

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Sue Geshwender

The Volunteer Program is a vibrant and integral part of the Oriental Institute. We continue to attract intellectuals who are passionate about ancient history and committed to devoting time and energy to the Oriental Institute as either docents or in other volunteer capacities, or both. What follows are some highlights of the year.

Film Discussion Program

The summer had two enrichment programs called “Film, Faculty & Food.” We watched a film in Breasted Hall and then adjourned for a catered lunch with a faculty member discussing the film. Professor McGuire Gibson discussed the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*. Professor Robert Ritner discussed the 1932 horror cult classic *The Mummy*.



Figure 1. Eating lunch and discussing Lawrence of Arabia

Roberto Cepeda, Larry Lissak, Janet Helman, Toni Smith, Mac Gibson, Carlotta Maher, Lee Herbst, and Joe Barabe



Figure 2. Volunteers were treated to lunch and a discussion of the film The Mummy by Professor Robert Ritner

Figure 3. Book club poses in front of the Rosetta Stone after discussing the book Cracking the Code with Professor Brian Muhs

Front Row: Janet Helman, Semra Prescott, Stephen Ritzel, Shirlee Hoffman, Nancy Baum, Christel Betz, Deloris Sanders, Toni Smith, Gabrielle DaSilva

Back Row: Larry Lissak, Jean Nye, Brian Muhs, Alfia Lambert, Lauren Friesen



Figure 4. OI Book Club

Front Row: Roberta Schaffner, Shirlee Hoffman, Yorke Rowan, Christel Betz, Debby Halpern

Back Row: Semra Prescott, Irene Glasner, Stephen Ritzel, Janet Helman, Nancy Baum, Anne Schumacher, Barbara Jillison



Book Club

The OI book club is now in its second year. Books are selected by the group and include old titles, such as the 1946 Agatha Christie *Come Tell Me How You Live*, to the very latest publications like the Eric Cline book *Three Stones Make a Wall: The Story of Archaeology*, which we got before they were available to the general public. A faculty member/research associate is invited to join the discussion, and this year we enjoyed the lively conversations of Brian Muhs, Abbas Alizadeh, Tasha Vorderstrasse, and Yorke Rowan. Opinions and interpretations on the books vary within the group, but everyone agrees they gain a better understanding and appreciation of the books through this communal analysis.



Figures 5-6. Pot Luck Luncheon

At Table: Polina Kasian, Amy Zillman, Kristin Leasia, Sherry McGuire, and Liz Green

Pot Luck Luncheon

The volunteers hosted a pot luck luncheon to welcome the new chief curator Jean Evans following the Volunteer Day lecture in October. Delicious food was brought in by volunteers, OI faculty, and staff. The turnout was excellent, over seventy-five people attended, with tables spilling out into the hallway! The tables had a mix of volunteers, faculty, and staff, and great conversations.



Figure 7. 50th Anniversary Planning Committee

Front Row: Janet Helman, Carlotta Maher, Joan Barguhsen, Margaret Foorman

Back Row: Debby Halpern, Terry Friedman, Sue Geshwender, Gretel Braidwood, and Brittany Mullins

50th Anniversary Celebration

On December 4, 2016, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Volunteer Program with a special program in Breasted Hall followed by a reception in the galleries. Over 200 hundred people turned up on this snowy day to honor all the volunteers. The first group of Oriental Institute Volunteers started in 1966. Two members of that original class are still active volunteers: Carlotta Maher and Jim Sopranos, who were additionally honored with a letter from senator Richard Durbin. Special thanks to Terry Friedman who put together an incredible video tribute of all fifty years of volunteers at the OI.



Figure 8. 50th Anniversary – Gil Stein congratulates Jim Sopranos and Carlotta on fifty years of service



Figure 9. 50th Anniversary – Volunteer Managers: Janet Helman, Sue Geshwender, Carlotta Maher, Terry Friedman, and Cathy Dueñas



Figure 10. 50th Anniversary Celebration was attended by over 200 hundred people, December 4, 2016



Figures 11-14. Docent Training

Docent Training 2017

Docent Training started in June. The training program is an intensive eight sessions held over the course of two months. New Docent Trainees receive a full day of instruction, combined with class readings, essay and oral presentation assignments. OI faculty and museum staff provide the instruction. Our stellar line-up this year included lectures from: Jean Evans, Anne Flannery, McGuire Gibson, Jan Johnson, Brian Muhs, Kiersten Neumann, Susanne Paulus, Robert Ritner, David Schloen, Emily Teeter, and Theo van den Hout. PhD candidate Sam Harris provided in-gallery instruction. PhD student Joey Cross did a phenomenal job assisting in everything from selecting readings, reviewing homework, and providing in-gallery instruction. Susan Allison, Helen McDonald, Foy Scalf, Alison Whyte, and Chris Woods welcomed the new trainees in to their offices providing a behind-the-scenes access to Conservation, the Director's Office, Museum Archives, Research Archives, and Registration, and Storage. A key component of new docent training is docent-to-docent peer coaching. Veteran docents share their years of experience providing tips and feedback on developing engaging tours by



either coaching the in-gallery oral presentations or providing feedback on the essay assignments. Thanks to these outstanding mentors: Luella Adan, Joe Barabe, Nancy Baum, Roberta Buchanan, Roberto Cepeda, Lauren Friesen, Ralph Klein, Marilyn Murray, Jean Nye, Stephen Ritzel, Margaret Schmid, Toni Smith, and Carole Yoshida. Special thanks to Stephen Ritzel, who served as a reader, coach, and cake-baker extraordinaire. Advisor Janet Helman makes sure we maintain the highest of standards when training the newest ambassadors who are the public face of the OI. It takes a village to raise our docents! We continue to attract the brightest and most interesting people and are happy to welcome the Class of 2017 in to our volunteer community.

Goodbye and Hello

By the spring 2016 both of my Education Department colleagues Leila Makdisi and Carol Ng-he had left the OI for jobs at other places. It has been a pleasure to work with both of these talented people. Calgary Haines-Trautman has joined the Education Department as the Youth and Family coordinator. Calgary has worked as an intern in the Education Department for two years and we are happy to welcome her.

In Memoriam

The Volunteer Program lost two loyal friends and supporters this past year: Peggy Grant and Jane Hildebrand. Peggy Grant joined the volunteer program in 1971 and also served as the volunteer manager. She had a gift for spotting talent and recruited many volunteers. Jane Hildebrand was a stalwart Suq volunteer and docent for thirty years, always positive and full of energy.

These individuals exemplified the true spirit of volunteerism by devoting their passion, intellect, and support to help further the goals and mission of the Oriental Institute. We are so honored to have known and worked with them over the years and it is our good fortune that they chose to spend a portion of their lives with us.



Photo Gallery



Figure 15. Volunteer recognition



Figure 16. Mary Shea and Margaret Foorman



Figure 17. Nisha Kumar, Gaby Cohen, and Susan van der Meulen



Figure 18. Terry Friedman, Semra Prescott, Dee Speich, Sue Geshwender, Alfia Lambert, Marilyn Murray, Hilda Schlatter, Christel Betz, and Catherine Dueñas



Figure 19. Carole Yoshida



Figure 20. Larry Lissak, Shirlee Hoffman, Gaby Cohen, Hilda Schlatter, and Christel Betz



Figure 21. Education Department, past and present: Calgary Haines-Trautman, Cathy Dueñas, Carol Ng-He, Terry Friedman, Moriah Grooms-Garcia (and baby Amaya), Sue Geshwender, and Carole Krucoff

Volunteer Recognition

Congratulations to those who celebrated a milestone year in their volunteer service to the Oriental Institute:

5 Years	10 Years	30 Years
Dan Bloom	John DeWerd	Christel Betz
Wahied Helmy	Sherry McGuire	
Alfia Lambert	Ron Wideman	35 Years
Kate Leiber		Margaret Foorman
Marilyn Murray	15 Years	Stephen Ritzel
Roberta Schaffner	Toni Smith	
Dee Speich		50 Years
		Carlotta Maher
		Jim Sopranos

Museum Docents

** Denotes active docents who are also project or event volunteers*

Luella Adan	Lauren Friesen	Semra Prescott
Joseph Barabe	Dario Giacconmoni	Stephen Ritzel
Nancy Baum	Michael Goodyear	Peg Romm
Susan Bazargan	Janet Helman	Deloris Sanders
Craig Bean	Wahied Helmy	Hilda Schlatter
Christel Betz	Lee Herbst	Margaret Schmid
Rebecca Binkley-Albright	Shirlee Hoffman	Joy Schochet
Daniel Bloom	Dennis Kelley	Anne Schumacher
Emily Boak	Ralph Klein	Stephen Scott
Roberta Buchanan	Stuart Kleven	Mary Shea
Myllicent Buchanan	Alfia Lambert	Dee Speich
Roberto Cepeda	Laurence Lissak	Craig Tews
Gabriella Cohen	Carlotta Maher	Darren Vilmin
Gabriele DaSilva	Sherry McGuire	Ron Wideman
John DeWerd	Marilyn Murray	Carole Yoshida
Fred Eskra	Jean Nye	
Margaret Foorman	Nick Posegay	

Volunteers

Laura Alagna
Kathryn Antonelli
Eric Aupperle
Andy Austin
Ray Broms
Rafaela Brosnan
David Brown
Walter Burkat
Elizabeth Bush
Emily Cambias
Grace Clements
Jenna Cordisco
Kim Crawford
Louise Despres
Mariola Dudzicka
Cathy Dueñas
Meghan Forajter
Terry Friedman
Bill Gillespie
Terry Gillespie

Irene Glasner
Elizabeth Green
Debby Halpern
Heidi Hilliker
Katherine Hodge
Julia Jacobs
Katherine Jarboe
Addison Jeske
Barbara Jillson
Alex Jimerson
Polina Kasian
Alanna Kish
Carissa Knickerbocker
Nisha Kumar
Kristin Leasia
Catherine LePape
Katherine Lieber
Jane Meloy
Alice Mulberry
Marge Nichols

SoYoung Oh
Karen Righeimer
Sasha Rohret
Roberta Schaffner
Dalia Shefner
Toni Smith
Hasti Soltani
O. J. Sopranos
George Sundell
Emily Tcheng
George Thomson
Norma vanderMeulen
Rebecca Wang
Anastasia Weger
Alexis Wells
Ian Williams
Catie Witt
Amy Zillman