



Footprints

"Every man must leave tracks and they might as well be good ones." - Thomas Gilcrease

April 2026

President's Message



Dear Gillies,

March was a busy month for the Gillies and for Gilcrease. I hope you had a chance to connect with your fellow Gillies at the March membership meeting and Forum where we elected officers for 2026-27 and learned more about Route 66, specifically its history and current attractions in Tulsa. Congratulations to President Elect Teresa Peña, Vice President Tom Duncan, Secretary Marsha McElroy, and Treasurer Charley Wyatt!



Or maybe you had a chance to visit or volunteer in the new museum building for Uncrease. It was exciting to see the demonstrations and performances throughout the new building and to hear the comments of visitors as they saw the Sky Stairs for the first time or watched a sunset from the new Vista Room or terrace! *Photos by Kathy Horne.*





Can you believe that a year from now Gilcrease's incredible collection will be on the colorful walls and in state-of-the-art display cases for all the world to see? And that the Gillies, plus a new intern and docent class, will be trained to share that collection with our visitors? Every volunteer experience is an opportunity to learn your way around the new building, so please see [here](#) to sign up to volunteer at Uncrease. Every Gillies/docent meeting is an opportunity to learn what will be on display and how to share it meaningfully with the art and history lovers that will be so excited to see it, so please join us for an essential training opportunity at the next Gillies/docent meeting on **Friday, April 10!**

Stacy Leeds has been named as the 22nd president of the University of Tulsa. A Muskogee native, she is a 1997 alumna of the University of Tulsa College of Law and a former Cherokee



Supreme Court justice. She is currently the dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. She will take office on July 1.

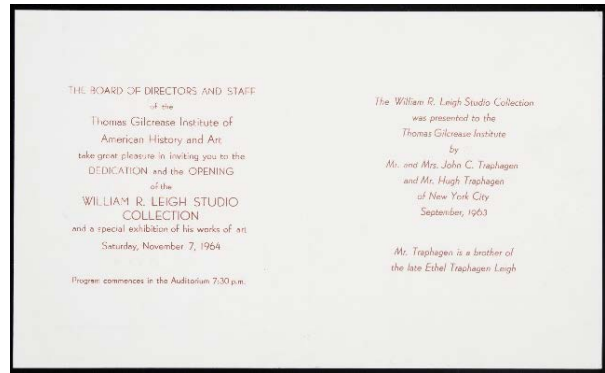
My busy March included several visits to the Reynolds Center at TU and a few hours at home watching the amazing TU men's basketball team in their regular season and in the first rounds of the NIT tournament. It was always fun to see my fellow Gillies at the games: Marsha McElroy, Kathy Horne, Nancy Hammond, and Paul Westbrook. The guys are playing in the semi-finals of the NIT on Thursday night in Indianapolis. GO TU!!

I hope to see you in April! All the Uncrease dates are sold out, but check the Gilcrease website or social media to see if they are taking walk-ins.

Becky Hatchett
Gillies President



Photos from Uncrease



William Robinson Leigh (1866-1955)

With his large contribution to the Gilcrease collection (1,219 original artworks: 540 paintings, 648 drawings and sketchbook pages, 30 etchings, and 1 sculpture), there is probably nothing I can tell you about Leigh that you don't already know. However, in reviewing his life and career for this article, I found much to admire and try to emulate.

His professional career began at the age of 17, when an uncle paid for his first period of study at the Royal Academy in Munich. When he ran out of money, he had to come back home to America to save enough to return, eventually entering the composition school at the Royal Academy, earning a silver medal and selling the prize-winning painting for \$1,000. This European training made him rare among other painters of the West.

He returned to America in 1896 and went to work as an illustrator for *Scribner's Magazine*. He wanted to go West even then but couldn't afford to. Finally, in 1906 he traded a promised painting of the Grand Canyon to the Santa Fe Railroad for a train ticket to New Mexico. When he returned with the painting, the railroad commissioned five more paintings at \$250 each. Thus began his career as an artist of the West.

