

TRIBUTES FOR A DIRECTOR

**LISA
S
E
MIGHETTO**



LISA:

A few of your many friends in Environmental History have come together, in these pages, to thank you for your years of remarkable service to the American Society for Environmental History and your important contributions to the development of environmental history globally.

We know that you will be with us in ASEH for a few months yet – and are grateful for that. But with the end of 2018 looming, and no certainty that you will be at the 2019 or later meetings we could not risk your departure unmarked by a tribute, small though it is.

No one person has done more than you for ASEH in the last quarter century. Since volunteering as Secretary in 1997, and then taking the plunge to become ASEH's first Executive Director, you have led the Society to unprecedented heights. A long succession of Presidents, Chairs of Conference, Local Arrangements, and Program Committees and countless ordinary members have benefited from your quiet, gracious efficiency.

We thank you, from the bottoms of our hearts, and on behalf of the hundreds who could not be included here, for all that you have given and meant to ASEH and its membership.

Presented at:

*ASEH Meeting, March 2018.
Riverside CA*

Graeme Wynn

ASEH President, 2017-19

Susan Flader
Jeffrey Stine
Carolyn Merchant
Doug Weiner
Marty Melosi
Tom Dunlap
Steve Pyne
Adam Sowards
Richard Tucker
Char Miller
John McNeill
Colin Coates
Gregg Mitman
Harriet Ritvo
Lisa Brady
Stefania Gallini
Kevin Marsh
Jane Carruthers
Paul Hirt
Nancy Langston
Kathy Brosnan
Mark Madison
Melissa Wiedenfeld
Verena Winiwarter

BEFORE AND AFTER LISA

In the forty-year history of the American Society for Environmental History, I think of the first twenty years as Before Lisa. Since Baltimore 1997, when I ended my term as president and you were elected secretary, ASEH has basked in the Lisa Era.

Before Lisa, a succession of leaders struggled to find a spot on the edges of other organizations' conferences where ASEH members could gather, then finally began to mount their own conferences every other year, each new president and conference chair in turn having to reinvent the wheel. I well remember our consternation to find that staff of the Radisson Lord Baltimore had simply cleared the book exhibit from its space a day earlier than scheduled, with no notice whatever. And we had no experience with hotels to guide us.



The Lisa Era began almost immediately when you became secretary. You managed communications, soon including the newsletter, began a guidebook for conference organizers, and superbly organized Tacoma 2000, returning more net income than ever before to ASEH. That was the first of what became annual conferences of the society,

expertly backstopped each year by you in your new role as ASEH director.

My lasting image at these conferences is of Lisa always with a friendly smile, always with the answers to any questions, never letting on that you might be in the midst of dealing with the crisis of the day. You have managed ASEH affairs with the utmost integrity and efficiency, earning the respect and gratitude of all who have worked with you. And you have gathered and recorded the institutional memory of the association. We are all deeply indebted to you for your selfless devotion to ASEH and will miss your steady hand at the helm. But we know you have laid enduring foundations for your successor, and we look forward to seeing more of your smiling face.

HUGE thanks and a big hug

Susan Flader

ASEH President, 1995-1997



A STEADFAST MODEL

As you look forward to retiring from your position as ASEH's Executive Director, I trust that you are also looking backward, taking pride in all that you have done over the years to nurture and advance this remarkable organization. Your contributions have been invaluable, and leave a lasting legacy, as well as a solid foundation for the next generation to build on.

As I look backward (prompted by this tribute), I marvel at all you accomplished. We began working together in 1997, following an election that seated you as Secretary, Don Pisani as President, and me as Vice President. In addition to taking up the batons our predecessors handed to us, addressing the wide array of established tasks and responsibilities, we entered negotiations for a publishing merger with the Forest History Society. In his capacity as President, Don spearheaded the fraught and prolonged discussions on behalf of ASEH, and I can attest how very much he relied upon and appreciated your behind-the-scenes counsel and diplomacy. It may well have been a baptism by fire for you, but you never appeared anything but calm, cool, and collected; proving yourself to be a wise and honest broker whom everyone came to trust and admire.



Our own communications grew more intense, of course, between 1999 and 2001, when I succeeded Don. If I am not mistaken, you added the editorship of the ASEH Newsletter

to your portfolio in 1999, turning the two-page version previously edited by Dennis Williams into a longer, more substantive, and image-rich quarterly. You also facilitated the search for a new editor of Environmental History, once again helping to strengthen (and smoothen the rough edges of) the evolving ASEH-FHS relationship (no small feat, given the agreements that needed to be forged on such matters as managing journal subscriptions, publishing arrangements, and the like). This was also the time when

ASEH moved from biennial to annual meetings, a large step for the society and a huge step for you, as you had ably assumed the complex and demanding role of organizing ASEH's conferences.

It was always a pleasure working with you. Truth be told, you awed and amazed me with your organizational savvy, unwavering positive attitude, selfless generosity, social grace, intellectual integrity, and unbounded energy and conscientiousness. Considering all of the things that happened in your personal life during those two years—like getting roughed up and tear-gassed outside your Seattle office during the World Trade Organization protest; getting hit by a car while jogging; facing the near loss of your husband to a burst appendix; and having an earthquake upturn your office while you huddled under your desk—and the fact that none of that caused you to miss a beat in keeping ASEH running, you can see why you seemed unstoppable. And so you were.

There is no telling how many times I have written to thank you for one thing or another over the years, but that won't stop me from saying it again: thank you for all that you have done for the organization, for the field of environmental history, and for the encouragement and support of students. You have been a steadfast model for us all, as well as a dear colleague.

*Jeffrey Stine,
ASEH President, 1999-2001*



DÉJÀ VU

When I was ASEH president in 2002 at our annual meeting in Denver Colorado, I presented Lisa Mighetto with a special award of appreciation for her service. I included the following commemoration in the spring 2002 ASEH Newsletter:

In a very special event at the Denver 2002 banquet, the ASEH society in a standing ovation recognized the fifth anniversary of the vital role played since 1997 by our secretary Lisa Mighetto. In the five years that she has served the society we have been able to reach a new level of visibility and organization.

ASEH News, which Lisa edits, has renewed vitality. Our business meetings run smoothly and our conference organizers have an extensive set of useful guidelines crafted by Lisa. She was the local arrangements chair of our millennial gathering in Tacoma, Washington in 2000. She contributed a multitude of hours, taking time off from her

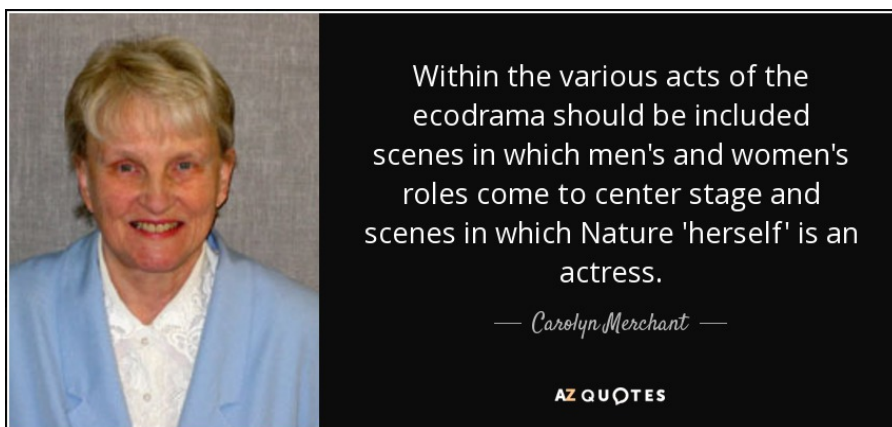


employment to direct the arrangements. In the words of past-president Donald Pisani, "Lisa is unfailingly efficient, good-natured, and kind. She is one of those saint-like people who all of us appreciate and endeavor unsuccessfully to emulate." Lisa prepared an anniversary exhibit of the society's history that featured historical documents from our archives, including the program of the 1982 Irvine meeting. We all give her our deepest gratitude and heartiest thanks.

All of these sentiments and thanks are now owed to Lisa in spades. I worked with her on a nearly daily basis when I was the local arrangements chair for the ASEH San Francisco

meeting. It was not only a joy and a privilege, but the meeting would not have been possible without Lisa's amazing insightfulness, calmness, and brilliance in organizing and carrying out every single detail. The meeting was a huge success because of Lisa.

Lisa, Thank you so much for everything you have done for ASEH over all these years.



Carolyn Merchant, ASEH President, 2001-2003

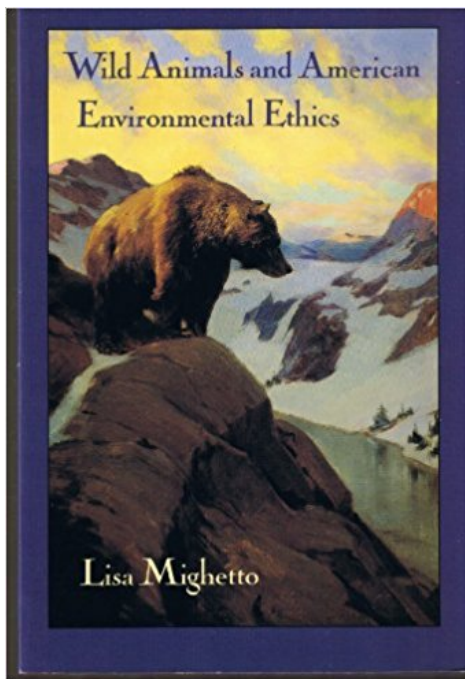
Local Arrangements Chair, San Francisco, 2011

And many other things

A SCHOLAR IN HER OWN RIGHT

The news of Lisa's retirement is at first hearing wrenching. How will ASEH, whose essential life sustaining functions were guaranteed from year to year for decades by Lisa, survive? I cannot count how many times Lisa's behind-the-scenes ingenuity and administrative genius helped me out as she worked out logistics in Tucson, Victoria and Houston. It was all done with her amazing warmth, upbeat optimism, and gentleness. If I was unschooled in some aspect of administration, Lisa rescued me with consummate tact. I have never met anyone with such flawless and genuine social grace.

*I'd like to call attention also to something that many in ASEH may not know. Lisa Mighetto is a scholar in her own right, and one of the books on my shelf that I treasure is a signed copy of her *Wild Animals and American Environmental Ethics* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1991), written when she taught at the University of Puget Sound.*



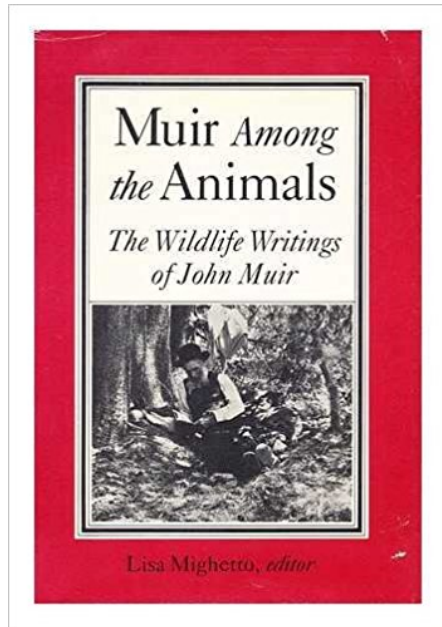
Her book chronicles the emergence and evolution in America of a number of different viewpoints regarding the startling idea that nonhuman creatures have value and deserve some kind of consideration. She showed the fundamental rift that emerged between those who were motivated by the desire to protect wildlife as species in their habitats, on the one hand, and those who were impelled to protect animals as fellow sentient creatures that were capable of suffering similar to ourselves.

Lisa's book resurrects Henry Thoreau, John Muir, John Burroughs, J. Howard Moore, Henry S. Salt and others in a fresh light. Ultimately, Mighetto exposes the insoluble contradiction, that, whether we are concerned with species preservation, the welfare of individual animals, or simply believe that animals, as creatures whom we cannot in the final analysis understand, deserve respect as co-equals in the biosphere, we are trapped in human constructs. Lisa has her own point of view – a generous and respect filled one – but as a history of ideas this book still stands as a guide to the debates.

My point in mentioning this is that Lisa Mighetto brought not only a uniquely warm, generous and humane perspective to everything she did in the ASEH, but also a scholar's perspective, and the combination was indeed a golden one. She has my enduring esteem.

Doug Weiner

ASEH President, 2003-2005



EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE, GRACEFUL

LISA:

Lisa the strong, Lisa the mighty, Lisa the friend.

The smile stands out.

I remember the HRA days fondly.

I remember sailing around Seattle waters.

She wrote with commitment about salmon, wild animals, and ethics.

We told her about too many things needing to be done;

She did them.

Efficiently, effectively, gracefully.

It's time for herself, and all the curiosities and wonders undiscovered.



Marty Melosi

ASEH President, 1993-1995



WE HEARD AN OWL



You fully deserve the applause and compliments you will receive on your retirement, for you have been the ASEH's institutional heart, providing continuity and direction as we grew from a few people caucusing in a phone booth with John Opie to the vibrant society with a growing presence in the field of history. The conference is the most eloquent testimony to your work. Out of sight and through the year, for many years, you did or managed all the unglamorous and essential tasks it took to plan and present this important element of our professional lives. You will have successors, who will build on your work, but you will never have a replacement.

I have enjoyed the benefits of your work also the gift of your friendship for thirty years—or a bit more, I guess. We began talking about animals and animal stories, and continued by watching them. Before the ASEH had birding expeditions on the schedule we and a few others rented a car and made our own. One memory: In the southwestern desert, after dark, we heard an owl which, by the call, was a Long-eared or a Short-eared Owl. But which? Then it obligingly perched on a rock, silhouetted against the moon. Long-eared, definitely.

I wish you the joy of this new phase of your life and remain, as always, your friend,



Tom Dunlap

*(Who published in **Environmental Review**, 2 (1977), and may have caucused in a phone booth with John Opie, one of the founders of ASEH)*

WHAT LISA DIDN'T DO

Lisa has done so many things for ASEH that all of us who have worked with her could never recount the sum. But the most extraordinary thing she did while I knew her was what she didn't do.

She didn't insert herself into decisions that properly belonged to the society. She left us - sometimes forced us by her silence - to make those decisions even when we looked to her for guidance and practically begged her to tell us what we needed to do. A volunteer organization staffed with a constant turnover of officers - it would have been natural for us to defer to her and for her to steadily assume more and more control over the choices made, all with the best of intentions and probably the better decisions.

That she didn't was a deliberate choice on her part and the right one. She steadfastly refused to insinuate herself into the recurring vacuums and uncertainties. Her task was to facilitate. The ASEH was its members' organization. She insisted, quietly and patiently, and with a calm that must have cost her dearly at times, that we govern ourselves. As a result, we did not become more efficient, but we did become a better society.

Thanks, Lisa,

Steve Pyne

ASEH President 2005-2007



YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

I remember clearly my first encounter with Lisa Mighetto. I was a graduate student attending my first ASEH conference in Tacoma. She was behind the registration counter, and I was impressed because I'd used her book on an early project. Since then, almost two decades have passed and I've had so many more occasions to be impressed by Lisa.



Working on multiple committees--especially the local arrangements committee for the Boise meeting--I learned the monumental work Lisa does to keep ASEH functioning smoothly. Like many, many others, I benefited from her experience and her generosity. Whenever I had a question, she knew or found the answer. And it seemed that I never would have to wait a full 24 hours. Whenever I wanted to volunteer, she pointed me to a great opportunity. No one who has worked with her can say enough about her professionalism, efficiency, or institutional knowledge and commitments.

It is almost unimaginable to think of ASEH without Lisa at the helm. Fortunately, she has built a foundation she can be proud of and will leave us in good stead. We are in her debt.

Lisa-- Congratulations on your well-earned retirement. May there be many days of clear sailing ahead!

Adam M. Sowards,

Local Arrangements Co-Chair, Boise, 2008

SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE?

My grateful reminiscence begins a year before the 2011 Phoenix conference, when we were in Copenhagen, a city seemingly without taxis, for WCEH. Paul Hirt was set to host ASEH a year later, and I was to chair the program committee, a group I came to trust and enjoy totally when the storm hit. That evening in Copenhagen, when Lisa, Paul and Linda Hirt and I had a planning dinner together at a neighborhood restaurant, it was only heavy rain that hit, soaking us as we stumbled back to our hotels.



Then the real storm hit, when the Arizona state government intensified its anti-Hispanic campaign, making it virtually impossible for our Latin American colleagues to participate in the conference. Their colleagues inside the US were conflicted; some proposed that ASEH join other academic organizations and boycott Arizona. Lisa was the steady center of the strategic discussions that followed.

The Ex Com determined that defaulting on our conference contracts would have left us with no place to meet that year, and financially bankrupt; instead they urged us to assemble a program rich in minority studies – Hispanic, Native American, and African-American. In the following months an unprecedented range of our colleagues constructed papers and panels in that area, while Paul and others recruited public officials, community organizers, and scholars from within the state to join us. Lisa held it all together, in a non-stop flow of discussion with us. She must have had more sleepless nights than anyone else, but fatigue and anxiety never darkened her clarity and efficiency.

In the end, feedback after the conference repeatedly described an atmosphere of heightened solidarity in our days together. Our organization and our collegiality emerged stronger and broader, as we deepened the sense of our place within the cultural politics of our turbulent times. It serves us well in 2018. Without Lisa's constant, multi-dimensional realism, the outcome might have been very different.



Richard Tucker, Program Chair, Phoenix, 2011

THE ENGINE THAT PROPELS US

Without Lisa Mighetto, there would be no ASEH meetings in Riverside, or Chicago, or Seattle, or DC, or BC, or, or, or.... for so long she has been the driving engine behind the scenes that it would be easy to miss how much work—each day, every day—she has done for this organization to insure that it is as strong and vibrant as it has become. Lisa’s attention to detail, her diligence and energy, have made her a superb executive director.

But so has her generosity of spirit and easy presence: when she sends you an email, you cannot help but respond immediately; when you hear her voice on the end of the line, you know you’re in for a fun call. Of course, that also means you are about to say yes to whatever request she makes of you—but it would be churlish to say no, not least because we can never repay Lisa for all her efforts on our collective behalf.



Char Miller, Local Arrangements Co-Chair, Riverside, 2018

THE PILOT OF OUR SHIP

Salutations to Lisa Mighetto as you step aside after 20 years as the majordomo and power-behind-the-throne of the ASEH empire!

Since 1997 the ASEH as gone from strength to strength, growing both larger and better, nourishing the remarkable development of environmental history in the U.S. I am sure I am not the only one who thinks this long-term trend owes more to you, Lisa, than to anyone else, or indeed to any handful of people. Scholarly societies do not run by themselves, and they do not run well without dedicated souls who deliver far more than required of them. While several dedicated souls have helped ASEH navigate shoals and reefs over the years, it is you, Lisa, who has piloted the ship.

After a few years on the ASEH Executive Committee, which gave me a chance to glimpse the cheerful efficiency that you brought to every task, I became ASEH President in 2011, succeeding Harriet Ritvo. Before I took office, while still a trainee-president, I received what felt like a baptism of fire. (You will remember all this at least as well as I). That year our annual meeting was scheduled for Phoenix. Only a few months before we were to gather, Arizona politics threw a spanner into the works. The state legislature was considering a bill that many in our association, including me, regarded as – to put it gently – most unfortunate. As part of my training, you and Harriet brought me into the discussion about the best course of action for ASEH. Several of our members felt they might be unsafe in Arizona; many more felt, strongly, that they did not wish to visit a state governed by laws such as the one under consideration. But ASEH had signed a contract with a Phoenix hotel long before, a contract which, if broken, would have cost us dearly in financial terms.



This was a problem without a good solution. Throughout the weeks of discussion and negotiation, you proved your mettle yet again. You mastered the issues, calmed the angry waters, and led us to what I regarded then and still regard now as the least bad resolution available. The meeting went ahead in Phoenix, but with abundant video-conferencing equipment to allow those who wished to

stay away to take part in sessions, and with a special session or two devoted to links between environmental history and immigration history.

Throughout my stint I, like all ASEH presidents, relied heavily on you for guidance whether the issue was relations with OUP, with FHS, finances, or anything else. As far as I can recall, on every detail of every issue I found myself agreeing with you -- you may remember it differently of course. Your instincts and judgment, built on long experience with ASEH, always seemed sound. For those two years, ASEH would have functioned just as smoothly, and probably faster, had the president been exiled to a remote Pacific atoll without telecommunication links or placed in cryogenic suspended animation.

Congratulations on twenty years of exemplary work!

John McNeil

ASEH President 2011-2013



THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE SOCIETY

Anyone familiar with ASEH knows that Lisa Mighetto has been the heart and soul of the society for many years. Lisa made the office of the ASEH presidency look easy, and I can't imagine how different life would have been as an ASEH president without Lisa there, behind the scenes, running the show. Her administrative aptitude, her care and compassion for others, her passion and dedication, and her unassuming leadership style, have benefitted ASEH and its members in so many ways. She has helped to nurture ASEH from a small, fledgling organization into a mature, professional society with a sizable membership and impressive reach. Thank you, Lisa! You have made a lasting impact on ASEH for generations to come, for which we are all immensely grateful.

Gregg Mitman , ASEH President, 2013-2015



WORKING WITH CANADIANS

I recall with great fondness working with Lisa on ASEH 2013 in Toronto. Alongside colleagues in NiCHE, York University, McMaster University, Trent University and the University of Toronto, we had put together a bid to bring the ASEH back to Canada for the second time. At times, I was concerned that our bid might not be successful, but we were awarded the honour of hosting the event. This was a major undertaking, and it is impossible to imagine that we could have pulled it off without Lisa.

With her vast knowledge of ASEH, her experience in running these events across North America, and – I think most importantly --her subtle wit and grace, we navigated the difficulties of dealing with hotels, bus companies, and caterers. She shepherded us through the complications of running an ambitious series of field trips, a feature that I consider a key element of the annual ASEH conference. She even was kind enough not to dissuade us from publishing a book of environmental history tours of the Greater Toronto Area to accompany the field trips – a copy of which we gave to all participants on a usb key. (Whether she was as aware as I was of the tight deadline for receiving the book – the day before the conference started – I don't recall.)

It struck me that Lisa never wanted to occupy the limelight at the time of the annual conference. She was willing to take on all the mundane tasks of running an annual meeting, while keeping a careful eye on the larger picture. I was fully aware that the annual conference was an impossible feat for us mere academics without her. Through my work with various scholarly associations, I realise how key dedicated and talented individuals like Lisa are to the success of the organisations. ASEH members have been very fortunate to work so many years with someone as dedicated, knowledgeable, and well-humoured as Lisa.



As so many other ASEH members, I wish Lisa all the best in the future. And I still hope to run into her some day on Hornby Island, when she sails into Big Tribune Beach.

Colin Coates,

Programme Committee Chair,, Toronto, 2013

BEHIND THE SCENES

I'm not being hyperbolic when I say that without Lisa's cheerful competence, generous commitment, and deep understanding of the history and goals of ASEH, my time as president might have been a series of catastrophes, and not just, as in fact it was, a series of crises. This isn't the place to rehearse traumatic details, however, and it's also true that the behind-the-scenes work of any organization, while arduous and crucial, isn't usually the stuff of anecdote. More conspicuous and relatable has been Lisa's presence at our annual meetings. (Of course, she also made major contributions to the work of the Program Committees and Local Arrangements Committees in advance.) She has always been a warm, elegant, and ubiquitous presence, ready to cope calmly with any emergency, even if circumstances made calmness a challenge

I hope that she continues to be such a presence at ASEH meetings, with no need to worry about challenges and crises.

Harriet Ritvo,

ASEH President, 2009-2011



TO LISA:



*It
Has
Been
My great
Good fortune
To have worked
With you in so many
Different ways. Without
Your calm reassurance at
Every step, I would have lost
My mind planning the Boise ASEH.*

*Without your vast and deep experience, I would have been at sea navigating my way through the currents of editing the journal. I wish you enduring happiness and *Smooth Sailing* as you enter this period of well-deserved rest and adventure. It is my sincere hope that our paths will cross again and again in the future. ASEH will endure, of course, but it will not be the same without you at the helm. Bon voyage!*

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*Lisa Brady, Editor, Environmental History
Local Arrangements Co- Chair Boise, 2008*



RETIREMENT?

To chair a Program Committee of an international congress can be an exhausting job and an opportunity to gain almost as many opponents among your colleagues as Donald Trump raises in one of his presidential speeches. Having Lisa as a co-chair at the next ICEHO congress in Brazil 2019 is to me not only the best survival guarantee, but also a concrete chance to learn from her how to be efficient and never overstressed, conclusive but never harsh, kind but never fawning, practical but never simplistic. I still have one year and a half of learning from her before the inauguration day of the World Congress of Environmental History – WCEH III. By then, I hope we will have gained as many friends and admirers as Lisa has been able to win as President of ASEH. I am honored to be one of them and wish her a busy retirement with the forthcoming evaluation process to determine the program of the WCEH!

Very best and an abrazo

*Stefania Gallini,
Universidad Nacional de Colombia
Co-Chair of Program Committee for WCEH III*



A TIME FOR GUNKHOLING

I want to join the large number of our colleagues to congratulate you on your retirement from the ASEH executive director position, and also to thank you for proving such strong support for the organization, its activities, and all those who contribute to the growing field of environmental history. I hear many say that this field is their intellectual family and the annual conference their favorite reunion of the minds. I do not think they would gravitate to this sentiment if the organization wasn't so reliable, responsive, and supportive. Those strengths of the ASEH are very much a product of your years of often behind-the-scenes organizing. Great job!!

I can recall how you helped Lisa, Adam, and me to organize the Boise conference. As three young, un-tenured faculty members we were enthusiastic and committed, but also stunned at the scale of the effort we took on. At the time we didn't seem to realize how much work it was, and didn't mind it either, but it was clear to us that without your support and guidance, we could not have succeeded. Having served two terms as a department chair, I have a stronger appreciation now how well you provided the institutional knowledge and support, while at the same time letting us do much of the work and to make our own individual contributions to shape the conference. I've seen it too often where directors of large organizations micromanage too much and don't grant the trust to talented, enthusiastic, less-experienced contributors to actually shape the end product.



Those gifts of structure and trust that you have provided to ASEH members is a big reason the community flourishes as much as it has over the past fifteen years. Thanks!

It's always been a treat to see you at meetings each year: Houston, Seattle, St. Paul, Copenhagen, and many others. It often seems like you are having as much fun and getting as much out of the conference as anybody there. The reality of the years of work that you put into every meeting doesn't show clearly. And that's been tremendously impressive!

I hope you find time to do even more sailing in the coming years. I miss the waters of the Northwest Coast & Puget Sound, and you deserve to take some extra time gunkholing all around them, to new and to familiar coves.

Happy sailing!



Kevin Marsh

Local Arrangements Co- Chair Boise, 2008



IDEAS & FRIENDSHIP

As Executive Director of ASEH for many years, Lisa Mighetto has brought joy to the academic discipline of environmental history. Scholars may summarise their success through the content of seminars, conference presentations, and journal and book publications. But the element of pleasure in belonging to a like-minded community, and the sheer delight in sharing research findings, creating networks, and cementing personal as well as professional friendships, is unusual and distinct to environmental history. This is an achievement of the gracious, kind, helpful, and extraordinarily efficient, Lisa, a modest and unassuming person who has never sought the limelight, although she has certainly deserved it! It is largely owing to Lisa's example and style of leadership that the world of environmental history is as successful and enjoyable as it is.

Our discipline is extremely fortunate to have had a scholar of Lisa's standing and a woman of her talents at the helm of the large and influential ASEH for so long. She has facilitated the camaraderie as well as the scholarship and, indeed, it is the atmosphere that she has created that has often led to both.



One is in awe of Lisa's business acumen in arranging enormous annual conferences all over the US, maintaining contact with members, and managing the growing discipline strategically as a whole. But Lisa is also to be admired also for her skill in making it seem so effortless, and for her ability to make people feel comfortable and confident. Never has she lost her smile, her generosity, or her willingness to solve a problem whether large or small.

In her management of the ASEH Lisa has also smoothed the way for other fellowships of environmental historians to emerge or consolidate – the Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SOLCHA) and the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) come to mind. Importantly, Lisa was instrumental in co-creating the International Consortium of Environmental History Organisations (ICEHO), a difficult project that gained much from her diplomacy, wisdom, experience, as well as her calm and sensible nature and quiet and genuine sense of goodwill. As one of the other founding ICEHO members, I know that during the first World Conference of Environmental History (WCEH I) in Copenhagen in 2009, Lisa was at the heart of the discussion about the new consortium, an invaluable muse in the establishment of an international body for environmental

history partnerships. We are fortunate that Lisa has maintained her enthusiasm and support for ICEHO providing enormous assistance with general advice, site selection help for WCEH II and III, and conference management.

If I could select a leader who would transform the planet into a better, happier, well managed and more productive place, it would be Lisa Mighetto.

*Jane Carruthers, Emerita, University of South Africa
ICEHO President 2011-2014.*



Opening ceremony of ICEHO's Second World Congress, Guimarães, 2014, that owed much to Lisa Mighetto's assistance

INSPIRATION

I count myself lucky to have known a handful of people over my lifetime who truly serve as a role model for me; people who display the better angels of their nature in such a consistent way that they inspire both amazement and emulation. Lisa Mighetto is one of them. I especially admire her commitment to building a community of environmental scholars based on respect, cooperation, and mutual advancement rather than the Social Darwinian alternative so common in academic societies. Her commitment extends from the whole discipline of environmental history to ASEH as a community to every single individual member as a person. Lisa's ability to embrace so large a vision of service to others is truly awesome. For example,



I recall many instances during my time on the Executive Committee when we discussed diversity initiatives. To Lisa, it was never simply about numbers or appearances. Lisa felt real pain if anyone's voice was marginalized or anyone's concerns dismissed, and she made extraordinary efforts to welcome new members and expand the size of the environmental history tent.

Lisa's influence on the culture of ASEH is one of the main reasons it has been such a pleasure for me to be a part of this society for the last 3 decades. As the ASEH Director she has been a model of civility and empathy, but also efficiency and frugality. She honors our intellectual leaders while promoting our young aspirants. She provides direction without dictating, and she is endlessly supportive and patient with the often overcommitted scholars who voluntarily serve on ASEH's many boards and committees. If I have one regret, it is that I surely let Lisa down when I failed on occasion to exhibit even a fraction of the commitment she consistently showed. One hates to disappoint one's mentor.

I'm deeply thankful that I had the privilege to work side-by-side with Lisa during my entire professional career. As I head toward my own retirement in a couple years, I hope to continue to meet up with Lisa annually, although not so much at urban hotels and convention centers as out in nature, such as on a sailboat in the eastern Adriatic, experiencing environmental history in situ!

Thank you, Lisa! See you again soon.



Paul Hirt

*Local Arrangements,
Chair, Phoenix, 2011*



ASEH posse looking for help – and Lisa?

WONDER WOMAN

I searched through my computer files for photos of Lisa organizing our conferences, joining on field trips, celebrating ASEH's success. Not surprisingly, I found lots of photos that she took, but few that included her--because she's the force behind the scenes that has kept our society functioning so well for decades.

Lisa's not just an incredible organizer; she's also closely attuned to the individuals with whom she works. For example, she chooses the presents for outgoing presidents



This photo from 2009, of the Pacific Northwest kayak paddle that she presented to me at the Tallahassee meeting in 2009, shows how well she knows us. Lisa and I both share a passion for the water, and she knew as well how much I love the Pacific Northwest and its diverse cultures. I've treasured this paddle--not just for its beauty, but also for what it represents about the heart and soul of our society, thanks to Lisa's intellect and generosity of spirit.

I love this picture of Lisa that pops up when one googles "Lisa Mighetto ASEH."



Her affinity with water and her great good nature both shine through as she guides us through the intricacy of ASEH affairs.

When Lisa's not around, all too often ASEH members look like this photo of Lynne Heasley and me on the 2014 Great Falls field trip: lost and confused!



She has helped us pull together, instead of heading off in divergent directions.

Beneath her friendly exterior, this is also Lisa:



Lisa Mighetto is our Wonder Woman--fierce on our behalf, a force for goodness in the world.

We will miss her!

Nancy Langston,

ASEH President, 2007-2009

Local Arrangements Chair, Madison, 2012

WE'LL LIFT A GLASS TO THAT

Many people will write at great length – as they should – about Lisa Mighetto's astonishing contributions to the American Society for Environmental History. No one has been more integral to the Society's success. Her dedication, intelligence, kindness, and commitment to excellence are among the many attributes that will be hard to replace.



However, when I think of Lisa the first word that comes to my mind is “friend.” It was a great privilege and great fun to serve as ASEH president. After two years, I was happy to step down except for one thing. Stepping down meant less time talking with my friend. I

don't think that Lisa and I ever had a conversation that took less than an hour. The original purpose of the phone call was often irrelevant; we just found 500 other things to talk about.

I really got to know Lisa well when I chaired local arrangements for the Houston meeting in 2005. While Lisa had a firm understanding of the many details involved in hosting a conference, my learning curve was larger. So many of our conversations involved me saying, "I never knew that." Indeed, after the conference, and with Lisa's encouragement, I wrote a newsletter column that carried that title, trying to explain everything from the challenges of finding the right hotel to the cost of coffee in the book display – all the things I never knew.

I cherish so many memories with Lisa: sharing box lunches after the ASEH field trips had left the building; sailing (okay motoring) on Puget Sound; strolling through Tivoli Gardens; wondering why so many academics have no common sense; configuring conference schedules; or touring the Portuguese vineyards.

My friend Lisa is smart, funny, dedicated, and secretly more subversive than many people know. I lift this glass both to recall a great day in the Douro Valley and to celebrate my dear, dear friend – the one and only Lisa Mighetto!

Kathy Brosnan

ASEH President, 2015-17

Local Arrangements Chair, Houston, 2005



INSTITUTION-BUILDER PAR EXCELLENCE

I must admit that I personally measure success in terms of the contributions an individual makes to her or his fellow human beings.

Margaret Mead, 1979;

Mark Madison, 2018

Lisa Mighetto has been the personification of ASEH as long as I have been a member. Lisa was the one consistent institutional figure who allowed ASEH to grow and prosper over the last two decades into the scholarly powerhouse it has become today. Like most academic societies, ASEH has many brilliant thinkers (if they say so themselves) and lofty idealists; but ASEH has always had, in addition, one superbly capable institution-builder. As ASEH grew in membership and went from biannual to annual conferences, Lisa shepherded us through these new challenges. As ASEH entered the information age and found a new publisher for our Journal, Lisa was there as a steady guide, our institutional memory, and our consistent advocate. Through ever-changing Presidents, executive board members, and local arrangements teams, Lisa was the one consistent lodestar.

Perhaps no one is more indebted to Lisa's efforts than I am. When I unwittingly took over as ASEH Treasurer in 2001, I assumed it would involve writing a few checks and going to the annual meeting. Little did I realize that, under Lisa's guidance, we would soon be managing major federal grants, providing travel grants to up to 30 individuals, and supporting a variety of new institution-building initiatives ranging from web-based content to reclaiming control over our membership lists. In the midst of these efforts under Lisa, ASEH's endowment grew three-fold, we survived 2 IRS audits, and weathered both bearish and bullish investment markets. Without Lisa's support and steadfast guidance none of this would have been possible. In typical fashion, Lisa made me a better treasurer than I had any right to be. She had that effect on those who worked with her!

Lisa was the perfect fit as Executive Director for ASEH. She was an excellent scholar, an accomplished grant writer and manager, and an organizational genius. For the last two decades she dedicated her life and soul to ASEH, which I witnessed first-hand in my daily work with her on financial matters. ASEH has always been the friendliest of scholarly societies a convivial group one looks forward to seeing annually. It has often been described by many long-time members as more of a family than a mere group of academics. Indeed, we are a family and Lisa has been our materfamilias.



Mark Madison, Society Treasurer, guarding the ASEH vault?

Remember: “Mark Madison Speaks with Lisa Mighetto”?

<https://digitalmedia.fws.gov/cdm/ref/collection/audio/id/53>

MARK MADISON: Where's the 2012 conference going to be?

LISA MIGHETTO: In Madison, Wisconsin.

MARK MADISON: I like the sound of that. It's going to be right near Aldo Leopold's shack.

LISA MIGHETTO: We're going to visit Aldo Leopold's shack and we're going to visit John Muir's farmstead. So it will be an interesting conference .



Still looking for help!

OF ELUSIVE BIRDS, TORTOISES, AND HAIR-RAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Many thanks, Lisa, for your years of work for ASEH-- you have done more for ASEH than any other member. This is not hyperbole. Among other valued accomplishments, you professionalized the organization, put ASEH on the web, and connected us to social media. We've had spectacular conferences which no longer tax the efforts of the local arrangements chair because you streamlined conference management and wrote the how-to manual. You've worked to preserve the history of the organization, formalizing the archives and arranging oral history interviews.

You started serving ASEH long before you were in a leadership position. Once you became Secretary, you took on more work, organizing, keeping meetings on track, and making arrangements. When you became Director, we knew that the organization was in excellent hands. Through all the unforeseen glitches at conferences, you kept your cool and solved the problems – and then added appropriate edits to the manual. You suffered through conferences with colds, gave up going on field trips, and went without meals and sleep. And after the conferences, you sent dozens of handwritten thank you notes to those who helped.

We've had a lot of fun along the way. My first conference was in 1991 in Houston, but we met at the next conference, in Pittsburgh. I remember going to lunch with a rowdy group of ASEH members (certainly that shaped my view of the organization—all that energy and intelligence and good humor). We got to know each other better on birding field trips and in committee meetings. We had a great time when you and Frank visited us in Galápagos in 2005.



We had a memorable race to find the elusive Galápagos rail before sunset.



The Galápagos rail:
"A skulker, unlikely to show itself
unless you use playback"

We spent time together planning for the ASEH 2015 conference in Washington, enjoying an evening at my home before heading up to the National Conservation Training Center to meet Mark Madison. One of my favorite memories is us sneaking out of the 2015 conference with Marty Reuss to have a drink at the historic Cosmos Club.

I have mixed feelings about your retirement. ASEH will greatly miss your leadership and hard work, but at the same time, I look forward to being able to spend some time birding with you at future conferences. I really appreciate your work for ASEH, your brilliant scholarship, your ready smile and positive attitude, and most of all, your friendship. ¡Buen viaje!

Melissa Wiedenfeld, active and variously engaged member of ASEH for 25 years





Verena Winiwarter, President, ICEHO, Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, Alpen –Adria University, Klagenfurt, Austria.

LISA M. -- ONE OF A KIND

*I liken Lisa to snow.
Like snow, she is crystal clear.
Like snow, she comes in many forms and yet, stays always the same.
Like snow, she can form an avalanche [beware!],
But like snow, she softens harsh contours.
Like snow, she allays noise just by her presence.
Like snow, she cools and warms.
Like snow, she delivers a necessity,
visible only after her departure.*

*I liken Lisa to wind.
Like wind, she brings freshness wherever she goes.
Like wind, she can be playful and gale-strong.
Like wind, she whiffs chaff from the wheat.
Like wind, she likes to sail over the sea.
Like wind, her presence is untiring, yet almost forgotten at times, because,
Like wind, she is a natural force too often taken for granted.*

*I liken Lisa to earth.
Like earth, she offers foundation and peace.
Like earth, she keeps a long-term memory of our deeds and battles.
Like earth, she is poised and calm.
Like earth, she is essential for our existence.
And like the earth, she moves through space at lightning speed, but no-one notices.*

*I don't liken Lisa to fire,
nor to glass marbles with intricate waves inside,
nor do I liken her to Hulda, to Freyja,
to Kleio, Athena, or Gaia, although they come to mind.*

*I liken Lisa to Lisa,
because she is one of a kind.*



Thank you Lisa, for years of admirable and invaluable work for ASEH, your enormous support and encouragement over the years, and your endlessly positive attitude. May your days beyond ASEH be full of pleasure and satisfaction.

*From your innumerable friends in
Environmental History, March 2018*



