

Membership Department
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, New York 10024-5192
amnh.org

rotunda

VOL. 35 NO. 1 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



General Information

HOURS

Museum: Daily, 10 am–5:45 pm

The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Space Show: Every half hour, 10:30 am–4:30 pm

Research Library: Tuesday–Thursday, 2–5:30 pm
Hours are subject to change.

ENTRANCES

During Museum hours, visitors may enter through the subway (lower level), Central Park West at 79th Street (second floor), and the Rose Center/81st Street entrances. The Columbus Avenue entrance is open on weekends and holidays. The 77th Street entrance is now open for events and programs.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

Subway: B (weekdays) or C to 81st Street; 1 to 79th Street

Bus: M7, M10, M11, or M104 to 79th Street; M79 to Central Park West

Parking Garage: Open daily, 8 am–11 pm; enter from West 81st Street. Members receive a discounted rate of \$10 if entering after 4 pm. To receive this rate, you must show your Membership Card or event ticket when exiting the garage. For more information, call 212-313-7275.

FOOD SERVICE

Museum Food Court: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (lower level)

Café on 1: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (first floor)

Starlight Café: Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–4:45 pm (first floor)

Café on 4: Daily, 11 am–4:45 pm (fourth floor)
Hours are subject to change.

MUSEUM SHOPS

The following Museum Shops are open during regular Museum hours:

The Museum Shop (first and second floors)

DinoStore (fourth floor)

The Shop for Earth & Space (Rose Center, lower level)

Cosmic Shop (Rose Center, second floor)

Silk Road Shop (third floor)

Online Shop (amnhshop.com)

PHONE NUMBERS

Museum Information	212-769-5100
Membership Office	212-769-5606
Central Reservations	212-769-5200
AMNH Expeditions	800-462-8687
Communications	212-769-5800
Development	212-769-5151
Education	212-769-5304
Event & Conference Services	212-769-5350
Library Services	212-769-5400
Member Birthday Parties	212-769-5606
Museum Shop	800-671-7035
Patrons Circle	212-769-5153
Planetarium Information	212-769-5900
Planned Giving Office	212-769-5119
Volunteer Office	212-769-5566
Website	amnh.org

AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY



**The Butterfly
Conservatory:
Tropical Butterflies
Alive in Winter
is back for
its 12th season
at AMNH.**

© AMNH/D. Finnin



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Museum Notes



Highway of An Empire showcases the Inca Road as well as the landscape it crosses. | Heinz Plenge

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World

Gallery 3
Free for Members

This intriguing exhibition transports visitors to one of the greatest trading routes of all time, showcasing the goods, technologies, and cultures from four representative cities: Xi'an, China's Tang Dynasty capital; Turfan, a verdant oasis; Samarkand, home of prosperous merchants; and ancient Baghdad, a hub of commerce and scholarship. Visitors will embark on an unparalleled journey exploring trade, communication, and cultural exchange from AD 600 to 1200. Live performances organized by the Silk

Road Project will take place in the exhibition every Sunday afternoon. Visit amnh.org/silkroad for more information.

Traveling the Silk Road is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, Roma, Italy and Codice. Idée per la cultura srl, Torino, Italy; the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, Australia and Art Exhibitions Australia; the Museum of Science, Taichung, Taiwan and United Daily News, Taipei, Taiwan.

The Presenting Sponsor of Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World is MetLife Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by Mary and David Solomon.

The Silk Road Project residency is generously supported by Rosalind P. Walter.

The Butterfly Conservatory: Tropical Butterflies Alive in Winter

Hall of Oceanic Birds
Members' tickets are \$12 for adults, \$7.50 for children

A perennial favorite, the Butterfly Conservatory lets visitors mingle with up to 500 live, free-flying butterflies

COVER: Clown anemonefish are part of a coral reef display in the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. | © AMNH/R. Mickens

in an enclosed habitat that replicates a lush, tropical environment.

Highway of An Empire: The Great Inca Road

IMAX Corridor
Free with Museum admission

The Inca Empire owed its reach and power to an extensive network of roads, the subject of this compelling photo exhibition. *Highway of An Empire* showcases the diversity of this network through more than 35 images of cliff-side passages, suspension bridges, and other road segments set against stunning Andean landscapes.

