

President's Letter

Sue Ann Chui

Dear WAAC members,

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2019 has been good to you so far.

I know thanks have already been given to the board members who stepped up to write the President's Letter while I was simultaneously VP and acting president, but I would like to personally extend a big thank you to Susi Friend, former MAL Samantha Springer, and Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, former MAL and now webmaster, for taking care of this column.

I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the local arrangements committee in Santa Fe headed by Susan Barger which allowed the annual meeting

at Ghost Ranch to happen. Seriously, there would not have been a meeting last year if it wasn't for their determination, enthusiasm, and hard work. We hope to share photos on our new website for those of you who missed it or for those who want to remember a great gathering where we had a record-breaking silent auction. Sincere thanks to all who contributed and participated.

Speaking of the website, as you know, we have been working on an update of ours for the past couple of years which will look and function much better than the current one. I just saw a preview of it, and I have to say that web editor Justin Johnson has done an absolutely wonderful redesign that I can't wait for you to experience yourselves. We're very close to launching it, and hope that you'll be able to take it out for a spin by the time the next *Newsletter* arrives in your mailbox.

If you haven't done it already, mark your calendars for the 45th annual meeting in Los Angeles November 6-8! I hope that many of our colleagues in Southern California will participate by either submitting abstracts or attending (hint, hint). If you're new to the area, this is a great way to get to know your local colleagues. The venue is the J. Paul Getty Museum which is also a generous sponsor of this year's WAAC meeting. The Getty has a long history of hosting our meeting, the first one ever in 1977 at the original site in Malibu. The last time the meeting was in Los Angeles was over 10 years ago in 2008 at the Getty Villa, and before that was 2001, a few years after the Getty Center opened, so if you

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President's letter, continued

haven't been to LA for a while or at all, it's time, and the annual meeting is great reason to come.

Regarding abstracts, in addition to the general regional theme of Los Angeles and Southern California, we are inviting papers on collaborations with mountmakers and preparators. The inspiration for including these colleagues comes from the biennial PACCIN Preparators Meeting happening in April 2019 and the biennial Mountmakers Forum in 2020, so it seemed a good time to cross paths with them. At the last meeting in Santa Fe I was thoroughly impressed by the talks given by the newly minted conservators, so I continue to encourage proposals from those emerging in their careers. The friendly and collegial atmosphere of the WAAC meeting is a great place to get your feet wet! All categories of papers are welcome, of course, not just those mentioned above. Besides the usual terrific slate of talks, a workshop and tours are in the planning, so stay tuned for more details. WAAC members receive a preferred registration rate for the meeting, so please remind your colleagues to renew their memberships or join, especially emerging conservators.

While you're at the Getty, why not also take advantage of doing some research that you've been putting off at the Getty Research Institute (GRI), one of the best art libraries and archives in the country. If the weather is good, consider heading down to the beach or taking a hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Great state and national parks such as Anza Borrego and Joshua Tree are within driving distance of LA. There is so much to do and see in and around the City of Angels - this is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg! We'll be sharing more ideas on the new website and in the next *Newsletter*.

Before signing off, I would like to acknowledge Ray Marchant, panel paintings conservator and mentor who left us too soon on January 23rd. He was not a WAAC member, but he certainly had a big impact on this one. I am truly grateful for having had the opportunity to learn from him over the years. Until the next time, I leave you with this thought - who are you grateful for today?

Warmly,
Sue Ann Chui, President



photograph by Gary Mattison

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Internet

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Deadline

Contributions for the May *Newsletter* should be received by the Editor before **April 5, 2019**.