

March/April 2013

Spotlight: Ted and Pam Parrot



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It's not every day you get a great two-for-one deal, but the Currier got that when Pam and Ted Parrot moved to Stratham in 2004. The couple has been active on the Guild of Volunteers' board -- Ted as Treasurer and Pam, as Special Projects chair. They lead museum and Z-House tours individually and as a couple.

Following the move to Stratham someone suggested Pam volunteer at the Currier. No way, she thought, was she going to "drive 45 minutes and 40 miles to volunteer." After meeting neighbor and former Currier docent Fran Marlatt she figured they could share costs and car pool. She became a Z-House docent in 2005 and museum docent in 2006. "Ted figured I was having so much fun," Pam says, he became a museum and Z-House docent, in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Both Parrots were born and raised in Louisville, Ky., graduating from Atherton High School although they were

not acquainted. Pam went to the University of Louisville on an art scholarship and studied a semester in France; and Ted went to Vanderbilt University.

During the holidays their senior college year, they met at a high school reunion. "I know I asked her for a date a few days later," says Ted. "We dated for about two years before she posed the question of marriage. Our different interests seemed to pull us together."

Pam graduated with a bachelor's in Art History with a minor in French, and went to graduate school at Oberlin College, conveniently located near Cleveland where Ted was getting a master's in Engineering Sciences at Case Institute of Technology, now Case Western Reserve University.

The Parrots married in 1964 and have two married daughters. "Kama and husband, Devin, live in Connecticut and we see them and our grand-cat quite often.

Erika and her husband, Ryan, live near St. Louis with our three grand-dogs," Pam jokes.

"I only wish I had listened more closely to her discussion about art as we traveled Europe together visiting every museum Pam could find," says Ted, noting work took the family to the Netherlands and Germany for a year in 1973 and 1974.



They lived in Connecticut 20 years, then moved to Kansas City. "Ted traveled and I was a stay-at-home, cookie-baking mom," Pam says. She put her art background to use as a docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. "It was a three-year training program!"

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Executive Chair Report

An Air-conditioned Zimmerman House?

What would Frank Lloyd Wright think? We can't know, but there has been approval of a \$5000 grant from New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (NHLCHIP) to install air-conditioning at the Z-House.

Currier Director of Development Christine Louis unveiled plans for this exciting project at the February Guild executive committee meeting. Volunteers who would like

to learn more can attend a Z-House training on April 4 at 5:30 p.m. Andrew Spahr and Nelson Goddard will explain the plans in detail.

NHLCHIP provides matching grants to area communities and non-profits to conserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. The \$5000 matching grant covers a portion of the estimated \$40,000 project. The Currier has two years

to match the grant and complete the air-conditioning installation.

Anyone interested in matching the NHLCHIP grant for the Z-House upgrade is welcomed to donate.

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Spotlight...continued from p. 1

The Parrots next moved to Salt Lake City where Pam's daughters claimed she was a "ski bum". In the 9 years there, she wasn't idle. She was a docent at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts. After Ted's retirement, they moved to Stratham.

While living in Connecticut, Pam and Ted built a "camp" on Island Pond in Stoddard, N.H. In the 1800s, the Cheshire County town north of Keene once had five glass producers. The couple's pursuit of glass rose from camping in this glass-making town and because Pam inherited some glass pieces. This love of glass gave the Parrots a "good excuse to travel around the eastern United States tracking down the few remaining glass factories," and going to yearly seminars at the Corning Museum of Glass.

Ted is quite knowledgeable about glass. When former docent educator Anna Sparks was looking for someone to lead a tour of the Currier glass collection, Ted told her he would do it, but only if he could take time to know the Currier's collection, and the art and science of glass. "It took six months and about 2,500 miles of research travel along [the National Road](#) and major rivers east of the Mississippi," he says.

Pam's interest in school was medieval and Flemish art and her favorite Currier art pieces are *The Holy Family* and *The Visit of the Gypsies*. She has a great love for the Z-House and John Singer Sargent's artworks. "His facility with the paint brush and variety of works in oil and watercolor constantly amazes me."