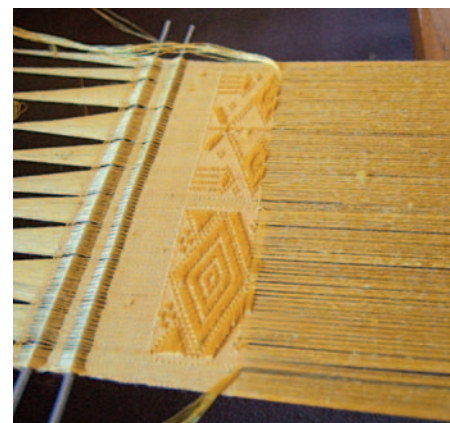
Courtesy of the Consulate General of Peru in New York.

The presentation of Highway of An Empire at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

Spider Silk Textile

Grand Gallery, first floor
Free with Museum admission

This spectacular and extremely rare textile—the only one of its kind on display anywhere in the world—was woven from golden-colored silk thread produced by one million spiders in Madagascar. The contemporary textile took four years to make using a painstaking technique developed more than 100 years ago. **See story, page 8.**



The silk for this textile was derived from the spider *Nephila madagascariensis*. | Courtesy of Simon Peers and Nicholas Godley

On Feathered Wings

Akeley Gallery, second floor
Free with Museum admission

The majesty of birds in flight is the focus of this striking photography exhibition, which captures the controlled chaos, acrobatic wizardry, and the mysterious aerodynamics of birds including the Bald Eagle, Roseate Spoonbill, and the Great Horned Owl.

The presentation of On Feathered Wings at the American Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generosity of the Arthur Ross Foundation.

HAYDEN PLANETARIUM SHOW

Journey to the Stars

Members' tickets are \$12 adults, \$7.50 children.

This spectacular Space Show sends visitors through time and space to experience the life cycle of the stars. Travel 13 billion years into the past to witness brilliant supernovas that sent new kinds of matter coursing through the universe.

Journey to the Stars was developed by the American Museum of Natural History, New York (www.amnh.org), in collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; GOTO INC, Tokyo, Japan; Papalote • Museo del Niño, Mexico City, Mexico; and Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Washington, D.C.

Journey to the Stars was created by the American Museum of Natural History, with the major support and partnership of NASA, Science Mission Directorate, Heliophysics Division.



The Museum sleepover includes a flashlight tour of the dinosaur halls. | © AMNH/R. Mickens

Made possible through the generous sponsorship of Lockheed Martin Corporation.

And proudly sponsored by Accenture.

Super-computing resources provided by The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at the University of Texas at Austin through the TeraGrid, a project of the National Science Foundation.

AND DON'T MISS...

Sleepover Program A Night at the Museum

Please visit amnh.org/sleepovers for more details.

This after-hours extravaganza thrills Museum fans ages 7 to 13. The evening includes a flashlight tour and wraps up with a campout among Museum icons.

CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY AT AMNH

Linda Kaye's Partymakers will throw an unforgettable bash for kids ages 4 and up. Choose from one of four fun-filled themes: Dinosaur Discoveries; Safari Adventure; Underwater Treasures; and Cosmic Blast-Off, which includes an option to see the new Space Show, *Journey to the Stars*. Parties are an exclusive benefit for Contributor and higher-level Members. For more information and to request a date, visit partymakers.com or call 212-288-7112.



New AMNH App Takes You on a Dino Dig

Tap into the world's largest collection of dinosaur fossils with a touch of the screen! *AMNH Collections: Dinosaurs*, the first official app for iPhone and iPod Touch from the Museum, includes hundreds of images and fascinating stories about the science and personalities behind the fossils. Use the app as a guide when visiting the Museum or explore from home, and don't forget to share favorite photos with friends so they can join your virtual dinosaur dig.

SAVE A TREE

The current issue of *Rotunda* is now available online! Download it at amnh.org. If you'd like to stop receiving paper copies, please email members@amnh.org.

rotunda

ISSN 0194-6110
USPS Permit #472-650
Vol. 35, No. 1, January/February 2010

Lewis W. Bernard, *Chairman*
Ellen V. Futter, *President*
Lisa J. Gugenheim, *Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Strategic Planning, and Education*
Sean Lally, *Acting Director of Membership*

Rotunda is published bimonthly, except for a combined issue in July/August/September and a single issue in December, by the Membership Office of the American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. Phone: 212-769-5606. Web address: amnh.org. Museum Membership of \$70 per year and higher includes a subscription to *Rotunda*. © 2010 American Museum of Natural History. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: please send address changes to *Rotunda*, Membership Office, AMNH, at the above address.

The Universe at Your Fingertips

Last fall, 150 middle-school children gathered on the South Lawn of the White House and watched their president peer through a telescope under the direction of his science advisor, physicist John Holdren.

