

Friday Footprints

"Every man must leave a track and it might as well be a good one."

-Thomas Gilcrease

August 25, 2023



Sherds (pottery fragments) from Cahokia, like these from the Online Collection, will be displayed in the *Early Cities* gallery in the new museum.

"How sweet the silent backward tracings!

*The wanderings as in dreams—the meditation of old times resumed—
their loves, joys, persons, voyages."*

--Walt Whitman, "Memories"

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This summer I visited the Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor's Center just outside Tupelo, Mississippi. While there, I watched a film about the Natchez Trace called *Traces Through Time*. It began with a poem by Walt Whitman about feeling the past in the roads we travel. When I got home, I found another poem by Whitman (above) that expressed my feelings even better. I often find myself imagining the "backward tracings" of the places I visit and wondering about the "loves, joys, persons, voyages" of the people who have lived there.

Our August Gillies/Docents meeting brought that poem to mind again, as Gilcrease Associate Curator of Contemporary Culture and Community, Jenny Keller, spoke about the great early city, Cahokia, and its artifacts that will be displayed in the new museum. The sherds from Cahokia, our art works this month, represent vessels that were thoughtfully created and used by the citizens of the great city a thousand years ago. As Jenny said to me in an email, "I think they [the sherds] are so special. They may not be large, but when they were whole, they were things that helped to take care of others and give us a glimpse into how lovely they once were."



Jenny Keller, Associate Curator of Contemporary Culture and Community.

John Erling's presentation at the September 15 Forum, "The Importance of Oral History," will surely educate us about the "loves, joys, persons, voyages" of the Oklahomans he has interviewed for *Voices of Oklahoma*. Look for a list of some of his artist interviews later in this newsletter. As we celebrate the passing of the *Improve Our Tulsa* bond issue that will help to make the new Gilcrease Museum a reality, I know we all will be thinking about the "backward tracings" of our museum, all the people that have walked on its land and through its doors, and all the visitors to come.

....Becky Hatchett

Docents' Corner

There will be no *September* Gillies/Docents meeting. We hope to see you at our next meeting in HCAR on *October 6th*.

In the meantime, please join us at the General Membership Meeting:

Friday, September 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Oklahoma Joe's, 6175 E. 61st St. Tulsa

- Alana Trisler, Docent Chair



**Mark your
Calendar**

Friday, September 15 – General Membership Meeting and Forum, 10:00 a.m. at Oklahoma Joe's, 6175 E. 61st St., Tulsa. John Erling will be speaking on "*The Importance of Oral History*".

Friday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. Gillies/Docents meeting in HCAR.

All Gillies are invited to the monthly Gillies/Docents meeting.

MESSAGES

Sympathy Card sent to:

Nancy Kingery on the death of her husband Eric

Denise Rock on the death of her mother

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to the Gillies Secretary Lynn Cyert at cyert@nsuok.edu.

Gillies General Membership Meeting and Forum
Friday, September 15, 2023
Oklahoma Joe's BBQ
6175 East 61st Street, Tulsa
(Enter the banquet room through the back door)

- 9:30 Meet and Greet (Hospitality will provide refreshments.)
- 10:00 Call to order; Kathe Horne will serve as Parliamentarian
Approval of the minutes of the General Membership Meeting, May 19
Secretary's Membership Report – Lynn Cyert
Treasurer's Report – Tom Duncan
Auditor's Report – Bob McCullough
- 10:20 Update from Susan Neal
- 10:45 "The Importance of Oral History" – John Erling
- 12:00 Lunch

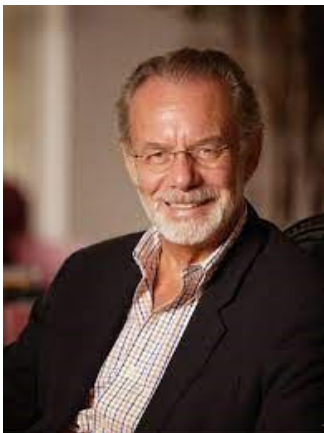
Buffet Menu for September 15 General Meeting

Chopped Brisket
Salad
Fried Okra Barbecue Beans
Water Iced Tea

Price: \$19.00 (includes tax and gratuity)
If a soft drink is wanted, it will have to be purchased by the individual.

RSVP by September 12 to channonclark@prodigy.net

Forum Speaker John Erling



After a 30-year career as host of a morning talk show on Tulsa's KRMG, John Erling "retired" in 2005. An idea he got in 2008 became *Voices of Oklahoma*, an online oral history project that preserves Erling's interviews with Oklahomans, some famous and some not. Two books, *Voices of Oklahoma I* and *II* have been published. He will be our speaker for the September Forum on "*The Importance of Oral History*."

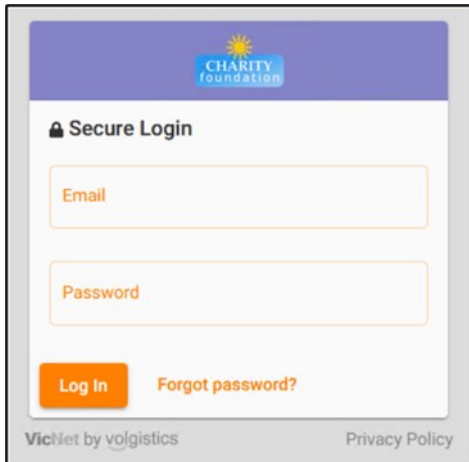
To get a taste of *Voices of Oklahoma*, read "[Artists of Oklahoma](#): The Work & Legacy of Famous OK Painters," on the Voices of Oklahoma website. Four Oklahoma artists are featured—Enoch Kelly Haney, Charles Banks Wilson, Jay O'Meilia, and Woody Crumbo—with links to their interviews with John Erling.

Thank you to Karen Morris for sharing this link and to Dale Brown for securing John Erling as our Forum speaker.

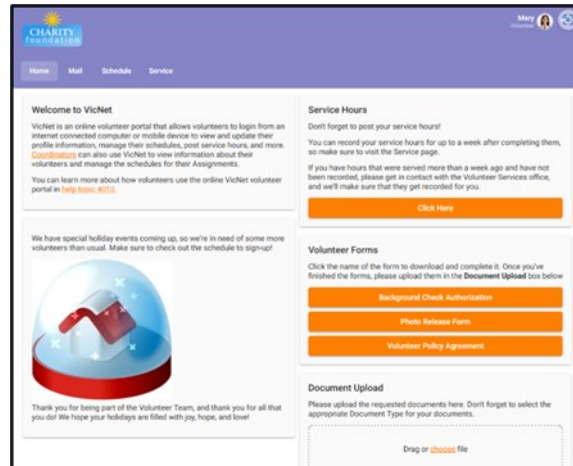
Sneak Peek at the New Version of VicNet

Volgistics recently informed us that VicNet, the online volunteer portal that lets us review and post our service hours, has been replaced with a new version. The Legacy version that we presently have will be retired on September 27. Our current setup and records have been transferred to the new version. You will still be able to post your own service hours using the VicNet portal. It's just going to look a little different, and a few decisions and customizations will have to be made so that the portal looks and performs as we want it to.

Below are images showing what the new portal will look like. These images display a generic logo and organization. When our new portal is up and running, it will display the Gillies color and logo.



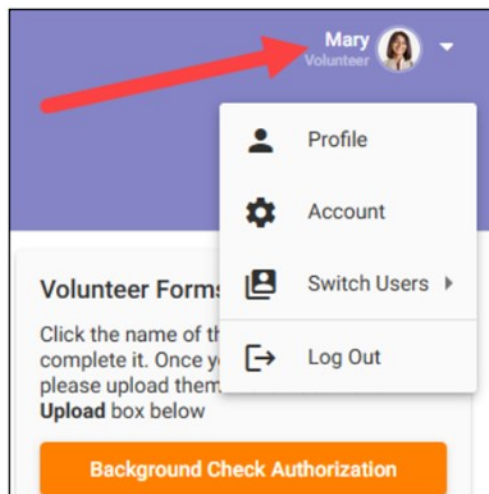
Login screen will be customized



The homepage you see will be similar to this.



You can navigate to your mailbox or service history from this banner at the top of the home page.



This is what your personalized screen will look like. You will be able to access your profile and account from the dropdown menu.

We will spend some time introducing you to the new portal at our Gillies/Docent meeting on October 6.

