



SMOKE SIGNALS

September 2015

Successful Challenges

By Dana Simon

Gillies President

No matter who, what, when or where we are, it seems as if challenges keep coming our way, and somehow we Gillies rise to the occasion, and we are amazingly successful.

Such has been the case this year in the development of a terrific new Gillies Intern class, which has been formed, thanks to the organized leadership of Vice President Linda Harkey. She, with the help of a few other Gillies, conducted a series of interviews with many candidates. We now have 33 new Interns who will begin their training on September 9, guided by Intern Education Chair Sharon Patch. Good luck, Interns, and work hard!

Another challenge arose for Gillies' University of Tulsa Audit Chair Joe Tipton, who successfully placed four Gillies in two fall classes – Anthropology 3093, "American Art," with professor Kirsten Olds, and Anthropology 3023, "Forensic Anthropology" with Dr. Bob Pickering.

A successful challenge for Gillies Art Show Chair Maxine Mackey was the creation of this summer's month-long show. Eleven Gillies artists displayed some 41 works in the museum, including a variety of mediums from pastels, photography, acrylic paintings, metal-work jewelry, baskets, painted clay plates to collages.

More challenges are ahead for Archives Chair Deanna Storm. She has accepted a two-year extension to her term as Director for the Mountain Plains Region for the National Docent Symposium Council. Deanna will attend this year's national symposium in Cincinnati from September 17 through 20. She also plans to attend the next symposium to be held in Montreal in 2017. This year's theme is "Bridge to the Past, Path to the Future." There will be "breakout" sessions on touring the visually impaired, people with memory loss, homeschoolers or preschoolers, the use of technology in Docent training/continuing education/evaluation, and scheduling.

It's never been more important for museum staff and Docents to collaborate in developing successful programs for today's audiences. The Gillies will look forward to hearing Deanna's report when she returns.

A final challenge for last year's Nominating Committee was to fill a position left by Gillie Joe Jahraus, who died on May 1. Chair David Robertson reconvened his committee. The new 2015-2016 Nominating Committee is now comprised of Chair Jim Walker, Gertrud Schmidt, Beverly Wilcox, Sally Tucker, Lyon Morehead, 1st Alternate Nancy Kingery, and 2nd Alternate Dick Clark.

Gillies, keep up the good work, and

Keep Sharing Your Knowledge

Gillies Coffee, Meeting, Luncheon, Forum to be Thursday, September 18

– Send Your Check In Now –

Gillies, make your reservations for the General Membership Luncheon to be held on Friday, September 18, by sending your check for \$14.00 to:

Gillies Treasurer Marsha McElroy

5206 S. Harvard Ave. #331

Tulsa, OK. 74135

Checks should be made out to "*The Gillies.*" The deadline for payment is Friday, September 4.

The luncheon will be preceded by a Coffee in the Vista Room at 10:00 a.m., followed by the General Membership Meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Gilcrease Auditorium, where you will pick up your new *2015-2016 Gillies Handbook*.

The luncheon, prepared by Chef Geoff and his staff, will be served at noon.

MENU:

Lemon Thyme Roasted Chicken Breast

Wild Rice Pilaf

Fresh Fruit Salad

Gilcrease House Salad

Grilled Summer Squash

Lemon Cake

Chocolate Bread Pudding

Note: If you have a special dietary need, please contact Alan Jarvis 918-298-0997.

Don't forget the Gilcrease Forum at 1:00 p.m. with Executive Director James Pepper Henry presenting "The Future of Gilcrease."

"This promises to be an enlightening and interesting talk, both for the Gillies and for our guests from the museum community and the general public," said Gilcrease Forum Chair Teresa Adwan. "Pepper Henry has said he will 'absolutely' take questions from the audience."

His presentation will be in addition to his regular report to the Gillies at our General Meeting at 11:00 a.m., but his Forum speech will be both broader and more detailed.

All Gillies are urged to come, hear and see the new vision of Gilcrease, and to encourage interested friends and family to attend.

Docent Corner

Get Ready for Another Busy Year

By Sondra Mullins

Docent Chair

It looks like this is going to be very busy year again for the Docents.

We will continue the *First Visit* tour for the Tulsa Public Schools under the *Any Given Child* program. The tour will be in *On Common Ground*, the same galleries as last year, with a few modifications.

An email will be sent to all the Docents regarding the changes sometime around the first part of September.

A new *Small Talk* tour is being developed in the *Enduring Spirit* galleries. Thanks to Silvia Furgason, Sharon Patch and Kathy Horne, who will be writing this tour. Training for this tour will be on Monday, October 19, at 3:00 p.m.

Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley will be a tour for 4th grade and up. The exhibit starts on Sunday, October 4, and will run through January 3, 2016, in the Getty galleries. Thanks to Rod Schneider who has agreed to write the tour.

At our Docent Meeting in Gallery 18 on Friday, October 2, Mindy Besaw, co-curator of the *John Mix Stanley* exhibit will walk the Docents through the exhibit. She also is scheduled to give a presentation at *From My Point of View* that same day at noon. Ms. Besaw is a curator at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas. She helped curate the Gilcrease exhibition.

If you have always thought you would like to be a Docent, this is the year for you!

The Provisional Docent class starts on Monday, October 19, and will continue through Wednesday, November 18, on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. That's only 10 sessions.

If you are interested please give me a call at (918) 296-5064.

Outdoor Treasure

As we embark on autumn, Gillies are encouraged to take advantage of the milder weather, and saunter among the various sculptures that dot the Gilcrease Museum

grounds. Climb down the stone steps into Stuart Park. Follow the paved path all the way west to discover a bronze treasure by sculptor Jay O'Melia. "Pioneer Woman" stands larger than life. Clad in a long dress with an apron, she is a strong, formidable figure who seems to be looking long and hard off into the distance, perhaps for her mate. She cups one hand over her eyes. Symbolically, she might be looking toward her own future in an unsettled and hostile land. With a rooster by her side, she pauses from her butter churn. Her straw hat is tied on around her neck and flung over her back. She embodies the strength and courage of America's early frontier women. A nearby rough-hewn tool shed represents the first structure the

pioneers would have constructed in order to protect their tools that were vital for their survival. O'Melia, 88, Tulsa sculptor, painter and printmaker, is revered internationally. This 1998 sculpture was donated by the Fred D. Marvel family.



Museum Store Window

By Patti Kastl

Everyone should browse through the Gilcrease Museum store in between Gillie/Docent assignments.

New items pop up continually. Amanda and Melanie visit various markets throughout the year to restock and diversify the inventory. Relevant merchandise for special exhibits also is on display. The children's section, books and jewelry are always well stocked.

There are open Gillies slots on the store calendar. Become a "floater" if you want to test the experience. Even on a quiet day, you can peruse the bookshelves to supplement your Gillie knowledge of art, history, Native American creations and much more.

Artistic element of the day:

Dragonfly - connected with water and springtime, fertility, renewal; considered a messenger. Find your lucky dragonfly under glass in the store adorned with colorful stones or in the form of a simple piece of etched silver.

Photo by Rick Paschal

Controlled Chaos in the Museum During the Great Flood of 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: This account followed on the heels of the torrential downpour of rain Tulsa received on July 9. Galleries affected had formerly displayed Southwest and Mexican artworks. Fortunately, many of those artworks already had been removed in anticipation of moving the anthropology collection up from the third floor for temporary storage. But, the Kids Site was still intact, as was the entire Olaf Wieghorst Studio. Other nearby storage areas in the center of Gilcrease Museum also were affected. Consequently, plans have been put on hold for an upcoming major third-floor renovation. Gillies, who were giving tours on the museum's main floor at the time, efficiently herded visitors and children out the doors. In the end, floors and walls were damaged. Blame pointed to some improperly sealed drain pipes. Later, it was overheard that during the day's mad scramble Executive Director Jim Pepper Henry had hastily, and wisely, grabbed the Diego Rivera that still happened to be hanging on one wall.

**By Nancy Setter
Anthropology Volunteer**

As far as I know, Sunni Wager and I were the only two Gillies involved in the rescue of artifacts from the Kids Site and Weighorst, and in Storage.

Downstairs, we cut plastic sheets and handed them up to museum interns (and Donna Gainey) standing on ladders to cover the stacks of artifacts, in case the leaks continued through the floor and then through our [Anthropology's] ceiling.

I helped in the cart brigade, slogging through water in the Kids Site, running things down to Conservation, and helping load carts, while staff removed things quickly from Weighorst in case that flooded, too.

There was no power in that hallway so people had flashlights and there were a few worklights on stands while Housekeeping manned many wet-vacs trying to suck up the water.

Towel barricades tried to keep water out of Helmerich Hall and *Ancient Americas*. We were in 8 inches of water in the Kids Site at first.

I saw no other Gillies throughout the museum after an intercom message requested all guests to the front entrance, although some may have been there working somewhere. I really appreciate that Mr. Pepper Henry acknowledged us, we were pooped! It was understated chaos, however, it is correct to say that the artifacts were preserved.

