

**VRA and ARLIS/NA Northern California Chapters Joint Meeting
Mills College Library, Heller Rare Book Room, Oakland, California
April 27, 2012**

VRA Northern California Chapter Members: Abby Dansiger (Chair), Emily Vigor (Chair-elect), Blanche Chase (Secretary/Treasurer), Trudy Levy, Andree LeBourveau, Howard Brainen

Guest: Hannah Tandeta

1. VRA NoCal Business Meeting Call to Order

After enjoying refreshments and mingling with ARLIS members, Abby Dansiger called the VRA Northern California business meeting to order in the Seminar Room and introduced Emily Vigor, who takes over as Chair in January 2013. Attendees then introduced themselves.

2. Treasurer's Report: Blanche Chase

Bursary balance as of April 27, 2012: \$465.23

Details: We began January 2012 with \$597.03. We then gained/spent the following funds:

- Gained \$90.00 from Chapter renewals
- Spent \$65.00 on the NoCal membership grant (recipient: Kristine Branscomb)
- Spent \$100.00 on the VRA 2012 Speaker Fund (recipients: Kimberly Jones and Claudia Brittenham, co-presenters at the "*Cataloging Art of the Americas*" workshop with Karen Kessel in Albuquerque)
- Spent \$56.80 on refreshments for the April 27, 2012 VRA/ARLIS joint meeting (receipts were collected and Lise Hawkos will send Abby a reimbursement check from the chapter account)

3. Membership

There was a group discussion of the benefits of a NoCal chapter membership:

- Meetings are free to members (a nominal fee is charged when there is a large number of guests)
- Making new connections and interacting with colleagues face-to-face
- Builds relationships across institutions and professions
- A lot of VR professionals work solo, so chapter meetings are a great way to learn about what is going in the field and share ideas

There was also a discussion on how to attract new chapter members including reaching out to San Jose SLIS students. It was pointed out that since SLIS is an all-virtual program now, meeting face-to-face was a big benefit in addition to providing professional development and networking opportunities while someone is still a student.

Andree offered to create and send personal welcome cards to new chapter members.

4. Possible Fall 2012 Virtual Meeting with Southern California Chapter

Go-to-Meeting software is now being offered by VRA to local chapters as a way to hold virtual meetings. We would like to try to hold another joint meeting with the Southern California VRA chapter in the Fall using this technology.

Go-to-Meeting is easy to use, and only requires an Internet connection, webcam and microphone. It is also possible for attendees to dial in with a telephone and just listen in. The idea is to have each chapter meet locally, and then have part of each meeting consist of a presentation that we would share virtually. Local members who cannot attend the meeting in person would also be able to take advantage of this virtual component.

4. CaVRACon, Summer 2013

It was decided that holding a second CaVRACon in summer 2012 was too soon, and we began the discussion about dates and location for a summer 2013 CaVRACon. We discussed the need for taking the dates of SEI, the Summer Educational Institute, graduations and summer sessions into account. (At the joint CA chapters meeting in Albuquerque, the general consensus was that June is better than May.)

We will need meeting space and accommodations for two days for at least 60 attendees, based on the 2011 CaVRACon in Santa Barbara. Current options being explored by VRA members: Stanford, Sonoma State, UC Davis, and College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley. Internet Archive was also suggested as a possible host venue. We discussed the variables that will make a host site desirable, including accessibility, available housing options and overall cost.

Hannah Tandeta recommended getting in touch with the Conference Office at Mills College. Danforth Lecture Hall in the Arts Center with a nearby breakout room was suggested as a meeting space. Mills does not hold summer classes, and Hannah mentioned the 3rd or 4th week of May 2013 could also work well since it would be right after graduation.

Blanche reminded the group about a possible local speaker we discussed at the last chapter meeting, Ben Wood, a local artist and historian who worked on a project to

digitally uncover and document a hidden mural at Mission Dolores (<http://www.benwood.net/mission2011.html>)

5. Nomination Committee for 2013 Officers

Trudy Levy and Andree LeBourveau offered to be the Nomination Committee to fill the positions of Chair Elect and Secretary/Treasurer beginning in January 2013.

6. VRA NoCal Business Meeting Adjourned

The VRA Business meeting adjourned at 11:00 am. At this time, we rejoined ARLIS for a brief meeting.

7. Joint Business Meeting with ARLIS/NA-NC

All attendees introduced themselves.

Leia Casey, ARLIS/NA-NC Chair, had just attended the annual conference in Toronto and invited anyone with questions to come talk to her after the business meeting.

The next ARLIS conference in 2013 will be in Pasadena, and Leia put out an early call for volunteers for the registration desk and hospitality. Leia also said that they would be seeking candidates for a new position, Chapter Liaison, to serve between their Northern and Southern California chapters.

Abby Dansiger said that she had just attended the VRA conference in Albuquerque and invited questions about sessions she attended. She also mentioned the chapter's plans for hosting a second CaVRACon with the VRA Southern California chapter, and invited attendees to contact her directly with any questions or suggestions.

Greg Borman, ARLIS/NA-NC Secretary/Treasurer, said that he was also involved with the Northern California Technical Processes Group (NCTPG).

The joint business meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am to start the scheduled tours on time.

8. Tours

Rob Borges, a graduate teaching assistant, gave us a tour of the Book Arts Press studio space where projects range from letterpress and experimental printmaking to the study of book structures in the shadow of the 100-year-old Julia Morgan *El Campanil*.

Hannah Tandeta, Visual Resources Curator at Mills, gave us a tour of the Visual Resources Center, which included a glimpse of the digitization efforts taking place in

the slide library.

These two tours were followed by a lunch break at the campus dining hall.

Attendees gathered after lunch for a campus architectural tour led by Karen Fiene, Campus Architect. Touring old and new, we saw the lobby and “garden” of the LEED Platinum Natural Science building as well as the beautifully restored concert hall of the 80-year-old Music Building.

Our visit to Mills concluded in the Heller Rare Book Room with Janice Braun displaying treasures from the Special Collections, which included contemporary artists books by Mills faculty member Julie Chen, a volume of Chaucer designed by William Morris, and a lovely little gardening book printed in 1638.