

# The CHM Muse

Volume 1, Issue 7

Staff & Volunteer Monthly Newsletter

November 2008

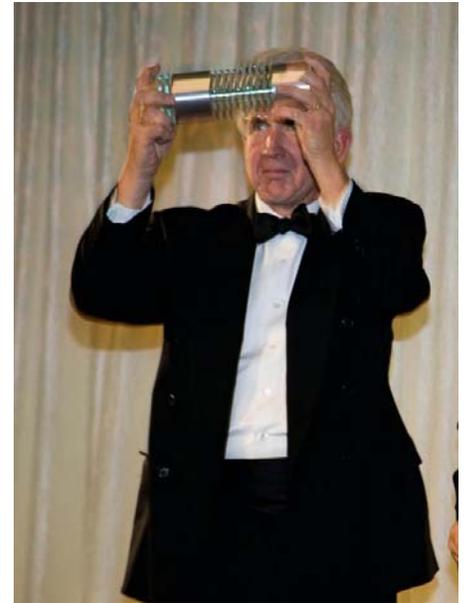
## 2008 Fellow Awards Honors 3 Pioneers



Linus Torvalds receives award from  
CEO John Hollar



Jean Bartik



Bob Metcalfe

By Karae Lisle & Fiona Tang

The 2008 Fellow Awards, celebrated on October 21, brought 350 of the Valley's most influential executives and computer history supporters into the Museum to honor this year's Fellows: **Jean Bartik**, **Bob Metcalfe** and **Linus Torvalds**. After many months of planning, this event was executed gracefully by all departments within the Museum to achieve prestige and sophistication. The event was truly a cultivation environment, as we made almost \$90,000 in profit over the cost of the event. In this economic downturn, this is truly a feat to be proud of, and will provide the necessary funds, should donations fall short in the remainder the year. Another point of pride is the brand and reputation the Fellows Gala has acquired over time. This year, the minimum price per table was \$10,000 for corporations and \$5,000 for Trustees. Each Fellow was hosted at a \$25,000 table.

This year's agenda included a new dessert format, which featured an opportunity for guests to mingle and review the new "Computer History: The First 2000 Years" schematic drawings. The guests' feedback was overwhelmingly positive on this opportunity to network and learn about the Museum's exciting exhibition plans in an informal setting.

Public nominations for the 2009 Fellows will open next week on November 20th. The 2009 Fellow Awards Gala is scheduled for October 20, 2009 at the Museum.

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## Who does what at the Museum?

*by Herb Kanner, Senior docent*

### Oktoberfest '08

Oktoberfest was the theme of the Volunteer/Staff Social on October 11, following Volunteer Saturday. We toasted each other with Märzen Beer and other varieties donated by the Gordon Biersch Brewery, feasted on German pretzels from Esther's German Bakery, and enjoyed Esther's tasty donation of Apfelstreuselkuchen (Apple Crumble Cake). Thanks to these generous donors, and to the volunteers who supplied us with mood music – polkas, of course!

Our special thanks to the staff members who took the time to hoist a few with us and join in the festivities. Just as you appreciate our volunteer time, we appreciate your support.

At the last meeting of the Volunteer Steering Committee, I offered to find out what some of the staff members at the Computer History Museum actually did. I decided to limit myself to the positions of Registrar, Archivist, and Curator; the other positions did not seem to be specific to museums.

#### Registrar

Before volunteering here, I thought a Registrar enrolled people at a university. There is an analogy: a museum registrar “enrolls” all physical objects: artifacts, documents, media, etc., doing all legal paperwork necessary to make the objects either the property of the museum or legally on loan to it. Then there is a divergence: documents and media (audio visual and software) go to our Archivist; physical objects remain under control of our Registrar, who is responsible for their safe handling, transport, storage, cataloging, and preservation. When an object is loaned to another museum, the Registrar does the paperwork and keeps track of the loans. Our Registrar is Karen Kroslowitz, with assistant William Harnack.

