



News Release

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Experience “Fifty Years of Excellence” at Hearst Castle®

San Simeon, CA: Hearst Castle® is nationally accredited by the American Association of Museums and is operated by California State Parks. Hearst Castle® celebrates its 50th anniversary of public tours this year on June 2, 2008. As a collaborative venture between Friends of Hearst Castle and California State Parks, the public is invited to enjoy the “Experience Tour” on Monday, June 2, 2008 at no charge. The following is a list of activities that will highlight the 50th anniversary year of Hearst Castle® as a California State Park, so make your plans today to join us in this celebration and experience “Fifty Years of Excellence” at Hearst Castle®.

50th Golden Anniversary— A *Friendly Opportunity to Experience Hearst Castle®*

Friends of Hearst Castle, a nonprofit cooperating association affiliated with Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, proudly announces a year of celebration to commemorate 50 years of public tours — 50 years of public access to this historical house museum — 50 years in which the public has ascended the Enchanted Hill.

A private country estate containing some 165 rooms and situated on 86,000 breathtakingly beautiful acres in San Simeon, California, *La Cuesta Encantada* (The Enchanted Hill) is truly a sight to behold. Conceived by W.R. Hearst and constructed by architect Julia Morgan, Hearst Castle was a playground for the privileged and the few. Members of Hollywood’s *A-list*, politicians, heads of state and successful businessmen all graced the halls at “the ranch” as Hearst himself referred to this glamorous country house. Housed within the Castle are countless works of art and antiquity, passionately collected by W.R. Hearst. Spanish ceilings, architectural fragments, medieval tapestries, Renaissance furniture, 19th century sculpture and other decorative arts, such as ceramics, metalwork and textiles all made the long journey from Europe and the Mid-East to the Castle. These treasures remain on display just as they were during the heyday and splendor of the Castle, now to be enjoyed by everyone who has an interest in beauty, art, architecture and history.

Despite its grandeur, W.R. Hearst welcomed the rich, the famous, the influential and guests from every walk of life to the Castle where he enjoyed hosting parties, screening movies and relaxing by the Neptune Pool. Following in this gracious and warm tradition, Friends of Hearst Castle and California State Parks is proud to invite the public to join in a calendar of exciting events to celebrate the golden anniversary year of public access to the Castle. From a gala banquet set in the Refectory to outdoor cocktail parties under the stars to the popular Salon Series of lectures on Hearst-related topics, and upcoming release of a new book on the San Simeon gardens and landscape, this is the year of the Castle for the time of your life!

This is the year of marvelous encore presentations and innovative new expressions of entertainment in the Hearst style of indulgence. In honor of the 50th, Friends will be offering members a *gold pass* to a customized subscription at a savings. Plan ahead, be assured tickets for events that often sellout and enjoy golden savings. Visit www.friendsofhearstcastle.org for membership information, the key to this national treasure.

Gifted to the State of California by the Hearst Family, Hearst Castle is accredited by the American Association of Museums and is operated by California State Parks. Friends of Hearst Castle is using this golden opportunity to launch an initiative, establishing a vitally important and much needed endowment for art preservation and restoration. This endowment will further Friends' mission to ensure that the more than 25,000 objects of art and antiquities displayed at the Castle continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. Hearst Castle celebrates its 50th anniversary of public tours beginning this year on June 2, 2008. As a collaborative venture between Friends of Hearst Castle and California State Parks, the public is invited to enjoy on a first come, first-served basis a free "Experience Tour" on Monday, June 2, 2008.

The following is a partial list of events and activities that will highlight the 50th anniversary year of Hearst Castle as a California State Park. Make your plans today to join us in this celebration and experience ***Fifty Years of Excellence at Hearst Castle***.

SYMPHONY AT HEARST CASTLE: April 19, 2008

Starting this special year on the right note, Friends of Hearst Castle is proud to announce **Symphony at Hearst Castle** as the lead-in to this very exciting year of celebrations.

