

Friday Footprints

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

-Thomas Gilcrease

April 26, 2024



Peonies in Studio Window by Joseph Henry Sharp

**"Spring is the time of plans and projects."
Leo Tolstoy (*Anna Karenina*)**

President's Letter

Whether it is spring cleaning, planning your garden, making summer vacation reservations, or preparing for a new Gillie year, “spring is the time of plans and projects.” It’s also a time for looking back at the plans and projects that the Gillies engaged in this year.

- Gillies leadership met monthly with museum leadership—first with Susan Neal, then with Interim Director, Jen Bennett—and will meet for the first time with new Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt on May 2. We have received updates on construction and the hunt for a new Director, and we reported on Gillies projects that support the museum.
- The President, President Elect, and Docent Chair also met monthly with the Learning and Community Engagement team, Alison Rossi and Mia Hoskison, to discuss training and continuing education opportunities, as well as ways we can support their programs.
- Gillies leadership made semi-monthly reports in person to the Gilcrease Board of Trustees. The Board is always supportive and complimentary about our efforts. Board Chair Teresa Burkett often mentions that she wants to be a Gillie when she retires, and Board member Shane Fernandez referred to us as “the gold standard” of volunteerism!
- Gillies/Docent meetings were held in the months of June, August, October, November, January, February, and April. We learned about new museum galleries from Jenny Keller, Laura Fry, and Chelsea Herr, and got training on Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood paintings and artists from Alison Rossi. We were also introduced to new staff members J.J. Cody-Fox, Charles Hilton, and Mia Hoskison.
- Gillies attended membership meetings in September and March at Oklahoma Joe’s and enjoyed Forum speakers John Erling and Dr. Kristen Oertel. Plans are being made for the May membership meeting at the Club at Indian Springs with remarks to be made by the new Executive Director, Brian Lee Whisenhunt.
- The Gillies newsletter, *Friday Footprints*, was published monthly with contributions from many Gillies who recommended reading, viewing, and listening opportunities and told us about their trips, artistic endeavors, and what it’s like to be a movie extra.
- Gillies went on a tour of the new museum construction on September 29.
- The Anthro Gillies, who reported over 300 hours of service this year, were treated to a party and tour of the new museum by Anthropology Collections Manager, Laura Bryant.
- The Archives Gillies have reported over 800 hours of service this year. The Gillies Library, President’s books and scrapbooks, representing decades of institutional history, found a home in the Gilcrease Library/Archives.
- Five faithful Speaking of Gilcrease presenters made monthly visits to talk about art with retirement home residents; seven new SOG programs, based on previous programs presented for OLLI, were rolled out.
- Gillies contributed to Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood by doing spot talks and mindfulness experiences and volunteering for public programs; Kathe Crapster received notice that our proposal about GiYN for the National Docent Symposium had been accepted. The symposium conference will be held in November 2024.
- Gillies continue to volunteer at OKPop and the Route 66 Historical Village.
- We celebrated Susan Neal’s retirement at our November Gillies/Docent meeting and undertook a project to honor Susan Neal by commissioning a piece by Santa Clara potter Susan Folwell that will be displayed in the new museum. As of this date, we are very close to our goal of \$5,000 by May 1.
- The Travel Committee planned and carried out trips to Price Tower in Bartlesville, the Muscogee Council House in Okmulgee, and collaborated with the museum for a showing of *Killers of the Flower Moon* at Circle Cinema.
- Over 30 Gillies attended a reception at the Performing Arts Center on February 23 to welcome new Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt. He assumed his new position on April 15.

.....Becky Hatchett

Thank you for your service to the Gillies this year!

Executive Committee/Board of Directors 2023-2024

<i>President Elect</i>	<i>Kathe Crapster</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Robin Leech</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Lynn Cyert</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Tom Duncan</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Nannette Tresner</i>
<i>Anthropology Chair</i>	<i>Doug Kisling/Monica Macklin</i>
<i>Auditor</i>	<i>Bob McCullough</i>
<i>Docent Chair</i> <i>Docent Adjunct</i>	<i>Alana Trisler</i> <i>Sharon Patch</i>
<i>Forum Chair</i>	<i>Dale Brown</i>
<i>HCAR Chair</i>	<i>Carol Stookey</i>
<i>Hospitality Chair</i>	<i>Dick Clark</i>
<i>IT Chair</i>	<i>Nancy Hammond</i>
<i>Museum Store</i>	<i>Deb Glass</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Rod Schneider</i>
<i>Nominating Committee Chair</i>	<i>Dale Brown</i>
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	<i>Kathy Horne</i>
<i>Speaking of Gilcrease</i>	<i>Frances Whisman</i>
<i>Travel Chair</i>	<i>Karen Morris</i>

**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. 131st 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 RSVP to Tom (hunt-fish58@hotmail.com) and bring your check on May 17.