“If you look in there, you will see a double-double-star in the constellation Lyra, 160 light-years away,” Holdren explained. “That means it takes the light from those stars 160 years to get here. So what you are seeing, Mr. President, happened 160 years ago.”

1849. Zachary Taylor was president. The California Gold Rush had just begun. Charles Darwin was still 10 years away from publishing *On the Origin of Species*. Abraham Lincoln was practicing law in Springfield, Illinois. And a Maryland slave named Harriet Tubman escaped to freedom in Philadelphia.

“Let’s take a look,” said President Barack Obama. “That’s pretty far away... pretty cool.”

Who wouldn’t be excited? To study the stars is to truly travel through time. To look at the day or night sky is to see various points of light sent toward Earth a discernible amount of time in the past. The light from our Moon, for example, was sent out one-and-a-half seconds ago; the Sun, eight minutes. At the other extreme, the Andromeda Galaxy, the farthest object that can be seen with the naked eye, is 2.5 million light-years away, the light we see now having left that galaxy at a time when our relative *Homo erectus* was migrating out of Africa.

Perhaps nothing conveys this mind-bending experience more vividly than a program developed by the American Museum of Natural History that was demonstrated in a portable dome at last fall’s White House event: a three-

dimensional, scientifically accurate, free atlas of the known universe called The Digital Universe. (Museum President Ellen V. Futter; Mike Shara, AMNH Curator of Astrophysics; Carter Emmart, Director of Astrovisualization; Suzanne Morris, Associate Manager, Rose Center Public Programs; and Dan Slippen, Senior Director of Government Relations, attended the White House event on behalf of the Museum.)

This extraordinary computer software program—which is downloaded from the Museum’s website by some 30,000 people a year—was developed more than a decade ago under the guidance of Hayden Planetarium Director Neil deGrasse Tyson, with major support from NASA. It is currently curated by Ben Oppenheimer and managed by Brian Abbott, and its educational use is directed by Emmart with curatorial support from Oppenheimer, Shara, and Mordecai-Mark Mac Low, Curator and Chair, Department of Astrophysics, Division of Physical Sciences.

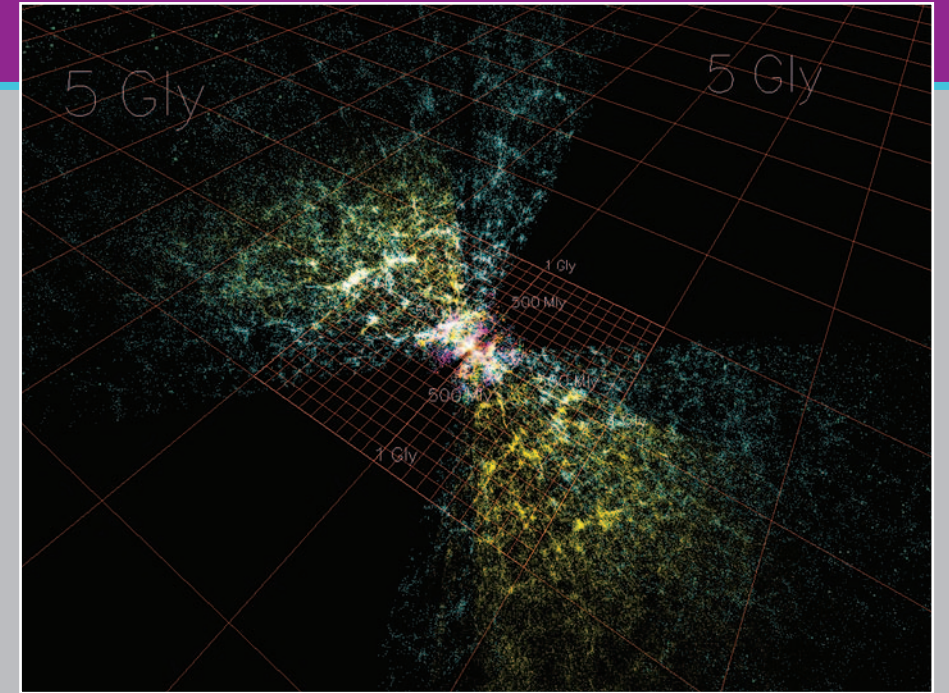
Drawing from the work of astronomers around the world, the data that informs this journey through the universe is updated at least twice a year. (Soon, visitors to the Museum’s website will find a newer, more user-friendly version, too.) This atlas is also the basis for Hayden Planetarium’s Space Shows, including *Journey to the Stars*, which is showing now, and for the Virtual Universe programs that use a supercomputer to project the Digital Universe onto the Hayden Planetarium dome on the first Tuesday of every month.

