



SMOKE SIGNALS

June-July, 2014

Comments from our President

- Sally Tucker

*"I'm growing, I'm growing, and how do I know?
I'm doing some things that I've not done before. ."*

Perhaps you recall those words from a song that was often heard on a children's TV show from the past. The lyrics certainly apply to Gillies, as we are growing in many ways.

Glenna Anderson, Intern Education Chair, and Bonnie Lytal, Adjunct, are helping "grow the Gillies," as they are busy planning the training for what promises to be a large Intern class. Thanks to Judy Baggett and Sharon Patch, Vice Presidents, and Mark Dolph, whose diligence in recruiting and retaining interns, is paying off.

Two rich exhibitions, *Focus on Favorites* and *On Common Ground*, will add to the intellectual growth of every Gillie as we learn in depth about some familiar pieces in the galleries, but also about important items even the long-term Gillies have not seen before. Charley Wyatt, Docent Chair, has some exciting plans for providing opportunities for learning and enrichment for all Gillies. Many in our midst are doing some things we've not done before as we volunteer in areas new to us and assume new leadership roles. There will be additional volunteer opportunities when the Helmerich Center for American Research is open. It is exciting to think about all of the possibilities for growth this year.

Comments cont...

Thank you to the previous Board of Directors who contributed so much to the museum and the Gillies organization. Thank you to the upcoming Board members who stepped forward and said, "Yes! I will serve." Special appreciation goes to Sondra Mullins under whose wise leadership the Gillies thrived this year. I am most grateful to her for being my mentor.

Appreciation also goes to the Gillies' best friend, Mark Dolph, who supports us in all our endeavors.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that continues to grow in every way.

Docent Meeting Rescheduled

The September Docent Meeting cannot be held on its usual date due to activities scheduled for the opening of the Helmerich Center for American Research. The meeting will be held on Friday, August 22 in Gallery 18. The day will start with coffee at 9:30 followed by the meeting at 10:00. The agenda for this meeting will be mailed out later in the summer. The next Docent meeting is to be held on October 3. Please remember that the Docent Meetings are open to all Gillies. There should really be a buzz at the Museum in August as the opening of HCAR approaches, so come out and join us!

DOCENT CORNER - JUNE, 2014

DOCENT CORNER – JUNE 2014

- Charley Wyatt, Chair

Docents, you should be proud of yourselves for the effort you have spent throughout this Gillie year. To explain the following numbers, an 'educational event' may be a Museum tour, Garden tour, KDC laboratory exercise, Summer Tour Program tour, or GGTS/SOG presentation. 1,214 separate educational events were given from May 1, 2013 through April 30, 2014. 2,434 docents worked those events. You spoke to 16,039 children and 9852 adults - 25,891 people!

Our emphasis on First Visit for the *Any Given Child* program was nothing short of amazing. As Mark Dolph likes to say: "Gilcrease set the gold standard for *Any Given Child* activities!"

Thanks to Linda, Silvia, and those terrific day captains who make the system work!

We began the year with 75 docents and finished on April 30 with 79. Let's hope that we have stopped the trend of decreasing numbers of docents and will begin to grow our membership in 2014-2015.

On June 1 we will have new people at the helm, people who I know will do a great job. Chris McWaters is my Adjunct this year. Day Captains are:

Tuesday – Lyon Morehead
Wednesday – Mindy Paschal
Thursday – JoAnn Clapp
Friday – Frances Whisman
Weekends – Janis Haynes

Next fall will bring new challenges to all of us – Expect a new First Visit in *On Common Ground*, a general tour for *Focus on Favorites*, and a series of gallery talks which will stress details on Gilcrease works of art and their creators. summer Tour Program starts soon – it will be a great program and a lot of fun, so please sign up. Have a wonderful summer!!

Computer News

- Larry Lancaster, Chair

On May 9th, the Gillies received notice from IBM that our organization has been awarded a \$2000 IBM Community Grant. The grant, the application of which was submitted in February by Larry, is for the current digitization work being done in our Gillies library. The funds will be used to purchase a laptop, a Plustek book scanner and necessary software. This equipment will enable us to scan *The American Scene* and the *Gilcrease Journal*, starting with the 1958 inaugural volume and going forward. Once scanned, the volumes will be searchable as a collection, enabling the Docents and other Gillies to quickly find information, regardless of when the information was published during the last 50+ years. The projected completion date for the scanning is December 2014.

2014-2015 Gillie Dues

Due Date: June 1, 2014

Check Payable to "The Gillies"

Send to Marsha McElroy

5206 S. Harvard #331

Tulsa, OK 74135



Gillie Interns from the 2014 Class gather for their graduation at the General Membership Meeting on May 16 at The Club at Indian Springs in Broken Arrow. Pictured (L to R) are: Jerry Boles, left, Annette Boles, Carolyn Ekenstam, Larry Lancaster, Thea Lancaster, Sharon Paley, Andrew Paley, Mindy Paschal, Rick Paschal, Vice President Judy Baggett, Doug Kisling, Krista Gardner, Wennette Pegues, Intern Chair Jim Walker, Minisa Crumbo Halsey, and President Sondra Mullins.

Gilcrease Goes To School

- Alan Jarvis, Chair

The past two years as GGTS Chairman has been fantastic. Thanks to everybody that has supported me and this wonderful program. Some of our efforts have been trying to say the lease, but there have been so many more that have made me know without a doubt that I am in the right place and doing what I was meant to do. I am truly a better person thanks to Gilcrease Museum and all the wonderful people I work with.

I don't think most of the Gillies know just how busy GGTS has been this year. GGTS presenters made 246 presentations to 6,353 students. This included 151 presentations to 3,572 first graders as part of the Any Given Child Initiative. This is just fantastic and every one of the GGTS team deserves a ton of credit. The team was busy and it was a lot of work, but we all know that it was the children who gained the most through our efforts.

Ken Fike will be taking my place as chair next year and I know he'll do a wonderful job. He will be getting some of the best that the Gillie organization has to offer and I know GGTS will continue to grow.

Thanks to all!

Summer Tour Program

Congratulations to the writing committee for the Summer Tour Program, *Once Upon A Time: Stories in Art about People, Animals, and the Land*. The committee, consisting of Norma Wallace, Chair, and Silvia Furgason, Su Davis, Linda Harkey, Kathy Horne, Chris McWaters, Sondra Mullins, Sharon Patch, Dana Simon, Jo Carolyn Rushing, and Frances Whisman, saw to it that the children will both learn and have fun at Gilcrease Museum this summer.

Good job, committee!

For Your Information

- Dana Simon, Secretary

New email Address:

Mary Elliott

mary.elliott@mahpromotions.com

New Street Address:

J.T. Carter

5316 E. 81st St. #421

Tulsa, OK 74137

Dropped:

Jane Powell

Sympathy Notes sent to:

Vera Berlin upon the death of her mother, Sophie Leffmann.

Barbara LaBenske upon the death of her husband, **Tom LaBenske**, 86, who died in Carrollton, Texas. Both were former Gillies. Barbara served as Gillies President in 1993-1994.

Jerry Blauer upon the death of his mother-in-law.

Thank You Notes sent to:

Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Mark Dolph for the splendid Appreciation Luncheon on April 21 in the Gilcrease Museum's Vista Room. Thanks also for the *Certificates of Appreciation* awarded to Active Gillies who have volunteered at the museum for more than 10 to 40 years.

Executive Chef for Gilcrease Restaurant:

Geoffery Van Glabbeek, and his staff for the delicious banquet served to The Gillies at the Appreciation Luncheon held on April 21.

Please send changes in contact information, such as, address, phone and email, as well as information about someone who is ill to Gillies Secretary Dana Simon – (918) 749-8889 or email danalyn725@yahoo.com

TRAVEL

- Beverley Wilcox, Chair

SANTA FE – TAOS Oct. 14 – 19, 2014

The Travel Committee has pulled together another fun Gillie trip!! Santa Fe always has something new and we have reservations at the newest hotel, the Drury Inn. The Drury offers free breakfast in the morning and Happy Hour in the afternoon. What more can you ask for??? We will be going to Bandelier where we will have a box lunch among the ruins and kiva. Also on our list to visit are Taos, Los Alamos, Alan Houser Sculpture Garden, Museum Hill, San Ildefonso, the Blumenshein house and many of the other highlights of the Santa Fe - Taos area.

We don't have a price at the moment as we are still working with the airlines but I have a sign-up sheet and anyone who is interested in joining us will be contacted. We do need to know by June 3, as I will have to make deposits to hold the hotel rooms and the airline reservations. Any monies not used are returned.

Our Gillie trips are always so much fun so I do hope you will join us.

SHOP TALK

- Frances Whisman, Chair

The shop has been busy this past month with the Mother's Day sale on jewelry and the Native American Treasures Trunk Show. The Father's Day Sculpture sale is scheduled for June 13-15 with 25% off all bronze sculptures. No other discounts apply during this sale. Amanda has been marking down many items in the shop for shoppers to buy. Not all of the items are on the Sale Table so look for that "special item" that you have been watching. It might be on sale and the bargain you have been wanting.

Thank you to all the museum volunteers this past year for serving Gilcrease Museum and I look forward to working with the volunteers another year. It has been my pleasure to work with everyone this past

Shop Talk, Cont....

year and appreciate being asked to serve another year in this position.

To volunteer, feel free to contact me at:

frances.whisman@cox.net or 918-759-1131 (cell) or 918-224-8325 (home). Start your hours early in the year and earn your star.

Gillies Library News...

- Kathy Horne, Chair



This past Gillie year set a record for donations to our library. Due to the generosity of several Gillies, I added 107 books to our shelves!!

Please thank Bill Leutz, Chris McWaters, Don Pearson, Ruth Weston, and Maxine Zarrow for their gifts. This year's intern and docent classes were also very generous in the number of new books they purchased to honor their trainers.

A sampling of some of the new-to-us titles include:

Watercolors for the Birds of America by John James Audubon

The McKenney-Hall Portrait Gallery of American Indians by James D. Horan

Masters of Early Travel Photography by Rainer Fabian

Painting the Native World by Valerie K. Verzuh

In the next issue of *Smoke Signals*, Robert Sears, the new Library Chair, will highlight the books donated in May by this year's docent class in honor of Linda Harkey and Silvia Furgason.

We have a wonderful resource in our library collection, and my hope is that it will be well used this next year and that Robert is kept very busy reshelving books!

Mary Elliott's Gillie Story

“My parents, Dan and Neva Brannin moved to Tulsa in 1953 just before the bond issue for paying off Mr. Gilcrease's debt. They went to the museum to see what they were voting on and Mr. Gilcrease opened the door for them. That was the beginning of my parents' relationship with him and the museum.

My mother became a Gillie about 1973. So I grew up knowing about the museum and all that it offered the Tulsa area. I always enjoyed going there but it wasn't until I had a break in my nursing career in 1989 that I made a commitment to the museum. I took my training during my two month hiatus; coinciding exactly with the training time. I asked my mother if I could get into the training and thankfully I was accepted. Immediately following my Gillie training I took the additional training to become a docent. Mom and I were the first “Legacy” in the Gillie volunteers and we made the most of it.

My mother and I volunteered together in many capacities. Probably the most memorable for me was when we gave evening tours together. We also had a blast working Rendezvous; the two day event filled with multiple events including music, roping demonstrations and many, many more things. When my mother got pancreatic cancer in 2005 I stopped giving tours to care for her until her death in February 2006. Since that time I have continued to volunteer at the museum as a greeter, facilitator in the Kravis Discovery Center and now in the area of Development.

My mother bought a piece of property across the street from the Gilcrease property for a badly needed parking lot. It began as raw property and had been developed into a wonderful lot that is used by guests and during events. It is known as the Brannin Lot. I take great pride in parking there every time I come to the museum. Now, through a family foundation that my mother began, I, my three siblings and their four children have been able to give money to help continue her legacy of love for the museum. We are developing an endowment so that money will not be an issue in the future. Until that is done, we donate to make special projects happen. One of those projects came to fruition when we became aware of the need for new stools for seating during training. We donated to help make that happen which was a huge hit especially for those who knew her. Gilcrease has served as a grounding factor in my life when I have experienced strife. Such time include the death of my father in 1991, my divorce in 1995 and my mother's death in 2006. I take great pride in my volunteering at Gilcrease and will share my enthusiasm to anyone who will listen!”

Our thanks to Mary Elliot for agreeing to allow us to reprint this article she wrote for inclusion in a piece in the Broken Arrow Ledger.



The Gillies
Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History And Art
1400 Gilcrease Museum Road
Tulsa, OK 74127

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 2014

6 – <i>FMPOV</i>	Gallery 18	Noon
Dr. Duane King, “Chief John Ross and His Papers”		
12 – Exec. Comm. Mtg.	Gillies Lib.	10:00 a.m.
12 – Educ. Comm. Mtg.	Board Rm.	1:00 p.m.
13 – Board Meeting	Board Rm	9:30 a.m.
27 – <i>Allan Houser’s Sculpture and Drawings</i>		- closes

July 2014

No Docent Meeting This Month
No Board Meetings This Month

14 – <i>Rendezvous</i>	- closes
21 – <i>Gillies Art Show</i>	- opens

August 2014

7 – Exec. Comm. Mtg.	Gillies Lib.	10:00 a.m.
7 – Educ. Comm. Mtg.	Board Rm.	1:00 p.m.
8 – Board Mtg.	Board Rm.	9:30 a.m.
18 – <i>Gillies Art Show</i>		– closes
21 – Intern Coffee	Vista Rm	10:00 a.m.
22 – Docent Meeting	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
23 – <i>Alexander Hogue: An American Visionary</i>		
- <i>Paintings and Works on Paper</i>		- opens

Smoke Signals is published monthly except January and July for the Gillies, the volunteer service organization of the Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art.