

# WESTERN REGION NEWS

SPRING 2009

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YVES SAINT LAURENT RETROSPECTIVE TOUR AND SYMPOSIUM



**I**n October, Costume Society of America's Western Region visited the de Young in San Francisco to tour the Yves Saint Laurent Retrospective and participate in the symposium which followed. The exhibition marked the first retrospective of the designer's work in over 25 years. At the symposium, Pierre Bergé was joined by panelists Hamish Bowles, Farid Chenoune, and Florence Muller. Video of the symposium can be streamed at <http://www.ysldeyoung.org/index.asp>.

Following the tour and symposium, Western Region members dined together before the annual business meeting of the region was held.

*Photos courtesy Heather Vaughan.*



## WESTERN REGION

The Western Region of the Costume Society of America is made up of members from Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Northwest Territories, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Washington, Wyoming, and the Yukon Territories.

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Address editorial correspondence and contributions to the newsletter editor at [CSAWest.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:CSAWest.editor@yahoo.com). We welcome submissions as WORD documents via email for the Fall Newsletter, due by August 15, 2009. Submit photos as JPEG files with complete captions and credit lines via email. Author is required to obtain all rights and permissions for images.

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**CONTRIBUTORS**

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**T**hree CSA-Western Region Presidents (left to right: Jo Ann Stabb, current president; Shelly Foote, President-Elect; and Inez Brooks-Myers, past president Western Region and CSA National) poised to board Air Force One at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, while attending the September 2008 Western Region program and exhibition, "Nancy Reagan: A First Lady's Style." Members and guests were treated to a guided tour of the Museum exhibiting Presidential memorabilia as well as an extended viewing of this special exhibition which included over 80 pieces of Mrs. Reagan's exquisite and chic collection of designer clothes coordinated with historic photographs of her attending many of the related events. A catered lunch was enjoyed by all attendees under the wing of Air Force One, which is also housed at the museum.

*Photo courtesy Jo Ann Stabb*

**DON'T FORGET!**

Update your Email Address with CSA National Membership Office to ensure that you receive invitations to all of the Western Region's programs this year!



## IN MEMORIAM: OUR COLLEAGUE, BETH DUNLAP

By Inez Brooks-Myers, with thanks to Trish Cunningham for sharing the early information on Beth's life.

It is with deep sadness that I report the death of a devoted CSA member, Beth Dunlap.

Beth was one of the founding members of the Midwestern Region. Trish Cunningham recounted a lovely buffet dinner Beth hosted at her home before the region's inaugural symposium in Chicago.

Beth was married to Chicago architect William Dunlap; they had two sons, David who lives in New York City and Bruce who lives in San Francisco. Their Chicago apartment was wonderful, recalls Joan Severa, another Midwestern Region member. It was styled with a wall of exotic wood hiding closets with doors opening out seamlessly from the wall. The apartment on Lincoln Park overlooked the zoo from which Beth could at times hear lions roar. Joan said that Beth often invited CSA members to stay with her in Chicago if they were doing research or visiting collectors or exhibitions; "Beth was a generous hostess."

Educated at the Chicago Fine Arts Academy, Beth worked as a fashion illustrator for Gimbel's Department Store and was the *Women's Wear Daily* artist in the Midwest from 1945-1951. She also did drawings for the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Fashion Institute of Technology and the de Young Museum. Two covers for the CSA Directory were designed using her art work that encompassed a combination of techniques: drawing and collage.

Beth decided to move to San Francisco in 2000, and took up residence in The Sequoias retirement community. When she moved, she brought her studio and research materials with her. She established a small studio for herself within walking distance of The Sequoias. Beth had long had an interest in ethnic dress. Her last exhibition of her work was for her fellow residents in her San Francisco retirement community.

She remained supportive of the field of costume. Her friends in the Midwestern and Western Regions will miss Beth, her good sense of humor and her generosity in opening doors to make things happen.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This new year of 2009 offers new programs and opportunities for CSA-Western Region members to expand their knowledge of costume and fashion and its dynamic role in our society. President-elect and Program Coordinator Shelly Foote has developed a broad range of costume-related experiences for this year including the first program of the year held on February 17—a tour and behind-the-scenes visit to the Universal Studios archives!