Hooray for Summer Tour Program Docents!

**By Silvia Furgason
Education/Public Programs Chair**

Some 593 children are now aware that all super heroes are not make-believe.

They know we have great super heroes in our history, not the least of whom is Thomas Gilcrease.

Face-Time with Super Heroes, this year's Gillies Summer Tour Program, has come to a successful close. Thirty-eight Docents made historical people come alive as super heroes.

Twenty-three tours took place in June and July for 44 summer camps, day care centers, child development centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, and individual families.

Thank you Summer Tour Program writers and Docents for making it possible for these groups to take part in a quality summertime activity at Gilcrease Museum.

Speaking of Gilcrease Now Open to Docent Volunteers

New Docents are now trained to assist with *Speaking of Gilcrease*, and some new programs are being implemented this fall.

Are you looking for a new area to volunteer?

Or, if you know of a group or facility that wants a program about the Gilcrease Museum collection?

Feel free to contact Speaking of Gilcrease chair Frances Whisman at (918) 759-1131 or frances.whisman@cox.net or Tour Coordinator Donna Gainey (918) 596-2782 or donna-gainey@utulsa.edu.

Gillies Library Roundup

– New Acquisition –

The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky, Gaylord Torrence, Author

By Robert W. Sears

Gillies Library Chair

Considered to be the first comprehensive survey celebrating the art of the Plains Indians, the book *The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky* is the 2014-2015 Gillies Memorial Book, presented in memory of Gillies and their family members who have passed away in the previous year.

Many artistic forms and mediums are represented in this highly illustrated volume: paintings and drawings; sculpture in stone, wood, antler and shell; porcupine quill and glass bead embroidery; feather work; and ornamental clothing.

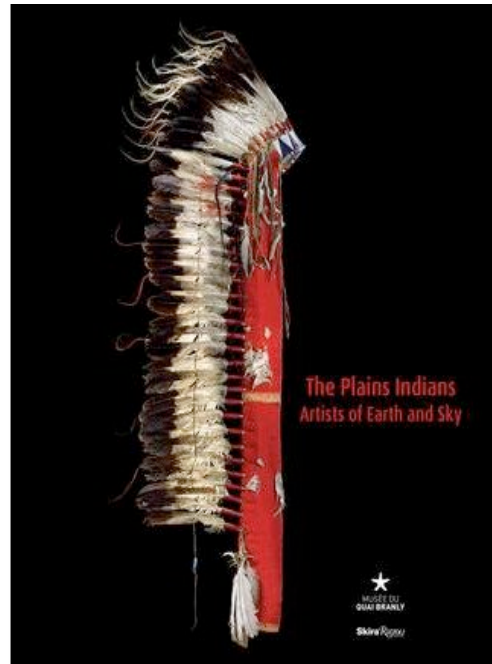
Works from both European and North American collections are included, ranging from a 2000-year-old Human Effigy stone pipe to a beaded adaptation of designer shoes (2011).

Many Plains tribal nations are highlighted in this exhibition publication, including the Osage, Quapaw, Pawnee, Kiowa and Comanche.

The book was published in conjunction with recent exhibitions at the Branly Musee in Paris, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The book contains art from six countries and 60 museums, including Gilcrease Museum and the Philbrook Museum of Art.

This sensational new book is now on the shelves in the Gillies Library for use by the Gillies.



Kravis Discovery Center

Come On Down

By Dolores Frenier

KDC Chair



When was the last time you came on down to the Kravis Discovery Center?

Well, that's too long.

If it was during training to become a Gillie, it's time to come down again.

Discover the treasures in the drawers and on the shelves.

Do you know what a discoidal is? Come look it up. The next items are in Drawer 6E. Come look!

Welcome to our new desk facilitators, Kathe Crapster and Diana Stephenson.

See you in the Center discovering!

Please Take Note

~ Kathy Horne, Secretary

Corrections:

A sympathy card was sent to Bob Quintana in early June on the passing of his wife, Jo Ann, but not reported in the August *Smoke Signals* issue.

