



SMOKE SIGNALS

August, 2020

PRESIDENT'S POST

Gallimaufry – a confused jumble or medley of things. *The Gillies are experiencing a glorious gallimaufry of perceptions right now.* If your gallimaufry includes impatience, frustration, or sense of loss, welcome to the club. Me too! Luckily, we have Susan Neal's unwavering leadership to guide us and hopefully a little patience on our part.

I hope many of you were able to attend Susan's webinar, "Gilcrease Inside Out," this past Tuesday evening. During her delivery, she answered many of our questions about plans for the museum's design, move, and rebuild and answered even more questions submitted by members. Susan is always honest and straightforward when sharing, but she can't share what she doesn't know – this is where the Gillies' gallimaufry of perceptions and feelings enter. How will we? When will we? What will we? Where will we? Answers to all of these questions are still on the horizon. As Susan said, her focus now is to get the museum open and running while keeping the public and her staff safe. She wants Gillies to come back – just not yet. She will let us know when she thinks it is safe for us to be there. When that happens, the Executive Board will work with her to determine how our re-entry will proceed. Because Gillies work with the public and behind the scenes, our re-entry will most likely be staggered to accommodate the volunteer needs in individual service areas. This translates as we won't all return at the same time.

If you have visited with me since June, you have probably heard my tunnel analogy. We Gillies have all entered a tunnel, it's pitch-black, and we can't see where we are going. We know there is light at the end of the tunnel, we just can't see it, but rest assured - it will be dazzling light! All we have to do now is *be patient*. Easy, right? Not really. All of the Gillies I know are "go-getters" and being patient is not easy for go-getters. We love "our" museum. We want to be in it and be with our Gillies friends in it. And we will – just not yet.

Susan's webinar will be available sometime today at: gilcrease.org/members-only-virtual-events. Keep checking back if you don't see it now.

In Service to Gilcrease,

Alana Trisler

JUST TO REITERATE

*We have a few Gillies who do not receive emails, so this is a reprint
of the first page of the 7-24-20 Friday Footprints*

Three items in this article appear elsewhere due to their timely importance

Important Information for Gillies:

The Executive Committee met on July 22, 2020 via phone conference for the purpose of discussing and deciding how to move forward on several issues in order to keep you, the membership, informed. The museum's recent closure due to Covid-19 and current protocols guided all of our decisions. Here is the information we have available at this time:

Training of New Gillies – There will be no Intern and no Docent class training for the 2020-2021 Gillies membership year. We plan to stay in touch with the individuals who expressed an interest in becoming Gillies this year.

Gillies Hours for the 2020 - 2021 year – In accordance with our By Laws, Article III – Membership, Section 6 C, stating: *“An Active member in good standing who, because of extraordinary circumstances, is unable to complete the minimum Museum Hours requirement may be granted a waiver of that requirement;”* therefore, **the 30 hour requirement is waived for all Gillies**. In this time of Covid, “good standing” is defined as having your dues paid for the 2020 – 2021 year and keeping up with Gilcrease and Gillies information through emails and/or social media, and we encourage you to continue distance learning. In recognition of “hanging in there” all Gillies will receive a participation star or symbol (to be determined) for your badge at the end of this membership year.

Standards Review - With no tours possible through December at least, **no Docent will be reviewed until further notice**. This will not affect a Docent's standing - we will simply pick up where we left off when we are actively involved in giving tours.

2020 – 2021 Gillies Directory – The directory will be online only and accessible on the Gillies website. We will not publish a hard copy of the directory. Changes in members' information and status will be updated. All members with paid dues will be included in the directory which will be available on our website on September 18.

“Smoke Signals” – We are temporarily suspending the monthly newsletter. The August “Smoke Signals” will be the last newsletter published until Gillies are actively engaged in Museum activities once again. In the interim, all Gillies news will be reported in each “Friday's Footprints.”

TU Audit Classes - Stephanie Boulden, TU College of Arts and Sciences, reported to Judy Ungerman, our TU Audit Chair, that there will be no classes available to Audit for the upcoming Autumn semester at the University of Tulsa.

2019 – 2020 Stars for Badges – Kathe Crapster and Carol Stookey have the list of Gillies reaching 100 hours and will be mailing the stars to you within two weeks. We will let you know when they go out so you can be watching for them.

The Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art - "History" is one of the foundational concepts that embodies the museum. History informs all forward movement. The Gillies have history, too and as our organization faces the future and we look to serving the new Gilcrease, it seems only fitting that we take a look at where we have been as we prepare to move on. With this idea in mind, I have asked a group of extremely knowledgeable veteran Gillies to work on a history of the organization that adds to the story we now know. Pat Davidson, Beverly Wilcox, and Debbie Glass have been meeting and pouring over scrapbooks from the early days to mine for important tidbits. They have also reached out to other Gillies for help and clarification. We have no idea what our Gillies' space will be in the new building, so it is also important that we transfer our history to a digital record. The ultimate goal is to have our history available on our Gillies website. The following article is the first installment in this group's work. More installments will follow in future Friday Footprints.

Alana Trisler

GILLIES IN THE EARLY DAYS



Being a Gillie is being a part of a group committed to understanding man's cultural achievements and a desire to share that cultural appreciation with their fellow man.

The Gillies organization was founded in 1967, but a prior event should be mentioned. In 1966, Jean Devlin, a Museum Association board member recruited a group to volunteer to serve in the Gilcrease Museum information booth at the International Petroleum Exposition in Tulsa. Gillies continued to serve at the oil exposition shows in 1971 and 1976.

The volunteers that became the Gillies met in March 1967. At that time there was no formal organization, no by-laws, no dues, no minutes, no publicity, and no shortage of ideas. It was agreed that the emphasis would not be social. Requirements were a genuine love of Gilcrease and a willingness to work. Jean Devlin served as the first chairman. Other charter members were Marjorie Blocksom, Marion Bovaird, Janice Daniel, Beeb Gannaway, Kay Hardy, Patsy Lyon, Judi Mallory, Mildred Ladner, Nancy Patton, Ann Phenicie, Ellie Shaughnessy, and Joan Stauffer. Gilcrease Service Organization soon became shortened to Gillies. Janice Daniel had recently returned from a trip to Scotland and Ireland where the word Gillie means guide. A Gillie is the person who guides you to the choicest hunting or fishing, hence Gillies would guide one through galleries of art, artifacts, and historic documents.

During the first year, the group felt its way very slowly with respect to what kind of volunteer service it could offer Gilcrease. Starting with public relations, the original group was dedicated to promoting the fame of the Museum and knowledge of its treasures, locally and nationally, and serving as hostesses to make visitors feel that their trips to the Museum had been productive.



(Cont. on next page)

In the second year, Gillies began receiving docent training. The Gillies began giving Museum tours for Tulsa Public Schools with the Junior League. Two years later, the Gillies accepted full responsibility of the tour presentation. The Gillies have always reserved the right to select their programs and services with final approval from the Museum director.

In September 1968, Gillies committees were Membership, Rotunda Furnishings, a committee to explore a Spring Art Show as a fundraiser, Gift Shop, Docent Services, and all Gillies served on Hospitality, which was on call. There were six Gillies available as docents for Tulsa Public Schools. Yearly dues were \$2.50.

Gillies have never been dedicated to meeting for meeting's sake. Early bylaws provided for four regular meetings a year, including a Spring luncheon to honor the graduating interns.

In 1972, the Gillies hosted Tulsa Public Schools Elementary Art Show. When the Museum Association set up the Gift Shop, Gillies were quick to volunteer as salesclerks and stock room workers. From handling a few postcards, a few prints, and the Museum's magazine, the Gift Shop has grown into a mammoth operation and is a major source of revenue for the Museum Association. Service areas were added in the Library and the Association office. Through the years, new service areas have been added, some short term, and others have continued. Gillies have aided in registering the collection, served at the information desk, and given regularly scheduled summer and Sunday tours. When Tulsa Public Schools stopped coming to the Museum on a regular basis, slide programs were taken to the schools. (First Visit through Any Given Child – Tulsa was not implemented until 2013.)

Keeping abreast of social change, this once all woman's organization, welcomed men into the intern class of 1978. Between the years 1979- 1992, Art, Anthropology, Reception Desk, Registration, Speaker's Bureau, School Slides, and Garden Docents service areas were added. To be continued ...

Compiled by Pat Davidson, Beverly Wilcox, and Debbie Glass, from original documents written by Margie Theriot, Vallee Kidd, Eunice Myall and newspaper articles from the scrapbook.

The Executive Committee is beginning work on the 2020 -2021 Gillies Directory.