April will find us visiting Yosemite to view the costume and textile holdings of the National Park museum as well as a private collection of historic costumes at the King Museum in Oakhurst. A program in the Seattle area of the Pacific Northwest is being developed for July. Our September 25-26 Regional Symposium in Sacramento will feature scholarly research presentations by our members focused on the theme "Costume in the American West." You'll have time to visit with and renew friendships with other Western Region members during this two-day event. This symposium is an excellent opportunity

for students and researchers to present their findings and interpretations in juried papers.

And our November program will highlight the wardrobe of one of fashion's great leaders in the twentieth-century, Betsey Bloomingdale. An exquisite exhibition at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles will feature her clothing. What better way to travel throughout our Region and enjoy learning more about the many aspects of costume and fashion?

We hope that you will join us for these special activities—please look for the invitations and registration forms that will be e-mailed or direct-mailed to you. Our Western Region Board members are hard at work developing these exciting events and also encourage your suggestions for future program ideas also. Please feel free to contact Shelly Foote or myself with your ideas and comments.

Enjoy 2009!

Jo Ann Stabb, President  
jstabb@ucdavis.edu

## CSA WESTERN REGION INVITES YOU TO...

By Mary Ann Hutcherson

“Springtime in the Sierras” takes you on a trip to enjoy the beauty of the Sierra Foothills, the picturesque landscape of the magnificent and majestic Yosemite Valley, while visiting two unique costume collections. Enjoy a mini vacation in the Sierras with a little education to go with your rest and relaxation! The program is set for April 18, 2009 and the day will start with a breakfast snack in the Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum’s office center located at 40680 Highway 41 in Oakhurst, California at 8:30 a.m.

After sharing a wake-up breakfast snack with the group, the museum tour will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. The Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum is a vintage costume and accessories collection with objects which date back to 1790. The mission of this museum is to foster an awareness and appreciation of the history of vintage fashion and to ensure the conservation and preservation of vintage fashion collections for generations to come.

The feature exhibition, “Fashion Styles of the Decades: 1900-1950,” will take a walk through the styles and designs of fashion from the 1900s to the 1950s. Learn how the fashion designs changed as the country went from prosperity to depression, from peacetime to wartime and back. How did fashion change as the lives and roles of women in America changed?

Some of the permanent exhibitions include a velvet bodice from the trousseau of the granddaughter of Chief Justice John Marshall, the fourth Chief Justice of the United States, a 1920s three-piece paper crepe party dress, a paper vest signed by six ladies who went motoring with J. D. Rockefeller, an 1880s blue velvet hat with aviary trim, and much more. The collection features hundreds of hats, shoes, purses, and fans. In addition there is a room devoted to wedding, military and children’s dress.

The museum sits about thirteen miles from the Southern Gate of Yosemite. After viewing the collection, the group will board a mini-van sightseeing bus and travel to Yosemite. This trip will include a narrated tour of the wonders and beauties of Yosemite Valley. Short stops for photo opportunities will be possible, depending on the travel time and the weather.

Upon arrival at Yosemite Valley the group will share a no-host lunch in the famous award-winning Ahwahnee Dining Room. The dining room features a 34-foot-high beamed ceiling with large sugar pine trestles that complement the room’s granite pillars, floor-to-ceiling windows, beautiful chandeliers, linen tablecloths, and beautiful china. The magnificent and intimate dining room creates the perfect ambiance for a memorable dining experience. The hotel is constructed from stone, concrete, wood and glass and opened in 1927. It is a premiere example of the National Park Service Rustic architectural style and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1987.