Docent Corner

2023–2024 – A Year of Learning

The 2023-2024 year of Gillies/Docent meetings was made special because we were able to enjoy fellowship while holding all our meetings in the Helmerich Center's PACCAR classroom. Since we have no May Gillies/Docent meeting, here is a reminder of the interesting people who shared their talents with us during the past year.

June 2023 – Alison Rossi, Anne and Henry Zarrow Director of Learning and Community Engagement, presented training for the third painting to be included in the Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood rotation, Norma Howard's "Gathering Corn." As always, she discussed the artist's background and provided information on the painting's subject matter and artistic elements.

August 2023 – Jenny Kellar, Associate Curator of Contemporary Culture and Community, presented "Early North American Cities: Cahokia," and its artifacts in the Gilcrease collection. Many of the artifacts are pottery sherds that will be on display in the new museum.

October 2023 – Nancy Hammond, our Gillies Volgistics expert, showed us the new and improved version we now have at our fingertips. The bottom line is that logging our hours is much easier to do now.

November 2023 – Jana Gowan, Research and Outreach Librarian for Gilcrease Museum/University of Tulsa (the HCAR Librarian to us) gave an overview of the research library, demonstrated how to search the library catalog and make an appointment to use the Reading Room, shared the results of her library user survey, and included a description of the inventory work completed by Gillies over the past year. Charles Hilton gave a brief overview of his role as collection Archivist.

January 2024 – Laura Fry, Senior Curator and Curator of Art, shared the theme of Place that will be included as a gallery in the new museum. Gillies were particularly taken by an Acee Blue Eagle map of his design that "places" Gilcrease Museum at the center of art and culture in Oklahoma. The map was rediscovered while packing items for storage during construction.

February 2024 – Alison Rossi presented training for the first 2024 Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood painting, "Tehuana Woman" by Miguel Covarrubias. I was unable to attend this presentation, but I am confident it was as thorough as her previous trainings. If you haven't checked out her "Tehuana Woman" training guide on our Gillies website, please do so. It's a fantastic learning tool.

April 2024 – Chelsea Herr, the Jack and Maxine Zarrow Curator for Indigenous Art and Culture, shared the concepts to be displayed in the Reclaiming Representation gallery. The art in the gallery will include the perspective of the artists' culture.

We are working on the list of Gillies/Docent meeting presenters for the 2024–25 year, so stay tuned!

...Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

MESSAGES:

Death of a Gillie:

Jo Carolyn Rushing - Class of 2002

Get Well Cards sent to:

Pat Davidson

Beverly Wilcox

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.

For Your Information

- Attendees will celebrate the 75th anniversary of Gilcrease Museum at Curations by Gilcrease at 101 Archer during the First Friday Art Crawl on Friday, May 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. Join the party and enjoy food, drinks, and music. Crafts from Artsy Cartsy will be available, as will face painting for the kiddos. ***Happy anniversary, Gilcrease!***
- Gillies who attended the Gillies/Docent meeting on April 5 met Community Engagement Manager Mia Hoskison and heard Dr. Chelsea Herr describe the Reclaiming Representation gallery in the new museum and explain the significance of the Susan Folwell pottery project. In addition, they also witnessed a surprise event, the delivery by crane of the spiral staircase to be installed in the new museum.



- The Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood painting, *Tehuana Woman*, with its depiction of Oaxacan culture, was the focus of two events this month. Mary Castro, Becky Hatchett, Nancy Laughrey, Teresa Pena, Carol Stookey, Cindy Strasheim, and Alana Trisler volunteered at the Family Festival at Hicks Park on Saturday, April 13. Over 600 attendees made papel picado (paper pennants), flower headbands, display boxes for alebrije (folk art sculptures), watched children's dance troupes, had their photos made, shopped for Oaxacan goods, and visited booths from community agencies, such as the Tulsa Library. See the party pic of the volunteers with the other photos from 2023-24 in this issue! At the second event members enjoyed light bites at the new Curations location while hearing from new Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt and insights about *Tehuana Woman* from Alison Rossi, Director of Learning and Community Engagement.
- Nancy Laughrey recommends [the story of Cyrus Avery](#), the Father of Route 66, on Voices of Oklahoma. The "interview" of Avery comes from a 1928 book, *Oklahoma Leaders*. In the buildup to the 100th anniversary of Route 66 in 2026, you are sure to hear Cyrus Avery's name often. To be ready for the celebration, be sure to check out "East Meets West," the sculpture of Avery in his 1926 Ford at the junction of Riverside Drive and Southwest Boulevard and visit other nearby Route 66 attractions.

