

## IN MEMORIAM

DEBORAH ALIBER

On December 5, the Oriental Institute lost a dear friend and dedicated volunteer when Deborah Aliber passed away. Debbie served as a member of the Oriental Institute Visiting Committee for six years and was recognized as an Emeritus Docent. She began volunteering with the Oriental Institute while her husband, Bob, held a faculty position at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Among her many accomplishments, Debbie played a critical role in the formation of the Docent Library and served as its first librarian. Under her visionary leadership, the Docent Library has become an important resource for the Oriental Institute that is used daily by docents as they prepare for tours and expand their knowledge of the ancient world. Debbie and Bob were also generous donors to the Oriental Institute, and the Persian Gallery is named in honor of their contributions of time and talent.



Debbie's enthusiasm for the history and cultures of the ancient Near East led to numerous study trips to Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Iran, India, and around the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. Along with her warm and outgoing personality, Debbie was intellectually engaged in a wide variety of issues and was a passionate student of history and film. She was also culturally active and enjoyed visits to a wide variety of museums and theater performances.

The faculty, staff, and volunteers of the Oriental Institute count themselves as fortunate to have known and worked with Debbie. A special memorial service was held in the Robert and Deborah Aliber Persian Gallery in March. Debbie will be remembered for her dedication to advancing knowledge of the ancient world, her commitment to lifelong education, as well as her easy smile, infectious laughter, and welcoming demeanor.