For the first time ever, Friends of Hearst Castle has partnered with the San Luis Obispo Symphony for a unique evening of food, wine, music and film at the Castle for 80 special guests. Evoke the heyday of Hearst Castle, when actress and humanitarian Marion Davies and businessman and publisher W.R. Hearst entertained their famous friends at beautiful *La Cuesta Encantada* in San Simeon, California.

A truly unique, once in a lifetime opportunity, this magical evening begins at dusk. Mingle with fellow music, film and Castle lovers while dining on exquisitely created hors d'oeuvres by renowned local chef Maegen Loring, and sipping perfectly paired wines produced by Central Coast wineries.

As evening falls, guests will be ushered up the Enchanted Hill and into the beautiful private Theatre, complete with lush brocade seats, where Marion Davies and W.R. Hearst previewed films with their guests. This evening's entertainment is a very special showing of the King Vidor silent film *Show People** starring Marion Davies who performed in 27 silent films and 15 talkies during her career. — *Show People*, lampooning Hollywood and all its pretensions, is generally thought to be Davies' finest film. *Show People* filmed in 1928 and was on the NY Times "Top 10 Film List" of the same year and is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2008. Directed by King Vidor and co-starring William Haines, Davies brilliantly displays her skills as a comedienne and a mimic. Watch for walk-ons by virtually every star of the silent era, including Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., and Charlie Chaplin. The April 19th screening will be the first showing of a feature-length film in the Hearst Theatre since Marion and W.R. entertained at the Castle.

The highlight of the evening will undoubtedly be the live accompaniment of the original film score with Michael Nowak conducting the San Luis Obispo Symphony orchestra. Under the direction of Michael Nowak since 1984, the San Luis Obispo Symphony has grown from a small community orchestra performing in local churches to a thriving cultural presence in San Luis Obispo County and beyond, including performances at Carnegie Hall in 2001, the Sydney Opera House in 2006 and the upcoming June 8, 2008 performance at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Maestro Nowak's extensive experience conducting such film scores as *King Kong*, *Bobby*, *An American Gangster* and *The Kite Runner*, nominated for a 2007 Academy Award for best film score, will serve the film and this privileged audience well during this historic once-in-a-lifetime evening.

Enhancing the splendor of the evening, a sweet ending to this unique evening will be dessert and coffee served at the Roman Pool — truly a breathtaking sight and all the more dazzling by night — a sight not to be missed while at Hearst Castle.

Those lucky few that will be able to enjoy the theater screening that once was only permitted to Hearst's invited guests, will revel in the comfortable surrounding of fabric draped walls, caryatid ornamentation and plush wool carpeting of the grand theaters of yesteryear.

— Hoyt Fields, Museum Director
Hearst Castle

About Symphony at Hearst Castle:

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the Friends of Hearst Castle on this unique event. To perform inside the Castle — in the very theatre where guests such as Charlie Chaplain, Carole Lombard and Clark Gable enjoyed the great films of their day — it's an honor and a privilege. Add to that the incomparable location and the pre-and post-film parties with Chef Maegen Loring and you've got it all."

— Sandy Dunn, President
San Luis Obispo Symphony Board of Directors

About Show People:

"Show People ranks at the top of my list when it comes to silent film comedies. We get an opportunity to see how truly talented Marion Davies was as an actress and the Carl Davis score accompanies the movie beautifully. Nothing can really compare to experiencing a silent film with live orchestra and when you add in this special location — it's really a once-in-a-lifetime event."

— Michael Nowak, Music Director and Conductor
San Luis Obispo Symphony

Cost \$500.00 per person (limited to 80 guests)

Proceeds from this event will benefit artifact conservation and educational and interpretive activities funded through Friends of Hearst Castle, along with music education activities available through the San Luis Obispo Symphony.

*Film rights provided by Warner Brothers Classics

TWILIGHT ON THE TERRACE: May 31, 2008

2008 marks the 2nd annual **Twilight on the Terrace** at Hearst Castle, the kick-off event for a year of celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of Hearst Castle public tours.

