

## AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

NO. 50

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Each time I sit down to write a message for our newsletter I begin to wonder what excitement lies ahead for the American Friends of Attingham. Just before the last one I wrote, the financial world had taken its unprecedented plunge. In the time since then we have had some other unexpected and important challenges. As many of you know, our wonderful Administrator, Libby De Rosa, has decided to focus on some of her other interests, including teaching and grandchildren. Libby, with typical generosity, gave us a huge amount of notice, and during that time I am happy to say we were able to find a very workable office space within the English Speaking Union near Grand Central Station, and at a reasonable rent thanks to ESU's benevolence to organizations which they consider to have missions kindred to their own.

In addition, after an extensive search that looked at more than one hundred candidates, we have found a capable and gracious new Administrator, Mayuri Amuluru, who has begun work as of June 8, her selection having been ratified by the Board on June 1. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Harvard Graduate School of Education, Mayuri worked most recently at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts as Adult Learning Programs Coordinator. She had worked previously for the Public Art Fund in New York. In both of these jobs Mayuri was involved with the kinds of tasks that our administrator has to be willing to do: managing a budget, planning and executing events, keeping track of members and donors, and communicating in a variety of forms including electronically. The search committee was very impressed with her self-possession and cheerful demeanor, and references confirmed her ability to work well with a wide range of people. We think Mayuri will be great addition to the American Friends.

Our next Annual Meeting will be held on September 17 at 6 pm in the lecture space on the ground floor of ESU. At this event you will be able to see our new "world headquarters", welcome Mayuri Amuluru and four new Board members, and help give our huge thanks to Libby De Rosa for her almost five years of service to AFA. Annabel Westman, Director of Studies for the Attingham Trust, will also be present to bring us the latest news from Britain, and this year's Sybil Bruel Scholar will give an illustrated talk on Summer School, 2009. Can we do it all in two hours? Yes, we can!

These past several months have brought home to me dramatically something which we all know, but perhaps don't acknowledge so much: The members of American Friends of Attingham are some of the most generous, capable, smart, funny, and kind people we will ever know. For many of us, participation in this entirely volunteer organization is all about liking the people. The hours involved recently have gone far beyond the norm. I have to especially thank our Board members and Committee Chairs for their consistent hard work and all their good ideas as we made our way through the events of Spring. In particular we all owe Paul Parvis an enormous debt for the incredible contribution of time he has spent on our budget, and on this year's audit, keeping us in line in a year when many not-for-profit entities have had significant trouble.

As we look ahead I think we can be optimistic as well as happy about some of the strides we have made toward becoming what Lisa Koch calls "a more grown up organization." The Attingham programs remain extraordinary

opportunities for learning; our support of them is stronger and more organized than ever. We have talented people in important roles. We are financially sound even though our endowment has suffered like everyone else's. We have a terrific new Administrator and a real office. Thank you all for your positive spirit and loyal support as we move forward.

See you in September.

Tom Appelquist '87  
President

#### **MAYURI AMULURU, THE NEW AFA ADMINISTRATOR**



#### **ANNUAL APPEAL EXCEEDS WILDEST DREAMS**

By any measure, the 2008 annual appeal was a surprising and gratifying success. With daily news reports about the declining economy, alumni reached a little deeper into their pockets and proved how generous we can be in tough times. An amazing \$59,000 was donated, proving that we all still deeply care about Attingham. Thanks to alumni generosity, we ended our fiscal year with a slight surplus instead of the expected deficit. As often as we use the words, they have even more meaning when we say THANK YOU to those who helped support our organization.

At the top of the list of our loyal, and ongoing, supporters is the Gerry Charitable Trust which in 2008 contributed \$50,000 toward the American Friends of Attingham's General Endowment Fund.

The Class of 2006 started a new tradition for Attingham when it raised money from among its members to help fund a scholarship for someone in the Class of 2007. This past winter the Class of 2008 raised just over \$3,000 for its scholarship, which was awarded to **Peggy Olley**, Class of 2009, the Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Furniture and Woodwork Conservation at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Many thanks to the recent classes for inaugurating and sustaining a wonderful tradition.