For Your Information, Cont'd:

- The 2023-24 Travel Committee is working on one more opportunity, a tour of the Oscar Jacobson House in Norman, along with a visit to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art on the OU campus. The Oscar Jacobson House now has regular hours, 1-4 p.m., and a new exhibit of artwork by Native artists predominantly from Oklahoma tribal nations, *Collective Wisdom* (April 5-August 2). Since May is such a busy month on the OU campus, the trip will possibly be scheduled for June.



- Congratulations to Robin Leech, whose painting “Taos Memorial” placed first in the Green Country Watercolor Society Show!



**Mark your
Calendar**

Wednesday, May 1 – Deadline for pottery project contributions

Friday, May 3 – RSVP for May 17 membership meeting

Thursday, May 9 – Executive Committee meeting for 2023-24 and 2024-25 officers at HCAR, 9:30 a.m. Board of Directors meeting for 2023-24 and 2024-25 chairs at HCAR, 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**

The Susan Neal Pottery Project

The deadline for contributions to the pottery project in honor of Susan Neal is next Wednesday, May 1. As of April 26th we have collected \$3,885. Our goal is \$5,000. Please help us reach our goal by sending your contribution to Treasurer Tom Duncan at 7313 E. 63rd Place, Tulsa, 74133. See the attached document for more information about the project. Be a part of this special project that will contribute a significant piece of artwork to the new museum, as well as recognize the service of both Susan Neal and the Gillies.

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 \$3,885 in the pottery fund. Our goal is \$5,000 by May 1.

Travels in Mexico by Cindy Strasheim

In the last 25 years, I journeyed on five study tours and one mission tour in Mexico. It began as sociological study of families at risk examining “Emigration” and “Immigration.” I have studied Guerreo (Taxco), Jalisco (Guadalajara & Tequila), Mexico City (Tenochtitlan & Teotihuacan), Michoacan (Morelia), Morelos (Cuernavaca), Puebla (Puebla City), Yucatan (Merida), Oaxaca (Oaxaca de Juarez), and the border towns. I journal the expectations of each trip and the realities that I find following the advice, “Seek first to understand and then to be understood.” (Steven Covey) I tour historical and art museums in every location. There is so much art to share beyond Diego and Frida, like Jose Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Ruffino Tamayo and others.

Oaxaca is the size of Indiana, located in the south of Mexico where the Eastern Sierra Madre and Southern Sierra Madre meet, making mountains about 81% of the land surface. Oaxaca de Juarez is the municipal seat in the central valley with an elevation of 5,000 feet. Population in Oaxaca city is 700,000, made up of 16 ethnic groups and 150 languages. Mexico has thirty-one states plus the capital of Mexico City. Each state has a cultural presence, at least one dialect, a history, an economy, and a social order.

Markets sell organic foods, clothing, pottery, woven goods, flowers, and chocolate. Making Oaxacan chocolate is an art! What a delightful collection of smells! To have a cool glass of milk chocolate with chocolate shavings amid the 90-degree heat was spectacular. Oaxacan chocolate is more semi-sweet, using piloncillo (a kind of brown sugar), almonds, cinnamon, and scoops of cocoa.

Holy Week was full of pageantry including the processing of banners from smaller cathedrals to the largest cathedral on the Zocalo. These banners were works of art with gold threads and ornamentation. On Good Friday, “The Silent Procession” moved all banners back to their original churches. Men, women, and children carried the banners for miles in silence to honor the crucifixion.

The Rufino Tamayo personal collection of pre-Hispanic artifacts (200 BC to 1250 AD) from Aztec, Zapotec, Mayan, Mixtec, and Olmec, was reminiscent of the artifacts of the Mississippian culture. The Museum of Contemporary Art is an architectural wonder, restored to hold the collections of Francisco Toledo, Rodolfo Morales, and Rufino Tamayo. Manuel Alvarez Bravo is Mexico’s most famous photographer, and his works are stored in a restored colonial building. The textile Museum was full of fabulous artworks of spinning, weaving, and embroidery. Remember the masks that Gilcrease has from Mexico? I have photos of antique masks and currently used masks.

Rug weaving in Teotitlan del Valle is centuries old using natural dyes. Cochineal (red) dye is made by introducing a beetle to a cactus host. There is an actual Cochineal farm! Gilcrease has had Zapotec weavings for sale. In San Tomas Jalieza we learned backstrap weaving. In San Antonio we learned intricate embroidery specific to this region. We traveled to San Augustin Elta to learn the art of papermaking and block printing. Agave has many varieties and the products extracted from it vary in flavor and alcohol content. I learned the art of making Mezcal, which is the Tequila cousin.

