

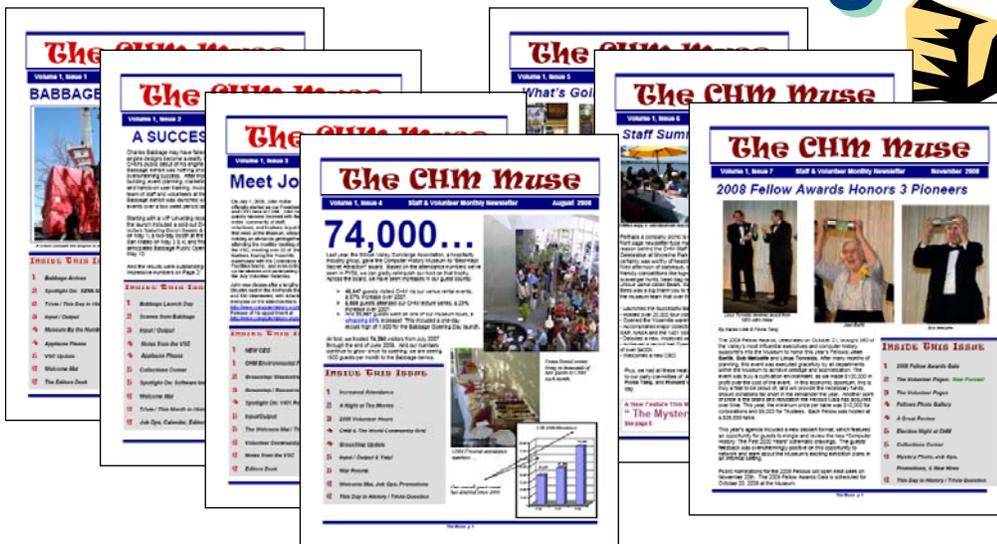
The CHM Muse

Volume 1, Issue 8

Staff & Volunteer Monthly Newsletter

December 2008

Seasons Greetings



With this issue, The CHM Muse has completed its first full year of publication (well, actually 8 months since it started in April 08). Beginning its life as the monthly Volunteer Newsletter e-mail, the goal in this first year of the newsletter was to highlight the activities and events of the museum in a format that could be shared by all employees, volunteers, and trustees. And 2008 proved to be a great year for presenting some big news features, such as the Babbage Engine Launch, the arrival of our new CEO John Hollar, an outstandingly elegant Fellow Awards gala, and a completed massive move of our collection storage to the Yosemite warehouse, as well as some "fun features" like the Staff Summer Holiday party, Volunteer Appreciation 'Night at the Movies', Trivia, and Mystery Photos.

We're eager to hear your comments, suggestions, story ideas, or recurring feature requests for what you would like to see in the 2009 edition of The Muse. Please forward any of the above to either Jim Somers at somers@computerhistory.org or Gary Matsushita at gmatsushita@computerhistory.org

And if by chance you missed any of the previous issues from April to November and are dying to add them to your collection, let us know and we'll gladly send you a copy *from the archives*.

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Share some holiday joy with the Family Giving Tree

This holiday season, the Museum is participating in the 2009 Family Giving Program.

All Volunteers and Staff are invited to help out. Wish cards for gifts can be found on the Museum's "Giving Tree" located in the Admin. area. The deadline for returning gifts is noon on Saturday, December 20th.

One result of the faltering economy is the drop in gifts to non-profits and charities.

This Christmas season, The Giving Tree has experienced a reduction

of requests for cards that may force them to drop 10,000 children from their gift list. If you're not looking forward to shopping at Toys 'R Us this season (and who is?!) leave a check so that children don't go without holiday gifts. Volunteers, the "tree" is opposite Jim's cubicle upstairs if you want to shop for a specific gift. Or you can just hand Jim your donation; you won't be able to find Randy or Julie – they're off at The Giving Tree Warehouse being elves.

For more information about the program or to make an online donation, visit familygivingtree.org.



My volunteering experience

by Dave Bennet



I am a hardware guy, an old hardware guy. I was the caretaker of an array of old machines, mostly storage devices, related hardware, and written archives, for several years as a hobby adjoining my career at IBM San Jose. When I retired in 2004 I was invited back to IBM part time to catalog the collection.

I had heard about the Computer History Museum from several sources. With the encouragement of IBM's archivist, we invited Kirsten Tashev and Dag Spicer from CHM to come down to San Jose to see what we had. They were quite enthusiastic about our collection.