With a simple download to a personal computer, teachers, students, and amateur astronomers everywhere can navigate through a three-dimensional celestial atlas, from the solar neighborhood to the galaxies surrounding the Milky Way, and to the very edge of the known universe.

With a cursor and mouse as their spaceship, users can “fly” to almost any object in the universe—the eight planets in our solar system, star nebulas, galaxies, asteroids—at any given time in the past and to wherever they are projected to be many millions of years in the future.

Users can orbit in real time with the International Space Station. They can see the outer limit of our radio signals, a 70-light-year “bubble” radiating from Earth that includes the nearby stars and extra-solar planets that may just now be hearing *The Lone Ranger*, Jack Benny, or one of FDR’s fireside chats. People can even pull out so far as to see the cosmic web and hazy remnants of the Big Bang.

Pretty cool, indeed.



Looking toward Earth from a vantage point billions of light-years away, this image shows a sprinkling of galaxies. Seen here as points, each of these galaxies likely contains hundreds of billions of stars and trillions of planets. The bow-tie shape formed by the galaxies is merely a function of available data: the “empty” space represents areas that have not yet been observed with telescopes. | © AMNH/C. Emmart



This grid, with the Sun at its center, is 5,000 light-years in diameter and is plotted along lines that connect the stars of the constellations as seen from Earth. Multi-colored dots represent clusters of stars. The center of the Milky Way galaxy, 26,000 light-years away, is marked by the yellow orb in the background. | © AMNH/C. Emmart

Now Showing: *Mysteries of the Great Lakes*

Like a giant Rorschach ink blot, the Great Lakes spread out across the northern midwest and eastern U.S. and its border with Canada. Deep blue and beautiful from the air, these five freshwater lakes hold the key to untold stories—and

strange phenomena—explored in an exquisite giant-screen film *Mysteries of the Great Lakes*, now showing in the Museum’s LeFrak Imax Theater.

A Science North production, narrated by Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent with a soundtrack by

Canadian singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot, *Mysteries of the Great Lakes* takes viewers on a dramatic journey through some of the most spectacular scenery on Earth, from the headwaters of Lake Superior to the edge of Lake Ontario. Here, in amazing close-ups only the IMAX experience can provide, you will see towering cliffs with shaman-painted images of spirits believed by early Native Americans to have special powers. Travel beneath the surface where thousands of shipwrecks—the last major one from close to a century ago—draw the interest of divers to this day. Explore the habitats of sturgeon, caribou, moose, and bald eagles—as well as the importance of the lakes for the 40 million people who live along their more than 10,000 miles of coastline.



© Gary and Joanie McGuffin

To learn more about the Museum’s Digital Universe Atlas and to download the software, visit haydenplanetarium.org/universe.

Members' Programs

Programs are available to Members only, unless a non-Member price is given.

For tickets, call 212-769-5200, Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm, or visit amnh.org. Please have your credit card, your Membership number, and the program name and number ready. All Members' programs require advance registration.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

Behind the Scenes in Mammalogy

Tuesday, January 12
6:30 pm MBo11210A
7 pm MBo11210B
7:30 pm MBo11210C
\$35

The AMNH mammal collection is among the oldest at the Museum. Today the Department of Mammalogy houses over 275,000 specimens, the third-largest collection of recent mammals in the world. Scientific Assistant **Eileen Westwig** leads the way to the Whale Room, and Scientific Assistant **Ariel Fleming** offers a tour of the carnivore collection.

Behind the Scenes in Entomology

Thursday, February 18
6:30 pm MBo21810A
7 pm MBo21810B
7:30 pm MBo21810C
\$35

Visit the Department of Entomology to see some of the Museum's world-class insect collections. Paleontologist **Paul Nascimbene** will discuss the latest discoveries in ancient amber, explain how amber is prepared, and show specimens from the Museum's Cretaceous amber collection. Entomological sleuth **Lou Sorkin** will talk about the bed bug epidemic and introduce his colony of



Get a glimpse of the Museum's vast insect collection. | R. Larimer



Find out what it takes to move an Apatosaurus. | © AMNH/B. Blackwell

bed bugs. Collections Manager **Christine Johnson** will show how brilliantly diverse the 16 million-plus specimen collection is and explain the importance of historical collections.

AFTER-HOURS HALL TOURS

Geology and Paleontology of Metro New York

Thursday, January 14 MH011410
6:30–8 pm
\$35

Geologist **Sidney Horenstein** leads a winter hike to discover the dioramas and other exhibits that display aspects of local geology.