Among Ted's favorites are *Madonna and Child*, *La Seine à Bougival*, *Summer Breeze* and *Origins*. "To my dismay," Ted says, "I truly enjoy the fourth- and fifth-grader museum tours. The pure joy of seeing eyes widen and excitement grow in any one child has me talking for hours." He enjoys the Z-House tours "Pam and I give together. We are a great pair and feed off of each other to the benefit of our guests."

Pam says, "Volunteering at the museum is not a job; it's a pleasure and fulfills everything I ever wanted to do in a museum -- give tours, do research, work with the Guild. The staff continues to amaze me; they listen to our ideas...and really seem to be grateful for all we do. I feel I get a lot more than I give."

-Pauline Bogaert

*Museum Docent Report***Slash of the Sword Hails New Year**

January began not with a bang, but with the slash of a sword as training started for *Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor* for its opening February 2. The less familiar nature of the art and of the cultural terms represented in this exhibit was a greater challenge than usual in preparing docents for tours. To help answer this challenge, Jane Seney devoted the first four training sessions to aspects of Japanese art and Samurai fighting equipment and techniques. Among those sessions was an invaluable curator-led walkthrough of the exhibition and a session with Sensei Gordon Fisher, who demonstrated Samurai weapon exercises and modeled armor.

Moreover, Meghan Petersen, librarian/archivist, gathered Japanese art and cultural materials from the Currier's library collection to share with

docents for their tours.

On February 18, museum docents had the opportunity to hear a 15 - minute gallery talk by Jane Seney on "A Presidential Portrait" as a salute to Presidents' Day.

In March, training will focus on the Currier's mobile tours, gallery teaching techniques, and preparation for the opening on the 30th of *Abigail Anne Newbold: Crafting Settlement*, an installation in the Scheier Gallery.

A unique and exciting opportunity presents itself on March 7, for the First Thursdays LIVE! when docents are invited to observe and discuss the conservation art conservators Lance Mayer and Gay Myers, and curator Kurt Sundstrom, of the museum's recently acquired 600-year old altarpiece: *Madonna and Child with a Donor, Sts. James, John the Baptist, Nicolas and Anthony*

Abbot by Niccolo di Pietro Gerini.

All docents are invited to participate in the Museum Docents Steering Committee meetings that follow the second training session in each month. If you have concerns, submit them to me or other members of the steering committee (Nancy Baker, Carolyn Hollman, Nancy Johnson, Ann Richardson, and Carol Tingleff). We welcome your input and will be glad to pass your concerns on to the museum's Public Programs staff.

Finally, Kim Tyndall and Melanie Larson who keep track of volunteer hours request that museum docents uniformly list 1:30 for each public tour they lead as per the guidelines.

Alan R. Slotkin
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Samurai
Warrior
Don Sieker



Kurt Sundstrom
describes the craftsmanship of
a Samurai sword

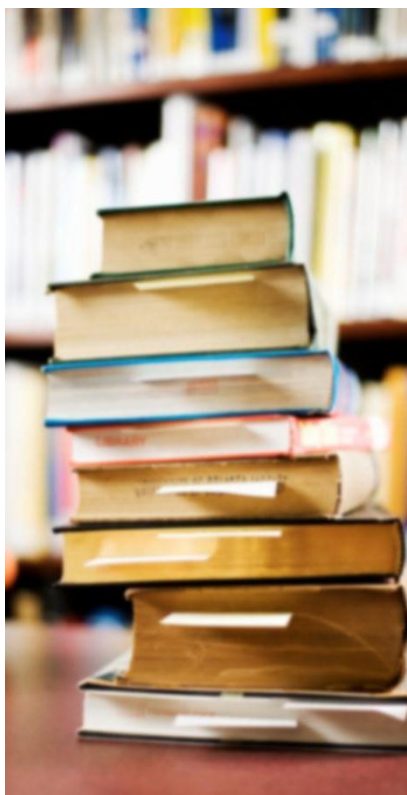
Samurai Speak....

