

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

Out of turmoil can come understanding and resolve. The war in Iraq and the subsequent looting of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad and other provincial museums has increased public awareness and interest in Mesopotamian art. In light of these recent events, the Oriental Institute Volunteers have a serious responsibility to educate the public about this part of the world with tact and grace. With the opening of the new Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery rapidly approaching, the value of education about the Near East has never been so timely and important. The goal of our docents has always been to explain ancient Near Eastern cultures as accurately and objectively as possible, while at the same time drawing parallels with our own culture across millennia of time. We have great faith in our docents' ability to serve as goodwill ambassadors between the museum's collection and the community.

Tour Program

Docent-led tours of the permanent galleries (the Joseph and Mary Grimshaw Egyptian Gallery and the Persian Gallery) continue to be in popular demand, keeping museum docents actively engaged and interacting with audiences of all ages. Whether school students, religious groups, community organizations, or senior citizens, the Oriental Institute Museum docents are always ready to share their knowledge and their enthusiasm for the museum's beautiful collection. Throughout the year, many museum docents initiated informal study sessions to collaborate on the development of special interest tour topics to enhance their own knowledge in specific areas of interest pertaining to the collection. These informal gatherings were a dynamic information exchange to help improve tour content as well as interactive touring techniques.

The Docent Captain System, which was instituted decades ago, continues to be a vital link between the museum docents and the administrative staff. Each captain's dedicated supervision over the organization and maintenance of docent staffing for the morning and afternoon tour schedules allow the program to function with efficiency and purpose. Their administrative skills and unwavering support are essential elements in maintaining the tour program's excellence as an enriching educational experience. We are grateful to the captains: Debbie Aliber, Gabriele Da Silva, Joe Diamond, Mary Harter, Teresa Hintzke, Nina Longley, Masako Matsumoto, Roy Miller, Charlotte Noble, Donald Payne, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Larry Scheff, Anne Schumacher, Daila Shefner, Karen Terras, and Carole Yoshida for their patience and cooperation. We salute them for their support and hard work throughout the year.

The monthly docent captains' meetings continue to foster an excellent opportunity for captains to communicate concerns and offer suggestions for improvements within the Volunteer Program as well as throughout the Institute. These meetings provide a venue for an open dialogue between the captains. Within this informal setting, the docents and volunteers are able to share and discuss ideas on various aspects of the Volunteer Program. These observations are helpful for initiating change and improvements within the entire program. This year for the first time in the thirty-six year history of the Volunteer Program, we were honored to have the Oriental Institute Director and the Director of the Museum attend one of these monthly captains' meetings. Gil Stein, the new Oriental Institute Director, addressed the questions and concerns expressed by many of the captains, docents, and volunteers.

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"Spotlight on Persia" brought together three docent presenters for November Volunteer Day. Each docent dealt with a different aspect of ancient Persian culture. From left to right: Joe Diamond, Charlotte Noble, and Kathy Mineck. Photograph by Terry Friedman

We continue to revamp and streamline the reservation and booking procedures for tour reservations, which are now handled exclusively by mail. This process continues to operate efficiently under the supervision of Maria Krasinski, our Education Programs Assistant. With the volume of calls and inquiries concerning museum tours and programs, we have instituted procedures to make the process as systematic and error-free as possible. This format has been very successful, not only in the processing of our tour/reservation/confirmation forms and fee-based program requests, but also in the tracking and compilation of statistical data. We now are able to retrieve important information concerning the number of museum visitors enjoying a docent-led tour and what these numbers represent in terms of geographic distribution, educational level, and age profile. We are pleased to announce that over 7,000 people enjoyed the advantages of a docent-led tour during the past year.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