*Jim Mundy '06, VP for Development*

## SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, at 6 pm we will hold our Annual Meeting at our new headquarters, the offices of the English Speaking Union, 144 East 39<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, **Tom Campbell** '88, RCS'99, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will be our special guest at our first-ever fall fundraiser. The event will be held at the Colony Club in New York City. In addition to a presentation by Tom, the evening will include a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception. Invitations will be sent shortly after Labor Day, but mark your calendar now and plan to join us for what should be a wonderful evening with friends.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Suzanne Perkins-Gordon**, SW '09 and RCS '96, wrote a chapter under the name Suzanne Perkins, entitled "Is it a Chocolate Pot? Chocolate and Its Accoutrements in France from Cookbook to Collectible," in *Chocolate: History, Culture, and Heritage* (John Wiley Co., 2009). Perkins' chapter offers insights into the history of French chocoletières and their characteristics. She discusses metal and ceramic vessels, as well as art works depicting the serving and drinking of chocolate.

**Pierre du Prey** '65, has helped celebrate the year of Palladio with publication of *Palladio in Print: An Exhibition of Books ... in Celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Andrea Palladio*. For a copy contact him at 248 Main Street, Kingston ON K7K 6W4.

Watch for publication of *The Hudson-Fulton Celebration: New York's River Festival of 1909 and the Making of a Metropolis* written by AFA Board member, **Kathleen Eagen Johnson** '96, co-published by Fordham University Press and Historic Hudson Valley where Kate is Curator.

A second edition of *The Domestic Scene (1897-1927): George M. Niedecken, Interior Architect* by **Cheryl Robertson** '88, was published in 2008 by Milwaukee Art Museum in concert with University of Wisconsin Press.

**David Blackburn**, 2001, is curator of collections and exhibits for the National Park Service at Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, MA. **Sarah Meschutt** '88, reports that she is now happily settled as Senior Curator at Yorktown Victory Center, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Box 1607, Williamsburg, VA 23187-1607. Sarah is heading a team charged with planning a new museum that will describe the American Revolutionary War in the context of the international commercial and political scene. Last September **John Wilson** '80, was named director of the Timken Museum of Art, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Many of you will remember **James Hare** '03, as our expert guide for the American Friends' trip to Santa Fe in 2008. James has now moved back to his native Denver where he is Director of Colorado Preservation, Inc.

**Jane Karotkin** '98, SW '06, gave the biannual Bayou Bend lecture at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in October, 2008. She continues to maintain the collections and education programs of Friends of the Governor's Mansion while the building undergoes restoration following the fire in 2008.

**Lisa White**, Director of the Summer School, has alerted us that The American Museum in Britain, located in Bath, is looking for a new Executive Director. For further information visit their website: [americanmuseum.org](http://americanmuseum.org). **Deborah Hatch '01**, asks if anyone has thoughts about RFID for inventory tracking. Please e-mail Deborah at [dhatch@vallejoinvestmewnts.com](mailto:dhatch@vallejoinvestmewnts.com) if you have a system you would like to recommend. **Anne Rogers Weston '94**, is a certified personal property appraiser based in Portsmouth, NH. Her website is [Anne-Weston.com](http://Anne-Weston.com). Congratulations to **Remi Spriggs Dyll '05**, on her marriage to Michael Dyll last October.

We note with sorrow the death of **Dorothy Miner '77**, last autumn.

### Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**Robert Dean** has kindly sent us a picture of his Attingham Summer School Class of 1969. The attendees from the U.S. were: **Russell Bastedo, Jack Boucher, Evelyn Bridges, Paul Buchanan, Helen Cady, Robert Dean, Marion Forster, John Fritz, Vaughn Glasgow, Sibley Jennings, Mildred Loftus, Catherine Lynn, Maynard Mack, Milo Naeve, Gwendolyn Needham, Merribell Parsons, William Pillsbury, Bernard Reilly, Sheila Ridout, Larry Salmon, Philip Siebert, Nancy Smith, Victory Porter Smith, Lucy Sydnor, Sandra Tinkam, David Warren, Frankie Wood, and Cynthia Zaitzsky**. Can you match any or all of them to the photo? Please let us know, and thanks. Bill Pillsbury has assured us that he could not be one of those wearing a straw bowler.



## HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

Through the generosity of Sybil Bruel, our former Administrator, and Jim Mundy '06, we have purchased and installed new database software. Though this might produce a yawn from most people, Sybil and Jim understand how important it is to have timely and accurate information about our alumni. If we can't find you, we can't ask you for money, or send you information about upcoming programs and meetings. If you have recently moved or changed positions, please contact the AFA office at [Attingham@verizon.net](mailto:Attingham@verizon.net) or call our new Administrator, Mayuri Amuluru, at 212-682-6840, and update your vital statistics. Also, equally important, please make sure we have your most current e-mail address. Thank you.