Alana Trisler's email is: alanat@aol.com

Change in email:

Betty Murdock – bmurdock1012@att.net

Changes in membership status:

Resignations – Rosalind Cook, Janis Haynes
Bill Leutz, and Chris McWaters

Deaths:

Pete Vorenkamp – August 10, 2015

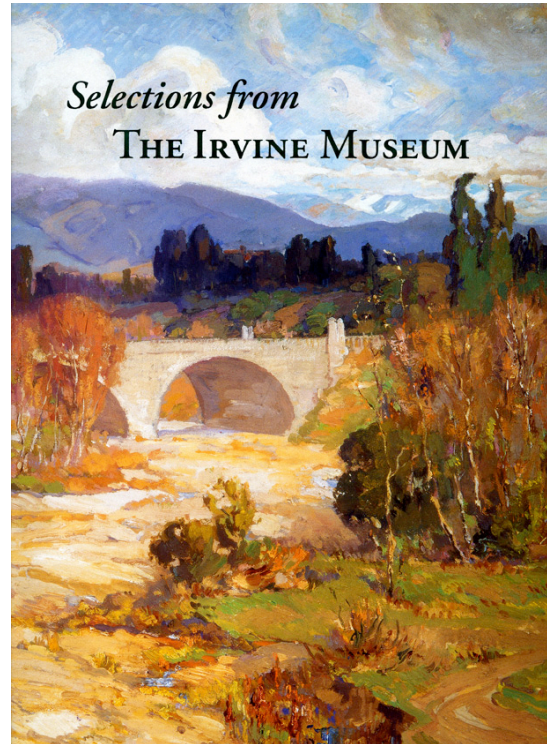
Sympathy cards sent to:

Family of Pete Vorenkamp
Pat Davidson – death of brother
Teresa Adwan – death of aunt
James Reed – death of mother
Dan Breunsbach – death of sister

Thinking of you cards sent to:

Betty Apker
Alan and Karen Jarvis

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email), as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary Kathy Horne at 918-747-4716 or kchorne49@gmail.com



The current visiting exhibition, *California Impressionism: Selections from the Irvine Museum*, is on display in the Gilcrease Getty galleries. The show is scheduled to close on September 6. The exhibition focuses on California plein air, a genre that employs light and color. Many of the works are landscapes that express the “democratic” spirit and the artists’ penchant for portraying genre – the everyday character of American life. This book featuring some of the colorful works from the Irvine Museum is on sale now in hardback for \$50.00 or softback for \$25.00 in the Gilcrease Museum Store.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 2015

2 – Development Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
3 – Standards Comm. Mtg.	Board Room	10:00 a.m.
6 – <i>California Impressionism: Selections from the Irvine Museum</i>		
Exhibition	Getty Galleries	Closes
9 – Intern Training	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
10 – Exec. Comm. Mtg.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
10 – Education Comm. Mtg.	Board Room	1:00 p.m.
10 – <i>Smoke Signals</i> October 2015 newsletter deadline		
11 – Board of Directors Mtg.	Board Room	9:30 a.m.
11 – From My Point of View	Gallery 18	noon
Speaker: Mark Dolph, Director of Volunteer Services and long-time jazz enthusiast – <i>Giant Steps and Milestones: An Appreciation of Jazz Through the Lens of William Gottlieb</i>		
14, 16 – Intern Training	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
18 – Gillies Coffee	Gallery 18	10:00 a.m.
18 – Gillies Membership Mtg.	Auditorium	11:00 a.m.
18 – Gillies Luncheon	Vista Room	noon
18 – Gilcrease Forum	Auditorium	1:00 p.m.
18 – <i>Native American Bolo Ties: Vintage & Contemporary Artistry</i>		
Exhibition	Ancient Americas	Opens
20 – Funday Sunday	Gilcrease Museum	noon
21, 23, 28, 30 – Intern Training	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.

October 2015

2 – Docents Meeting	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
2 – From My Point of View	Gallery 18	noon
The “Doomed Indian” – <i>John Mix Stanley and American Perception</i>		
Speaker: Mindy Besaw, Crystal Bridges Museum curator		
4 – <i>Painted Journeys: The Art of John Mix Stanley Exhibition</i>		
	Getty Galleries	Opens
5, 7 – Intern Training	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
7 – Development Comm.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
8 – Executive Comm. Mtg.	Gillies Library	10:00 a.m.
8 – Education Comm. Mtg.	Board Room	1:00 p.m.
9 – Board of Directors Mtg.	Board Room	9:30 a.m.
11 – <i>On 52nd Street: The Jazz Photography of William P. Gottlieb</i>		
Exhibition	Gallery 4	Closes
12 – Intern Training / Luncheon	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
18 – <i>Native American Bolo Ties: Vintage & Contemporary Artistry</i>		
Exhibition	Ancient Americas	Opens
19, 21 – Provisional Docent Training		
	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.
22, 23 – Gillies Trip to Red River Museum, Idabel		8:00 a.m.
25 – <i>2015 Collectors’ Reserve: American Art Exhibition</i>		Opens
26, 28 – Provisional Docent Training		
	Gallery 18	9:30 a.m.

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