the 1940s.

Hiromichi Kobayashi – Sahohime is a short poetic amateur film from Japan about the meeting of two children.

Montebello, California, 12/01/1957 comes from the United States Air Force's "Project Blue Book" collection of home movies documenting U.F.O. sightings.

Isla de La Graciosa is a compilation of super 8 home movies shot by tourists and residents on La Graciosa in the Canary Islands.

Guru! is a biographical documentary by Carlos Enrique Muñiz Melau about a pyrotechnician and music lover from Beniaján, Murcia, Spain.

The Magic Sword, a claymation fairy tale, was made by two 10 year old girls in summer animation class.

A Dream is a mummy film shot by the family and friends of Musgrave Hyde in Morristown, New Jersey in the early 1930s, soon after the release of Universal Studios' *The Mummy*, starring Boris Karloff.

HOME MOVIE DAY 2015

HOME MOVIE DAY OCTOBER 17TH, 2015

The 13th annual Home Movie Day was held, officially, on October 17th, although events are increasingly being hosted throughout the year. Home Movie Day's international presence continues to grow each year, and a record 21 countries hosted events in 82 different cities. Home Movie Day has always been an all-volunteer activity, and we continue to be thankful for all of the local organizers, volunteers and organizations who step up and make it such a special part of the year. A partial list of volunteers can be found at the end of this report.

A few selected highlights from HMD 2015 screenings:



Cakes from Simona & Bernhard's Home Movie Day party

- Simona Monizza, an archivist at the Netherlands' EYE Institute, a long-time friend of Home Movie Day and host of many previous events in Amsterdam, decided that she would turn her local "After-wedding party" into a Home Movie Day. She and her husband had gotten married in Italy three months earlier, so they invited their friends and the public to bring wedding home movies to a café in Amsterdam.
- In Austin, Texas, one woman brought in films from her childhood that she had never seen before, including footage of her as a baby as well as of her father, who passed away when she was 12.

- Steffen Pierce (of the Harvard Film Archive) brought some film he had never seen to the Cambridge HMD. The reel was of his mother’s wedding which took place in Copenhagen in 1945, and was shot by a wedding cinematographer.

- A participant in Cleveland, Mississippi’s HMD brought movies that he filmed while he was stationed at Bear Cat Base station Vietnam in the early 1970s. There are shots from a Huey helicopter as it resupplies Thai troops in the jungle, as well as scenes from life on the base camp.



Cleveland, Mississippi

- Hollywood, California’s event featured a Super 8 Cinemascope epic from the 1960s—“Die! Die! My Roommate!”—demonstrating the ingenuity of amateur moviemakers. Back in the day, the filmmakers had positioned their scope lens in front of the camera with an erector set, and did so again to unsqueeze the image in projection. There was also some 1963 amateur documentation of a Torrance, California sit-in protesting a housing development that excluded African Americans.



Inspecting films at the Cineteca Nacional de México

- Katowice, Poland’s screening included one of the oldest home movies shot in Katowice, showing Silesia during Second World War.
- In Lexington, Kentucky, board member Katrina Dixon showed an 8mm home movie filmed by her grandfather while stationed at Dutch Harbor, AK, during WWII, including bombardment of the base and a barracks fire.

- 16mm footage of Charles Lindbergh's national tour after his flight over the Atlantic was shown in Tucson, Arizona.
- A super 8 reel of a tea ceremony in the Yushima shrine at the 1969 Plum Blossom Festival was shown in Yanesen, Tokyo.



La Cineteca Sarda in Cagliari, Sardinia

2015 HOME MOVIE DAY HOST CITIES

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires

AUSTRALIA

Ipswich
Victoria

AUSTRIA

Vienna

CANADA

Calgary
Edmonton
Montreal
Toronto
Whitby

CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague/Praha

FINLAND

Vaasa/Vasa

FRANCE

Paris

GERMANY

Berlin

ITALY

Bologna
Cagliari

JAPAN

Azumino, Nagano
Chofu-city, Tokyo
Hirano, Osaka
Hirosaki, Aomori
Hitachi, Ibaraki
Iizuna, Nagano
Kawagoe, Saitama
Kobe
Kyobashi, Tokyo
Matsuyama, Ehime
Minami-Alps City,
Yamanashi
Nakano-ward, Tokyo
Namba, Osaka
Odate, Akita

Sendai, Miyagi

Yanesen, Tokyo

MEXICO

Mexico City (Ciudad de
México) (2 events)
Tepoztlán

MOROCCO

Tanger (Tangier)

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam (2 events)