Armor, *gusoku*
Helmet, *kabuto*
Face bowl, *hachi*
Neck guard, *shikoro*
Cuirass, *dō*
Shoulder guard, *sode*
Sleeve, *kote*
Skirt, *kusazuri*
Shin protector, *sune-ate*
Thigh guard, *haideate*



Samurai Mary Christy

See more *Lethal Beauty* walk-through photos on page 10



From the Library Corner

Gay Zimmerman is a dedicated library volunteer who has worked on numerous library projects since she began volunteering. She brings her expertise from many years of experience at the Plymouth State University Library to assist Meghan in numerous specialized and time consuming tasks.

Gay has helped reorganize the Currier

Museum records, including exhibition related material – such as invitations, programs, brochures, gallery guides and catalog – so that researchers can find them all in one place. She has been reviewing and updating the catalog records of the entire periodical collection to assure their accuracy and to improve access to them. And, she has begun

working on the initial cataloging of hundreds of volumes received in 2007 from the David Carter Library. She also helps process new books and shelves books in the library.

Charlotte DeBell
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Wanted: Guild Board Members and Nominations

It's time to begin looking toward July when two Guild positions – treasurer and membership chair – will be available on the executive committee. The treasurer is responsible for the Guild's fiscal activities that include developing a budget and tracking expenditures. Ted Parrot is the current treasurer. Kim Tyndall is now membership chair, and her assistant is Melanie Larson. The chair welcomes new volunteers to the Guild and with her assistant takes care of the volunteer database, which

includes contact information, skills inventory and volunteer hours. Remember: *Volunteers do not just work – they make it work.*

Nominations for Awards

Wanted: Speaking of volunteers, it's also time to recognize the Guild's outstanding volunteers with the Francis P. Nelson and Distinguished Service Award, both of which are presented at the Guild's annual luncheon and meeting coming Tuesday, June 4. The Nelson award is given in recognition of a person's unique and

significant role in the Guild, and for their years of service and Guild leadership. The Distinguished Service award is presented to someone for their exceptional and longstanding contribution to the Guild.

Please let me know if you are interested in either of the Guild positions or if you know anyone deserving of the Nelson or Distinguished Service awards.

Dennie Dyer
Executive Vice Chair
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Currier Staff News

Barbara Case has taken a position with Outbound Software, which is the online registration system the museum uses.

Barbara's eight years with the Currier was celebrated with kind words, gifts, and food. Maria Routs O'Leary will be the Visitor Services contact person in the interim.

A position for director for Public Relations and

Marketing has been posted and resumes are coming in quickly. This position has been elevated to director and will report to Susan Strickler as part of the executive team.

Sara Turner, manager of Individual Giving and Foundation Programs, had a baby girl, Ruby, on Dec. 23, 2012. Both are doing well and Sara is expected back mid-March.



Note: there is no longer parking on Orange Street between Beech and Ash.

Also, to find out if the museum is closed due to a winter storm, call 603-669-6144, ext. 193, after 7:30 a.m.

*Currier Art Center One-Day Workshops***Asian-Inspired Master Classes Offered at Art Center**

Master Class! with Bruce Iverson - Pine, Rocks, Mist and Mountains: Asian Landscape, March 16, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. This workshop in traditional Asian landscape painting features the pine tree, a true symbol of longevity and endurance. In this workshop, we will cover Asian calligraphy, sumie and color techniques for painting the pine tree, rocks and mountains using ink washes, crinkle paper and gold leaf. The workshop will be taught in a step-by-step method that guarantees success. All materials provided. Pine, rocks, mist and mountains...a traditionally enchanting combination. Suitable for students of all skill levels.

Master Class! with Mihoko Wakabayashi - Free Weaving the Saori Way

March 23, 1:00-4:00. Discover how the Japanese art of Saori Weaving can release freedom of expression and well-being in this unique workshop with master weaver Mihoko Wakabayashi. Described as "pure innovation from the heart", Saori is a journey where beauty and creativity emerge spontaneously, as threads of brilliant color and texture are joined on the loom. Individuals of all ages and abilities find success in this wholly universal method of hand weaving, which draws its philosophy from the idea that the artistic spark resides inside each person and waits to be awakened. This workshop is open to beginning and experienced weavers, as well as anyone excited about making beautiful art "in the moment."

For the Currier Art Center winter catalog, click [here](#).

*Z-House Docent Report***Z-House Docents Celebrate 22nd Season**

The 2012 Zimmerman House tour season was a success by any measure. Bookings were steady and tours often sold out. Docents enthusiastically filled all available slots, leading 4,466 visitors on 412 tours. When the doors closed for the winter Jan. 6, it was time to party.

Thirty docents gathered in the blue classroom for a festive afternoon featuring a potluck spread; a "Wright Swap" (the chance to give unwanted art and architecture items new homes); and an activity devised by Jane Seney called "Wright to Wright." A takeoff of the game "Apples to Apples," teams tried to match Frank Lloyd Wright buildings based on verbal descriptions derived from photographs. Identifying attributes and elements in Wright's rich repertoire was an educational challenge everyone enjoyed.

A storyboard display provided a preview of photos and narration to be used in the van video, which is still in development.

The party had a great turnout, and reports are that socializing with fellow docents was the best part of the day.

During the winter hiatus, the Z-House interior is draped to protect fabric and furnishings from sunlight. When spring arrives, the custom-made sheets are returned to storage in the workspace freezer, and the house is cleaned until it beams.

Opening day is Thursday, April 11.

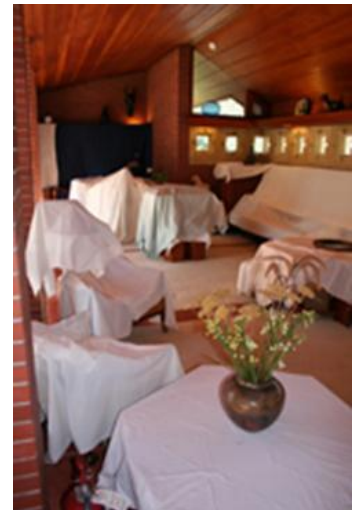
Victoria Duffy
Zimmerman House
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- Wright to Wright -
Richard Russell, Jan Conover



Sandra Townsend,
Matt Gatzke, Cynthia Spinelli

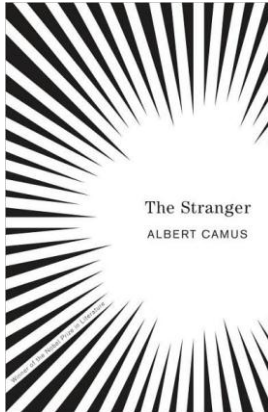


Z-House interior furnishings
draped for protection



Nancy Stewart viewing the van video storyboard

The Stranger **Bookshelf**



The book I read most recently was *The Stranger* by Albert Camus. It's a short novel about a character named Mersault who experiences and observes a variety of tragic events, but describes them with detachment and a lack of empathy. The book is often linked with the existentialism (a sense of disorientation in the face of a meaningless or absurd existence), but Camus himself rejected that label. In fact, Camus' ideas contributed to the

rise of the philosophy known as absurdism, which is about human's inability to find inherent meaning because the vast realm of the unknown make it impossible.

The book was written the same year Picasso painted *Woman Seated in a Chair* and both author and artist were living in Paris and dealing with the day-to-day realities of a Nazi-occupied city. The book helped me to better contextualize the Currier's Picasso painting. One

could argue the distorted image on view in our Modern Gallery is in some way related to both existentialism and absurdism. This is one of the real joys of studying art – discovering these connections and enriching our understanding of individual texts and works of art.

Jane Seney
Educator for Tour and Docent Programs
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Remembering a Gentleman and Friend

Bob Johnson readily confessed he was not much of an architecture fan. He became a Zimmerman House docent because he wanted to meet people and embrace new experiences. Yet he brought to his service a quality that Frank Lloyd Wright would have admired: a passionate desire to understand "why."

humor, combined with a warm and gracious persona, inspired spontaneous applause after his first Zimmerman House tour. His narrative was so well crafted and informative that our visitors couldn't believe he hadn't done this -- many times -- before.