#### Archivist

The Archivist stores, preserves, and catalogs documents, photos, posters, and media. The catalog schema may be (and is) different from that used by the Registrar. Our Archivists are Sara Lott for software, Judy Strebel for media, and Elizabeth Borchardt for documents; they report to Paula Jabloner. Director of Collections. Paula pointed out to me that unreadable software media reverts to the Registrar as a plain physical object.

#### The Curator

I used to think that a Curator was the boss of a museum. Not so! The Curator is the technical expert on the museum's subject matter. If an unidentifiable object comes into the museum, the Curator is the person best equipped to know what it is, or to know how to find out. The Curator should have a strong voice in choosing exhibit material and designing exhibits. The Curator is also responsible for knowing what artifacts to pursue for loan or purchase, and what artifacts are surplus and should be sold or given away. Our Senior Curator is Dag Spicer, our Software Curator is Al Kossow; others are Chris Garcia and Alex Bochanek.



# Volunteer Steering Committee October meeting notes

by Judith Haemmerle, VSC chairperson

We had updates of the following topics:

- Security in the Restoration Rooms and improved monitoring in Visible Storage.
- Making over the lounge and Volunteer Library in Zuse.
- Scheduling presentations during lunch on Volunteer Saturdays, more Brown Bag sessions.
- Progress on new Volunteer Website.
- Sales and visitor numbers for August, 2008, compared to 2007. Need for more front-of-house coverage.
- Herb's job descriptions for museum staff.
- New staff meeting schedule and possibility of adding vsc representation.
- Holiday Giving Tree and Kiva as staff/volunteer charity events.
- Upcoming disaster plans and fire drills.
- Drinks and snacks for volunteers.
- Signage in Visible Storage due for repair and update.
- Volunteer help is needed on the monthly newsletter, The Muse.

More extensive discussion was held on the following topics:

- Overall success of Oktoberfest in spite of poor staff attendance.
- Problems with treatment of volunteers at Fellows compared to treatment of staff.

vsc members defined their individual vsc goals 2008-2009:

- Dave Cortesi and Dave Bennett: recruitment, including recruitment program development, identifying recruitment targets and locations, implementation.
- Judith: new volunteer website, general meddling.
- Jim Porter: promote wider awareness and recognition of volunteer SIGs.
- Marcin: photographically documenting the volunteer presence at the Museum, and other photography, design and user experience.
- Warren: improving awareness of the variety of volunteer opportunities and education of volunteers.

Finally, Gary Matsushita talked about the process of developing the new exhibit and securing the Board's approval. Additional fund raising will be needed.

Want to know more? The full minutes are online at [www.tinyurl.com/vsc-oct2008](http://www.tinyurl.com/vsc-oct2008). Next regular meeting: November 18, 2008, 4:30 pm.



## News bytes

Coming soon to the bookstore:

**The Difference Engine Calendar for 2009**, an all-volunteer production. This beautiful full color calendar will be a great holiday gift – and volunteers get 20% off their first calendar purchase!

**Under construction: The Volunteer Website.** A small group of volunteers is working to improve the look, user interface, and functionality of the website, including the calendar. Please help by filling out the online survey at [www.tinyurl.com/chm-website-survey](http://www.tinyurl.com/chm-website-survey)

**Enjoying the Muse? We are looking for help!** Have an idea for an article? Already written something you'd like to submit? Got good pictures? Love doing layout? Please contact [judith@mopalia.net](mailto:judith@mopalia.net).

## October stats

Total open hours visitors:	1,484
(compared with October 2007:	970)
Babbage Demo attendance:	862
Tour attendance:	708
PDP-1 attendance:	84

Total tour hours donations:	\$1,340.59
Total store sales:	\$3,813.83

## Upcoming events

**Saturday, December 13** 10–11 am  
Volunteer Orientation

**Wednesday, December 17** 3:30–4:30 pm  
Caroling with the PDP-1

**Saturday, January 10** 9 am–2 pm  
Volunteer Saturday (Shoreline)

**Saturday, January 10** 2–3:30 pm  
Artifact Handling Training for Docents



# A Special Night at Fellows



A grand red carpet entry...