This determination to make things happen in his life is inspiring to me. So is his longevity as an artist. In 1939 at the age of 73, he produced his first painting to sell for \$10,000. According to Dean Krakel (Gilcrease Institute director from 1961-1964) Leigh was "at his best" in 1943 and in 1948 "was going strong with an amazing production of thirty paintings." In 1950, in his 80's, he finished another thirty paintings. His last mural-sized painting, *Grand Canyon*, that hung in our Masterworks gallery, was completed in 1951 when he was 85!

Studio Collection

Gilcrease already owned several of Leigh's paintings when an exciting opportunity presented itself in the form of a letter from his widow, Ethel Traphagen Leigh in April 1962. Mrs. Leigh wrote: "I wish you, with your keen appreciation of Leigh's works could come to New York and see his studio, for you would agree it would be a very valuable accession to install in the projected new part of the museum that already contains some of his finest work."

The studio at 200 West 57th Street, New York city, contains Leigh's art in every stage from start to finish stages. Besides paintings, pencil, pen and ink and watercolor, etchings, and a buffalo—the only piece he ever modeled, cast in bronze—are examples, starting with things he did as a six year old boy in West Virginia and continuing with every kind and type, to the painting on his easel just as he finished it half an hour before he died."

The envelope included a photograph of Leigh's studio taken in 1951. "It showed Mr. Leigh before an easel in his studio. The room was large, with full 3 x 8 foot panel windows to give the artist an abundance of natural daylight by which to work. There were literally hundreds of items: Indian costumes, rugs, weapons, paraphernalia, baskets, pottery, models, skulls, studies, and paintings." It was this studio that was recreated in the Gilcrease Museum, opening on November 7, 1964.

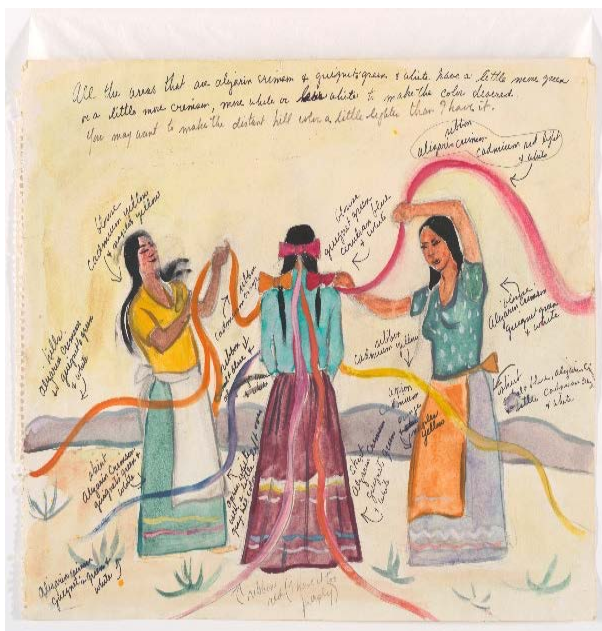


Gilcrease Gazette, December 1964 (left) Article about the opening of the Leigh exhibit as well as an article about the resignation of Dean Krakel to take a position as the first director of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. Much of the information above came from an article written by Krakel, former Gilcrease Institute director: "Mr. Leigh and His Studio," in *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (Summer 1967) Available free at JSTOR.org. Krakel wrote: "The value of the studio collection, as we [he and Mr. Gilcrease] discussed it, would be that it showed how an artist worked from initial research, the use of models, authentic costumes, first sketches, studies, and the finished painting."

It is my most vivid memory of visiting Gilcrease when I was a child. How about you?

Other Studio Collections

Other studio collections (both full and partial) at Gilcrease include those of Solomon McCombs, Olaf Wieghorst, and Joseph Henry Sharp.



McCombs study for "Ribbon Dancers"



Apache burden basket, Wieghorst Collection

Places to Go

Since the First Fire: The Living Legacy of Cherokee Art, Closing May 23, 2026



There's still time to experience "Since the First Fire: The Living Legacy of Cherokee Art." This unique exhibit at the Cherokee National History Museum is available to view until May 23.