Jane Seney shared these thoughts:

partner on tours and as the smiling bartender at our holiday parties. He touched our lives and will be very missed."

We extend deepest condolences to Bob's wife, Nancy Johnson, Currier museum docent and Guild of Volunteers Meetings and Programs Chair; to his three children, Jo-Anne, Jennifer, and Stephen; and to his six beloved grandchildren. Bob's family was his light and inspiration. He fought valiantly to return home from the hospital, and thankfully he did. He passed away peacefully with Nancy by his side."

- Victoria Duffy



Bob and Nancy Johnson at the Semi-Annual lunch in 2011.

Bob introduced himself with that disclosure at docent training. When he also revealed his favorite movie was "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," it was clear this was a man who liked to break the box, and laugh while doing it.

Sadly, Bob died Jan. 28 this year after a period of declining health.

Bob was truly a pleasure to work with. His marvelous sense of

"I will always remember Bob for his kindness. He was a wonderful, good-natured presence in class when he trained to become a Zimmerman House docent in 2010 and from that point forward he was very involved and always happy to lend a hand. I personally appreciated Bob's pragmatism and affability at Steering Committee meetings, but I think most Z-house docents will remember him as a great

A Conversation with ... Bruce McColl



Bruce was born in Waterford, Mich., in 1966. He attended Cranbrook School, in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and got a bachelor's in history from Brown University in 1988. A hockey player throughout his childhood, he became captain of Brown's varsity hockey team his senior year. He played professional hockey in Gotland, Sweden, in 1990.

Bruce received a master of fine arts Wayne State University in 1994. He became a fine arts teacher at Tabor

Academy, Mass., and later an instructor of art and art history at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass. In 2005, Bruce was appointed the Currier's Art Center director.

Bruce has had numerous one-person art shows in New England, and many group exhibitions. He was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant; two Fellowships in Painting from "ArtWorks!" in New Bedford, Mass.; and two residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vt.

His work is included in the public collections at the Currier; Saint Anselm College; and Union College, Schenectady, N.Y. Bruce is represented by McGowan Fine Art in Concord, where his art can be purchased. He lives in Manchester with his wife Rane Hall, and two daughters, Iris and Eve, (plus two cats, a fish, and soon-to-be-born puppy).

My favorite pieces of art are: By Henri Matisse, without a doubt; close seconds are Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne.

If I weren't an artist/educator I would be: A hockey player then coach... or something along these lines.

The last museum I visited was: The Addison Gallery of American Art in Andover, which is a small gem in our region.

The best museum I've ever visited was: Oh my, that is a hard one. I do love the Phillips Collection in D.C. It is a painter's museum in every way.

I'm most proud of: My family; and a close second is the work I do for our community in the Currier's Art Center.

My most memorable moment was when: The day I saw my wife for the first time, and the two mornings our daughters were born.



*Pretty Park in Bloom
By Bruce McColl*



*Northern Spy, Red Delicious
by Bruce McColl*

View these and other Art Center Faculty works in the Currier's Community Gallery through early May.

Special Projects/Ambassadors Report

Volunteers Help Ring in the New Year

The Noon Year's Eve event at the Currier was a huge success with 600 attending. This event is sure to be held in future years, thanks to Lisa Pavlopoulos, manager of special events and food service operations, who came up with this unique idea.

Bubble wrap was laid on

the floor of the courtyard and you can imagine the noise when it started popping under the stamping feet of all the kids. There were so many kids that the café ran out of hot chocolate. As the end of the event approached, balloons fell from the ceiling causing more excitement among the guests.

About a dozen volunteers helped to make this daytime New Year's Eve party a huge success. Volunteers continue to help Saturdays at family events, as well as the third Monday of the month for story time. Story time is always well-attended and the audience participates in a very excited way.

Looking forward to working with everyone, especially as special projects requests come in from the museum.

