VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Catherine Dueñas and Terry Friedman

This year the Oriental Institute docents and volunteers have worked as a team to adopt a more proactive role in improving the Volunteer Program and in planning for the museum’s future. They began a dialogue with Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling and museum staff by creating a Docent Advisory Committee and by completing a volunteer survey. They took the initiative to collect funds for benches in the East Wing galleries, to create theme-based gallery tours, and to expand the Docent Library. With the opening of the Assyrian, Syro-Anatolian, and Megiddo Galleries, the docents have handled the ever-increasing constraints and demands for one-hour guided tours of the entire museum with ease and grace. Their thirst for knowledge and their determination to support the Oriental Institute’s mission make the docents and volunteers an invaluable asset. As goodwill ambassadors, they have applied their knowledge and channeled their enthusiasm to provide the public with an understanding and appreciation for the historical and cultural legacy of the ancient Near East in today’s troubled world.

Tour Program

Docent-led tours of the permanent galleries of the Oriental Institute Museum were in high demand and were enthusiastically supported by audiences of all ages. Whether for schools, religious groups, community organizations, or senior citizens, the Oriental Institute docents were eager to share their knowledge of the museum’s collection with all visitors. With the opening of the East Wing galleries, museum docents could add artifacts from ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel into their touring repertoire. Faced with the challenge of incorporating the reinstalled collection into a one-hour tour of the entire museum, the docents needed to develop and modify their touring strategies in the galleries. They successfully worked together in teams to offer each other creative suggestions to help each other hone their interactive touring skills. We are proud to announce that nearly 12,000 museum visitors enjoyed the advantages of a docent-led tour!

The Docent Captain system serves as an important communication link between the museum docents and the administrative staff. The captains’ diligence and supervision over the organization and maintenance of docent staffing for the morning and afternoon tour schedule allows the Volunteer Program to function with efficiency and purpose, as their administrative skills and unwavering support are vital components to the program’s excellence as an enriching educational experience for the public. Our thanks to Docent Captains: Myllicent Buchanan, Gabriele da Silva, Joe Diamond, Teresa Hintzke, Dennis Kelley, Roy Miller, Charlotte Noble, Donald Payne, Patrick Regnery, Stephen Ritzel, Lucie Sandel, Deloris Sanders, Anne Schumacher, Daila Shefner, Cynthia Warso, and Carole Yoshida.

This year a Docent Advisory Committee was developed to help give the volunteers a greater voice in the decision-making policies of the Volunteer Program and Museum Education Office. This Committee serves as an open forum for the docents and the volunteers and is designed to discuss concerns and to work on productive solutions for problem areas. Cynthia Warso has served as the chairperson of the committee, helping to facilitate meetings and activities while actively seeking input from all the docents and volunteers. The Committee’s valuable work will assist with improving communications with museum staff as well as incorporating fresh perspectives and plans for the museum’s future. Early in the fall, the volunteers were given the
opportunity to have a dialogue with Geoff Emberling, and to participate in a volunteer survey to help the director assess the strengths and weaknesses of the museum exhibits and the Volunteer Program. The survey was developed by Volunteer Shel Newman and was enthusiastically received by the docents and volunteers, who participated in this candid and constructive evaluation of their peers and of the program.

**Bench Drive**

As the opening of the East Wing galleries neared, many of the volunteers noted that there was a shortage of adequate gallery seating for museum visitors when they wished to rest for a few moments while enjoying a docent-led tour. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Debby Halpern and Mari Terman, many generous volunteers rallied to the call for donations to purchase two new benches in the East Wing (fig. 1). The benches were designed to be replicas of the Oriental Institute benches from the 1930s. We are pleased to report that they have been donated in the collective names of the Oriental Institute Volunteers of 2004 and have become welcome additions to the gallery space.

This year, we were also able to purchase thirty-six portable aluminum folding stools for use in the galleries. Whether for museum visitors or for gallery workshop sessions, everyone has been eager to take advantage of this new lightweight equipment. This purchase was made possible through the many generous donations from the volunteers in memory of Simon Garfinkle, Terry Friedman’s father.

**Docent Library**

As Head Docent Librarian, Margaret Foorman has continued to develop an outstanding resource of books, ephemera, and reference materials for the volunteers to access easily. Building on a strong foundation developed by Debbie Aliber, former Docent Librarian, Margaret has continued to expand the collection as well as to reorganize sections of its content. Her monthly updates in the Volunteer Voice have helped to highlight new additions to the library and offer suggested readings to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the ancient Near East. Through generous donations from faculty, staff, and volunteers, along with many new
purchases, the Docent Library’s collection continues to flourish both as an educational tool and a valuable research resource. Sandra Jacobsohn and Deloris Sanders have been helpful in assisting Margaret with the library’s orderly maintenance, content organization, and offering suggestions for new acquisitions.

Interns

We were delighted this year to have the opportunity to work with five exceptional interns: Katharyn Hanson, Katie Heupel, Charlotte Noble, Claire Thomas, and Cynthia Warso, who helped to support many vital areas of the Volunteer Program’s ongoing operation. Their assistance is mentioned throughout this report. From administrative tasks to research opportunities, and theme-based gallery presentations, our interns approached their assignments with great dedication and resolve. Special thanks and appreciation go to Charlotte Noble for undertaking the monumental task of reorganizing all of our lists into one uniform database. Charlotte’s hard work will make a significant difference in how we store, modify, and access important information concerning the volunteers.

Outreach

The Outreach Program developed nearly ten years ago in response to the museum’s closure for renovation and climate control (fig. 2). Once the museum reopened, the Outreach Program continued to serve as an extension of the docent-led tour program. Its popularity quickly grew as a viable way to create a special in-school field trip experience. Throughout the years, it has been able to retain a loyal cadre of client support, as well as attract new audiences. It continues to receive accolades and praise from students, educators, parents, and adults throughout metropolitan Chicago. Even with the reopening of the Egyptian, Persian, Mesopotamian, and the new East Wing galleries, many groups continue to request an outreach visit to enhance their museum visit. This year more than 300 students and 100 adults enjoyed the benefits of an outreach visit.
Volunteer Training for the East Gallery

Volunteers were thrilled to participate in the volunteer training sessions offered in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel (figs. 3–6). The classes began on October 13 with an introduction and opening lecture by Museum Director Geoff Emberling and then continued with two more sessions in October and two in November.

We would like to thank both the faculty and staff that helped make the volunteer training sessions for the East Wing galleries a great success: John Brinkman, Geoff Emberling, Ron Gorny, Gabrielle Novacek, Virginia Rimmer, David Schloen, Theo van den Hout, and Aslıhan Yener. Their lectures and printed training materials will serve as an excellent resource for our ongoing education and enrichment.

We would also like to thank all of the docents and volunteers who helped with setup and behind-the-scenes activities, so that everything ran smoothly for each of the programs. John Aldrin, Jane Arkell, Christel Betz, Rebecca Binkley, Joan Curry, Gabriele da Silva, Mary Finn, Joan Friedmann, Debby Halpern, Mark Hirsch, Dennis Kelley, Charlotte Noble, Denise Paul, Donald Payne, Rita Picken, Stephen Ritzel, Lillian Schwartz, and Mari Terman were an integral part of each program’s success.

Enrichment Workshops for Docents and Volunteers

In preparation for the opening of the East Wing galleries, docents and volunteers gathered to review materials and information presented during the fall 2004 training classes. Two gallery workshops on the East Wing collections were offered to facilitate and encourage further background study of the artifacts. Our thanks to Joan Barghusen, former Head of Museum Education and guest curator for Empires of the Fertile Crescent, for her comprehensive presentation on the labels in the Syro-Anatolian Gallery and to Dennis Campbell, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), for his discussion and decipherment of the Luwian hieroglyphs. Each workshop shed new light and insights into the objects and how they relate to the rest of the collection. We would also like to thank Geoff Emberling for his
enlightening “Highlights of the Collection” tour which gave the docents and volunteers an excellent overview of how they could develop a comprehensive tour of the entire museum in an hour.