Gillies Travel - Daytrip to Bartlesville

Join fellow Gillies on a day trip to Bartlesville on Wednesday, September 20. We will have lunch and then to tour some floors of [the Price Tower](#). It is the only realized skyscraper designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. It was intended to house businesses, office spaces, and apartments.

We will meet at 11:45 a for lunch at the new [Love 66 Bistro](#) (Price Tower ground floor, 910 S. Dewey Ave., Bartlesville). Then at 1:30 we will have a special historical tour at 1:30 pm led in small groups by Price Connors and other Tower docents. The cost is \$18 plus whatever you spend for lunch. The historic tour is of the top 2-3 office floors plus the downstairs art gallery and lasts about 1 1/2 hours. Our total group will be limited to 15 people. There are elevators! No large handbags permitted on the tour, of course. Free parking is plentiful around the Tower.

Saturday, Sept. 20,

910 S. Dewey Ave., Bartlesville, OK

11:45 a.m. for Lunch, 1:30-3 p.m. for Tour

For questions and to reserve a spot (bring a plus one), message Karen Morris at

karenTmorris33@gmail.com OR text to 918-557-2711. Please include your name and phone number (for purposes of car pooling) and if you are bringing a guest.

Staff Spotlight/Membership Memo



J. J. Cody Fox was in the Staff Spotlight at our Gillies/Docents meeting on August 4.

Here she is, speaking with Karen Morris after the meeting.

J.J. was recently hired as Member and Donor Engagement Specialist at Gilcrease. At the meeting she spoke about her background and what her job entails, then explained some improvements to the membership process for Gillies. She will be contacting those who need to renew, but these links will be available on the Gillies website as well as here in *Friday Footprints*.

Gillie Individual Memberships - ~~\$50~~ \$30 for Gillies

<https://my.gilcrease.org/donate/i/indgillie>

Gillie Family Memberships - ~~\$65~~ \$40 for Gillies

<https://my.gilcrease.org/donate/i/famgillie>

You can see additional Membership Levels [here](#). (Any membership purchased at the "Friend" Level or above is eligible for the Reciprocal program.) You can see more about the Reciprocal Program with a list of participating museums [here](#).

Article III, Section 1 of our Bylaws states that "All Gillies must be members of the Museum." While our Gillies dues have been waived for the time being, our Gilcrease Museum dues have not. Gilcrease needs our financial support now more than ever.

Following is the link to the live camera showing the construction site for the new Gilcrease Museum from the top of the HCAR building.

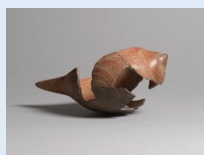
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Did You Know?

If you were unable to attend Jenny Keller's presentation at the Gillies/Docents meeting on August 4, you may not know these facts about the city of Cahokia.

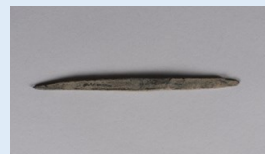
- Cahokia was established near the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers and was inhabited for centuries but was at its height of influence and population from about 1200-1350 CE. At its zenith, the city covered about 6 square miles and its population of 40,000 was larger than London's at the same time.
- The historic site lies across the Mississippi River from present-day St. Louis. It was the largest city in North America north of Tenochtitlán.
- The base of Monks Mound, the largest earthwork at Cahokia, is larger than the base of the big pyramid at Giza. Mound building was one of the shared features seen in Mississippian-era cities.
- Cahokia's location made it ideal for agriculture. The Early Cities gallery in the new museum will highlight the contributions of farming and agricultural innovations, as well as artistic creativity and innovation.
- Cahokia was well-connected to the vast expanse of trade networks that crisscrossed North America. The trade markets at Cahokia were particularly known for marine shell and copper. People travelled long distances for these materials and other trade goods as well as for cultural events. A mural with a map of trade routes and other early North American cities will be highlighted in the Early Cities (name TBD) gallery.
- In creating the interpretive plan for the Cahokia gallery, Gilcrease staff consulted and collaborated with the Dhegiha, some of the present-day descendants of the people of Cahokia. The Dhegiha have shared cultural histories but maintain separate, distinct identities today and include the Kaw Nation, Osage Nation, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Quapaw Tribe.



Red ceramic whelk shell effigy cup from Cahokia in the Gilcrease collection



Monks Mound at Cahokia



Long copper pin from Cahokia in the Gilcrease collection



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