

CURRIER
MUSEUM
of ART

GUILD OF VOLUNTEERS

Annual Report
2010-11

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Mission Statement

The Currier Guild of Volunteers supports the activities and the staff of the Currier Museum of Art by volunteering time and talents to further the museum's goals. By implementing programs and projects, the guild enhances the image the museum presents to the community and encourages active public participation in the museum's objectives and aspirations.



Dedication

This annual report is dedicated to two long-term docents, Marguerite Brockway and Dr. Richard McCarthy, whose passing in 2010 is sadly noted.

Richard McCarthy was born in Dorchester, Mass. He received his medical degree from New York Medical College and served as a surgeon in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War aboard the USS Forrestal. He practiced as a general and vascular surgeon in Salem, N.H., for 30 years.

Not one to slow down in retirement, Richard and his wife Anita continued to travel the world. Richard's retirement was the Currier's gain when he signed on as a docent, eventually devoting 10 years to the museum. Richard served in a number of positions on the Guild Executive Committee and was Chair of the Executive Committee from 2004-2006. Always dapper, small in stature and with a commanding voice, Richard could always be counted on to remind art history professor Andy Stangel exactly where he left off in a lecture. His presence in the museum and lecture halls alike is sadly missed.

Marguerite Brockway, a Currier volunteer for 18 years who logged more than 1,400 hours, will long be remembered by Currier Museum of Art staff and volunteers as a prized museum and Zimmerman House docent. Marguerite was acquainted with Frank Lloyd Wright's work before becoming a docent at the Zimmerman House. While a student at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., she spent many hours in the library and chapel, two of 18 Wright-designed buildings at the school.

A piano teacher and opera singer, she designed the "Art of Sight and Sound" tour. Public Programs director Leah Fox remembers sitting in the European Gallery and listening to Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue* and Ravel's *The Enchanted Flute* as Marguerite and museum visitors talked about the connections between the musical pieces and artwork from the Baroque and Impressionist periods. She also developed "Welcome to the Currier: An Introduction to the Permanent Collection," a *Currier on the Move* program.

She taught music at Wilkins Elementary School in Amherst, N.H. Technical College (now Manchester Community College) and Rivier College, Nashua.

2010-2012 Executive Committees

| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Officers: | | |
| <i>Executive Chair</i> | Thelma Raine | Patricia Howard |
| <i>Executive Vice Chair</i> | Patricia Howard | Barbara Shepler |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | Ted Parrot | Ted Parrot |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Yvonne Dunham | Yvonne Dunham |
| Committee Chairs: | | |
| <i>Guild Meetings and Programs</i> | Margaret A. Case | Nancy Johnson |
| <i>Guild Membership</i> | Barbara Shepler | Kim Tyndall |
| <i>Guild Communications Vice Chair</i> | Judy McKenna Pauline Bogaert | Judy McKenna Pauline Bogaert |
| <i>Museum Docents</i> | Carolyn Hollman | Carolyn Hollman |
| <i>Zimmerman House Docents</i> | Dennie Dyer | Dennie Dyer |
| <i>Museum Ambassadors</i> | Frances Gray | Frances Gray |
| <i>Projects</i> | Pam Parrot | Pam Parrot |
| <i>Museum Shop</i> | Richard Russell | Richard Russell |
| <i>Guild Staff Liaison</i> | Michelle Pennington | Michelle Pennington |
| <i>Guild Staff Advisor</i> | Susan Leidy | Susan Leidy |

From the Executive Chair

September 2011 - The goal of the Guild of Volunteers Executive Committee was to streamline and clarify a number of issues this past year and the change in appearance of this annual report reflects that.

We changed the way we keep our accounts from a calendar year (January 1 to December 31). We are now synchronized with the museum's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). This will mesh the guild's financial- and record-keeping calculations and those of the museum.

Technology has been embraced and we are fortunate to have a guild executive committee with expertise in many relevant areas. Our newsletter, the recording of hours, archiving old material and our treasurer's reports all benefit from our executive committee's experience. This report covers all of 2010 and the first six months of 2011. No recorded hours or other material has been lost. Rest assured, all necessary information has been retained and archived and will always remain accessible.

The guild is a dynamic group always ready to welcome new challenges and ways of doing things. Excellence is our goal and we believe the changes you see outlined in this annual report facilitate that goal. The number of volunteer hours recorded by volunteers demonstrates our huge commitment and dedication to the Currier Museum of Art.

We offer a special thank you to Thelma Raine, a long-time Zimmerman House and Museum Docent. Thelma stepped down as Chair of the Guild of Volunteers in March of 2011 due to family commitments. Thelma's kindness, enthusiasm and commitment to the museum will be missed.

Patricia L. Howard, Executive Chair

Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of each year the treasurer develops a proposed budget which is submitted to the Guild Executive Committee for approval. The executive committee approves the budget with any necessary changes. The approved budget serves as a guideline for the guild to manage and control its expenses for the coming year. The museum provides the financing for the guild to operate.