If you have any changes to your information, please email or call **Kathe Crapster** at kathecrapster@gmail.com or call her at **918-924-9182**. All changes must be submitted to Kathe by **August 15th**. The 2020-2021 Gillies Directory will be online only.

Remember Gillies: This is the last Smoke Signals until Gillies resume activities at the museum.

Going forward, all Gillies communication will be published in the weekly

Friday Footprints



Stars, stars, stars! Gillies, earning 100 service hours in 2019 – 2020 should be receiving their stars in a week or two. They will be arriving via snail mail.

GILLIES DUES FOR 2020-2021

Dale Brown, Treasurer

Active Gillies/Interns - \$30

Associate Gillies - \$35

Please make check payable to "The Gillies"

mail to:

Dale Brown

9406 S. 73rd E. Place

Tulsa, OK 74133

Note: Gillie dues are not the same as Gilcrease Museum Membership Dues.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Get well card sent to: Erna Schneider

Sympathy card sent to: Martha Hughes - death of sister-in-law

Card and Contribution delivered to: Donna Gainey

If you do not want a notice to appear in the *Smoke Signals* newsletter or Friday Footprints that you received a get-well card, please contact the Gillies Secretary. Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email), as well as news about a Gillie who is ill, to Kathy Horne
918-747-4716 kchorne49@gmail.com

GILLIES (AND MORE!) IN THE GARDENS!

Photography by Dana Simon

On Wednesday, June 17th, Julie Gentz, our Gardens Chair, invited Gillies to assemble at the museum to “gambol” through the gardens – my word, not hers! I don’t think there was any actual playful running and jumping about, but a small group of intrepid Gillies answered the call and assembled to experience our glorious gardens - with adequate social distancing of course. And as the pictures show, they were not the only ones enjoying Gilcrease that day. ... Alana Trisler



L to R Tom Duncan, Carol Stookey, Alan Jarvis, Ron Young, Julie Gentz



Cabbage and tomato
from the Colonial
Garden



Family enjoys a break in the
Gillies Garden

Exhibit updates

I Witness Culture: Frank Buffalo Hyde — through Jan. 17, 2021

Memories & Inspiration — closing August 2, 2020

Mexican Modernism: Revolution & Reckoning — opening August 29, 2020

Upcoming

Weaving History into Art: the Enduring Legacy of Shan Goshorn
October 9, 2020 — March 28, 2021

DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ... NOW ONLINE

The list of Distance Learning Opportunities has been reorganized and revised, and is now available for easy access on the Gillies Website, under “The Gillies Organization”

<http://thegillies.org/Organizational%20Docs.html>

The links to learning sites are organized in five broad categories: **Aggregated Sites, Artists, Gilcrease Museum, History, Indigenous Cultures, and Institute/Museum Production**. Under each category, the sites are alphabetized by either name, Museum or title. We will be adding to this list as often as learning sites are identified, so please come back and visit this resource often, to see what’s new and of interest.

Don’t forget – volunteer hours apply when you watch presentations from the Distance Learning List, just like you’re in the Museum. Videos over 30 minutes count as an hour, so be sure to log your hours into Volgistics. Since we can’t be there in person, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn, observe, and earn hours!

If you find educational opportunities that you think might be helpful to Gillies, please e-mail Robin Leech (robinleech@hotmail.com) with your suggestion. After Executive Board approval, we’ll add your site to our growing list.

Enjoy!

The Gillies Website
www.thegillies.org
Log-in: thegillies
Password: Gilcrease2014

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All events and dates are subject to change.

The Museum is open Wednesday - Sunday 11:00AM-4:00PM. Timed tickets are required. The Gilcrease Store will offer 25% off jewelry and bronzes (July 22-August 5). No additional discounts apply. You may shop online using the code "welcomeback." The restaurant is closed.

August

5	Museum Store	Jewelry Sale ends
13	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom Conference
13	Education Committee Meeting	Communication via email
14	Board of Directors Meeting	(changed from the 7th) via email
15	Smoke Signals deadline for September	Publication suspended*

September

4	Docent Meeting	Cancelled
10	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom Conference
10	Education Committee Meeting	Postponed - communication via email
11	Board of Directors Meeting	To be determined
15	Smoke Signals deadline for October	Publication suspended
18	General Membership Meeting	Cancelled
18	Gilcrease Forum	Cancelled

*Publication of Smoke Signals is being temporarily succeeded by Friday Footprints, until volunteer activities resume at the Museum. You may submit items of interest to Alana Trisler.