About that time, the IBM site and its hard disk drive business were sold to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, so it became necessary to move the historic collection from the plant site. The collection was divided between IBM archives in New York, CHM, and as it turned out, Hitachi. There were some painful decisions, but many of the best artifacts came to the Museum as I had wanted.

And when "my" artifacts came to Computer History Museum, I came with them. At first my role was to help Allison, CHM's registrar, catalog the IBM pieces, but then I moved on to cataloging other parts of the Museum's collection. It was really always my plan to stay on as a volunteer. Remember that I am an old hardware guy, but the plan was reinforced when I found that I liked CHM and its people and, of course, I like the artifacts too.

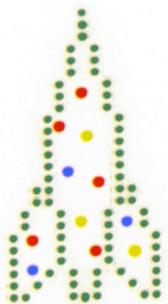
In addition to cataloging I have participated in the move to the Yosemite warehouse in Milpitas from both ends - Packing at Shoreline and storing, palletizing and other tasks at Yosemite.

I enjoy it all and I find that my association with CHM is not only interesting and satisfying, but it also gives me opportunities for the same sort of interaction with good and interesting people that I found so important in my life during my long IBM career.

I'm also involved with the RAMAC disk drive restoration which came about more directly from my IBM experiences and my involvement with early storage devices as well as my personal hobby of restoring and touring early brass-era automobiles.

To date I have not chosen to be a docent or a greeter or other "front-of-house" activity, but I certainly don't rule it out and I'm sure that these would be fascinating as well. There are lots of volunteer opportunities at Computer History Museum. If you have any interest in the subject matter, I recommend that you give it a try. ☘

How did you come to volunteer at CHM? Tell us your story!



DEC THE HALLS!

Wed, December 17
3:30pm

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Volunteer Steering Committee November meeting notes

by Peter Samson

Karen Kroslowitz, the Registrar, discussed the ongoing volunteer opportunities in her department, both at Shoreline and the Yosemite site in Milpitas. Volunteers are welcome to discuss scheduling with her.

Valerie Alston, Director of Events, described a new way of providing meals for volunteers assisting at Museum events. "Lunch boxes" with a variety of the food to be offered will be prepared in advance for volunteers (and staff) signed up to work the event. Thanks to Valerie for her help working with us.

We had updates of the following topics:

- volunteer recruitment
- the volunteer Web site
- vsc Mission Statement
- volunteer SIGs
- graphic design – see the new Babbage calendar, and the one-page map of exhibits to be handed out upon request; also, a PDP-1 brochure is in the works
- sales and visitor numbers for October, 2008, compared to 2007, and volunteer hours (up, especially in the 1401 team)
- the Giving Tree charity, shortly to be displayed
- the Museum organizational chart and where volunteers should appear on it
- the Emergency Procedures manual, being enhanced, scheduled for release early in January
- as always, volunteers are invited to contribute content to the monthly newsletter, *The Muse*

These new topics were brought up:

- Jim Porter told of a tour of Silicon Valley that he gave to Jean Bartik and her party. He can give this tour to other VIPs, and it may be worth making a handout for self-guidance
- Gary Matsushita explained that the Museum is now looking to fill two educational positions, an Education Director and a manager of High School Programs
- Jim Somers took up some new thoughts on docent training: to update the old videos by Mike Williams, and to put documentation about specific artifacts onto a CD for distribution ☘

Next regular meeting: December 17, 2008, 4:15 pm, after the PDP-1 sing-a-long. Want to know more? The full minutes are online at www.tinyurl.com/vsc-nov2008

You're invited to a birthday party!

Come sing Happy Birthday to Babbage on December 26th. A special celebration in honor of Babbage's Birthday will be taking place at the Museum, starting with a Christmas leftovers potluck at 11 am. There will be cake, birthday party decorations, and good cheer. Party hats are optional. All Volunteers and Staff are invited. Additional details will be emailed.

PDP-1 Sing-a-long

Come "DEC the Halls" with the PDP-1 Team. On Wednesday, December 17 at 3:30 pm, Peter Samson and Ken Sumrall will lead volunteers, staff and visitors in our third annual Holiday PDP-1 Sing-a-long.