Last year's event was a resounding success, and this year promises to be even more exciting with additional purveyors of fine wine and food making for an informal and entertaining evening. **Twilight on the Terrace** begins at sunset, a sight not to be missed from the Enchanted Hill! Sample locally produced wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres from 30 plus Central Coast providers, as the sun dramatically sets over the Pacific Ocean and sparkling stars illuminate the Castle gardens. Revel in the fragrance of orange blossoms and enjoy a glorious spring evening while strolling the Esplanade and the Main Terrace. Take a chance on a raffle to win fabulous gifts.

Friends of Hearst Castle is proud to announce that monies raised from this year's **Twilight on the Terrace** fundraising event will begin a necessary and vitally important endowment for art restoration and preservation at Hearst Castle. As Hearst Castle approaches its 100th birthday in 2019, the commencement of this endowment will ensure that the many irreplaceable treasures purchased by W.R. Hearst, enjoyed by his personal guests and further enjoyed by 50 years of public visitations, will continue to inspire, dazzle and educate people for generations to come.

Cost \$100.00 per person

ENCHANTED EVENING: September 27, 2008

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of public tours at Hearst Castle, 2008 marks the 10th annual prestigious **Enchanted Evening** at Hearst Castle. An evening of sophisticated elegance, the night begins with a sparkling wine reception on the Main Terrace where one will be dazzled by a magnificent sunset over the Pacific Ocean. Under a canopy of stars, guests are escorted to their exquisitely decorated table for a premiere gourmet dinner inspired by fresh, local foods and wines expertly prepared by a renowned chef, elegantly served in an outdoor setting. Bid on unique Hearst Castle inspired items and experiences, such as a swim in the Roman Pool or special Castle private tours. Other auction items have included luxury car leases, marvelous trips and exclusive Central Coast wine and food packages. **Enchanted Evening** is truly a magical evening reminiscent of the splendor and glamour of *La Cuesta Encantada* when W.R. Hearst entertained and everyone dreamed of an invitation.
Cost: \$325 per person

HOLIDAY FEAST: December 6, 2008

The golden anniversary glitters with glamour at the most exclusive event of the year, the **Holiday Feast**, an extraordinary way in which to begin your holiday season. A limousine will whisk you and your party up the scenic and winding road to the Castle. Partake in this rare and unique opportunity to dine in the historic Refectory in the company of 88 other discerning guests. The exquisitely catered, multi course meal is paired with premium Central Coast wines for a sumptuous and exceptional dining experience. A special live performance of holiday music ensures that this is truly a feast for the senses. As a memento of this most distinctive holiday event, Friends of Hearst Castle will present every guest of the **Holiday Feast** with a unique castle-inspired treasure to take home and cherish.

Cost: \$1,000 per person (limited to 88 people)

Salon Series 2008: May 1, July 18, September 3 & December 11

Friends of Hearst Castle is proud to report that our first annual **Salon Series** of 2007 was a resounding, sellout success! Following in the tradition of Phoebe Apperson Hearst, who hosted lectures and readings in her Bay Area and Washington D.C. homes, Friends of Hearst Castle is sponsoring four exceptionally informative and entertaining talks in a number of local venues.

This year's **Salon Series** will undoubtedly enlighten and entertain those that attend these fascinating lectures. The series consists of four talks, with a possible fifth bonus lecture to focus on a community topic of special interest to the Central Coast. Be sure to check the Hearst Castle website for updated information. Purchase your tickets early as we again expect a sellout crowd for the **Salon Series**. Don't forget that members of the Friends of Hearst Castle receive priority registration and space is limited. To become a member of Friends, please visit www.friendsofhearstcastle.org or call (805) 927-2138 for more information.