With the announcement of the opening of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery and Yelda Khorsabad Court in the fall of 2003, plans were immediately initiated to produce an enticing recruitment brochure aimed at attracting new volunteers to the Oriental Institute's Docent and Volunteer Corps. Several members of the Thursday morning volunteer team began this effort last summer by spearheading a campaign to merge their creative talents and energies into the development of our first recruitment brochure. They worked tirelessly to create a tool that would showcase the Oriental Institute's Volunteer Program to the general public and allow individuals to explore how they might fit into the program. Our thanks to Masako Matsumoto, Charlotte Noble, and Karen Terras for their imagination, creativity, and dedication to the development of this wonderful recruitment brochure. We also want to thank Debby Halpern, Maria

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Krasinski, and Clemens Reichel for their careful editing and graphic design contributions to this project.

“Open your eyes to the world of the ancient Near East” became the slogan that caught the attention of many eager volunteer recruits. We are pleased to welcome twenty-seven new members into the volunteer corps: Sabat Adil, John Aldrin, Sylwia Aldrin, Jane Arkell, Ann Avouris, James Baughman, Jo Burgess, Stephen Esposito, Ruth Goldman, Tom Hunter, Denis Kelley, Barbara Levin, Kathleen Lisle, Michael Lisle, Mitch Mikalik, Erin Hardacher Morr, David Ray, John Ray, Micah Shender, Sabrina Sholts, Levi Smith, Pierangelo Taschini, Kristine Thompson, Pramerudee Townsend, Robert Wagner, Michael Wasniowski, and Monica Wood.

In preparation for the opening of the Mesopotamian Gallery, a four-part series of training sessions was developed to orient the new, current, and returning volunteers to the new gallery space. We are pleased to announce that the 2003 Training Class was the largest class in recent history, with over ninety participants.

The class gathered weekly for four Saturdays to hear a broad range of topics designed to help familiarize the volunteers with the archaeological, cultural, and historical aspects of the museum’s collection. We extend our appreciation to: John Brinkman, Clemens Reichel, Martha Roth, Gil Stein, Jason Ur, Tony Wilkinson, and Karen Wilson for sharing their wealth of knowledge with the docents and volunteers. It was an extraordinary experience for everyone!

We would also like to thank Oriental Institute Museum Director, Karen Wilson, who compiled an informative training manual with supplementary readings for the Mesopotamian Gallery. These materials will be a valuable resource for all the volunteers for years to come.

Volunteer Days

Volunteer Days continue to provide a stimulating environment for Oriental Institute docents and volunteers to explore topics for further research and study. These interactive monthly educational seminars serve as a unique forum where one can broaden one’s knowledge of the ancient Near East while enjoying special camaraderie with fellow volunteers, faculty, and staff members at the Institute, as well as with colleagues from other cultural institutions.

This year’s programs included a broad spectrum of research, projects, and interests. Our thanks to participating faculty and staff members of the Oriental Institute: Wendy Ennes, McGuire Gibson, Norman Golb, W. Ray Johnson, Charles E. Jones, Carlotta Maher, John Sanders, and Gil Stein. Our thanks to Sara Skelly and Jacqueline Terrassas of the Smart Museum for their informative presentations and involvement in the joint-venture program with the Oriental Institute Docents and Volunteers.

Several of our own docents have enjoyed taking center stage as presenters for the monthly continuing education Volunteer Day programs.

In November, docents Joe Diamond, Kathy Mineck, and Charlotte Noble were the guest speakers for a program that spotlighted Persia. They shared their independent research on Persia during a special three-part program. Each speaker approached the topic from a different perspective, which added so much to our understanding and appreciation of the history, language, and culture of this amazing ancient civilization.

In February, Karen Terras presented her research on “From Prudery to Pornography: Sexuality in New Kingdom Egypt.” Her talk gave us a whole new perspective on Egyptian art and sexuality, broadening our appreciation for the interpretation and study of ancient Egyptian culture through the graphic images as well as the more subtle nuances expressed through their art forms.