November stats

Total open hours visitors:	1,995
(compared with November 2007):	1,526
Babbage demo attendance:	1,061
Tour attendance:	880
PDP-1 attendance:	86

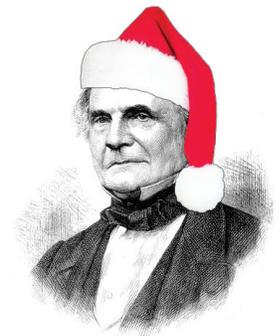
Total tour hours donations:	\$1,714.78
Total store sales:	\$5,943.00

Visitors in fiscal year 2008 (July–Nov):	6,591
Visitors in fiscal year 2009:	10,213

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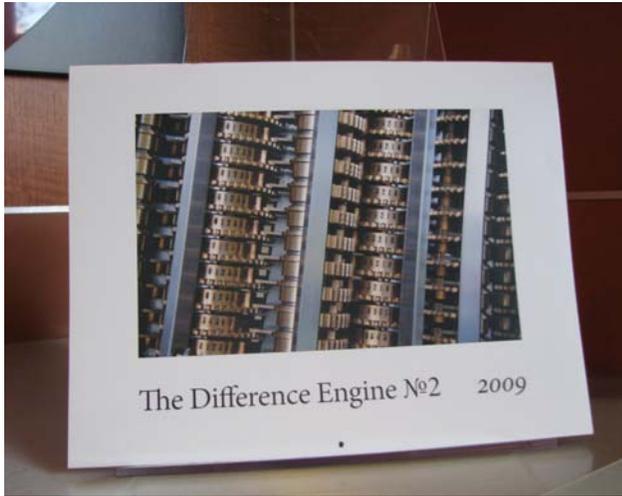
BABBAGE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 26, 11 A.M.





New in the Gift Shop



Our new 2009 calendar featuring the Difference Engine # 2 is now on sale in the Museum Gift Shop. Produced by our own Marcin Wichary, Judith Haemmerle, Tim & Lisa Robinson, it is a really fabulous CHM – branded item that should be a big hit this holiday season with our visitors, volunteers, and staff. \$9.99 while supplies last!

CHM's Family Giving Tree



A mountain of Christmas toys and gifts donated by staff & volunteers began to pile up in the admin area in December – see the story on page 2



Collections Corner A Round of Applause

By Paula Jabloner, Director of Collections

Thanks to archivist **Sara Lott** over 50 feet of semiconductor related manuscripts, mainly concerning Fairchild materials, are now publicly available for researchers. Her output includes 5 finding aids (an index with description) to these collections:

- Don Liddie papers on Signetics
- Steve Allen photographs of Fairchild Semiconductor
- Fairchild Semiconductor employee papers
- Peter N. Schink papers
- John McDonald papers

All the finding aids are posted:
on the CHM site <http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/findingaids/>
and also at the Online Archive of California website
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/ark:/13030/kt5q2nd3pz>

Sara has done an impressive amount of excellent work in a short time. It's great to see us providing more of our extensive collection to researchers!.

A Well-Earned Fellow Awards Thank-You Song

By Karae Lisle, Chief Marketing Officer

Sing A Long:

One the first day of Fel-lows my planning-team gave to me.....

A Plutte video in a pear treeeee....

Two marketing "doves"

Three incredible Fellows

Four Calling Reps

Five "Gol-den" Designers

Six Yummy Appetizers

Seven AV Specialists

Eight Bartik Family Members

Nine Dancing Scripts

Ten Vendors Leaping

Eleven Drape and Pipers

Twelve Trustees Tables



Carina Sweet provides some last-minute day-of-show details to the Fellows Registration crew