May 1, 2008 **Going Hollywood** a Living History Fashion Show
Hearst Warehouse by the Ocean

The Living History Program at Hearst Castle takes visitors back in time to the heyday of Hearst Castle entertainment. Docents are costumed in the fashions of the times, truly evoking what it was like to be a guest "at the ranch" with Hearst and his elite crowd of friends. On May 1, the Living History Program presents "Going Hollywood". Journey back to the golden era of film through an interpretive fashion show -- experience the glamour of cinema and its influence on fashion trends -- go Hollywood with the greats.

July 18, 2008 **Outdoor Sculpture Conservation**
Walk/Talk with John Griswold at Hearst Castle

John Griswold received his BA in Art History from the University of California at Irvine, and a Master's of Art Conservation (Research) from Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. He began working in the field of conservation

in 1977 as an apprentice in the antiquities conservation laboratory at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu. Formerly of Wharton and Griswold Associates, Inc. in Santa Barbara, he and Stefanie Griswold now head Griswold Conservation Associates, an objects and architectural materials conservation firm based in Los Angeles. He has also served as a research consultant in the Scientific Department of the Getty Conservation Institute. A Professional Associate of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), he is a past Chair of the AIC Objects Specialty Group and an active member of the Research and Technical Studies and Architecture specialty groups of AIC. John is a past President of the Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC), and serves as a Peer Advisor to the Design Excellence in the Arts Program of the U.S. General Services Administration. In 2002, John was appointed to the Advisory Council of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission by the United States Congress.

September 3, 2008

Hearst: The Collector

Mary L. Levkoff Curator of European Sculpture and Classical Antiquities, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Special Guest Appearance by Julia Morgan (also known as Constance Gordon)
Monday Club, San Luis Obispo

William Randolph Hearst's unique legacy as a collector is only partly revealed in the magnificence of San Simeon: treasures housed in other locations, and liquidated when Hearst faced a financial crisis in 1937, are not well known. The fate of these dispersed works of art, now scattered among museums as far-flung as New Zealand, Mexico, and Jerusalem, will be the centerpiece of this exclusive preview of Ms. Levkoff's exhibition **Hearst the Collector**, which opens in November 2008 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. More than a hundred of Hearst's most significant works of art will be reunited there for the first time, with loans from such illustrious institutions as the Louvre, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Royal Armories of Great Britain, showcased alongside masterpieces from Hearst Castle.

Levkoff did her undergraduate work at Princeton University, where she won the White Prize in architectural history; her graduate study was done at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. She worked at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and lived in Paris for six years before joining LACMA in 1989. An internationally recognized authority in French Renaissance art, she has been appointed to the scientific committee for France's National Institute for the History of Art 2009 symposium. Ms. Levkoff was a member of the Art and Artifacts Indemnity Advisory Panel for the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to her book **Rodin in his Time** (Thames & Hudson/Rizzoli), she has published many studies about the history of European sculpture, most recently under the auspices of the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay. Constance Gordon brings Julia Morgan to life. Gordon has been a tour guide at the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument since 2005. When she was selected to teach Elderhostel classes about Hearst Castle, she decided to present the segment on the monument's architect, Julia Morgan, in the first person. She spent countless hours doing research with the help of the Hearst Castle librarians and the historically accurate suit that Gordon wears was created by The Hearst Castle Living History program.

December 11, 2008

Arachne's Legacy: Weavings at Hearst Castle

Muna Cristal, Hearst Castle Guide

Celebrate the holidays with a behind the scenes tour of textiles and fabrics with Muna Cristal. Since 1995, Muna Cristal has acted as a guide at Hearst Castle. In 2000 she became part of the Guide Training Team responsible for recruiting and training new guides for the Castle. In this capacity she has become the principle lecturer on tapestries and carpets at the Castle. Researching and presenting these topics in a meaningful, interesting manner has become a labor of love which she happily shares with any and all interested parties.

For Tour Reservations Please Call (800) 444-4445 or online at www.hearstcastle.com

For more information, please call Dan Eller, Director of Communications, Hearst Castle® (805) 927-2074, www.hearstcastle.com.

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