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At December Volunteer Recognition Day, Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein posed with the Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients. Top row, pictured from left to right are: Kitty Picken, Gil Stein, Masako Matsumoto, Nina Longley, Lillian Schwartz, bottom row Joan Friedmann, Peggy Wick, Rita Picken, Larry Scheff, Elizabeth Spiegel, and Anne Schumacher. Photograph by Jean Grant

We hope that these presentations will encourage and inspire other volunteers to pursue independent research and to become presenters at future Volunteer Day programs. Our thanks to everyone for their valuable and substantive contributions to Volunteer Day programming and research.

Collaborations

Volunteers were pleased to have the opportunity to participate in two special collaborative programs this past year, one with The Field Museum and the other with the David and Alfred Smart Museum.

In March and April, The Field Museum welcomed our volunteers to participate in training sessions for the “Eternal Egypt: Masterworks of Ancient Art” exhibit which is on tour from the British Museum. Following a series of training classes, The Field Museum Docents served as exhibit interpreters and facilitators for museum visitors. Our thanks to: Rebecca Binkley, Gabriele Da Silva, Joe Diamond, Robert McGuinness, Roy Miller, Donald Payne, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Larry Scheff, Lillian Schwarz, and Carole Yoshida who took the opportunity to join forces with The Field Museum for this special exhibit.

Tuesday and Thursday afternoon Museum Docents were invited to collaborate with the Smart Museum on a special program that would bring sixth graders to both museums to study artifacts and interpret their meaning. The Smart Museum’s exhibit, “Sacred Fragments: Magic, Mystery, and Religion in the Ancient World.” served as the springboard for these specialized tours where the volunteers made connections and comparisons between the objects in the Oriental Institute’s Egyptian and Persian collections and those on display at the Smart Museum.

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Volunteer Voice

The Volunteer Voice (formerly The Docent Digest), the monthly newsletter for the Oriental Institute Docent/Volunteer Program, has been an important means of communication between the faculty, staff, and volunteer corps and the Volunteer Services Coordinators for many years. The monthly mailing had traditionally been sent through the postal service; however, with changing times and faster communications technology, we now are able to deliver The Voice via e-mail. This approach has saved the program hundreds of dollars in duplicating costs as well as ever-increasing postal fees. We would like to thank Thursday Docent Co-captain Masako Matsumoto for this very cost-effective suggestion for the Docent/Volunteer Program.

Book Review

We were also pleased to have Mari Terman share a fascinating book review in the March Volunteer Voice on *Before Writing, Volume 1: From Counting to Cuneiform*, by Denise Schmandt-Besserat. Her informative and insightful report helped to prepare the volunteers for the Mesopotamian training sessions.

Docent Library

This year, the Docent Library continued to expand and flourish under the skillful guidance and supervision of Debbie Aliber and Margaret Foorman. Margaret Foorman worked very closely with Debbie this past year in order to prepare to assume the responsibilities of Head Librarian. Aided by the many generous donations and contributions from the faculty, staff, and volunteers, our library's collection has enjoyed many new additions. This year Debbie and Margaret, together with their Library Committee, Patricia Hume, Sandra Jacobsohn, Deloris Sanders, and Daila Shefner, orchestrated an extremely successful booksale on May 3rd. The sale was planned in conjunction with the Mesopotamian Training Sessions to help new and current volunteers supplement their reading materials economically and, at the same time, support the Docent Library Fund.



"Outreach on the Road Again" at James Hart School in Homewood, Illinois. Docent Anne Schumacher and James Hart teacher Gail Huizinga pose with the students who participated in the dress-up. Photograph Terry Friedman

Field Trip to the Field Museum

June Volunteer Day gave us an opportunity to visit our friends at The Field Museum. Our docents and volunteers were invited by Bob Cantu, the Docent Coordinator at The Field Museum, to see the special exhibit on "Eternal Egypt" and have coffee with The Field Museum Docents. It is always a treat for our volunteers to visit and exchange ideas with the volunteers from another museum. It broadens their perspectives and helps us to evaluate how other museum docents handle their presentations to the public.