*Paul Parvis, '85, VP for Finance*

## RECENT AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM EVENTS

### ATTINGHAM IN LOS ANGELES, MAY 6 – 10, 2009

When I first arrived in Los Angeles ten years ago, I was told to approach life here like a buffet meal: decide what you want and go out and find it. To this I would only add that Los Angeles's diversity and the unlimited choices it offers are part of its appeal, the sum of which can be exhilarating, overwhelming and surprising.

Our Attingham in Los Angeles itinerary, seamlessly rolled out by organizers and leaders **Jeffrey Herr** '98, and **Thomas Michie** '81, gave the first-time visitor an opportunity to experience the breadth of this megalopolis, both geographically and culturally. For those of us who have lived here and thought we'd seen most of what is worthwhile, the program provided a new perspective that also nourished the mind and spirit.

Headquarters were appropriately established at the 1923 Biltmore Hotel. Located in downtown, the Biltmore was the site of the Oscar ceremonies between the years 1931 and 1942. Our first full day began there with a lecture by historian Sam Watters who provided an overview of early Los Angeles residential neighborhoods and celebrity residences. Following the lecture, we were able to choose from several downtown walking tours and then visited the California Club, a private establishment with a collection of over 200 plein-air paintings by various California artists. The Doheny Mansion and the William Andrews Clark Library (the world's most comprehensive collection of materials by and relating to Oscar Wilde) were part of our agenda that afternoon. These buildings are located in Historic West Adams, one of the oldest, and formerly one of the most affluent, neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

Day two began with curator-led tours of the Getty Center, where the group was greeted by **Antonia Bostrum**, RCS '08, Senior Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, with guided tours of current exhibitions given by Curators **Charissa Bremer-David** '89, and Jeffrey Weaver (attending RCS this year). Visits to three private homes followed. The first of these was the 7,500 sq ft Silvertop Residence (John Lautner, 1957-63). Incredibly generous owners permitted us to explore the house, including walk-in closets, and were delighted to provide demonstrations of moveable living-room glass panels and window louvers (the latter of which were operated from a control panel in the headboard of the bed in the master bedroom). In Los Feliz we visited the Lovell Health House (Richard Neutra, 1927-29) and then were off to Glendale for a tour of a 1940-41 R.M. Schindler-designed home whose owner, Michael Murray, is one of the most charming and enthusiastic tour guides anyone could wish for.