POLAND

Katowice

SPAIN

Barcelona
Cáceres
Cartagena
Málaga
Navarra (Pamplona)
Salamanca

Tenerife (Canary Islands)
Vitoria

SWITZERLAND

Bern
Fribourg

TAIWAN

Tainan city

THAILAND

Nakornpathom

UNITED KINGDOM

King's Lynn
London
Motherwell

UNITED STATES

Asheville, NC
Austin, TX
Baltimore, MD
Beacon, NY
Boston/Cambridge, MA
Boulder, CO
Bucksport, ME
Chicago, IL
Cleveland, MS
Columbia, SC
Green Bay, WI
Greenbelt, MD
Hanover, NH
Holyoke, MA
Lexington, KY
Los Angeles, CA (2
events)
Madison, WI

Miami, FL
New Haven, CT
Newark, NJ
Pittsburgh, PA
Pleasantville, NY
Portland, OR
Raleigh, NC
Rochester, NY
San Francisco, CA (2
events)
St. Francisville, LA
Tucson, AZ
Washington, DC
Waterville, ME

URUGUAY

Montevideo



San Francisco's HMD at the Internet Archive

CHM AT THE AMIA CONFERENCE

The Center for Home Movies was well represented at the 2015 conference of the Association of Moving Image Archivists, which was held in Portland, Oregon.

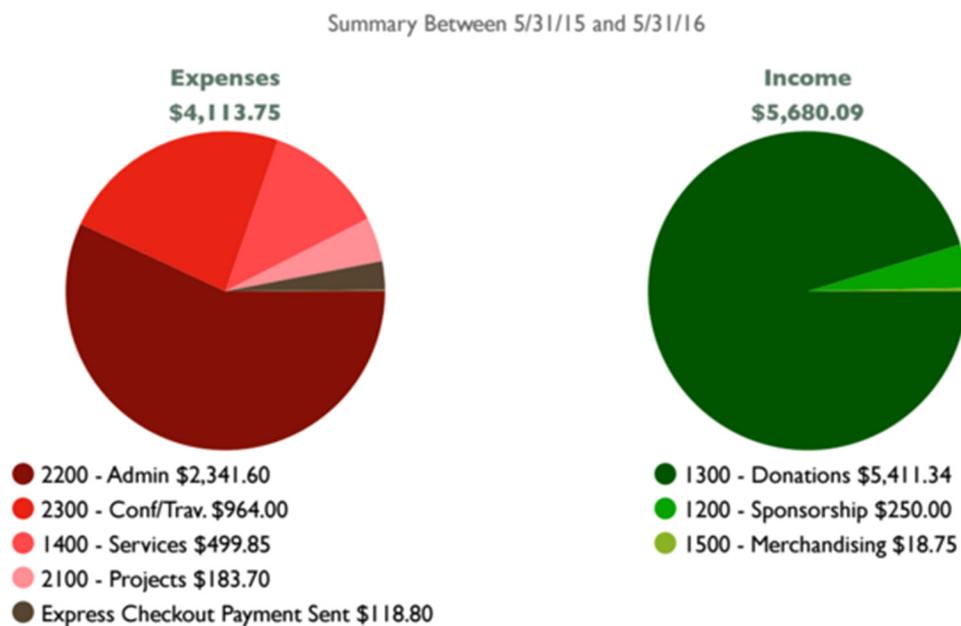
CHM organized two panel sessions at the conference. The first, chaired by CHM board member Andy Urich, and including board member Albert Steg and then-future board member Katrina Dixon, covered cataloging home movies, a topic of great interest to moving image catalogers since home movies so frequently do not follow the rules that have been laid down for other types of commercially-produced films. The second panel, which included CHM board members Dwight Swanson and Skip Elsheimer, was our way of introducing the archival community to the Home Movie Registry.

CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA'S CAAMFEST

CHM is always eager to join other organizations that are promoting innovative uses of home movies, so in March 2015 we were pleased to join with the Center for Asian American Media's groundbreaking initiative *Memories to Light: Asian American Home Movies* to co-present a live performance by artist, spoken word performer and filmmaker Kip Fulbeck that drew upon his family's own home movies.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Center for Home Movies carries out its mission largely through the volunteer efforts of its active Board members. CHM has no employees and thus is able to operate on a frugal budget. CHM's income is a mix of donations and stock footage sales, all of which goes back into the organization. Donations from U.S. citizens are always accepted through the Network for Good (<http://www1.networkforgood.org/>). The executive board of the Center for Home Movies thanks all who donated, making our work in preserving and promoting home movies possible. The chart below provides a snapshot of our sources of income and the broad categories of expenses they enable.