This exhibit traces the origins and evolution of Cherokee art, while honoring the creativity, resilience and lasting cultural legacy of the Cherokee people.

The **Cherokee National History Museum** is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plan your visit at: <https://visitcherokeeanation.com/event/since-the-first-fire/>



While you're at the Cherokee National History Museum, see the exhibit, "**Wilson Rawls: The Red Fern Legacy**" from April 7-29, 2026.

Few stories have captured the spirit of adventure, loyalty and love quite like "Where the Red Fern Grows." Inspired by his upbringing in northeastern Oklahoma's Cherokee County, author and Cherokee Nation citizen Wilson Rawls created a timeless tale that continues to resonate with readers of all ages.

The exhibit "Wilson Rawls: The Red Fern Legacy" honors Rawls' life and literary impact, featuring memorabilia, artwork and connections to the 1974 film

adaptation. Visitors are invited to explore the experiences that shaped his writing and reflect on the unforgettable bond between a boy and his dogs.

Presented in conjunction with Tahlequah's annual Red Fern Festival, the exhibit will be on display in the lobby of the Cherokee National History Museum from April 7-29, 2026. Plan your visit to experience this heartfelt tribute to a cherished story and its enduring legacy.



Built in 1884, the Saline Courthouse is the only one of nine original Cherokee district courthouses in Cherokee Nation still standing today. Located near Rose, Oklahoma, it sits on 14 rural acres, along with a springhouse and historic cemetery. Though it only served as a courthouse for 14 years, the site has a rich history and features rotating exhibits on the history and culture of the Cherokee Nation. Tour the site and surrounding grounds to experience the history of Cherokee justice and more.

Saline Courthouse <https://visitcherokeemuseum.com/attractions/saline-courthouse-museum/>

See the exhibit “Tonia Hogner Weavel” Threads of Tradition” on display until June 16, 2026. This exhibit highlights Tonia’s decades-long career in traditional Cherokee clothing and contemporary cultural fashion. Visitors will see examples of her dressmaking and vast repertoire of artisan skills.



Tied to Memory

Ribbons as Art, Adornment and Identity

March 6-June 29, 2026

EXHIBIT C
GALLERY

Exhibit C Gallery
645 First Americans Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73129
Near the First Americans Museum

Exhibit C Gallery proudly presents “Tied to Memory: Ribbons as Art, Adornment and Identity,” a new exhibition exploring the quiet but profound role ribbons play in First American art, culture and personal storytelling. The exhibition will be on display from March 6 through June 29, 2026.

From ribbon skirts and traditional garments to contemporary paintings and mixed-media works, the exhibition reveals how ribbons serve as more than decoration. They are symbols of identity, resilience, memory and cultural continuity.

Featuring work from ten First American artists representing multiple tribal Nations, “Tied to Memory” highlights how ribbons appear across generations and mediums — stitched into regalia, layered into textiles and painted into visual narratives that reflect both ancestral knowledge and present-day life.

Gillies Travel Opportunities

By Cindy Strasheim, Travel Chair

April 6, 2026

10:30 am Council Oak Art

Muscogee Nation Department of Health

10109 E. 79th St. | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

www.creekhealth.org

Hwy 169 South. Take 81st St exit. Turn right. Turn right again at the traffic light and drive straight into parking.

12:00 pm Lunch

81st and Mingo: McDonald's, Middleton Bar & Grill \$8.99 burger/fries special, KIRIN KOREAN excellent ! OR

71st and Mingo: Mission Bar B Q, McDonalds, Tacos 4 Life, Zaxby's, Golden Corral and some others.

2:00 pm Phillips Seminar, 901 North Mingo Road

Sally Garner, Textile artist, and educator

www.sallycgarner.com

You do not have to bring yarn, but you are encouraged to bring any you would like to add to the weaving. Your weaving will join a community artwork in progress.

Please RSVP 402.469.5357 or cindy.strasheim@gmail.com

For those on the BA or South Tulsa side of town, if you can drive to Council Oak and park your car, you can carpool to Hwy 169 and Admiral to reach 901 North Mingo. I can take 3 or 4 cozy.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

We are carpooling to Wichita!