My journals are full of history and stories, but this trip gave me a great book title. “*The Margarita Girls of Oaxaca, Traveling with Wise Women.*” Do Margarita ladies prefer mezcal or tequila? Hmmm?

.....(See photos of Travels in Mexico on next 2 pages)

Travels in Mexico Photos by Cindy Strasheim



Back strap weaving



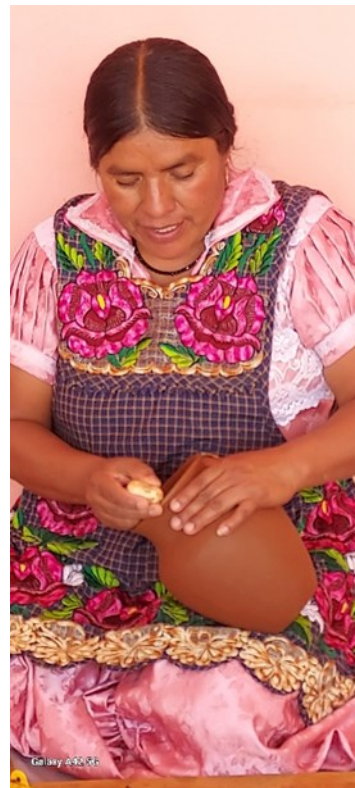
Rudolfo Morales mural



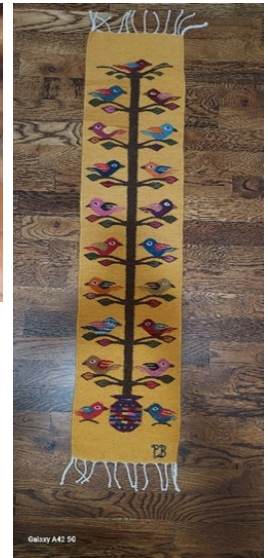
These natural dyes make beautiful rugs.



Traditional San Antonio Oaxaca embroidery



Aguilar Sisters Pottery: This clay comes from the mountains. There is no wheel. She does everything on that saucer, using sand, leather, and her hands to sculpt.



Beginning to make Mezcal

Travels in Mexico Photos by Cindy Strasheim



Modern masks



Paper making



Cocoa beans, cinnamon, almonds go into Oaxacan chocolate.



The best chocolate milk



Statue of Dead Jesus carried by black-robed Franciscans

Statue of Mary in the procession. Mary is the focus of the Holy Week celebrations. The loss of a child is greater than the celebration of the ascension of Jesus.

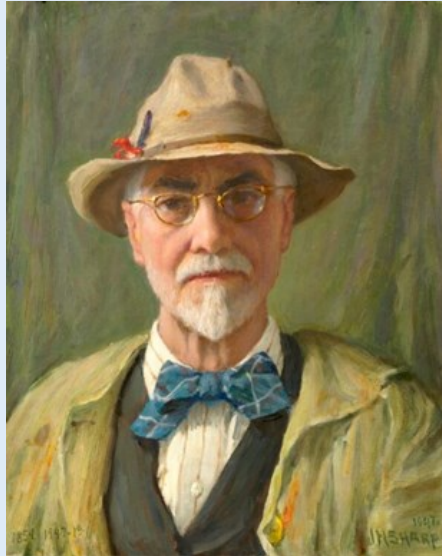


GILLIES 2023-2024



Did You Know?

- Last month's featured painting in *Friday Footprints* was also by Joseph Henry Sharp, but with the subject matter for which he is most well-known, Indian life. This month's painting of peonies represents a subject matter in which he was also prolific, floral still lifes. Of the over 10,000 works he produced in his prolific career, 7,800 are of Native American subjects, including 3,200 portraits, and around 400 are floral still lifes.
- He almost drowned in a childhood swimming accident, and as a result eventually became completely deaf.
- Two years after his first wife Addie died, he married her sister Louise. He told a friend that he and Louise talked about Addie all the time.
- Sharp had several prestigious patrons in his lifetime. His biography from the Couse-Sharp Historic Site [website](#) notes that at age 86, "Sharp was blessed with another major patron. Thomas Gilcrease purchased many of his paintings, much of his personal collection of Indian relics and his memorabilia. Today, the Gilcrease Institute provides the most complete survey of his long and prolific painting career."
- He died in 1953, just a month short of his 94th birthday.



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