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"Outreach on the Road Again" brought Carole Yoshida to James Hart School as the slide show presenter. Here she posed with students who participated in the ancient Egypt dress-up activity. Photograph by Terry Friedman

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Holiday Luncheon

As a yearly tradition, faculty, staff, and volunteers gather to enjoy a festive holiday celebration for December Volunteer Day. This popular program includes a guest speaker, the introduction of new volunteers, and the volunteer recognition ceremony. The program culminates with a lovely



The Docents and Volunteers get invited to tea at the Randels. Enjoying a lovely afternoon at the President's home are from right to left: W. Ray Johnson, Director of the Epigraphic Survey, Carlotta Maher, Terry Friedman, and Cathy Dueñas

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holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. This year's special event took place on Monday, December 2.

Our guest speaker was Oriental Institute Director, Gil Stein. His presentation, "What Mean These Bones?" was a fascinating topic. We gained a whole new perspective and appreciation for the role of zooarchaeologists and how the study of animal bones can unlock many mysteries about ancient cultures, revealing a great deal about their diet, mobility, religion, settlement patterns, and much more.

Immediately following Dr. Stein's talk, the program continued with the introduction of the new volunteers and the Recognition Awards Ceremony. We were pleased to welcome into the Volunteer Corps: Ann Avouris, Elizabeth Dyer, Charlotte Noble, Kristine Thompson, Kavita Macchar, Katrina Paleski, Melissa Ratkovich, and Monica Wood.

This year twenty-one volunteers were recognized for their distinguished and loyal commitment to the Oriental Institute. Bravo and congratulations to all!

Recognition Award Recipients

5 Years

Janet Kessler George Morgan

10 Years

Joan Friedmann Betsy Kremers Carole Krucoff Barbara Rollhaus Anne Schumacher

15 Years

Masako Matsumoto Dawn Prena Larry Scheff Lillian Schwartz Richard Watson

20 Years

Nina Longley

25 Years

Lilian Cropsey Kitty Picken Rita Picken Mardi Trossman

30 Years

Janet Russell Elizabeth Spiegel Peggy Wick

35 Years

Jim Sopranos

We would like to express our gratitude to Gil Stein and the Office of the Director for underwriting the delicious Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Quadrangle Club and to Denise Browning, Suq Manager, for her valuable assistance.

Outreach

The Outreach Program continues to delight and engage audiences of all ages. Outreach has grown in stature and popularity over the past seven years. It continues to generate a loyal following of schools as well as attract new audiences who enjoy this "in-school field trip" alternative. Whether adults, educators, parents, or students, the program receives praise and rave reviews from all of its participants. Even with the reopening of the Egyptian and Persian Galleries, many schools and community groups view an outreach visit as an enhancement to their total museum

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experience. This year the Outreach Docents took the “show on the road” to more than 300 participants.

Randel Tea

The home of President and Mrs. Randel was the location for a special July Volunteer Day program. The docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers of the Oriental Institute were invited to enjoy a beautiful tea reception with President and Mrs. Randel. We thank the Randels for their generous hospitality and for extending such a warm and gracious welcome to everyone.

We also extend our thanks and gratitude to Carlotta Maher and W. Ray Johnson for their unique presentation “Tales from the Crypt: Recent Work and Discoveries of the Epigraphic Survey at Chicago House in Luxor.” Their talk highlighted some of the impressive work accomplished by the Epigraphic Survey and its significant contributions towards the preservation of ancient Egypt for future generations of scholars to study.

Intern

We were delighted this year to have the opportunity to work with Ann Avouris from the University of Chicago. From administrative tasks to assisting on special projects, Ann’s energetic spirit and calm demeanor were appreciated by all who worked with her. Throughout the past year her numerous contributions have helped to enhance and support many vital areas of the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operation. We are proud to announce that Ann has received an internship to work at the Brooklyn Museum of Fine Arts this summer. Congratulations, Ann!