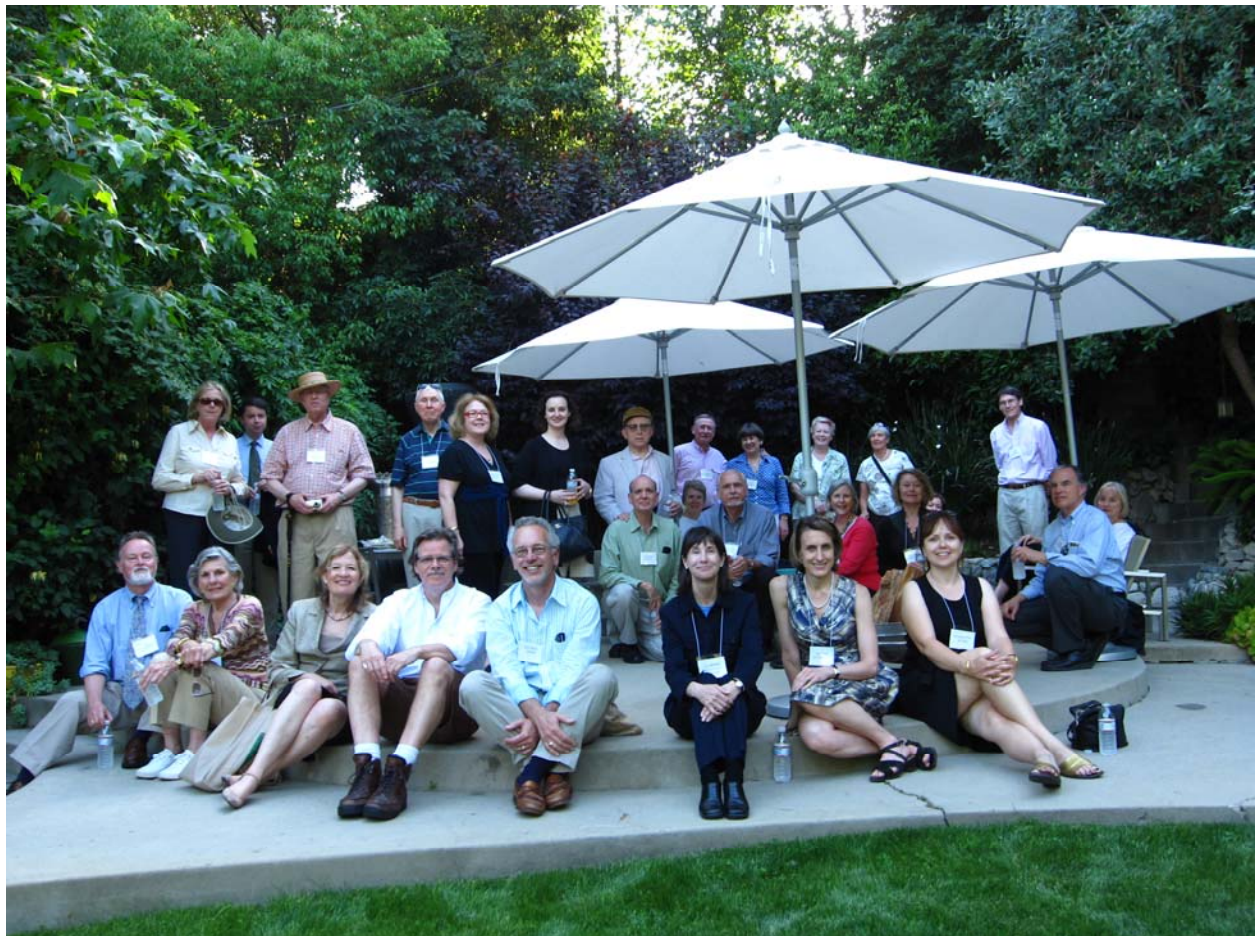
The last two days included visits to The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens with an overview of the restored Huntington Art Gallery by Curator Catherine Hess. **Anne Mallek '05**, led us through the 1907-08 Greene & Greene-designed Blacker House in Pasadena which has been carefully restored over the past 15 years, including replicating the original furnishings and fixtures. This was followed on the last day by an in-depth tour of the Hollyhock House (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1919-21) by Curator **Jeffrey Herr** who discussed restoration work that had been recently completed, and identified some upcoming projects.

The finale was the breathtaking Harvey House, designed in 1949 by John Lautner. Perched on a hilltop adjacent to Griffith Park, the “lobby” (as the current owners refer to their entry hall) allows for panoramic views of the Los Angeles basin. This home tour, which included a soda fountain, was led by actress and preservation advocate Kelly Lynch.

Nearly 30 of us had an opportunity to meet for the first time or reconnect over the course of the program. Educational excursions were punctuated with sumptuous meals at historic sites such as Campanile, Engine Company No. 28 and an evening at the incredible private home of Marcella Ruble & Alan Harris (from whose rooftop one can nearly touch the much-photographed Case Study House No. 22). Mary Lou Boone, a great patron of the arts, invited us to her home in San Marino for a tour of her sculpture garden as did **Jeffrey Herr** and **Christopher Molinar '00**, in whose 1923 Spanish bungalow in Silver Lake, we enjoyed an evening of drinks, hors d'oeuvre and conversation.

*B. Christine Byers '05*

ATTINGHAM GROUP AT THE SCHINDLER HOUSE, LA TRIP, MAY 2009  
PHOTO BY MIKE DONNELLY



## ATTINGHAM AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM

Special thanks to **Amelia Peck '85**, and **Beth Carver Wees '81**, who gave a special tour on May 29, of the newly re-furbished American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A large and enthusiastic group of Attingham alumni attended, some of whom had traveled from as far as Washington DC and Indianapolis, IN.

## DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER

On Saturday, May 30th, 18 Attingham alumni and guests in the Philadelphia area made a pilgrimage down Germantown Avenue to see some houses that are rarely open to the public. They started with Upsala, the 1796 Federal-style house developed by the John Johnson family as their suburban farm. Next they visited the Deschler-Morris House, in the midst of preparation for its re-opening. Next door the Bringhurst House was being converted into a visitor's center to tell the larger story of Germantown, its people, and its houses. They ended the day in true Attingham style at Stenton, where **Dennis Pickerel '08**, and **Laura Keim '07**, provided a tour of James Logan's Georgian country plantation with its incredible interiors, and then something to quench the thirst...drinks.

*Thanks to Jim Mundy '06, for submitting this information*

## SUMMER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2009

### SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

I have the pleasure of reporting on the selection process for the Attingham Summer School Class of 2009, which will include 23 American students this year, joining 24 from abroad. Members of the American contingent range in age from 24 to 58 and hail from eight states, including Alabama, California, Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. They include museum professionals, conservators, preservationists, architects, educators, historic house personnel, graduate students, and interior designers.

I would like to thank Selection Committee members **Gustavo Carrera '07**, **Emily Eerdmans '08**, **Brigitte Fletcher SW '02**, and **Kathryn Galitz '07**, for their hard work and thoughtful consideration of a strong pool of candidates. Joining us at this year's selection meeting as ex-officio members were Summer School Assistant Director **Christopher Garibaldi**, Board President **Tom Applequist '87**, Administrator **Libby De Rosa '05**, and Vice President for Finance **Paul Parvis '85**, who offered essential guidance in distributing scholarships to 18 of this year's students. We are, as always, enormously grateful to the generous alumni, foundations, and supporters who provide scholarship monies. These funds are now even more important than ever. For information on how you might help support future Summer School students, please contact the American Friends office at [Attingham@verizon.net](mailto:Attingham@verizon.net).

The vast majority of our applicants learn about the Summer School through our alumni. Please continue to make this a rich and rewarding experience by helping to recruit applicants for the Class of 2010. Information and application forms will be available on our website in September: <http://www.americanfriendsofatingham.org/summer.html>.

*Beth Carver Wees '81, Chair of the Selection Committee*

The Class of 2009 scholars are:

**Julia Baker**, objects conservator, Broomall, PA; **Lauren Cannady**, Ph.D. candidate, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU; **John Clark**, President media production firm, Clark Star Productions, Los Angeles; **Barbara File**, Archivist, Metropolitan Museum of Art and AFA Board Secretary; **James Finelli**, Public Interpreter, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, Albany, NY; **Anne Forschler-Tarrasch**, Curator of Decorative Arts, Birmingham Museum of Art, AL; **Ryan Grover**, Curator, Biggs Museum of Art, Dover, DE; **Brantley Knowles**, Chairman of All Museum Properties, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America; **Eva Labson**, Collections Assistant, Antonio Ratti Textile Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art; **Celia Liu**, Project Architect, Fairfax & Sammons, NY; **Peggy Olley**, Furniture Conservator, Philadelphia Museum of Art; **Alyce Perry**, MA candidate, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, University of Delaware; **Ann Beth Presley**, Associate Professor, Auburn University, AL; **Elizabeth Rudy**, Fellow, Department of Drawings and Prints, Metropolitan Museum of Art; **Tania Sammons**, Curator, Owens-Thomas House, Telfair Museum, Savannah, GA; **Egan Seward**, Senior Interior Designer, Thomas Jayne Studio, NY; **Christopher Sokolowski**, Paper Conservator, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA; **Kristen Suzda**, Preservation Architect, Atkin Olshin Schade Architects, Philadelphia; **Jonathan Tavares**, Collections Assistant, Dept. of Arms and Armor, Metropolitan Museum of Art; **Rebecca Tilles**, Curatorial Research Associate, Art of Europe Dept, MFA, Boston; **Carrie Van Horn**, Curatorial Assistant, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA; **Leah Walczak**, Regional Site Manager, Historic New England, Boston; **Kathryn Wollan**, Associate Architectural Historian, Architectural Resources Group, Pasadena, CA.

## FALL PROGRAMS 2009

The following lectures are offered by the Royal Oak Foundation which has kindly invited Attingham to be its co-sponsor, allowing our members to register at the Royal Oak member's rate.

Please note that advanced registration is REQUIRED for all events and registration must be made through the Royal Oak website: [www.royal-oak.org/lectures](http://www.royal-oak.org/lectures) or by calling Robert Dennis at 212-480-2889, ext. 201. *Please do not sign up on the Attingham website.*

### *NEW YORK CITY*

**ADAM BOWETT**, furniture historian: *The 18<sup>th</sup> Century London Furniture Trade*

Monday, Sept 21 at 6:00 pm

\$30 members; \$40 non-members

**Location:** The Grolier Club, 47 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street

**LISA WHITE**, Director of the Attingham Summer School:

*Beyond Barchester Towers: Anthony Trollope's Victorian British Houses*

Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm

\$30 members; \$40 non-members

**Location:** Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue (between 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Street)

All lectures in New York are followed by a reception.  
Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Business attire is suggested.