Wichita Art Museum

The museum is free.

The special exhibit (Stephen Towns) is \$12.

10:00 am Guided Tour (about 1 hour)

Lunch: in house café

<https://wam.org/visit/eat-at-wichita-art-museum/>

Other options in the nearby Downtown or Delano District

Contact Cindy Strasheim at 402-469-5357 or cindy.strasheim@gmail.com if you are interested.



Route 66 News

As a follow up to the Forum presentation at our March membership meeting, here's a short tour of Route 66 on Tulsa's Westside that you can do in a morning or afternoon.

“East Meets West” sculpture and Cyrus Avery Memorial Bridge, 1300 U.S. Route 66 (intersection of Riverside Drive and Southwest Boulevard. To see the sculpture up close you'll need to park at the lot atop Crybaby Hill and cross over 66 on the pedestrian bridge.

Musical road. The musical road has just been installed on the Southwest Boulevard bridge across the Arkansas River, parallel to the Memorial Bridge. You'll have to experience it on your way back (assuming you come from east of the river) as the grooves in the roadway are on the east lane of the bridge. If you do it right, you'll hear “This Land Is Your Land,” written by Oklahoma's own Woody Guthrie. Let me know what you think!

Route 66 Neon Sign Park, 1450 Southwest Boulevard. Replica neon signs from each of Tulsa's Route 66 alignments. This is a drive-by; there is no place to park.

Cities Service Station #8, 1648 Southwest Boulevard. Restored in 2009, this mid-century service station was first repurposed as a law office, now as office for Studio 45 Architects.

Mother Road Motorsports, 2208 Southwest Boulevard. Another adaptive reuse of an old building. This one was Potter's Feed Store when I was growing up. It's where we always bought our Easter chickens.

Will Rogers Highway Marker, 2410 Southwest Boulevard. This marker with a Michael Wallis quote designates Route 66 by its other name—the Will Rogers Highway.

Howard Park, 2510 Southwest Boulevard. It's worth parking in the lot and making your way over to the limestone monoliths on the edge of Southwest Boulevard/Route 66 to see the symbols of Tulsa carved by sculptor Patrick Sullivan. Don't step in the big hole west of the sculptures—that's where the 66' dinosaur will be installed soon!



Goodwill Industries of Tulsa, 3110 Southwest Boulevard. Did you know that the first Goodwill west of the Mississippi was formed at West Tulsa United Methodist Church in 1927? The headquarters are still here on the Westside, but you might want to stop at the Donation Center or the new outlet store for a bargain. Notice the new neon sign with the kickin' boots!

Billy Ray's BBQ, 3524 Southwest Boulevard. Billy Ray's was the first recipient of a Tulsa Route 66 Neon Sign Grant. One of your options for lunch!

Route 66 Historical Village, 3770 Southwest Boulevard. Celebrating the railroad and oil industries that built southwest Tulsa. Come see where many of your fellow Gillies volunteer on Fridays noon-3, Saturdays 10-4, and Sundays noon-3. **The Red Fork Depot** is an event center, but you might want to walk around to the front to see the new sculpture, "Stories in Steel."

Daniel Webster High School, 1919 W. 40th St.

Just across from the Village, not quite on Route 66 but a must-see, is Webster High School, built by the PWA in 1938. The Art Deco building and the grounds were named to the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District in 2021. Drive by the front of the building on Circle Drive AKA Melvin Kilgore Drive (named for a beloved custodian).

Galbreath Colcord Russell Addition / Ollie's Restaurant / Tulsa's First Oil Well historical marker. Across from Ollie's Restaurant (another great lunch option—with model trains!) is a row of century-old buildings that first housed the offices of oil speculators Galbreath, Colcord, and Russell. To the west of the restaurant is a marker commemorating the first oil well in Tulsa County, which was located about ½ mile northeast of the marker.

Crystal City, 4231 Southwest Boulevard. Site of Crystal City Amusement Park from the 1920s-1950s. At Tulsa's Route 66 Western Gateway, don't miss the "Floating Hangar" sculpture and the Tablets of Tulsa Time that trace the history of Red Fork, Tulsa, and Route 66. More great lunch options in Crystal City Shopping Center: Arnold's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers and Tamale Boyz.