Two other theme-based gallery workshops were researched and developed by docent interns Katharyn Hanson and Cynthia Warso. In April Katharyn Hanson, Tuesday morning Museum Docent, intern, and NELC graduate student presented a theme-based tour on ancient Near Eastern “Art and Architecture.” Her tour of the galleries consisted of a condensed overview of the collection with some visual aids. She carefully transitioned between the objects in each of the four galleries to help maintain the theme of her tour and to keep within the confines of a forty-five minute to one-hour time frame, which is very important for weekday tours. She presented her information in a clear, concise, and engaging manner targeted for sixth grade students.

In May Cynthia Warso, Thursday Morning Museum Docent Captain and intern, presented a Biblical emphasis tour of the galleries. Her theme-based one-hour tour helped us to make important connections between many of the museum artifacts and how they relate to specific sections in the Bible. Her abbreviated tour can serve as a model to help us prepare for an ever-growing audience of church and religious school groups as well as seminary students.

In June we were very fortunate to have a special full-day enrichment workshop with Clemens Reichel. Our thanks and appreciation go to Clemens for a truly outstanding Volunteer Day Seminar on “Khorsabad and the Assyrian Expansion into Syria.” This comprehensive and in-depth presentation put the objects into a meaningful context, helping us to interpret their importance both culturally and historically. Clemens’ insightful discussion shed a whole new light on the cultural narrative and ideological messages conveyed through Assyrian monumental art.

Special Workshops for Teachers

This year we were pleased to introduce many teachers throughout metropolitan Chicago to the museum’s galleries as well as to the rich resources available to bring the ancient Near East to life for students of all ages. The Friday Museum Docents, with Joe Diamond as their captain, were instrumental in the development of these innovative workshops (fig. 7). From preschool teachers, to art teachers from DuPage County, to science and math students learning what archaeologists learn from the past through scientific study, these docent-led tours were an eye-opening experience for the teachers and students alike, many of whom had never visited the Oriental Institute. This introduction to the museum’s collection was a priceless experience for both the educators and the students.
Hosting Colleagues

In March we were pleased to host the volunteers from the Museum of Science and Industry for a field trip to the Oriental Institute. Saturday morning museum docents John Aldrin, Clare Lipinski, and Docent Co-Captain Lucie Sandel welcomed these volunteers to a delicious brunch in the LaSalle Banks Education Center, followed by a tour of the museum galleries. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our collection while sharing ideas about touring techniques with colleagues from another cultural institution.

Volunteer Days

One of the major benefits of being a member of the Oriental Institute’s volunteer corps is the monthly Volunteer Day programs which provide both continuing education and a stimulating learning environment for docents and volunteers to hear lectures and to explore topics for further research and study. These unique educational seminars serve as an interactive forum to broaden one’s knowledge of the ancient Near East, while enjoying special camaraderie with fellow docents, volunteers, faculty, and staff members at the Oriental Institute, as well as with colleagues from other cultural institutions (fig. 8).

This year’s programming focused on a wide range of topics and interests that served as a springboard for gathering information and ideas to incorporate into the tours. Our thanks and appreciation go to: faculty and staff members Abbas Alizadeh, Joan Barghusen, Laura D’Alessandro, Markus Dohner, Geoff Emberling, Jan Johnson, Erik Lindahl, Vanessa Muros, Gabrielle Novacek, Clemens Reichel, Martha Roth,’ Emily Teeter, Theo van den Hout, graduate students Dennis Campbell and Katharyn Hanson, and faculty assistant Karen Terras.

Randel Tea

One of the yearly highlights of the volunteer program is the special July Volunteer Day Tea Reception at the home of President and Mrs. Randel (fig. 9). For the past four years, the Randels have hosted a lovely tea reception for Oriental Institute docents, volunteers, faculty, and staff. This year our guest speakers were Professors Janet Johnson, Martha Roth, and Theo van den Hout, who discussed “The Power of the Word.” Each of the three presenters focused on their individual dictionary projects while sharing some of the highlights as well as the technological challenges facing a lexicographer in these rapidly changing times.
Field Trips

Our volunteers enjoyed two special field trip experiences this past year (fig. 10). In September, we gathered at the Adler Planetarium to enjoy a lovely brunch followed by a tour of the galleries, and a front row seat to the sky show Stars of the Pharaohs. This unique program explored the grandeur of ancient Egypt utilizing computer simulations to recreate this powerful and vibrant civilization. Our thanks go to Alisun DeKoch, manager of Volunteer Services at the Adler Planetarium, for providing this wonderful opportunity for the Oriental Institute docents and volunteers to relax and enjoy one of Chicago’s major cultural institutions.

