

Friday Footprints

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

-Thomas Gilcrease

September 29, 2023



"Nature's Treats" by Virginia Stroud

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."

.....Henry David Thoreau

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This painting by Virginia Stroud made me think of seedtime and harvest and led me to this quote by Henry David Thoreau. The harvesting of sunflower seeds comes in August or September, according to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. Of course, not all seeds are enjoyed as treats, because some must be held back to be planted in the spring for another round of flowering and harvesting.

What an apt analogy for the Gillies, as individuals and as an organization! Think of all the “seeds” we have planted that have come to harvest and all those we continue to plant at Gilcrease Museum:

- storing, cataloging, indexing, and digitizing portions of the museum's collection;
- welcoming visitors at the front desk and in the museum store and giving them their first impression of the museum;
- producing a newsletter to keep Gillies and museum personnel informed of projects, upcoming events, and trips;
- organizing and presenting the biannual Forum;
- scanning, archiving, and indexing past *Gilcrease Journals* and *Magazines* to preserve them for generations to come;
- training new Gillies for over five decades about the art and history of the museum;
- providing continuing education to the Gillies, which keeps the group up to date, motivated, and inspired to spread the love of art and history;
- sharing the treasures and stories of the Gilcrease collection with thousands of adults and children through tours, the Kravis Discovery Center, summer programs, and other public events;
- welcoming, hosting, and staffing celebratory and special events at Gilcrease;
- planning and carrying out the Any Given Child program with Tulsa Public Schools;
- gifting the Shan Goshorn basket, “Gold ‘n’ Values”;
- reaching out to the community through Speaking of Gilcrease and Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood;
- building and sharing our library and historic organizational artifacts with scholars through the HCAR Library.

If we seeded nothing more than an appreciation of art in the minds of all the children we have introduced to Gilcrease Museum, that would be enough, but we hope their experience may make them future supporters of the museum and lead to more seasons of planting and harvesting.

And while we are being held back for a time by the museum closure, we have planted and will continue to plant seeds that will come to harvest in a beautiful new museum. Expect wonders!

Thank you to Kathe Crapster for her collaboration on this letter.

.....Becky Hatchett

For Your Information

- The new version of **Volgistics (VicNet)** is now in effect. You should still be able to gain access to your profile and record service hours, but you will notice some changes. Nancy Hammond, IT Chair, will introduce us to the new program at the October 6 Gillies/Docents meeting at HCAR.
- A small group of Gillies had the unexpected opportunity of taking a **hard hat tour** of the new museum construction on Friday, September 29. We hope to be able to schedule another tour in the future if there is interest. Please contact Becky Hatchett at bhatchett5183@sbcglobal.net if you would like for your name to be put on a list for a possible future tour.



The most recent photograph of the museum construction. What a view!
....From Susan Neal's Facebook page

For Your Information...continued:

- Gillie Marsha Gulick has been attending an **online painting class** from [Ali Kay's Studio](#). Marsha writes, "It's a wonderful class that takes you step by step through each painting. All skill levels welcome. The main techniques are how to use underpainting to brighten and add depth to your work. The loose expressive style is what I have been searching for since I started painting many years ago. I'm so happy I found this class!" Here is a recent painting that she completed as an assignment for the class.



- Celebrate **National Hispanic Heritage Month** from September 15-October 15. National Hispanic Heritage Month "honors the culture and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans, [celebrating] heritage rooted in all Latin American countries." See more information from the Library of Congress, National Archives, National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian, and the National Park Service at <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>.

Find related articles on the Gillies website under Learning Resources.

- On the Learning Resources page, see entries under
 - Mexican Artists
 - Mexico/Mesoamerica



Gilcrease Journal issues are listed under Publications on the Learning resources page. See these particular issues for related articles.

