

Friday Footprints

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

-Thomas Gilcrease

March 29, 2024



Pottery Decorators by Joseph Henry Sharp

Why Donate to the Pottery Project?

Treasurer Tom Duncan received over \$1,000 in donations for the Susan Folwell pottery project at the membership meeting on March 15, bringing us closer to our goal of \$5,000 by May 1. If you have not already contributed, why should you consider donating to this special project?

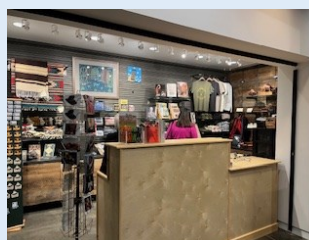
- The pottery piece will become part of a semi-permanent exhibit that will examine the “genealogy” of pottery. Susan Folwell’s unique piece will complete the story of her family of Santa Clara potters.
- The artist will be responding to a painting by a Taos Society artist that is part of the Gilcrease collection. Folwell is known for her pieces in response to Taos Society artists. See videos [here](#) and [here](#).
- The piece will celebrate former Executive Director Susan Neal’s service to the museum and will be labeled as a gift from the Gillies to the museum in her honor.
- If the pottery piece is displayed in the Study Gallery, as we expect, the name of the Gillies will be one of the first things that visitors will see when they enter the museum.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you to everyone who attended the general membership meeting and Forum on March 15. I hope you enjoyed the food and the fellowship and the Forum speaker, Dr. Kristen Oertel from the University of Tulsa. Her presentation was about significant discoveries concerning the Seminoles and their slaves that she made in the Gilcrease archives, and subsequent research she has done at the Helmerich Center for American Research. In the presentation she referenced a journal article that she wrote for the December 2023 issue of *Civil War History* about her discovery. Contact me if you would like a copy of the journal article.

Our project to raise \$5,000 for a commission to Santa Clara potter Susan Folwell to create a pottery piece for the new museum is ongoing. We presently have \$2,885 in the fund. Dr. Chelsea Herr, Curator for Indigenous Art at Gilcrease, will be speaking about the project at the Gillies/Docent meeting on Friday, April 5, at HCAR, in addition to her presentation about a new museum gallery, Reclaiming Representation.

I recently visited Curations, the Gilcrease Museum store, which is now located at 101 Archer, just a block from Guthrie Green. Paid parking is available right outside the building entrance near the store; downloading the parking app (ParkMobile) in advance via the App Store on your phone is advisable. The store expects much foot traffic during the First Friday Art Crawl (next one is April 5) and Mayfest (May 10-12) since music performances and art programs are held in the 101 Archer building. Visit the store while you are already parked for those events!



The May 17 membership meeting will be held at Indian Springs Country Club, 16006 E. 131st Street S., Broken Arrow. **Our new Executive Director, Brian Lee Whisenhunt, will be speaking.** Thank you to Charley Wyatt, whose membership at Indian Springs makes this venue available to us! Please read the page later in this newsletter for details about this luncheon.

I encourage you to visit the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, as I did recently, for their exhibit, *Lighting Pathways: Matriarchs of Oklahoma Native Art*. While you are there, be sure to visit loans to the Cowboy from Gilcrease in the *Art of the American West* gallery—some that I have never seen on display before. *Lighting Pathways* (on view through April 28) is amazing, and it was fun to see old favorites from Gilcrease on exhibit. Hello, old friends!



See photos of art from the *Pathways* exhibit and the Gilcrease loans elsewhere in this newsletter. While in OKC, I also saw the Preston Singletary exhibit at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. (See the December 29, 2023, issue of FF for an article by Nannette Tresner.) I am so glad I got to see it in person; it is magnificent.

Pottery Project Q & A

- ***Why did the Gillies take on this project?*** We were looking for a way to honor retiring Executive Director Susan Neal. In conferring with curators Laura Fry and Dr. Chelsea Herr, they suggested commissioning a pottery piece to help complete a semi-permanent exhibit of the “genealogy” of pottery planned for the new museum.
- ***What does “semi-permanent” mean?*** The “genealogy” of pottery will be on display in the Study Gallery when the museum opens and will remain there until such a time as a complete revision of the galleries would take place.
- ***How will visitors know that the pottery piece was a gift to the museum in honor of Susan Neal?*** It will be labeled as such.
- ***Why was Susan Folwell chosen to receive the pottery commission?*** She was recommended by the curators and will represent a link in the “genealogy” of Santa Clara pottery makers that includes her grandmother, mother, sisters, and nieces.
- ***Who is Susan Folwell?*** She is an artist and potter from Santa Clara who lives and works in Taos. She is known for creating pieces that respond to paintings by the Taos Society of Artists. Her husband is the former curator and executive director of the Couse House.
- ***What Taos painting will she respond to? Will she create a pot or some other pottery piece?*** Once the \$5,000 is raised, a contract with the museum will be drawn up. At that time everything will be spelled out—the type and size of pottery she will create, what Taos Society painting she will respond to, the timeline for delivering the piece to the museum, etc. The Gillies will have input. Some questions we don’t know the answers to yet, but everything will be spelled out in the contract.
- ***Has Folwell accepted the commission?*** Since the contract has not been drawn up yet, Susan Folwell has not officially accepted the commission; however, Chelsea Herr has spoken to her in person, and she is very excited about creating a piece for Gilcrease.
- ***Will Susan Folwell visit Tulsa? Will we be able to follow her progress as she works on the commissioned piece?*** These are certainly exciting possibilities that we can pursue.
- ***How will the piece be transported to Tulsa?*** What we raise will also need to pay for professional packing, insurance, and shipping; however, Chelsea has assured us that she will facilitate this to help minimize the cost.
- ***How can I be informed about the project in order to make a decision about contributing?*** Google Susan Folwell; visit the King Gallery [website](#) and see examples of her work; watch the videos from the gallery (the links are in the “Why Donate?” article in this issue of *Friday Footprints*); see previous emails from the President and the article about the project in the January 2024 issue of *Friday Footprints*; attend the April 5 Gillies/Docent meeting in HCAR at which Chelsea Herr will speak about the project.
- ***How much money has been collected? How much more do we need?*** As of 3/21/24 we have \$2,885 in the pottery fund. Our goal is \$5,000 by May 1.

**COME JOIN US FOR THE MAY
MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND
LUNCHEON**

**AS WE WELCOME
the new Executive Director of
Gilcrease Museum
BRIAN LEE WHISENHUNT**

Friday, May 17, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**THE CLUB AT INDIAN SPRINGS
16006 E. 13th St. S., Broken Arrow**



SCHEDULE OF FESTIVITIES

10:00 a.m. Meet and Greet
Coffee and tea provided~Cash bar

10:30 a.m. Meeting and remarks by Brian Lee Whisenhunt

Noon Buffet lunch

MENU

Tossed Salad
Chicken Fettuccine pasta bar with your choice of two sauces:
Marinara or Alfredo
Green beans
Garlic bread
Blueberry cobbler a la mode
\$24.00 (includes tax and gratuity)

RSVP Deadline: May 3, 2024

Make checks payable to "The Gillies" and mail to:

Tom Duncan, 7313 E. 63rd Place, Tulsa, OK 74133

or bring your check to the Gillies/Docent meeting on May 3.

Mark your
Calendar

Friday, April 5

Gillies/Docent meeting, 10:00 a.m., HCAR
Speaker: Dr. Chelsea Herr, Curator for Indigenous Art & Culture

Thursday, April 11

Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom, 9:00 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting by Zoom, 10:00 a.m.

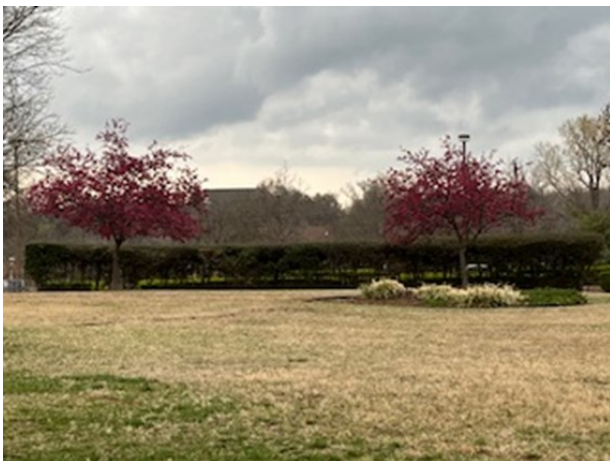
Friday, May 17

Membership meeting and luncheon, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.,
The Club at Indian Springs, 16006 E. 131st St. S., Broken Arrow

RSVP deadline: May 3, 2024 to Tom Duncan (hunt-fish58@hotmail.com)
Send your check for \$24 to Tom Duncan, 7313 E. 63rd Pl., Tulsa, 74133 or
bring it to the Gillies/Docent meeting on May 3 at HCAR.
You may also RSVP to Tom by May 3 and bring your check on May 17.

Museum Construction Update

We thought you might enjoy these recent photographs showing the exterior construction progress at the new museum and a little bit of spring on the grounds. For a view of the interior progress, see the [News on 6 segment](#) on Brian Lee Whisenhunt's tour of the museum on February 23.



Docent Corner

Dear Gillies and Docents,

Please join us at the next Gillies/Docents meeting on Friday, April 5th.

Our guest speaker will be Chelsea Herr, the Jack and Maxine Zarrow Curator for Indigenous Art and Culture. Chelsea will present an overview of the Reclaiming Representation Gallery - one of the thematic galleries in the new museum space.

As always, the meeting will be held in the HCAR building (PACCAR classroom) with refreshments provided by the Hospitality Committee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting opening at 10:00 a.m.

Reminder: there will be no Gillies/Docents meeting in May. Instead, mark your calendar for the May 17th General Membership meeting. Look for more information on this event in this newsletter.

We are so fortunate that the Gilcrease staff takes the time from their impossible schedules to attend our meetings and share their expertise with us. We hope you will be present on April 5th for Chelsea Herr's enlightening share. See you in HCAR!

...Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

MESSAGES:

Get well cards were sent to Janice Henshaw and Faye Finley.

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.

Dr. Garrick Bailey, who taught Anthropology at the University of Tulsa, passed away on March 15 at the age of 83. Dr. Bailey's research on the Osage was indispensable to David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*. You can learn more about Dr. Bailey and his significant contributions in his [obituary](#) in the *Osage News*. Gillies that had the opportunity to take classes from him at TU will be saddened to learn of his passing.

CONGRATULATIONS to 2024-2025 Officers and Committee Members

The following officers and Nominating Committee members for 2024-2025 were elected/ approved at the March 15 membership meeting.

President	Kathe Crapster
President Elect	Becky Hatchett
Vice President	Robin Leech
Secretary	Julie Gentz
Treasurer	Sharon Patch
Past President	Nannette Tresner

Nominating Committee Chair	Faye Finley
Nominating Committee Members	JoAnn Goin
	Judy Howard
	Keith Bowers
	Dick Clark
	Past President Nannette Tresner
1st Alternate	Dian Peacock
2nd Alternate	Bill Hellen

March 15 Membership Meeting and Forum



Great turnout of Gillies at March 15 membership meeting



Gillies listening to Tom Duncan's Treasurer's report



Director of Learning & Community Engagement Alison Rossi introducing Forum speaker, Dr. Kristen Oertel

Visiting the Cowboy Museum in OKC

Lighting Pathways: Matriarchs of Oklahoma Native Art



The exhibition features Mary Adair (Cherokee Nation), Sharron Ahtone Harjo (Kiowa), Adeline “Allie” Chaddlesone (Kootenai), Ruthe Blalock Jones (Shawnee/Delaware/Peoria), Brenda Kennedy (Citizen Potawatomi), Jane Osti (Cherokee Nation), and Virginia Stroud (Keetoowah Cherokee/Muscogee). The exhibit closes on April 28.



Loans from Gilcrease Museum

Visit the the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's *Art of the American West* gallery to see some of your favorite artists (Bierstadt, Remington, Russell, Leigh, and Schreyvogel) in their collection, as well as many loans from the Gilcrease Museum that have found a temporary home there while our museum is closed.



Wild Horses by James Walker



Lower Falls, Yellowstone by Thomas Moran



Daniel Boone's First View by William Ranney



Sault Saint Marie by Paul Kane



View on Milk River by John Mix Stanley



Canyon of the Yellowstone by W.R. Leigh



Geyser in the Yellowstone by Thomas Hill



The Waning Moon by Frank Reaugh



Christmas Eve, Torchlight by Ila Mae



The Stampede by Frederic Remington



Blackfoot Boy by George Catlin



Meat Ain't Meat by Charles M. Russell

On The Road Again

On March 26 the City of Okmulgee was the destination for Gillies who drove down to tour several important sites: The Muscogee Nation Council House, the Red Stick Gallery, and The Tribal Courts Mound Building. Gillie attending were: Judy Baggett, Frances Whisman, Dian Peacock, Alan Jarvis, Lynn Cyert, Paul Westbrook, Karen Morris, Becky Hatchett, Carol Stookey, Nannette Tresner, Alana Trisler, and Kathe Crapster.

At the Council House, Interim Director John Beaver gave Gillies a personal tour of the facility sharing its history and importance.



After the tour of the Council House, Gillies walked across the street to the Red Stick Gallery. The gallery had many art pieces by Muscogee citizens on display.



After a delicious lunch at The Rodeo, Gillies drove back up north on Hwy 75 to tour the iconic mounds building which houses the Tribal Courts.

Kevin Dillard was our host for the tour and graciously shared some of the history that has necessitated the expansion of the Muscogee courts following the McGirt ruling as hundreds of more cases are now on their dockets.



Gillies appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the Muscogee Nation and how it is serving not only Muscogee citizens but other Nation's peoples as well. The Muscogee Nation is thriving and continues to serve its citizens and build upon its rich history.



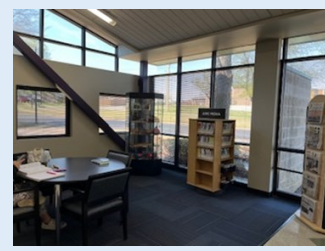
Two phrases from the Muscogee language seem fitting:
Cokv Kerretv Heret Os (Learning is Good) and Mvto (Thank You).

—Kathe Crapster

Did You Know?

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the American Indian Resource Center at Zarrow Library and hear Coordinator Teresa Runnells' introduction to the resources available through the AIRC. I thought you might like to know more about this unique resource. –Becky Hatchett

- The [American Indian Resource Center](#) is the only collection of its kind in Oklahoma, and one of only two in the nation. The center is located at the Zarrow Regional Library, a branch of the Tulsa City-County Library system, at 2224 W. 51st St. The AIRC celebrated its 20th anniversary in August 2023.
- The AIRC is located at Zarrow because the area that Zarrow serves has the highest percentage of American Indian population within the city limits of Tulsa. Only the TCCL branches at Skiatook and Collinsville serve a higher percentage of American Indians than Zarrow.
- The center is unique because its collection includes both fiction and nonfiction books, newspapers, magazines, and media; it has its own librarian (Teresa Runnells) who is assigned to coordinate the center's services; it makes available resources and services to support native language; and it provides programming and outreach.
- Five of the top 10 videos on [TCCL's YouTube channel](#) are from the AIRC. They include videos on Plains Indian sign language, Comanche bow and arrow making, and the history of the Cheyenne. Many other videos on American Indian culture, crafts, and food are available. Native language instruction videos can also be viewed through the TCCL YouTube channel; in addition, you can log in from home with your library card to Mango Languages for instruction in Cherokee and Potawatomi.
- The "Place of the Turtles" screen at the entrance to the AIRC was originally installed on the 3rd floor of the Central Library in 1965 to mark the location of the Tulsa County Historical Society headquarters and archives. The screen, which weighs 500 pounds, was designed by James L. Henkle, associate professor at the school of art at OU. In the center of the screen is an oxidized copper turtle; surrounding it are flames of polished brass and copper that represent the sacred fire of the Muscogee Indians, Tulsa's first citizens. The bronze plaque mounted on the screen was originally placed on the Council Oak Tree by the Tulsa chapter of the D.A.R. in 1923. In May 2013 the American Indian Resource Center was moved from the Central Library to Zarrow. During the time that the Central Library was closed in 2013-14 for a 2-year renovation, the "Place of the Turtles" screen was erected at the entrance to the AIRC at Zarrow.
- The Tulsa City-County Library has two other special collections: the African American Resource Center at Rudisill Regional Library, 1520 N. Hartford; and the Hispanic Resource Center at Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett.



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Gillies President
Publisher: Rod Schneider