*Right: Woman’s Wedding Dress, 1859. Photo courtesy Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum.*

*Left: Yosemite Falls. Photo courtesy National Park Service.*



## OAKHURST, CA AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

### “SPRINGTIME IN THE SIERRAS”

WILD WONDERFUL KING VINTAGE MUSEUM  
40680 Highway 41, Oakhurst, CA 93644

YOSEMITE MUSEUM  
Yosemite National Park

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

Join us for this special trip to enjoy two collections in the Sierras as well as a narrated tour of Yosemite Valley. Our day starts with a tour of the new exhibition space at the Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum, including a special exhibition “Fashion Styles of the Decades 1900-1950”. Many of the well documented items in the collection will be on display. We will then board a van for our visit to Yosemite National Park (and thus reducing the number of vehicles in this Park!). After having a no-host lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel, we visit the Yosemite Museum. There will be time to walk through the Indian Village and Yosemite Visitor Center.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.  | Meet at Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum for breakfast snack and badge pick-up  |
| 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Guided tour of the Wild Wonderful King Vintage Museum with Mary Ann Hutcherson  |
| 11:00 - 1:30 p.m. | Van transportation and tour of Yosemite National Park   |
| 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  | No-host lunch at Ahwahnee hotel, Yosemite National Park.  |
| 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  | Group divides for rotating tours of the Yosemite Museum Collection with Jonathan Bayliss, National Park Service, and exploring on your own Yosemite Village and Visitor Center. |
| 5:00 p.m.         | Leave Yosemite for Oakhurst   |

**Driving Directions: From US-99 take Highway 41 exit in Fresno. The museum is on the left in downtown Oakhurst.**

LODGING: Both the Best Western Yosemite Gateway (559-683-2378) or Days Inn (559-642-2525) are conveniently located near the museum.

Questions? E-mail Shelly Foote: [satalexandria@aol.com](mailto:satalexandria@aol.com) (telephone 805-642-4466) or Mary Ann Hutcherson: [mmhutch@sti.net](mailto:mmhutch@sti.net) (telephone 559-683-3370)

## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

The Western Region of the Costume Society of America actively supports its student members and encourages new students to join the Costume Society of America through its new Student Membership Support Program.

The Western Region will pay \$20.00 of the \$45.00 cost of student membership for students who join through the Region, making it possible for you to become a member for only \$25.00.

For students who are current members, the Western Region will pay \$20 of your \$45 membership fee ONE TIME ONLY for renewing your membership for 2009.

Please encourage students interested in costume and dress to take advantage of this support!

To join through the Western Region, send your membership application form (available through CSA website: [www.costumesocietyamerica.com](http://www.costumesocietyamerica.com), click on "membership"); with your check for \$25.00 made out to: Costume Society of America; and include proof of current student status at an accredited educational institution (photocopy) to:

**Betsey Potter,**  
**CSA-Western Region Treasurer**  
**7306 Coldwater Canyon Ave. #16**  
**North Hollywood, CA 91605-4242**

## BLOGS OF NOTE

*Editor's Note: Instead of upcoming and new publications, this issue we are offering a brief list of blogs which our members may find interesting and entertaining. If you have a blog which you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please send the URL to [csawest.editor@yahoo.com](mailto:csawest.editor@yahoo.com).*

**SF Luxe** (<http://sfluxe.com/>) With the tagline of "Live. Love. Luxe." SFLuxe documents high end fashion in San Francisco and throughout the U.S.

**Paula Baxter's Blog** (<http://www.nypl.org/blogs/paula-baxter>) New York Public Library's Curator of Exhibitions and Coordinator of Educational Initiatives blogs about the NYPL collection

**Chicago History Museum Blog** (<http://blog.chicagohistory.org/>) This blog features posts from various members of the museum's staff, including those working on the FashionNext competition

**Worn Through** (<http://www.wornthrough.com>) Features submissions by Western Region member Heather Vaughan and other CSA Members

**Fashion Projects** (<http://www.fashionprojects.org/>) The online presence of the print journal by this non-profit organization which highlights new and experimental fashion

**Jewel History** (<http://www.jewelhistory.com/>) Lori Ettlinger Gross, author of Brooches: Timeless Adornment, blogs about the latest news and trends in jewelry and fashion

**A Dress a Day** (<http://www.dressaday.com/dressaday.html>) Finding the unique on eBay, this blog posts links to auctions and other interesting fashion items