- Volume 9, [Summer 2001](#), pgs. 50-61, "Hispanic Legacy at Gilcrease Museum"
- Volume 13, [Spring/Summer 2005](#), Theme: Peru
- Volume 15, [Winter 2007](#), Theme: Mesoamerica
- Volume 20, [Summer/Fall 2013](#), Theme: Angles of View
- Volume 25, [Spring 2018](#), Theme: Immigrant Artists

Our IT Committee has worked since the summer to be sure that all issues of Gilcrease publications, as well as the indexes to all these publications, are available on the Gillies website. IT Chair Nancy Hammond has happily proclaimed that project completed!

Oral History



If you attended the General Membership Meeting and Forum on September 15, you were privileged to hear John Erling, long-time Tulsa radio broadcaster and interviewer, speak about the importance of oral history, both personal and historical. Beginning with a recorded interview of his father, a Nebraska farmer with Norwegian roots, Erling went on to share interviews he has conducted relating to Thomas Gilcrease, making the presentation very personal for us.



Gillie Mary Castro
with John Erling

After his Forum presentation Mr. Erling was asked where to get a list of questions for interviews. He suggested Google, which will probably provide questions for a wide variety of interview situations, but for a more specific resource, follow this [link](#) to Ancestry.com for a list of helpful family interview questions. Try answering a few of them yourself and have your children or grandchildren record the interview.

On September 26 several Gillies attended the annual Eddie Faye Gates Program at HCAR entitled "Capturing the Past: An Oral History Workshop." Co-led by Sarah Milligan and Dr. Autum Brown, professors at the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at the OSU Library, the workshop used the oral history interviews of Eddie Faye Gates as a model for planning and carrying out a community oral history project and provided guidance for everything from interview topics to equipment.

MESSAGES:

Death of a Former Gillie: Jenkin Lloyd Jones (Jenk), class of 2000-2001, passed away 8-23-2023.

Change of address: Ursula Ekren, new email address: ekrent@outlook.com

Get Well Card sent to: Robin Leach

Change of status: Susan Evans, resigned from the Gillies as she moved out of state.

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 TRAVEL

Film Screening: “Killers of the Flower Moon”

The Travel Committee is working with Gilcrease staff to arrange a film showing at Circle Cinema in Tulsa. We also hope to host a discussion immediately afterwards. Date and time to be announced soon! Expected cost: \$8.50 per person.

Whether you watch the film on your own or with friends or with fellow Gillies, here are some activities you could do to anticipate or enhance the experience.

- Read or reread the book by journalist David Grann.
- Listen to interviews connected to the film. Connect directly online to *Voices of Oklahoma* or by way of the website for the [Oklahoma Historical Society](#) or a podcast provider (such as [Spotify](#)). [Voices of Oklahoma](#) has a topic page where you can link to these four interviews:
 - Yancey Red Corn, Osage actor
 - Geoffrey Standing Bear, Osage principal chief and “Killers” actor
 - David Grann, journalist and author of “Killers of the Flower Moon”
 - Drs. Joe and Carol Conner, Fairfax community
- Read another account of the Osage “Reign of Terror”: *A Pipe for February*, by Charles Red Corn (father of Yancey) or *The Deaths of Sybil Bolton: Oil, Greed, and Murder on the Osage Reservation* by Dennis McAuliffe Jr.

--Karen Morris

Loving Frank (at Price Tower in Bartlesville)

On September 20 a group of Gillies enjoyed a visit to Price Tower in Bartlesville, the only realized skyscraper designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. After lunch at the new Love 66 Bistro on the ground floor of the building, Price Connor, Director of Outreach and Education, took us on a tour of the 1st, 2nd, 17th, and 19th floors. If you want to know more about Price Tower, many of the observations he made during our tour can be read in this online [article](#).

Here are some photographs from the trip, contributed by Mary Castro, Karen Morris, and Becky Hatchett.

(Additional photos of the Price Tower trip on next page.)