Once Upon a Fossil

Thursday, February 4 MH020410
Tuesday, March 23 MH032310
6:30–8 pm
\$35

How do you move a 20-ton fossil? From 1994 to 1996, AMNH's fourth

floor Fossil Halls underwent the largest renovation in the Museum's history as fossils were reorganized according to shared characteristics to tell the story of vertebrate evolution. Join Paleontology Collection Manager **Carl Mehling** for a unique tour that focuses on the hidden stories of these large, heavy, and sometimes fragile specimens as they were reorganized and remounted.

The Museum, Theodore Roosevelt, and National Parks

Thursday, February 25 MH022510
6:30–8 pm
\$35

Many national parks are represented among the Museum's famous dioramas. **Sidney Horenstein** will discuss the history behind these national treasures on this after-hours tour.

FREE HALL TOURS

Civilization of Ancient Egypt

Sunday, January 17 MH011710
3–4:30 pm
Free (Registration Required)

Docent **Eileen Flood** will lead a tour focusing on ancient Egyptian civilization. An optional discussion will take place after the tour.

Silk Road Journey

Sunday, February 7 MH020710
3–4:30 pm
Free (Registration Required)

Join docent **Eileen Flood** on a tour focused on Silk Road cultures and the legendary trade route in the Stout Hall of Asian Peoples. The tour will be followed by a walk-through of the major exhibition *Traveling the Silk Road: Ancient Pathway to the Modern World* for interested Members.



Travel the Silk Road with docent Eileen Flood. | © AMNH/D. Finnin

FAMILY PROGRAM

Field Trip to the Moon

Thursday, January 7 MP010710
6 pm
\$12 adults, \$7.50 children

Don't miss this special Members-only evening performance in the Hayden Planetarium. You'll feel the ground

shake as your rocket launches, see a sunrise in space, and orbit and land on the Moon. Guided by a live presenter, you'll admire the view from where humans last walked on the Moon and see what awaits us on future missions.

EXPEDITIONS

Montauk Birding Trip

Saturday, February 27–
Sunday, February 28 MO022710
\$350 per person, double occupancy
\$400 single occupancy

Join ornithologist **Paul Sweet** on this two-day birding and wildlife expedition to Montauk Point, located at the tip of Long Island's South Fork and renown for winter birding. Flocks of sea ducks gather to forage on these rocky shores; Gannets plunge for fish off the point; and other winter visitors include Bonaparte's Gulls, Loons, and Grebes. Over the last 12 years, the number of seals in Long Island waters has also greatly increased, and Harp Seals have been spotted there in addition to common Harbor and Grey seals. Price includes transportation by private coach, one night at the Born Free Motel (rooms include private bath and kitchenette), and dinner at the Shawong Restaurant on Saturday night.

Whale Watch Weekend

Friday, May 21, 9 am–
Sunday, May 23, 9 pm MD052110
\$750 per person, double occupancy
\$850 single occupancy

Museum educator **Jay Holms** leads an excursion to historic Provincetown, Mass., to discover the ecological riches of Cape Cod Bay. Relax with a New England lobster bake Friday evening and explore charming Provincetown during free time on



Admire the view on a Field Trip to the Moon. | NASA

Saturday morning. Then, enjoy two private whale watching cruises—one on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday morning—with Dolphin Fleet, which has helped to identify more than 1,300 humpback whales since 1975. Also on the schedule: a visit to the Mystic Aquarium and a guided bird walk through the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. Cost includes transportation by private coach, meals at the hotel, two boat excursions, admission, and lodging for two nights at the Provincetown Inn Seaside Resort.

Please register before May 1.



S. Sobel

Please be aware that ticket sales are final. All Members' programs go ahead, rain or shine; no refunds are issued unless the event is cancelled by AMNH.

Many scientists will tell you their passion for their field of interest began in their youth.

Take Carl Mehling, the Museum's Collections Manager for Fossil Amphibians, Reptiles, and Birds, who oversees the largest collection of dinosaur fossils in the world. He traces his interest in paleontology back to his early childhood.

"Something primal is triggered, often in our youth, when we're introduced to concepts that amaze us," says Mehling. "I'm convinced that happened to me around age five."

This July and August, Mehling will lead two week-long family expeditions to Grand Junction, Colorado, where 13 youth will experience fossil hunting for themselves.

On *Digging for Dinosaurs: A Colorado Family Adventure* (July 24–30 or July 31–August 6), travelers will dig for



Dig for dinosaur remains in the Mygatt-Moore quarry this summer. | © ATA

dinosaur remains in the Mygatt-Moore quarry where *Apatosaurus* and *Allosaurus* have been found.

Kids and adults alike can make rubbings of actual dinosaur tracks and create their own dinosaur bone cast to take home. Travelers will also spend a morning horseback riding, an evening at a lively local rodeo, and a relaxing day floating on the Colorado River.

If your child is more interested in snorkeling and hiking, consider

traveling to the Galápagos Islands this summer. Biologists Carol Simon and Howard Topoff return to lead their sixth family expedition, *Family Journey to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands* (June 30 – July 11), to the archipelago that inspired Charles Darwin.

"The Galápagos combine a wonderful family vacation with a 'classroom' for first-hand appreciation for the fascinating process of evolution," say Simon and Topoff. "After our first outing, you'll agree that visiting the Galápagos is like stepping back in time."

This active expedition combines visits to Ecuador's Andean sierras with a seven-night cruise through the Galápagos Islands, with the option to add a visit to Machu Picchu.

To learn more about these family expeditions, visit amnhexpeditions.org or call 1-800-462-8687.

Space is limited; \$500 reduction in fare for children ages 7 to 17.

Almost everyone has heard about the Ice Age cave art of southern and southwestern France that provides the spectacular evidence for early human creativity. Fewer people know that the artistic tradition of the European hunters of about 35- and 10,000 years ago also flourished widely in northern Spain, furnishing us with some of the most delicate and expressive of the images bequeathed us by those long-vanished ancestors.

The extraordinary cave of Altamira, which introduced Ice Age art to the world in 1879, is the best known of the decorated Spanish Stone Age sites. But my personal favorite is Covalanas, a small cave in the Cantabria region that is perched high on the side of a deep valley in the foothills of the picture-perfect Picos d'Europa mountains. Twenty thousand years ago, as the last Ice Age neared its coldest point, the valley it overlooks

enjoyed an ideal microclimate for Paleolithic hunters. The ancient people who decorated Covalanas could watch from their living quarters, in the nearby entrance of the large cave of El Miron, to spot the movement of reindeer in the valley hundreds of feet below. And they made animal images in red ochre on the walls of Covalanas that are among the most graceful made not only in the Ice Age, but ever.

I have worked together with AMNH Expeditions to design a unique itinerary to visit the "other Spain," focused around Covalanas and many other decorated Stone Age sites. We will travel (June 2–13) from the far west of Asturias to the Basque country, admiring the landscapes and sampling superb local foods as well as visiting Ice Age sites that rank high among the world's most wonderful hidden treasures. We will also see the fabled Guggenheim Museum in



Altamira is the best known of the decorated Spanish Stone Age sites. | © Mattias Kabel

Bilbao and the new Altamira Museum with its fabulous re-creation of the legendary Ice Age cave. We will finish with a specially-guided visit to the incredible sites of the Atapuerca Hills, which have yielded the earliest fossil evidence of human relatives on the European peninsula. Join us! —Ian Tattersall, Curator, Division of Anthropology

Visit amnhexpeditions.org or call 1-800-462-8687 for more details.

Spider Silk: Sensation On and Off the Web

The *New York Times* article about it quickly became one of the top five stories emailed around the country. As word spread, hundreds of people "tweeted" about it online, and within a month of its unveiling, nearly 16,000 people had viewed a YouTube video starring the curator and creators. The cause of all this excitement? A rare and unusual artifact currently on display in the Museum's Grand Gallery: a dazzling textile woven from the silk of not silk worms but spiders—1,063,000 golden orb spiders of Madagascar, to be exact.

The painstaking process of gathering the silk almost defies description. Local residents literally beat the bushes—or more likely, telephone and electrical

wires—with bamboo poles to collect live female spiders of the species *Nephila madagascariensis* during the rainy season, when the spiders are actively spinning their luminously golden webs. Because they are cannibals, the spiders must be kept apart while the light yet incredibly strong silk is extracted by hand. (The spiders bite humans too but the bites are not deemed dangerous.) Each spider produces about 150 feet of silk filament, and for this textile, it took a minimum of 96 filaments, twisted together, to make a single usable thread. After being "silked," the spiders are released back into the wild.

On loan from creators Simon Peers, a British art historian and textile expert, and Nicholas Godley, an American



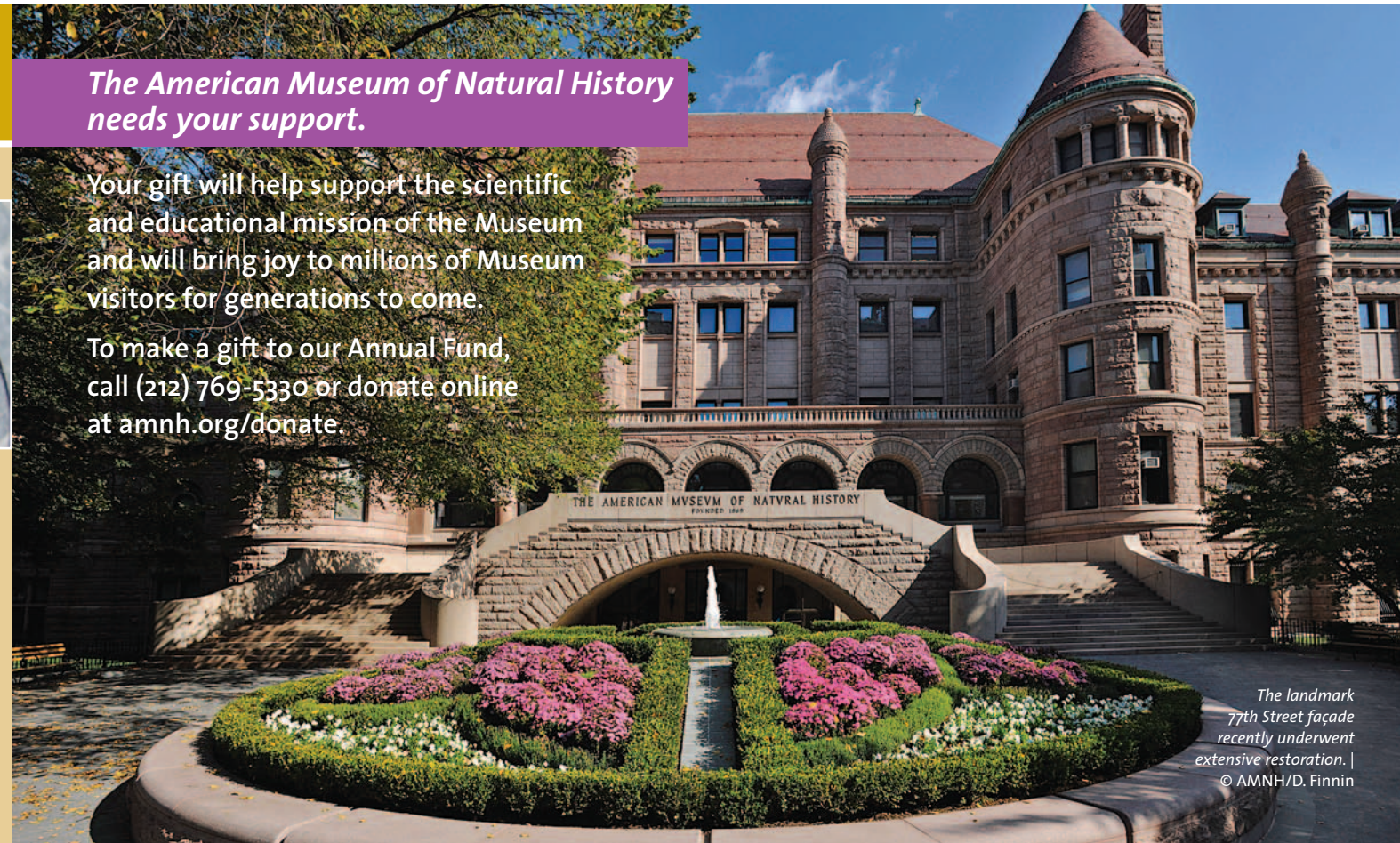
Golden orb spiders' webs can span single-lane roads. | Courtesy of Simon Peers and Nicholas Godley

fashion designer, the 4- by 11-foot textile can be viewed in the Grand Gallery. According to Ian Tattersall, Curator, Division of Anthropology, the only other known spider-silk textile of note was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 but was subsequently lost. "So," says Tattersall, "this is unique in the world."

The American Museum of Natural History needs your support.

Your gift will help support the scientific and educational mission of the Museum and will bring joy to millions of Museum visitors for generations to come.

To make a gift to our Annual Fund, call (212) 769-5330 or donate online at amnh.org/donate.



The landmark 77th Street façade recently underwent extensive restoration. | © AMNH/D. Finnin

Public Programs

These programs are available to the general public.
Call 212-769-5200 for information and tickets.

GLOBAL WEEKENDS

Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road

Saturday and Sunday, January 16 and 17
12-5 pm

Kaufmann and Linder Theaters
Free with Museum admission

In conjunction with the exhibition *Traveling the Silk Road*, this weekend program will explore Silk Road cultures through performances, workshops, and conversations.

Living in America: Voices of the Silk Road is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

Support for Global Weekends is made possible, in part, by the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc., the Tolan Family, and the family of Frederick H. Leonhardt.

SILK ROAD TALKS

Curry Economics: Food as a Driving Force of Economic Development

Thursday, January 14
6:30 pm

Linder Theater, first floor

Enter at 77th Street

\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students, seniors)

Tom Standage, author of *An Edible History of Humanity*, Cornell University history professor **Eric Tagliacozzo**, and culinary expert **Julie Sahni** will discuss food and economics; **Sasha Issenberg**, author of *The Sushi Economy*, will moderate.

The Looting of the Iraq Museum: An Evening with Dr. Donny George Youkhanna

Wednesday, February 24

6:30 pm

Linder Theater, first floor

Enter at 77th Street

\$15 (\$13.50 Members, students, seniors)

Dr. Youkhanna, former director of the Iraq National Museum in Baghdad, will discuss current archeological and museum conditions in Iraq.



Frankincense, myrrh, patchouli and more await at *Aromatics Along the Silk Road*. | © Alexis Birkmeyer

SILK ROAD TASTINGS

Aromatics Along the Silk Road

Wednesday, January 20

6:30 pm

Linder Theater, first floor

Enter at 77th Street

\$20

Perfumer **Mandy Aftel** will awaken your senses to the amazing world of aromatics and discuss their fascinating history.

Wines with Ancient Lineage

Wednesday, February 17

6:30 pm

Linder Theater, first floor

Enter at 77th Street

\$20

Mollie Battenhouse, wine director of Maslow 6, and grape geneticist **Peter Cousins** of Cornell University will discuss early viticulture. Tasting included.

Wine is graciously supplied by Maslow 6 of New York City.

DR. NEBULA'S LABORATORY

Dr. Nebula's Planetary Vacation

Sunday, February 7

2 pm

Kaufmann Theater

\$10 adults, \$8 children

Dr. Nebula is lost in space! Help Scooter find Dr. Nebula by creating a three-dimensional model of the solar system.

Dr. Nebula's Laboratory is supported, in part, by Ruth A. Unterberg.

WILD, WILD WORLD

Wolves

Saturday, January 23

11 am-12 pm; 1-2 pm

\$10 adults, \$8 children

Meet Atka, an Arctic gray wolf from the Wolf Conservation Center, and learn about this highly endangered species.

Awake at Night

Saturday, February 20

11 am-12 pm; 1-2 pm

\$10 adults, \$8 children

Get a close look at nocturnal animals with **Rob Mies** of the Organization for Bat Conservation.

TUESDAYS IN THE DOME

6:30 pm

Hayden Planetarium Space Theater

\$13.50 Members, students, seniors

VIRTUAL UNIVERSE

The Farthest Reaches of the Cosmic Ocean with Jason Kendall

Tuesday, February 2

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Family Fun-damentals II

Tuesday, February 23

LECTURE

James Webb Space Telescope with Jon Arenberg

Monday, February 8

7:30 pm

Linder Theater, first floor

Enter at 77th Street

SPECIAL EVENT

Romance Under the Stars

Sunday, February 14

6-8 pm

\$75 per person (includes one hour of open bar and appetizers)

What could be more romantic than champagne under the stars? Enjoy cocktail hour, then join an astronomer in the Hayden Planetarium for a unique view of the night sky.

Save the Date: The Museum Dance on April 15

For more than four decades, the Museum Dance has captured the imagination of 800 stylish New Yorkers in their 20s and 30s who enjoy a spectacular evening of dinner, dancing, fun, and philanthropy at the Museum.

The Museum Dance raises essential funds for the Museum's outstanding scientific and educational programs, which enable thousands of under-served New York City school children to visit the Museum annually.

Guests will have the opportunity to buy tickets to an exclusive and intimate dinner or to join hundreds of friends later in the evening for dessert, dancing, and a silent auction. For more information, please call Whitney Cary at 212-496-3495.



The Museum Dance is the highlight of the season. | © AMNH/D. Finnin

A WORLD-CLASS SOURCE FOR UNIQUE GIFTS

Discover the Shops
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



EXPLORE THE WILDLIFE OF LAND, SKY, AND SEA IN BEAUTIFUL IMAGES AND COMPELLING TEXT IN THESE BOOKS, PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

TO PLACE ORDERS, CALL OUR PERSONAL SHOPPER AT 1-800-671-7035 OR SHOP AT

www.amnhshop.com

Public programs are made possible, in part, by the Rita and Frits Markus Fund for Public Understanding of Science.