In Memoriam

We were saddened this past year to lose two devoted friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute: William Boone and Eleanor Swift.

They were extraordinary individuals whose gifts of time, talent, and dedication helped to enrich the Volunteer Program, the Museum, and the Institute in many ways. They will be greatly missed.

Reflection

This year has witnessed an increase in activity in the Volunteer Office, as efforts to recruit new docents were combined with ongoing educational programs in preparation for the opening of the new Mesopotamian Gallery in the fall. Our volunteers, both new and current, have shown their dedication to the museum by attending both Volunteer Day Programs and the additional Mesopotamia training sessions. The continued curiosity, enthusiasm, and unwavering support of the docents and volunteers are the key elements to the program’s success and longevity.

We would also like to thank our colleagues in Museum Education for their faithful support throughout this past year: Wendy Ennes, Teachers’ Services and Family Project Coordinator, Maria Krasinski, Education Programs Assistant, and Carole Krucoff, Head of Education and Public Programs. In an environment bustling with activity, their calm reassurance, prudent guidance, and good humor provide a congenial and productive work atmosphere.

We gratefully acknowledge the friendship and support of the faculty and staff of the Oriental Institute for their accessibility and involvement with the program. As our teachers and mentors, they continue to motivate and inspire the high level of volunteer involvement throughout many vital areas of the Oriental Institute and the museum. We thank them for continually sharing their

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wealth of knowledge, sparking our curiosity, and supplying countless resources for the ongoing education of the docents and the volunteers.

The Volunteer Program has continued to thrive and evolve over the past thirty-six years, providing meaningful opportunities for the volunteers to be challenged intellectually as well as to demonstrate their many talents. Throughout its history, the program has gained strength and stature due to its ability to adapt well to change and embrace new challenges.

We await the opening of the Edgar and Deborah Jannotta Mesopotamian Gallery with confidence that our museum's docents and volunteers will bring ancient Mesopotamia to life as they have done so impressively with Egypt and Persia.

Collectively and individually our docents and volunteers are a rare and treasured asset. As the following list demonstrates, our volunteers are vital contributing partners and valued intellectual resources in the Institute's and the museum's ongoing operation. We are proud of all that they have accomplished and look forward to a rewarding future with their help and support.

Advisors to the Volunteer Program

Carlotta Maher Peggy Grant Janet Helman

Honorary Volunteers-at-Large

Carol Randel Elizabeth Sonnenschein

Museum Docents

Debbie Aliber	Ira Hardman	Donald Payne**
Ann Avouris	Mary Harter	Kitty Picken
Bernadine Basile	Janet Helman	Rita Picken
Jane Belcher	Lee Herbst	Semra Prescott
Christel Betz**	Teresa Hintzke	Patrick Regnery
Rebecca Binkley	Tom Hunter	Stephen Ritzel
Dorothy Blindt**	Henriette Klawans	Lucie Sandel
Myllicent Buchanan	Elizabeth Lassers	Deloris Sanders
Andrew Buncis	Nina Longley	Larry Scheff
David Covill	Lo Luong Lo	Joy Schocket
Joan Curry	Kavita Machhar	Anne Schumacher
Gabriele Da Silva	Sherif Marcus	Mary Shea**
Catherine Deans-Barrett	Masako Matsumoto	Daila Shefner
Joe Diamond	Robert McGuinness**	Toni Smith
Erl Dordal	Roy Miller	Bernadette Strnad
Sam Dreessen	Kathy Mineck	Mari Terman
Margaret Foorman	Charlotte Noble	Karen Terras
Joan Friedmann	Katrina Paleski	Claire Thomas
Dario Giacomoni	Nancy Patterson**	Monica Wood
Anita Greenberg	Denise Paul	Carole Yoshida
Debby Halpern	Carolyn Payer**	

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**We are sorry that the names of these Docents were not included in last year's *Annual Report*. We apologize for this oversight on our part.