(Additional photos of the Price Tower trip)



Karen with Frank in the Love 66 Bistro



Alan & Karen Jarvis at lunch in the Love 66 Bistro on their anniversary



Karen with the Price Tower logo which appears at the center of each floor of the building



“Bean tree” detail designed by FLW and used throughout the building



Price Company corporate apartment on the 17th floor



Gillies in front of the cloisonné mural added in 1979



Mr. Price's office on the 19th floor

Docents' Corner

On Sunday, September 24, the *Tulsa World* ran a nice article on the success of Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood (GIYN), calling it “a feel-good program,” with which I whole-heartedly agree. As a follow-up to the article, I would like to thank all Gillies/Docents who have been site checkers and/or presenters for GIYN Spot Talks and Mindfulness activities. Your participation has been and continues to be invaluable. The next iteration of GIYN will be a somewhat pared down version and although I am not sure what our role will be, I am confident Gillies will step up when needed. Again, a heart-felt “thank you.”

Mark your calendar for the next Gillies/Docents meeting on Friday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m. with refreshments beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be a two-part program:

1. Nancy Hammond will share changes to the new updated version of Volgistics. The changes should make it easier for Gillies to log service hours. “*Why is it important to still be logging your hours no matter how few,*” you ask? Because the City of Tulsa owns Gilcrease, and we continue to report our volunteer “staff” hours every month to the Gilcrease Board of Trustees. The work done by Gillies allows museum staff to take on other tasks. For example, in 2018-2019, before Covid hit, Gillies recorded 26,953 hours, which was equivalent to the number of work hours of 13 full-time employees and had a monetary value of \$685,416.00. Even though the museum is closed, Gillies are doing tasks that allow staff to focus their attention on preparing for the new museum.
2. With a little help from my friends, I will present a “sample plan” for streamlining Speaking of Gilcrease programs into 20 to 30-minute presentations to be available for civic and other community groups. Volunteers to help condense the presentations into their shorter versions will be appreciated. The hour-long programs will still be available for retirement centers and nursing homes.

We hope to see you on October 6th!

- Alana Trisler, Docent Chair



**Mark your
Calendar**

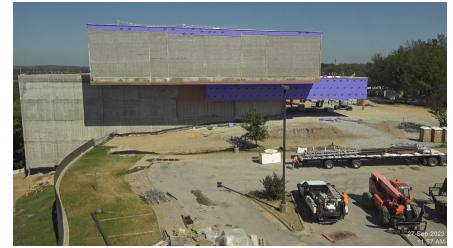
Friday, October 6 – Gillies/Docents Meeting at HCAR; refreshments at 9:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 12 – Executive Committee meeting by Zoom at 9:00 a.m.; Board of Directors meeting by Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

<https://api.ibeamsystems.com/api/cameras/b6f50bc149/large/latest/?timestamped=true>



Did You Know?

- Sometimes the sunflower is referred to as the “fourth sister,” in reference to the Three Sisters: corn, beans, and squash. Ethnobotanists believe that sunflowers may have predated the other crops in Mesoamerica.
- Sunflower seeds and oil were important crops for the Incas in Peru who created images of the sunflower out of gold.
- The Hopi used the seeds, stems, and oil for many purposes and carved wooden sunflowers as sacred objects to help enrich their harvests.
- The sunflower is the state flower of both Kansas and Nebraska.

From *The Old Farmer’s Almanac* online at <https://www.almanac.com/>

- Cherokee and Muscogee artist Virginia Stroud studied art at Bacone College in the late 1960s and 1970 and attended the University of Oklahoma in the 1970s.
- She is one of the first women to incorporate ledger art into her paintings.
- Her subjects are predominantly women engaged in ordinary or everyday activities. She said, “I want people to look back at my work just like today we’re looking back at the ledger drawings and seeing how it was then. I’m working one hundred years in front of those people and saying ‘this is how we still do it...we still have our traditions.’”
- She was one of the 47 artists selected for the Henry Luce Foundation project at Gilcrease Museum. See Curatorial Scholar Jordan Poorman Cocker’s essay about Virginia Stroud [here](#).



“Harvest” by Virginia Stroud



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