In September, the executive committee approved a change from a calendar year to the museum's fiscal year. This change puts the guild's budget and expense accounting in line with the museum.

For the fiscal year 2011 - which ran from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 - the guild budget was \$5,699. The total guild expenses for 2011 were \$4,474. By publishing the guild newsletter and the annual report electronically the guild and the museum saved significant expense.

Guild Meetings and Programs

The 29th annual Business Meeting and Luncheon for Currier Museum of Art's Guild of Volunteers was held Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford.

The speaker was Wendy Rogers, docent Peggy Rogers' daughter, who is Associate Registrar at the Smithsonian Institution's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. Her talk was titled "Up and Down: My Life in Exhibitions."

Currier trustee Harry Shepler spoke to the 89 people attending and conveyed thanks from the board of trustees for their volunteer service. His wife, Barbara, guild executive committee vice chair, reported on accepting the University of New Hampshire's Granite State Award on behalf of Currier docents.

The first Frances P. Nelson Award was presented to Marilyn Davison, a long-time docent who remembered the woman for whom the award was named. Jim Bennett, who was introduced by his friend Hannah Perutz, received the Distinguished Service Award.

Deputy museum director and Guild Staff Advisor Susan Leidy presented nine volunteers with the Currier Award Pin for completing 50 volunteer hours in a year, or 50 hours or more in a span of three years.

The semi-annual meeting was held November 16, 2010. Currier assistant curator Nina Gara Bozicnik spoke about the Currier's acquisition *Invisible Man (Two Views)* created by Glenn Ligon in 1991. Fifty-seven guild members received awards for five, 10, 15, 21 and 25 years of service at the Currier. H. Frances Gordon, Anne Milne and Jean Nelson were recognized as charter members.

The Holiday Lunch was held December 7, 2010.

Guild Membership

First, we must give great thanks to Barbara Shepler, outgoing Membership Chair, who gave many hours of her time to set up the online program for recording volunteer hours. She answered all our questions for the past three or more years, and welcomed quite a few new volunteers into the guild. She has been a tireless worker and a patient mentor.

Congratulations and thank you to all 120 volunteers who contributed a total of 12,316 hours to the museum in 2010-2011. This represents an average of 101 hours per volunteer.

"With the help of our dedicated and ambitious volunteers we have been able to tackle several projects in the library which would have been impossible without their help. Significant backlogs of periodicals and auction catalogs have been processed and shelved to support ongoing staff research projects. Volunteers are single-handedly undertaking a complete shelf-reading of our book stacks which will ensure resources are properly shelved and accessible for researchers.

Volunteers make possible the day to day activities of the library and most importantly contribute an upbeat and enthusiastic attitude to any task I throw their way!" – Meghan Petersen, Archivist/Librarian

Here is a breakdown of where volunteer hours were donated in 2010-2011, and the number of hours volunteers served:

- 51% of volunteer hours were counted in the shop, special projects, visitor services, and trainings
- 49% of volunteer hours were contributed in tours
- 76 volunteers served more than 50 hours
- 44 volunteers served more than 100 hours
- 19 volunteers served more than 200 hours
- 6 volunteers served more than 300 hours
- 2 volunteers served more than 400 hours

This is the guild's first full year on our new fiscal calendar. This year's contribution compares well with the totals for the 2008 and 2010 calendar years. In the future, we will report on fiscal year totals only.

- 2010-2011 fiscal year total hours of 12,316 contributed by 120 volunteers
- 2010 stub year - January to June - total hours of 6,606 contributed by 114 volunteers
- 2010 total hours of 12,683 contributed by 128 volunteers
- 2009 total hours of 11,713 contributed by 109 volunteers
- 2008 total hours of 12,661 contributed by 113 volunteers

We welcomed 37 new volunteers into the guild since January 1, 2010, the beginning of the stub year, including a new class of museum docents.

Guild Communications

The Currier Guild in Action newsletter was published eight times between January 2010 and June 2011, reporting on activities of the executive committee, guild events, volunteer opportunities, and other topics of interest to the guild.

The newsletter continues to be distributed electronically. Volunteers who do not have email are able to receive a printout of the online publication by contacting the committee chair. Past issues of the newsletter and the Guild of Volunteers Handbook are now archived online, accessible through links in each newsletter. New features added to the newsletter were slide shows, an on-line blog, *Spotlight* feature article, columns by Jane Seney and Theia Fischer, and *Museum Seen*. The committee added a photo editor - Anna Zhurbey - and a blog administrator - Karin Whitford - to assist with newsletter production.

This committee assisted with the design and production of invitations for the annual meeting, semi-annual meeting, and the *Guild of Volunteers Annual Report 2010-2011*.

Special thanks to Susan Leidy, