The Volunteer Guide Program
Janet Helman

The Volunteer Guide Program entered its twentieth year in 1986. We celebrated the anniversary at our Christmas buffet with a special cake and program. Carolyn Livingood, who started the program in 1966, talked about her experiences in many years of volunteering at the Oriental Institute. She was presented with a special pendant created by Terry Friedman based on Egyptian hieroglyphic writing for twenty years. Pendants were also presented to Ida DePencier and Betty Baum, members of the first docent class and still active docents.

During the past twenty years the docents have encountered many different groups of people who came, and continue to come, to the Museum with widely varying needs and demands. Under the leadership of the daily captains, teams of docents have coped competently and efficiently with all kinds of problems, and our visitors have left happy and informed. The captains this year are:

Alice Mulberry, Tuesday morning
Terry Friedman, Tuesday afternoon
Jane Imberman, Wednesday morning
Muriel Nerad, Wednesday afternoon
Kitty Picken, Thursday morning
Elizabeth Spiegel, Thursday afternoon
Debbie Aliber, Friday morning
Gloria Orwin, Friday afternoon

Georgie Maynard, Saturday morning
Dorothy Blindt, Saturday afternoon
Teresa Hintzke, Sunday
Steve Ritzel, Sunday
Peter Hancon, Sunday

Marianne Ford stepped aside as Saturday afternoon captain last summer and the spot was filled very ably by Dorothy Blindt. Fortunately, Marianne has continued as a regular Saturday docent.

The Docent Program was saddened by the loss in October of Anne Conway, who had been a Thursday morning docent for the last six years, and the loss in November of Lita Gaber, a member of one of the first docent classes.

Besides the volunteer guides, the Suq docents are the Institute’s other representatives to the public. They help our visitors to find the right souvenir, or an informative book to answer questions, or a beautiful piece of one-of-a-kind jewelry. They get busier and busier as we have more and bigger groups and as our well-stocked shop becomes better known.

In addition to leading tours and selling in the Suq, volunteers also work for the Registrar, the Archivist, the Photographer, the Museum Education office, the Membership office, and for various faculty members.

One new area of activity this past year was helping with the Chicago House benefit “A Night in Egypt.” Docents worked on the invitations,
A selection of craft projects from the Museum Education Program's Art Projects manual was displayed and raffled at the annual dinner in May for the Volunteer and Education programs.

collating lists, addressing, and then collating returns, as well as on decorating, on selling in the little Suqs, and on running the silent auction. The success of the benefit was celebrated at a special party for volunteers.

Docent Days, the Monday seminars that keep us in touch with recent developments in museums and archaeology started with a September tour of the Milwaukee Public Museum and lunch with the docents who took us through their ancient history exhibit. Other Docent Days featured Tom Logan talking about his views of the O.I. Museum, Joe Manning on “Non-literary Ostraca in the O.I. Collection,” a viewing of “Out of the Fiery Furnace,” Marsha Holden on assembling an exhibit, and Kitty Picken on Stonehenge. During the summer, Carlotta Maher, our illustrious alumna, told us of her work at and for Chicago House.

Afternoon workshops centered on the problems docents encounter in the museum leading specific kinds of tours. They included “Working with Children in the Museum,” led by Ida De Pencier; a discussion on
teen-agers in the galleries led by panelists Elizabeth Spiegel, Georgie Maynard, and Muriel Nerad; a workshop on children without background with materials by Kitty Picken; and a tour of the special exhibit "The Gods of Armageddon" led by Tom Logan.

The monthly newsletter, Docent Digest, carried articles by Peggy Grant (an interview with Tom Logan), Marsha Holden on the bust of Nefertiti, Georgie Maynard on objects carried by Egyptian statues, and on food in ancient Egypt by Mary Jo Khuri. We also carried articles on the Featured Objects in the Museum: The Persian Bull and the Baal statue, taken from materials prepared by Helene Kantor and Ray Tindel.

Besides the twenty year pendants presented at our Christmas buffet, the following longevity awards were made:

5 years
Ria Ahlström
Deborah Aliber
Dorothy Blindt
Cathy Chilewski
Carol Goldstein
Dianne Haines

10 years
Leonard Byman
Evelyn Dyba
Teresa Hintzke
JoAnn Putz
Barbara Watson

This year we lost a special docent, Roberta Tracy, after almost five years of guiding. She had computerized the docent list to provide our mailing labels. She has moved to Vermont, and although she left behind the disk and taught us to use it, we miss her anew every month.

Training courses for new docents ran on both Saturdays and Mondays this year and afforded us a large class...
of new guides for both weekdays and weekends. Lecturers included McGuire Gibson, John Brinkman, Thomas McClellan, Harry Hoffner, Klaus Baer, Edward Wente, and Helene Kantor. The members of the planning committee which oversees the course are Klaus Baer, Peggy Grant, Carolyn Livingood and Janet Helman.

We celebrated the completion of the course at a Docent Day slide show of a trip to China by Georgie Maynard and with our annual picnic in Debbie Aliber's backyard. The new docents are:

Ginny Arata
John Burton
DeeDee Dieffenderfer
Catherine Duenas
Marilyn Fellows
Pauline Grigelaitis
Susan Malaskiewicz

Mary Naunton
Marceine Street
Yvonne Wesley
DeWitt Williams

This year's Annual Members' Dinner was given in honor of the Volunteer Guide Program and Museum Education. The dinner was attended by a large crowd which included a large number of docents. It was followed by a slide show, both informative and entertaining, written by Peggy Grant with slides from the docent office collection, supplemented by others taken by Jean Grant, Herb Barghusen and Teddy Buddington. The narrators were Joan Barghusen and Janet Helman. We are highly appreciative of the efforts made by many to ensure the success of the dinner, and also of the improvements we will be able to make in the docent office with the proceeds of the dinner.
With the help of the Museum Education Coordinator, Joan Barghusen, the Volunteer Guide program grows and develops new ways of helping people in the galleries. We are always indebted to her for the help and the good ideas that she gives us.

Regularly scheduled docents:

Elaine Antoniuk  
Christel Betz  
Rebecca Binkley  
Teddy Buddington  
Anne Conway  
David Cooper  
Lilian Cropsey  
Mary d'Ouville  
Cathy Dombrowski  
Milton Droege  
Gordon Evison  
Laurie Fish  
Marianne Ford  
Helen Glennon  
Anita Greenberg  
Sally Grunfeld  
Dianne Haines  
Marsha Holden  
Alice James  
Julie Katz  
Mary Jo Khuri  
Kathryn Kimball  

Part-time Museum Docents:

Betty Baum  
Calla Burhoe  
Cathy Chilewski  
Ida DePencier  
Lita Gaber  
Nancy Gerson  
Peggy Grant  
Carol Green  
Bud Haas  
Cissy Haas  
Erhard Loewinsohn, MD  

Regularly scheduled Suq Docents:

Ria Ahlström  
Muriel Brauer  
Leonard Byman  
Charlotte Collier  
Evelyn Dyba  
Carol Goldstein  
Diana Grodzins  
Kate Grodzins  
Jane Hildebrand  
Inger Kirsten  
Peggy Kovacs  
Norma Kruskal  
Mary Martino  

Detail of plaque.
Carmen McGarry
Rochelle Rossin
Mary Schulman
Eleanor Swift
Mardi Trosman
Norma van der Meulen
Barbara Watson
Lee Weaver

Part-time Suq Docents
Barbara Frey
Peggy Grant
Carol Green
Sarah Helman
Jo Jackson

Museum Archives Volunteers
Lilian Cropsey
Harold Rantz
Kay Ginther
Joan Rosenberg
Kate Grodzins

Registrar's Office Volunteers
Leah Baer
Irving Diamond
Lilla Fano
Diana Grodzins
Marsha Holden
Steven Knapp
Georgie Maynard
Mila Rowton
Luciana Stefani
Peggy Wick

Ceramic Restoration
Elizabeth Tieken

Assistant to Miss Kantor
Carolyn Livingood

Assistant to the Epigraphic Survey
Katherine Rosich

Assistant to Prehistoric Project
Andrée Wood

Assistant to Quseir Project
Sally Zimmerman

Photography Laboratory Volunteers
Ria Ahlström
Joe Denov
Richard Frank
Kate Grodzins
Heng-Tatt Lim
Kent Stefferson

Volunteer in the Suq Office and Stockroom
Eleanor Swift

Volunteer in the Membership Office
Helen Glennon

Volunteers in the Education Office
Debbie Aliber
Peggy Grant
Joan Hives
Georgie Maynard
Kitty Picken
Roberta Tracey

Assistant to the Luristan Publication Project
Peggy Grant

Assistants to the Nubian Project
Carlene Friedman
Deborah Schwartz