Hahn magically transformed for the formal dinner & show



Elegant evening gowns...



Ice sculpture at reception



Evening MC Robert Krulwich of NPR meets & greets guests



Even the camera crew dressed up for the occasion

## Great Review of the Museum

Below is a fantastic personal testimonial about the Museum from **Michael Baum**, chief biz dev officer and co-founder of **Splunk**, which was honored here at CHM on Thursday night, October 30, as the fastest growing company in Silicon Valley at the **Deloitte & Touche "Fast 50"** awards program.

....The award ceremony was held at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA. What a cool place. When the Boston Computer Museum closed in 1999 the museum in Silicon Valley became the keeper of computer technology history. Wandering through the museum I spotted an exhibit on chess software competition and was reminded by one of the long job outputs hanging from the ceiling of my own chess playing Pascal program that performed a pretty good six level look ahead algorithm. But it was entering the hardware history wing that really sent me down memory lane.

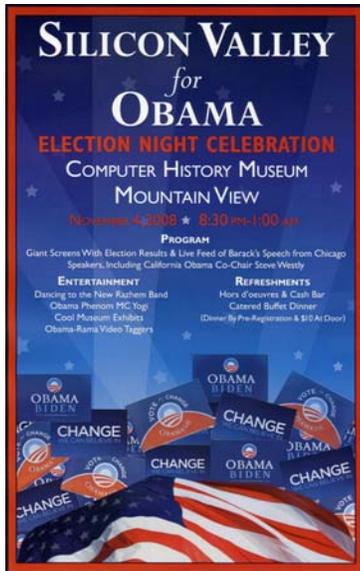
PDP8s, PDP11s, original IBM PC, Osborne, Apple Lisa, Apple IIc, Mac 128k, Compaq luggable, Apple Powerbook 170 and 230 with that cool ejectable enclosure that hooked up all your cables for you. Wow! I even saw an IBM 5100. Perhaps the most bizarre machine I ever programmed. It has a switch that moves the shared program and memory space from APL to Basic - two worlds that should never co-exist. When I was at IBM in Boca Raton I wrote an inventory management system on a 5120 the predecessor with a 9 inch screen!

If you've never been to the museum you really should go. Take your kids. Show them the progress technology has made during your adult lifetime and let them dream about the next 25 years. Where else can you sit on the built in sofa of a Cray 1 supercomputer and see a PDP1 still working to play the world's first video game?

## Election Night Celebration at the Computer History Museum



Guests cheer the big screen returns in Hahn



Almost 2000 Obama supporters packed in to the Computer History Museum on election night, Tuesday, November 4 to celebrate their candidate's big win. The entire facility was rented by the Silicon Valley for Obama group, transforming both the Grand Hall and Hahn Auditorium into big-screen election watch venues, and the Gallery downstairs into an all-night party & dance floor. While it was one of the largest events attendance-wise ever held at the Museum, it was organized rather quickly by both the campaign center folks and our rental events coordinator Jennifer Alexander, Facilities and IT; the entire event planning and execution coming together in less than 1 week! (Congrats to Jennifer's team)

A special feature of the celebration was the appearance of the "Obamarama" video-taggers- a group who has travelled cross-country during the past year "tagging" buildings, monuments, and even mountainsides with massive video projections of Obama and campaign slogans. After the polls closed at 8 p.m., CHM allowed the tagging crew to project their image on the front facings of the Museum with their Obama- Hope images.



Bobobama

### Collections Corner Let the Reconciliation Begin!

By Karen Kroslowitz, Registrar

Please join me in congratulating our staff and volunteer catalogers! We have officially exceeded the first two goals of the IMLS cataloging grant!