Outreach Docents and Volunteers

Bernadine Basilie	Mary Jo Khuri	Nancy Patterson
Mylicent Buchanan	Henriette Klawans	Stephen Ritzel
Janet Calkins	Betsy Kremers	Deloris Sanders
Hazel Cramer	Nina Longley	Larry Scheff
Bill and Terry Gillespie	Kavita Machhar	Anne Schumacher
Debby Halpern	Masako Matsumoto	Karen Terras
Ira Hardman	Robert McGuiness**	Claire Thomas
Mary Harter	Caryl Mikrut	Carole Yoshida
Janet Helman	Roy Miller	Agnes Zellner
Lee Herbst	Kathy Mineck	

Suq Docents

Muriel Brauer	Neta Rattenborg	Norma van der Meulen
Patty Dunkel	Rochelle Rossin	
Peggy Grant	Jane Thain	

Substitute Suq Docents

Janet Helman Jo Jackson

Suq Jewelry Designer

Norma van der Meulen

Museum Archives Volunteers

James Baughman	Patricia Hume	Levi Smith
Hazel Cramer	Sandra Jacobsohn	Carole Yoshida
Peggy Grant	Lillian Schwartz	

Registrar's Office Volunteers

Aimee Drolet	Masako Matsumoto	Peggy Wick
Leon Drolet	Toni Smith	
Mary Grimshaw	O. J. Sopranos	

Membership Volunteers

Jo Burgess Gabriele Da Silva Rita Picken Mica Shender Levi Smith

Diyala Project Volunteers

Richard Harter Betsy Kremers George Sundell

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Hamoukar Project Volunteers

Richard Harter Betsy Kremers George Sundell

Iraq Museum Database Project

Karen Terras

Photography Lab Volunteers

Pam Ames Irene Glasner

Courtyard Volunteers

Terry Gillespie Bill Gillespie Robert Herbst

Docent Library

Head Librarians Debbie Aliber / Margaret Foorman

Assistant Librarians

Pat Hume Sandra Jacobsohn Deloris Sanders Daila Shefner

Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers

Debbie Aliber	Ira Hardman	Melissa Ratkovich
Jane Belcher	Mary Harter	Patrick Regnery
Rebecca Binkley	Lee Herbst	Stephen Ritzel
Dorothy Blindt	Teresa Hintzke	Lucie Sandel
Myllicent Buchanan	Elisabeth Lassers	Deloris Sanders
David Covill	Kathleen Lisle	Larry Scheff
Gabriele Da Silva	Michael Lisle	Joy Schochet
Catherine Deans-Barrett	Masako Matsumoto	Anne Schumacher
Joe Diamond	Robert McGuinness	Daila Shefner
Dario Giacomoni	Roy Miller	Bernadette Strnad
Bill Gillespie	Carl Mineck	Mari Terman
Terry Gillespie	Kathleen Mineck	Karen Terras
Anita Greenberg	Donald Payne	Carole Yoshida
Bud Haas	Diane Posner	
Debby Halpern	Semra Prescott	

Assistants to Epigraphic Survey and Chicago House

Debbie Doyle Mary Grimshaw Carlotta Maher Crennan Ray David Ray

Assistants to the Prehistoric Project

Diana Grodzins Andree Wood

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Demotic Dictionary

Anne Nelson

Iranian Prehistoric Project Volunteers

Janet Helman

Volunteers Emeritus

Elizabeth Baum

Carol Green

Rochelle Rossin

William A. Boone†

Bud Haas

Janet Russell

Charlotte Collier

Cissy Haas

Eleanor Swift†

Mary D'Ouille

Alice James

Peggy Wick

Bettie Dwinell

Dorothy Mozinski

†Denotes Deceased