The second part of this program took place later in September, when we invited the Adler Planetarium Volunteers to visit the Oriental Institute. Our guests enjoyed a brunch in the LaSalle Banks Education Center followed by a tour of the museum galleries. Afterwards the Adler volunteers were treated to a tour of the University of Chicago campus. Our thanks go to John Aldrin, Joan Curry, Stephen Esposito, Terry and Bill Gillespie, Elisabeth Lassers, Lucie Sandel, and Larry Scheff for extending such a warm and gracious welcome to our visitors.

March Volunteer Day consisted of a trip to The Field Museum. The day began with a lovely continental breakfast where the volunteers heard a brief overview of the exhibit, Jacqueline Kennedy, The White House Years from May Simon, Field Museum Docent. Immediately following her introduction, the docents and volunteers were privately escorted into the exhibit to enjoy leisurely this memorable and nostalgic era in American cultural and political history. Our thanks and appreciation to Bob Cantu, May Simon, and The Field Museum staff for hosting an outstanding field trip for March Volunteer Day.

Volunteer Recognition and Annual Holiday Luncheon

December Volunteer Day has become an annual tradition when docents, faculty, staff, and volunteers gather to enjoy a festive holiday celebration together (figs. 11–12). This popular event includes a guest speaker, the introduction of new volunteers, and the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. The program concludes with a lovely holiday luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. This year’s special event took place on Monday, December 6 and our guest speaker was Geoff Emberling. His presentation on “Temples in Early Dynastic Mesopotamia — Why Would They Build a Temple Oval at Tell Brak?” was an insightful discussion of his research and discoveries at this Early Dynastic site.

Following Geoff’s presentation, the program continued with the introduction of new volunteers and the Recognition Awards
Ceremony. We were pleased to introduce twenty new volunteers to the Volunteer Corps. Welcome aboard to: Sophia Bender, Scott Berg, David Berry, Sophie Brennan, Courtney Carter, Jewell Dickson, Djanie Edwards, Dale Fisher, Katharyn Hanson, Katie Heupel, Mark Hirsch, Carole Kipp, Clare Lipinski, Austin O’Malley, Mary O’Shea, Kathy Pratt, Maricelle Robles, Tatyana Tsirlin, Cynthia Warso, and Inge Winer.

This year twenty-four individuals were recognized for their distinguished support and loyal commitment to the Oriental Institute and the museum. Their combined years of service represent 325 years in total! We would like to thank all of the award recipients for their loyal support to the volunteer program. We admire and respect all your contributions, past, present, and future.

5 Years
Bill Gillespie Terry Gillespie
Gabriele da Silva Shel Newman
Ila Patlogan Agnes Zellner

10 Years
Barbara Storms Baird Janet Calkins
Hazel Cramer Mary Harter
Catherine Mardikes Pamela Wickliffe

15 Years
Ruth Hyman Sandy Jacobsohn
Samantha Johnson Caryl Mikrut
Agnethe Rattenborg Patrick Regnery

20 Years
Rebecca Binkley Charlotte Collier Alice James

25 Years
Jane Hildebrand Mary Shea

35 Years
Muriel Nerad
The December Volunteer Day program would not have been possible without the support and co-operation of many people (figs. 13–14). We want to express our thanks and appreciation to Oriental Institute Director Gil Stein and the Office of the Director for their generosity with underwriting the annual holiday luncheon for the docents, volunteers, faculty, and staff; Membership Coordinator Maria Krasinski for awarding complimentary memberships to the Volunteer Recognition Award Recipients; Jean Grant for photographing this very special occasion; Denise Browning for her assistance with the recognition awards and gift selections; Bernadette Strnad and David Ray for assisting with the parking validation for the Volunteers; Olivia Boyd for her technical assistance with the audiovisual aspect of the program; and Joan Knoll and the Quadrangle Club staff for orchestrating another wonderful holiday luncheon.