The Women of Route 66

Wednesday, April 29

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Central Library

Pocahontas Greadington Learning & Creativity Center

Register at tulsalibrary.org.

Celebrate the centennial of Route 66 by traveling through its history with the women who paved the way and those who are ensuring the road's future is a smooth path to success! Registration required.

Join Oklahoma author Annette LaFortune Murray, Rebecca Marks Jimerson as Bessie Springfield and local business owner and Route 66 enthusiast Mary Beth Babcock to discuss the women of Route 66 and learn about the individuals who are championing Tulsa's place on the road today.



Photos from Uncrease

End of the Year Meeting and Luncheon

The Club at Indian Springs
16006 East 131st St. S., Broken Arrow, 74011

May 15, 2026

10:00 –10:30 a.m.: Meet and Greet
Coffee and Tea available and Cash bar

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

Buffet Bar

Tossed Salad
Chicken Fettuccine pasta bar with your choice of two sauces: (Marinara or Alfredo)
Green Beans
Garlic bread
Blueberry cobbler a la mode

Cost: \$25.90 (includes tax and gratuity)

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS April 30

Please make checks payable to The Gillies and mail to
Nannette Tresner, P.O. Box 661, Mannford OK, 74044
or pay on April 10 at the Docent meeting.



Gillies Cook!

This month's recipe is from Pat Nye.

MAGIC COOKIE BARS

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup of butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups of graham cracker crumbs
- 1(14 ounce) can of sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand preferred)
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate morsels
- 1 1/3 cups flaked coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees F (325 degrees for glass dish.) Coat 13x9 inch baking pan with no-stick cooking spray.
2. Combine graham cracker crumbs and butter. Press into bottom of prepared pan. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over crumb mixture. Layer evenly with chocolate chips, coconut, and nuts. Press down firmly with a fork.
3. Bake 25 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Cut into bars or diamonds. Store covered at room temperature.



Docent Corner – April 2026

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

Dear Gillies and Docents,

Alert: Docent Meeting Date Change

I hope most of you read President Becky Hatchett's March 26th eblast announcing the date change for our April meeting. It will be held on **Friday, April 10th** – same time, same place. At this meeting we will have two speakers and possibly three, *if* Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt will be in town.

- Maddy Witt, Digital Marketing Coordinator, will introduce the new Gilcrease logo with new colors – very exciting stuff – I can't wait for you to see it.
- Chelsea Herr, Curator of Indigenous Art & Culture, will discuss the L2 galleries (top floor or the Vista Room floor). As far as I can discern, these galleries will be the ones with the most changes as far as pieces added and configurations of content, so be ready!

PACCAR is the place. Coffee and treats at 9:30am with the meeting beginning promptly at 10:00am.

During the ongoing Uncrease events, Alex Mann, Director of Curatorial Affairs, has several tables set up in the future gift shop area that are covered with images of paintings. He is soliciting feedback from the Uncrease guests and the Gillies volunteers to share their thoughts on a painting(s) they like – much like the request he made to the Gillies last August. Because he is still soliciting input from community members as well as Gillies, it's not too late for you to submit your choice(s) if you haven't done so.

To respond to: What is a museum piece that "speaks" to you, that is special to you, or that you like to share with others, please email your response to me at aetrisler09@gmail.com – it is not too late.

*The following response was submitted by **Dan Lowrance**. I think we can all relate to his opening sentence:*

One of the hardest tasks I've ever been assigned.

I immediately went to "Superstition," Blumenschein, or "Hunger," Ufer, some of my Taos Artists favorites. Since I've had this one as the wallpaper on my phone since the museum closed in 2020 I would suggest "With the Eye of the Mind," Frederic Remington.