The organization's net worth remained essentially the same as it has for the past two years. An increase in donations meant that there was a small overall increase in our bank balances. The year was a stable one, fiscally, with no large expenditures and no major new projects likely to accrue expenses. Once again, due to its being a particularly frugal organization, CHM remains in good fiscal health while recognizing the need to encourage further charitable giving from our supporters.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTIVITIES

Board members Molly Wheeler and Andy Uhrich went on hiatus this year. Molly, gave birth to her second child, and Andy, who is a Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University decided he needed to devote more time to writing his dissertation on the culture of film collectors. We already miss Molly and Andy very much and look forward to their eventual return, but wish them the best with their non-CHM lives.

The loss of two board members was eased tremendously by the addition of Katrina Dixon, who joined the board at the end of the year. Katrina has long been a friend and supporter of CHM and Home Movie Day, so her selection as a board member was an easy one for us.



Katrina is a media archivist and researcher from Lexington, Kentucky, where she has begun collecting amateur films and home movies of the region to create the Kentucky Amateur Film Archives. She received her MSIS from SUNY Albany in 2005. She has worked at Franklin Furnace Archive (Brooklyn, NY), James Madison's Montpelier/The Montpelier Foundation (Orange, VA), The New York Transit Museum (New York, NY), Northeast Historic Film (Bucksport, ME), and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts (New York, NY). She also teaches a teleconference workshop for homebound seniors through DOROT University Without Walls using music to sharpen minds, trigger memories and create community.

2015 BOARD RETREAT

For the first time ever, in 2015 we decided to combine our annual board retreat with a public event. Instead of just being holed up in a house discussing the organization's work and future, we recruited our good friend and Advisory Board member Rick Prelinger to meet us in Madison, Wisconsin in February for the board meetings as well as a screening of his film *No More Road Trips?*. Rick's feature is a compilation film made up of scenes from his home movie collection, and structured as an imaginary road trip from east to west across the United States. Since it is one of the most

significant reuses of home movies in recent years, we were honored that Rick agreed to join us for a screening at the Chazen Museum of Art on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. The event could not have been possible without the cooperation of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, UW-Madison Department of Communication Arts, UW-Madison SLIS, and the Madison Public Library.



CHM board members continued to be active in the archival field outside of their officially-sanctioned CHM activities. The second biannual Bastard Film Encounter in Raleigh, North Carolina continued to be a pet project of several of the board members (especially Skip Elsheimer and Dwight Swanson, who are two of the organizers of "Bastards"). As such, there was a strong presence of amateur film and video among the presentations. In addition to hosting multiple Home Movie Day events, Skip also helped consult with UCLA for them to buy small gauge telecine equipment for their students to use. Dwight Swanson joined the board of the Al Larvick Conservation Fund, which provides grants for individuals and organizations to digitize their home movie collections. He also gave a presentation at CHM Advisor Dan Streible's class on film curatorship at NYU. Amy Sloper did a workshop at the 2015 Wisconsin Historical Society's Local History and Historic Preservation Conference in Middleton, WI, "*Home Movies and Amateur Films as Local History*" and also participated in Personal Archiving Day in Madison in October, where she answered questions about home movies and brought inspection equipment and projectors to help members of the public view their film.

2016 RETREAT

After last year's cold weekend in Madison, the CHM board decided to head south to Nashville for this year's annual retreat. Our focus continued on the Home Movie Registry and other ongoing and new projects, as well as introducing new member Katrina Dixon to the board. The weekend culminated in a screening of home movies from our own past projects and collections of our archival colleagues at Third Man Records, as part of their Light & Sound Machine monthly screening series.

THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES BOARDS

Executive Board

Antonella Bonfanti
Katrina Dixon
Skip Elsheimer
Amy Sloper
Albert Steg
Dwight Swanson

Honorary/Past members:

Snowden Becker
Brian Graney
Chad Hunter
Katie Trainor
Andy Uhrich
Molly Wheeler

Advisory Board

Ray Edmondson
Mona Jimenez
Gregory Lukow
Mike Mashon
Rick Prelinger
Dan Streible
Russ Suniewick

In Memoriam:

Robbins Barstow
Alan Kattelle
William O'Farrell

PARTIAL LIST OF 2015 HOME MOVIE DAY EVENT ORGANIZERS AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Arely Alejandro
Alucinantes de Pravia
Kim Andersen
Mark Lynn Anderson
Julian Antos
Shigeki Arimitsu
J-sun Bailey
Snowden Becker
Brian Belak
Felipe Bellocq
Helge Bernhardt
Tom Bernier
Amber Bertin
Charlie Burnett
Marina Butt
Gigi Cabras
Bruce Caffrey
Paolo Caneppele
Braden Cannon
Karin Carlson
Scott Carlton
David Carter
Ed Carter
Amy Ciesielski
Phil Clark
Liz Coffey
Tzutzumatzin Soto Cortés
Kate Cronin
Lizzie Cusack
Drew Dahle
Emily Davis
Bob Demers
Annabelle Devall
Olivia Devall
Katrina M. Dixon
Kate Dollenmayer
Melissa Dollman
Matthew Dreher
Brian Drischell
Ian Dunn
Shawna Eagles

Katrina Lamberto Elsheimer
Skip Elsheimer
Tim Emblem-English
Amy Ergler
Tania López Espinal
Julian Etienne
Experimental Response Cinema
Dino Everett
Rich Fedorchak
Macarena Fernández
Markiyan Fedyna
K Sean Finch
Caroline Frick
John Froats
Brian L. Frye
Caroline Figueroa Fuentes
Joe Gardner
Laurel Gildersleeve
Brian Giles
Sally Golding
Marsha Gordon
Jana Gowan
Brittany Gravely
Stefan Grundei
Jere Guldin
Graham Gurtner
Siobhan Hagan
Shannon Haines
Becca Hall
Mason Hanna
David Havas
Heather Heckman
Fritz Herzog
Staci Hogsett
Jiří Horníček
Wendy Horowitz
Cheney Hotard
Sadanobu Iida
Akira Ikeda
Ryo Ishikawa
Jennifer Jenkins

Mark Johnson
Emily Jones
Herbert Justnik
Mami Kanda
Mari Kawamoto
Julieta Keldjian
Leah Kerr
Lisa Kerrigan
Lucas Kessler
Ayshea Khan
Christian Kurz
Aaron Lagler
Terry Lagler
Jaclyn Landry
Trisha Lendo
Diana Little
Grant Lubbock
Kim Luperi
Kim Main
Robin Margolis
Jon Marquis
Mariko Matsui
Leslie Matthaei
Emma McAnirlin
Heather McAnirlin
Josephine McRobbie
Ivana Miloš
Brook Ewing Minner
Osamu Miyahara
Ai Miyazawa
Yuka Mochizuki
Ginevra Morse
Movimiento Natural (Nicolás Rodríguez,
Vittorio Pagani y FelipeBellocq)
Martina Mulas
Rosa Muñoz
Eri Muraki
Eriko Murofushi
Derrick Murphy
Sarah Myers
Nozomi Nakagawa
Juan Pablo Roldán Navarro
Keisuke Nishiyama
Joe O'Connell
Chris O'Kane
Jen O'Leary
Syu Ono
Jo Oosawa
Devin Orgeron
Louise Pankhurst
Lydia Pappas
Mifa Park
Verónica Navarro Pérez
Michael Perreault
Greg Pierce
Sukdith "Sukie" Punjasthitkul
Trent Purdy
Kristen Purvis
John Quirk
Verónica Reyes-Escudero
Roman Říha
Jorge Rodrigo López Romero
Alfonso Espinosa Rosas
Tony Saffrey
Alan Sanborn
Alonso Arturo Sánchez Sandoval
Claudio Santancini
Cinetoca Sarda (staff)
Sean Savage
Raoul Schmidt
Adam Schutzman
Satoshi Shibata
Keiichi Shima
Yukio Shinagawa
Masaki Shiota
Yoko Shiratori
Andrew Smee
Lucy Smee
Ashley Smith
Jeremy Smith
Valentin Spirik
Scott Stark
Jessica Storm
Lenka Suchá
Dwight Swanson
Masafumi Takebayashi
Asako Takemori
Shigeru Takemura

Ignacio Tamarit
Hiroki Tanabe
Mariana Tarragó Vélez
Erica Titkenmeyer
Akira Tochigi
Mika Tomita
Miguel Ángel Alemán Torres
Tomoko Tsuda
František Týmal
Steve Unkles
Alicia Núñez Valencia
Robert Vaszari
Niki Veasey
Yasunori Wada
Matt Waehner
Mizuho Watanabe

Nancy Watrous
Anne Wells
Kyle Westphal
Renée Winter
Adam Wisheu
Tim Wisniewski
Steve Wright
Steve Wurtzler
Patricia Yackison
Yuuki Yamaguchi
Naomi Yamamoto
Phil Yates
Tomoko Yokoe
Jakob Zenzmaier
Stefanie Zingl