In Memoriam

This past year the volunteer program lost two extraordinary women who were loyal friends and supporters of the Oriental Institute: Elizabeth ("Betty") Baum (fig. 15) and Elisabeth Lassers (fig. 8). Both of these remarkable women devoted many years of their lives to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. Each took great pride in her involvement with the Oriental Institute and we are so grateful that they chose to spend a portion of their lives with us. They will be remembered for their intellectual curiosity, generosity, and commitment to excellence.

Reflections

We are grateful for the good humor and camaraderie of our colleagues and friends in room 221. In an atmosphere bustling with activity and distractions, they manage to inspire creativity while fostering a high level of efficiency and productivity. Our thanks go to Jessica Caracci, Wendy Ennes, Carole Krucoff, Constance Schuett, and Claire Thomas for their abiding patience and understanding throughout the year. They are the voice of reason, common sense, and encouragement.

Building on nearly forty years of expansion and growth, the Volunteer Program has been able to meet the many challenges and opportunities of these changing times. The collective vision and determination of our predecessors, Carolyn Livingood, Carlotta Maher, Peggy Grant, and Janet Helman has set a standard of excellence for us to follow. Today’s Volunteer Corps has
grown to over 150 people who form a community of uniquely talented and dedicated individuals devoted to serving the Oriental Institute and enriching its mission. This year Oriental Institute Volunteers have demonstrated their commitment by contributing about 11,000 hours of volunteer service. As you can see from the graph (fig. 16), the hours of volunteer service have continued to increase every year since we have tracked this important data. The volunteers are a rare and treasured asset and we thank them for their numerous contributions past, present, and future.

Our apologies go to Nancy Baum and to Tom Hunter for inadvertently omitting their names from the 2003/2004 Annual Report.

SPECIAL THANKS to Claire Thomas for helping us compile and edit this year’s Annual Report. We would never have been able to do it without her.

Advisors to the Volunteer Program
Carlotta Maher Peggy Grant Janet Helman

Honorary Volunteers-At-Large
Carol Randel Elizabeth Sonnenschein

Volunteer Program Consultant
Shel Newman

Museum Docents
John Aldrin Sylwia Aldrin Jane Arkell
Douglas Baldwin Nancy Baum Jane Belcher
Christel Betz Rebecca Binkley Dorothy Blindt
Myriam Borelli Myllicent Buchanan Andrew Buncis
Courtney Carter David Covill Joan Curry
Gabriele da Silva Catherine Deans-Barrett Joe Diamond
Sam Dreessen Djanie Edwards Mary Finn
Margaret Foorman Karen Friedman Joan Friedmann
Dario Giacomoni Ruth Goldman Anita Greenberg
Debby Halpern Katharyn Hansen Ira Hardman
Mary Harter Janet Helman Lee Herbst
Katie Heupel Teresa Hintzke Mark Hirsch
Tom Hunter Dennis Kelly Henriette Klawans
Elizabeth Lassers† Lo Luong Lo Nina Longley
**Volunteer Program**

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<th>Sherif Marcus</th>
<th>Robert McGinness</th>
<th>Sherian McLaughlin</th>
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**Museum Docents (cont.)**

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**Outreach Docents and Volunteers**

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| Agnes Zellner       |                   |

**Docent Library**

**Head Librarian**

Margaret Foorman

**Committee**

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Emeritus Librarian
Debbie Aliber

Suq Docents
Muriel Brauer Patty Dunkel
Irene Glasner Peggy Grant
Marda Gross Caryn Noble
Kavita Rajagopal Norma van der Meulen