I always found that Remington was one of the most requested artists to see and his fantastic bronzes were usually the favorites. I was giving a First Visits tour one day during my docent training with five young first graders. While discussing Russell's the "bears and the bunny" I saw my mentor, Rod Schnieder pointing to a little girl with pigtails ignoring what I was talking about and staring up at a different painting. I turned and asked her, "Lucy, what are you looking at?" She said, "It's the men looking back at the big white cloud." I asked what they thought about it and she told me that she thought that they were afraid of it. It blew me away that a six-year-old was so interested in the observations of the painting.

This is also one of the few times he worked with impressionism, since he died about a year later at age 48. To view this painting from a distance and see the layers of light, the horses, and the discussion going on with the men, then approach the painting and see the amazing brushwork is why it's my favorite. A great example of impressionism for visitors to observe.

APRIL IS VOLUNTEER MONTH

Where else do Gillies volunteer?

Stephen Campbell Poll worker

Mary Castro Tulsa Opera, the Ballet, the Symphony Orchestra, Vernon AME Church

Lana Clark Osage Election Board, Country Corner Fire Department

Kathe Crapster Sand Springs Cultural and Historical Museum BOD

Tom Duncan Shadow Mountain Homeowners Association, Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation, Tulsa Citizens' Police Academy

Ken Fike Port Caeli House (end of life facility)

JoAnne Goin Route 66 Village, Assistance League, Iron Gate

Becky Hatchett Museum of Tulsa History, Route 66 Village, Osher Lifelong Institute

Bill Hellen English as a Second Language teacher at Catholic Charities

Kathy Horne Several capacities through All Souls Unitarian Church, Couse-Sharp House in Taos

Glenda Kilmer Museum of Tulsa History

Nancy Laughrey Route 66 Village

Bob McCullough Sight screening for children and adults through Downtown Tulsa Lions Club

Karen Morris Altrusa International, church activities (summer day camp), mission trip to help disaster victims, charity knitting, crocheting, and quilting

Janet O'Connor Tulsa Performing Arts Center, Mayfest, Reading Partners, Hospice

Carol Stookey Philbrook, Route 66 Village, Tulsa Foundation for Architecture, Urban Sketchers

Deanna Storm Philbrook, Harwelden, formerly for National Docent Symposium Council

Cindy Strasheim OkPop, Red Cross, Tulsa Symphony, Presbyterian Women

Nancy Thomason Singer and pianist in a ministry group named Hyde Park 5, Advisory Board/Social Committee and Care Captain in the Hyde Park Community

Paul Westbrook Route 66 Village, Tulsa Farmers' Market, Esplanade Board of Administrators, Ashland New Play Festival

Ron Young Treasurer for Faith Lutheran Church and Tulsa Stamp Club

Secretary's Report

Janice Henshaw has changed her status to Associate.

A get well card was sent to Beverly Wilcox.

A sympathy card was sent to Mike Vance.

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary Julie Gentz at julie.gentz55@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 3 | Executive Committee meeting in Jackson at HCAR @ 10:00 a.m. |
| April 9 | Board of Directors by Zoom @ 10:00 a.m. |
| April 10 | Gillies/Docent Meeting in PACCAR at HCAR at 10:000 a.m.
Meet and Greet at 9:30 a.m. |
| April 11 | Uncrease 1-4 p.m. |
| April 23 | Uncrease 7-9 p.m. |
| May 7 | Executive Comm./BOD handover meeting in PACCAR at HCAR @ 10:00 a.m. |
| May 15 | End of Year Luncheon at The Club at Indian Springs Country Club @ 10:00 a.m.
16006 E. 131 st St. S., Broken Arrow. |

GILLIES DUES FOR 2026-2027

By Nannette Tresner, Treasurer

Gillies dues for 2026-2027 are now due.

Active Gillies - \$30

Associate Gillies - \$35

Please make your check payable to "The Gillies."

You can give your check to me at any of our Gillie meetings,
or you can mail it to me at:

Nannette Tresner

PO Box 661

Mannford, OK 74044

Thanks to everyone who paid their dues at our meeting March 20th.

Note: Gillie dues are not the same as Gilcrease Museum Membership Dues. Contact JJ Cody at the museum to find out if your membership is current by clicking on this email:

jj-cody@utulsa.edu