## **WASHINGTON, DC**

**ADAM BOWETT**, furniture historian: *In Search of the Queen Anne Chair*

Tuesday, September 22 at 7:15 pm

\$25 members; \$30 non-members

**Location:** Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, National Trust for Historic Preservation,  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue N.W. (corner of 18<sup>th</sup> Street)

This lecture is preceded by a reception at 6:45 pm

## **SAN FRANCISCO**

**MARY MIERS**, architectural historian and author: *The Splendor of the English Country House*

Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 pm

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

**Location:** Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter Street

**THE COUNTESS OF ROSSLYN**, Owner of Rosslyn and Director of Rosslyn Trust:

*Rosslyn Chapel: Fact and Fiction*

Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 pm

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

**Location:** Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter Street

These lectures are preceded by a reception at 6:00 p.m. and are followed by an optional no-host dinner.

For dinner reservations, call 415-362-6985.

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED.

## **LOS ANGELES**

**MARY MIERS**, architectural historian and author: *The Splendor of the English Country House*

Monday, October 5 at 6:30 pm

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

**Location:** UCLA Faculty Center, 480 Charles E. Young Drive East

This lecture is followed by reception and book signing.

**THE COUNTESS OF ROSSLYN**, Owner of Rosslyn and Director of Rosslyn Trust

*Rosslyn Chapel: Fact and Fiction*

Thursday, November 5 at 11 am

\$50 members; \$60 non-members

**Location:** Beverly Hills Women's Club, 1700 Chevy Chase Drive, Beverly Hills

This lecture is followed by a luncheon.

## **CHICAGO**

**ANNE SEBBA**, best-selling author and historian: *Dollar Princesses*

Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30 pm

Lecture only: \$50 members; \$60 non-members

Lecture and Dinner: \$120 members; \$130 non-members

**Location:** The Women's Athletic Club, 626 N. Michigan Ave.

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED

This lecture is preceded by a reception and is followed by an optional dinner  
at The Women's Athletic Club.

## **BOSTON**

**JEREMY MUSSON**, architectural historian, writer and broadcaster:

*Up and Down Stairs: The History of the English Country House Servant*

Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm

\$20 members and non-members

**Location:** 10 ½ Beacon Street

This lecture is followed by a reception and book signing.

## **PHILADELPHIA**

**MARY MIERS**, architectural historian and author: *The Splendor of the English Country House*

Monday, October 12 at 6:30 pm

**DAME FIONA REYNOLDS, DBE**, Director-General of the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland:

*Two Hundred Houses and One Million Things: The National Trust and Their Collections*

Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm

**ANNE SEBBA**, best-selling author and historian: *Dollar Princesses*

Thursday, November 5 at 6:30 pm

## **PHILADELPHIA (continued)**

**JEREMY MUSSON**, architectural historian, writer and broadcaster:

*Up and Down Stairs: The History of the English Country House Servant*

Thursday, December 3 at 6:30 pm

Lecture only: \$20 members and non-members. Lecture and dinner: \$60 members and guests

**Location for all lectures:** 140 South Broad Street

For each lecture, there will be a reception with cash bar at 6:00 p.m. An optional no-host dinner follows the lecture. Dinner reservations are non-refundable and must be made by the Friday before the lecture.

**Please visit the Royal Oak web site [www.royal-oak.org](http://www.royal-oak.org) to learn more about the lecture topics.**

Our thanks to John Oddy'94 and Jennie McCahey'06, for arranging for the American Friends of Attingham to co-host these lectures.

#### **SO LONG, BUT NOT FAREWELL**

Dear Attingham Alumni,

My most recent Attingham treat has been the chance to get to know Mayuri Amuluru, my replacement as Administrator for the American Friends of Attingham. I think that you will be as charmed by her as I am, plus, and it is a big plus, she is a whiz with the new office software.

Thank you all for your generous, cheerful support during the past four plus years and for your many kind letters. It has been a joy to meet and travel with so many of you, and to work with the AFA board. I have every intention of remaining an active Attingham alumna and hope to help you, our members, and Mayuri to organize local events around the country that will bring alumni together with potential Summer School candidates.

Special thanks to your heroic board presidents, past and present, with whom it has been my privilege to work: **Margize Howell '85**, **Molly Seiler '87**, and **Tom Appelquist '87**. I am probably the only person, with the possible exception of their family members, who has any idea just how much time and effort they donate to Attingham.

Please keep singing in the back of the bus. I know that Mayuri will enjoy your voices as much as I have.

Fond regards,  
*Libby De Rosa '05*