**Liebemarlene Vintage Look Book** (<http://liebemarlene.blogspot.com/>) A mix of vintage and current fashion is included in this pictorial blog

**Decades: The Blog** (<http://www.decadesinc.blogspot.com/>) The blog presence of Cameron Silver's vintage store

## MEET YOUR BOARD: ANNE COCO

This year, Anne Coco joins the board of the Costume Society of America's Western Region. Anne has been a member of CSA since 2005 and is currently serving on the election committee. Her work with the Academy is what drew her to the Costume Society, "After working with the costume design drawings in our collection [at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences], I felt the need to talk about it. A friend suggested that I become a member and apply to speak at the annual symposium - so I did. And the rest is history!"

Working as Graphic Arts Librarian, Anne manages the library's collection of movie posters and other two-dimensional works on paper, consisting primarily of production and costume design drawings.



## SEE YOU IN SACRAMENTO THIS SEPTEMBER! AN UPDATE AND PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Shelly Foote, President-Elect and Program Chair

I hope everyone has marked their calendar for our regional symposium to be held in Old Town Sacramento September 25th and 26th, 2009. Also don't forget to submit your abstracts for presentations by April 4, 2009.

When the Education Committee started planning this event in November 2007 we wanted to make an extended educational event available to our members while keeping costs down. We also hoped that a smaller symposium than national would encourage many members who do not ordinarily present at the national level to submit abstracts for oral presentations or research-in-progress reports. We know that for many of you, it is difficult to justify the time and expense of going to a short program outside of your immediate vicinity. An extended event means better value. An extended event also offers more opportunities to talk and get to know colleagues and others with similar interests.

We selected Sacramento as the venue because of its location (easily accessible from many parts of the region) plus Sacramento has a lot of fun activities for both attendees and guests (yes we can have fun too). It is a smaller city than some others in California but with a rich heritage. The site for the papers – the State Railroad Museum – is a wonderful place to visit (I stayed two hours and still felt I didn't see everything). You might consider bringing a spouse or significant other for a mini-vacation as they would love the museum as well as the train rides offered outside. Old Sacramento retains its raised sidewalks and is filled with a variety of shops from souvenirs to quality merchandise.

Our theme "Costume in the American West: Historic to Modern Times" relates to our venue but also refers to us as a region. Hopefully, many of you are working on those abstracts. They are due April 4, 2009. If you are a college or university professor, encourage your students to apply for the student award which will allow them to present at a conference while having most of their expenses covered.

Lastly, the Board has selected the Delta King as the site for our welcome reception and for our main lodging venue. The Delta King is a 19th century steamboat (its sister ship the Delta Queen just retired from service on the Mississippi). Its atmosphere will certainly add to the symposium. The rooms are filled with modern amenities but the room for our reception retains its 19th century character.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



## CSA WESTERN REGION WANTS YOU!

**Wanted:** *Editor for the CSA Western News*

With this issue, Michelle Webb Fandrich will end her tenure as the editor of the Western Region News. We are currently seeking a member to volunteer for the position of editor. Job duties include gathering news of events throughout the region, collecting reports and images from regional programs, and designing, printing and mailing the newsletter biannually.

If you are interested, please contact Jo Ann Stabb at [jcstabb@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jcstabb@ucdavis.edu) for more information.



*Newsletter of the Western Region of the  
Costume Society of America*

Attn: Michelle Webb Fandrich, Editor  
2118 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 994  
Santa Monica, CA 90403

## LACMA MAKES HISTORIC PURCHASE

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced an unprecedented acquisition for its department of Costume and Textiles. The European Costume Collection, assembled by Martin Kamer and Wolfgang Ruf, is the fruit of over a decade of collecting by these two savvy dealers. Examples of the finest in European dress, documenting fashion for over two centuries, make up the collection.

To celebrate this monumental acquisition, the museum will be presenting an exhibition in 2010, “Fashioning Fashion: European Dress in Detail, 1700–1915.” A program with CSA Western Region, in conjunction with this exhibition, is in the works so stay tuned!

*Man's Hunting Jacket (detail), Scotland, c. 1825-1830*

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