Substitute Suq Docents
Janet Helman Jo Jackson

Suq Jewelry Designer
Norma van der Meulen

Suq Office and Stock Room Volunteer
Irene Glasner

Membership and Development Volunteers
Sophie Bloom Hazel Cramer
Andrea Dudek Djanie Edwards
Margaret Foorman Erin Harral
Janet Helman Henriette Klawans
Jo Lucas Carlotta Maher
Kavita Rajagopal David Ray
Mary Shea Mari Terman

Agnes Zellner

Museum Archives Volunteers
James Baughman Hazel Cramer
Peggy Grant Patricia Hume
Sandra Jacobsohn Lillian Schwartz

Carole Yoshida

Registrar’s Office Volunteers
Joan Barghusen Gretel Braidwood
Hazel Cramer Mary Grimshaw
Barbara Levin Charles Myers
Toni Smith O. J. Sopranos
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

IMLS Grant Project Volunteers
David Berry Irene Glasner

Conservation Lab
Jeanne Mandel

Diyala Project Volunteers
Betsy Kremers George Sundell
Karen Terras Robert Wagner

Iraq Museum Database Project Volunteer
Karen Terras

Amuq Project Volunteers
Irene Glasner Mari Terman Tatyana Tsirlin

Abydos Project Volunteers
Chad Bouffard Amber Meriwether Christopher C. Miller

Hacinebi Turkey Project Volunteer
Mari Terman

Hamoukar Project Volunteers
Betsy Kremers George Sundell

Photography Lab Volunteers
Pam Ames Irene Glasner Carole Yoshida

Courtyard Volunteers
Terry Gillespie Bill Gillespie Robert Herbst
**Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers**

John Aldrin  
Catherine Deans-Barrett  
Christel Betz  
Dorothy Blindt  
Joan Curry  
Joe Diamond  
Mary Finn  
Dario Giacomoni  
Terry Gillespie  
Anita Greenberg  
Katharyn Hansen  
Katie Heupel  
Sylvia Aldrin  
Jane Belcher  
Rebecca Binkley  
Myllicent Buchanan  
Gabriele da Silva  
Stephen Esposito  
Margarit Foorman  
Bill Gillespie  
Ruth Goldman  
Debby Halpern  
Ira Hardman  
Teresa Hintzke

**Museum Education and Family Programs Volunteers (cont.)**

Tom Hunter  
Barbara Levin  
Robert McGuinness  
Kathy Mineck  
John Noble  
Kitty Picken  
Semra Prescott  
Melissa Ratkovich  
Patrick Regnery  
Maricelle Robles  
Deloris Sanders  
Anne Schumacher  
Bernadette Strnad  
Pierangelo Taschini  
Karen Terras  
Inge Winer  
Dennis Kelley  
Lo Luong Lo  
Roy Miller  
Charlotte Noble  
Donald Payne  
Rita Picken  
Diane Posner  
David Ray  
Stephen Ritzel  
Lucie Sandel  
Joy Schochet  
Toni Smith  
George Sundell  
Mari Terman  
Claire Thomas  
Carole Yoshida

**Junior Volunteers**

Kristina Cooper  
Carl Mineck  
John Whitcomb  
Cameron Kelley  
Caryn Noble

**Assistants to the Epigraphic Survey and Chicago House**

Debbie Doyle  
Carlotta Maher  
Mary Grimshaw  
Crennan Ray  
David Ray
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Assistants to the Prehistoric Project
Diana Grodzins Andree Wood

Demotic Dictionary
David Berger Amelia Karraker Anne Nelson

Iranian Prehistoric Project Volunteers
Janet Helman

Faculty Assistants
To Professors Janet Johnson and Donald Whitcomb
Ruth Goldman Tom Hunter

To Professor Matthew Stolper
Irene Glasner Charlotte Noble

Staff Assistant to Emily Teeter, Research Associate Egyptologist
Ira Hardman

Volunteers Emeritus
Debbie Aliber Bernadine Basile
Elizabeth Baum† Charlotte Collier
Erl Dordal Mary D’Ouville
Bettie Dwinell Carol Green
Cissy Haas Alice James
MaryJo Khuri Masako Matsumoto
Dorothy Mozinski Janet Russell

Peggy Wick

†Deceased