- (1) Thank you **Jon Plutte** for your time, creativity and artistry in designing and producing the inspiring Testimonial Video for this year's Fellow Awards. This is an innovative step for CHM, and your talent and imagination are making history for the Museum!
- (2) Thank you to **Fiona** and **Carina** for outstanding effort on the upcoming CHM Presents events and the Fellows Gala. Even though our team is just beginning to grow in unity - I am thrilled at the potential we have to contribute great things to CHM in Advertising, PR, marketing collateral, events, CORE and launching the Timeline. CHM is lucky to have you both.
- (3) Thank you to the Fellow Selection Committee, chaired by Trustee **Ike Nassi**, which includes our own Sr Curator, **Dag Spicer** for their wisdom, thoughtfulness, and integrity to select such an outstanding slate of candidates for the 2008 Hall of Fellows. This year's Gala will be spectacular, and I am continuously reminded that this event has a twenty-plus year reputation as an exemplary event and tradition, which of course begins each year with credible research and historical accurate investigation. Thank you to **Cynthia Holladay** and **Chris Loosely** who provided outstanding management of the nomination and selection process again this year.
- (4) Thank you to **Gary Malone**, **Monalisa Diangelo**, **John Hollar** and **yours truly** for a record breaking profit - this year's Fellows event delivered 35 tables for a total of \$266K in revenue.
- (5) Thank you to all of the great design work that has gone into the Fellows project. **Dana's** great work on the Fellow's website, **1185's** innovative work on the design/theme for this years invitations and signs, **Jennifer's** always creative work on all of the internal signs, banners and exhibit accessories, and **Kirsten** and **Dag** for the informative and creative Fellows exhibit.
- (6) Thank you to **Valerie**, Event Manager Wizard.... the food at CHM has been oh so yummy since you arrived on the scene just a year ago. We love ya and hate ya.....oh the pounds we have gained. But the truly amazing talent you have is to stay cool, on budget, serving delicious delectables with beautiful decorations..... and all for less money that we can ever understand. Talk about USER EXPERIENCE - WOW!! The Museum's image and hospitality is up, up, up since you joined us.
- (7) Again, the team of **Valerie** and **Jon Plutte** are collaborating to hire the best AV team available for this year's Fellow's event. Thank you to **Bob Sanguedolce** and his solid support of assessing the equipment and potential of our "possessed" Hahn Auditorium, and working with **Gary Mat** to "get it right" for Fellows. We will have an excellent show, produced by **McCune** AV specialists and our returning favorite, **Rhonda** the Stage Manager
- (8) **Jean Bartik**, nominated by **Kathy Kleiman** is bringing eight family members from all over the country to be with her for this outstanding Fellows Award Gala.
- (9) Thank you to **Jon Plutte**, **Fiona** and **Valerie** for two outstanding FLOW documents: The "event production flow", which covered three days of powerwashing, window washing, table set-up, light hanging, flower arranging, and 4 more pages of vendor deliverables. The "show script" has every PPT, light on/off, video play, for the 60 minute show. Great work team.
- (10) **Valerie** has done a terrific job of creative event management, managing a variety of vendors - We THANK HER for raising the bar on prestige and elegance for our 2008 event, and as always "on time and on budget".
- (11) Pipe and Drapers..... make the room look elegant. But our guests will look elegant thanks to the great work of **Jennifer**, **Richard** and **Carina**, who will deliver beautiful badges for all of our guests. Carina single handedly coordinated all 350 people with 35 table hosts with a smile and a Cheery Cherry attitude..... we appreciate this fantastic work!
- (12) Finally, we thank our loyal and committed **Trustees**, who year after year, invite their friends, cultivate new donors, and provide the ultimate support for this annual event. We thank you, and appreciate the generosity of your time to attend and the financial strength you provide each year.

CHM Tour Highlights



On Saturday, November 15, the **Cathay Amateur Radio Club** toured the museum- while we give group tours frequently, what was interesting about this tour was the wide age group of the attendees (see photo), and that the entire group found the tour exciting. Here's a note from the group leader:

Jim:
It was a great tour that (docent) Dave Karn gave us on Saturday. We had 28 people from our group and they all had the time of their lives. Here is a picture of our group. This was one of the most successful trips we have had.

Thanks
Ed Fong

CHM December 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

The Editors Desk

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

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

This month's contributors: Dave Bennet, Judith Haemmerle, Paula Jabloner, Karae Lisle, Gary Matsushita, Jim Somers, Peter Samson and Marcin Wichary



Promotions & New Hires

David Bledsoe joined CHM in November as Associate Director of Corporate Development

William Birdsong has been promoted to Facilities Coordinator

Cheryl Rowley has a new role as Cataloger in the Collections department

This Month in History

December 29, 1939 Shockley Makes Historic Notebook Entry

William Shockley records in his laboratory notebook that it should be possible to replace vacuum tubes with semiconductors. Eight years later, he, Walter Brattain and John Bardeen at AT&T Bell



Laboratories successfully tested the point-contact transistor. Shockley developed much of the theory behind transistor action, and soon postulated the junction transistor, a much more reliable device. It took approximately ten years from the 1947 discovery before transistors replaced vacuum tubes in computer design as manufacturers learned to make them reliable and a new generation of engineers learned how to use them.

Trivia Question

In 1975 what common everyday object did Martin Newell use as part of his research at the University of Utah?

November Trivia Question

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

Answer:
Speak & Spell.