*Marilyn Davison
Special Projects Chair
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Auckland War Memorial Museum and Museum of New Zealand Museum Seen

When people think of going to New Zealand, they imagine the places such as the “green of the Shire” and “the mountains of Middle Earth” written about by J. R. R. Tolkien, and the country gives them just what they imagined.

However, beyond the variegated turquoise waters of the Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean, this country has an extraordinary arts scene, which nearly every town or city boasts its commercial galleries as having everything from paintings and etchings to sculpture and jade and bone carvings. The latter art forms are particularly in evidence in two great public museums: The [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#) in Auckland, and [Museum of New Zealand](#) in Wellington.

The Auckland museum, which requests an entry fee of \$10 N. Z. donation, is housed in a neo-classical building and is the older museum of the two. It opened in November 1929 and has an excellent collection of Oceanic art, but it is not limited to native Maori art forms. In fact, what makes the museum particularly rewarding is that it enables visitors to see the similarities and differences between carvings from differing, yet related, cultures. Like its sister museum in Wellington, the Auckland museum

provides a look into all aspects of New Zealand culture and natural history.

The Museum of New Zealand (free entry) in the capitol city is more often referred to by its Maori name, *Te Papa Tongarewa*, broadly translated as “the place of treasures of this land.” It opened in 1998 as the successor to the National Art Gallery. The building is strikingly modern with unusual seating areas throughout the exhibits. The museum truly celebrates New Zealand life and culture, with exhibits on film (*The Hobbit* film series is currently featured), natural and political history, Maori culture, and imported European art.

The Maori carvings in wood, whale bone, and pounamu (jade) far outshine those housed at the Auckland museum. What surprised me most was the extent of European art that had been brought by British immigrants to their new country and donated to public collections. These art works are extensive and contains highlights such as Pieter Brueghel the Younger’s *A Village Fair*, a very early J. M. W. Turner’s *Dunstanborough Castle, Northumberland*, and portraits by Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds, and John Singleton Copley.

- Alan Slotkin



Waiheke
(hand weapon)



Maori carving
(wood inlaid
with
paua shell)



Maori jade carving
inset in gold

10th Petals 2 Paint Opens April 25

East Colony Fine Art will once again feature their premiere event *Petals 2 Paint*, now in its 10th year. The three-day show pairs East Colony artist's paintings with floral arrangers, who create a floral display interpreting the painting.

Thursday, April 25, 5 to 8 p.m., is opening night for the free show. The exhibition continues Friday, April 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, April 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

East Colony is in the Millyard at 55 So. Commercial St., Manchester. For more

information, go to <http://www.eastcolony.com/>.

Last year, Z-House docent Jo Russavage won first place in the show judged by popular vote.

Sally Gordon Shea is chair of the event and one of the artists in the show. Displaying paintings are Judy McKenna and Verne Orlosk. Currier people creating floral displays are Pauline Bogaert with Suzanne Cleveland and Roz Lockwood representing Manchester Garden Club.



Jo Russavage's winning arrangement at the 2012 Petals 2 Paint exhibition

Museum Shop offers Japanese-themed Items

The shop has some new jewelry by designer Kathy Binns of Candia, a teacher at the Manchester Institute of Art. She has worked in the jewelry business 20 years and has designed sterling silver reproductions of Japanese - styled jewelry.

This jewelry and other new shop merchandise coincides with the current Samurai exhibit. The *Lethal Beauty* catalog is on sale for \$20. There are also children's coloring books, erasers and volumes on Samurai and Japan, including one that won the Newbury Award.



Kathy Binns' Japanese-inspired jewelry is now available in the Museum Shop

Sandra Chandonnet
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Scenes from Lethal Beauty Docent Walk-through

Guild of Volunteers 2012 – 2013 Executive Committee

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Barbara Shepler

Executive Vice Chair:

Dennie Dyer

Treasurer:

Ted Parrot

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Guild Meetings and Programs:

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Museum Docents:

Alan Slotkin

Zimmerman House Docents:

Victoria Duffy

Museum Shop:

Sandra Chandonnet

Special

Projects/Ambassadors:

Marilyn Davison

Library:

Charlotte DeBell



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Staff Advisor: Karen

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