**Goal: 9,000 new physical object records**

**Attained: 9,222 or 102%**

**Goal: 11,000 object images attached to records**

**Attained: 14,264 or 130%**

Now that these goals have been reached, we move into the second phase of the grant project – reconciling the records. The cataloging teams will start looking at physical object records for which no images have yet been linked, resolving discrepancies with donor files and reconciling mismatches across the records. Serendipity strikes the cataloging and the move projects again – we'll also clean up any discrepancies regarding new shelving location data.

Congratulations and thanks to **Dave Bennet, Dave Cortesi, Dick Blain, Jeff Shimbo, Oscar Salmassy, Judith Tauber-Lovik, Carrie Karnos, Steve Madsen, Mary Ellen Petrich, Jay McCauley, Chelsea Sellin, Herb Kanner**, and so many more volunteers who have helped during the course of the project.

Special thanks go to **Allison Akbay, Alex Lux, Bernard Yeh, and Kevin Fleming!**

# The Mystery Photo



from the **Archives**

By Sara Lott, Software Archivist

The CHM archives has unidentified historical photographs that it would like to organize for possible future use. Can you help us date and identify anyone in this photograph showing guests mingling at a reception?

Please email [slott@computerhistory.org](mailto:slott@computerhistory.org) if you can help.

Alex Bochanek identified last months from the Archives photograph as a Fellows event between 1997 and 2000. Thanks Alex.

## CHM Job Opportunities

<u>Department</u>	<u>Job Title</u>
Collections	Museum Registration Intern
Education	Director of Education
Education	High School Programs Manager
Finance	Chief Financial Officer

You can view these current openings at:  
[www.computerhistory.org/jobs](http://www.computerhistory.org/jobs)

### The Editors Desk

Editor:  
[Jim Somers](#) Volunteer Program Manager

Executive Staff Sponsors:  
[Gary Matsushita](#); [Karae Lisle](#)

*This month's contributors: Judith Haemmerle, Herb Kanner, Karen Krosowitz, Karae Lisle, Sara Lott, Gary Matsushita, Jim Somers, Fiona Tang and Marcin Wichary*



## Promotions & New Hires

**Alex Lux** has been promoted to our new Exhibits Registrar.

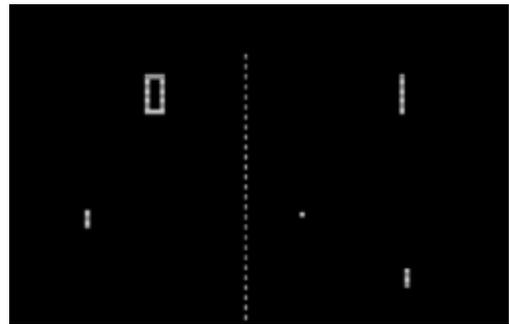
**Ganna Boyko** has joined the IT team as a web developer intern.

**Rosemary Remacle** has joined CHM as Staff Director for the Semiconductor SIG

## This Month in History

**November 29, 1972**  
**Atari Announces Pong Game**

Atari Corporation announces Pong, an early video game popular both at home and at video arcades. In Pong, players were represented by paddles that could move up and down to try to deflect a ball and keep it from passing their goal. Despite simplistic graphics, Pong started a craze. Atari, founded by Nolan Bushnell, sold video games as well as computers on which to play the games.



PONG!

## Trivia Question

Texas Instruments developed the first popular microcomputer-based toy. What was it called?

### October Trivia Question

What do the following computers have in common: Hal 9000, Proteus IV, Nomad, Queeg 500, Skynet and BOSS?

### Answer

Each is listed in the Top 10 List of Evil Computers compiled by CNET UK :

<http://crave.cnet.co.uk/gadgets/0,39029552,492934,24-1,00.htm>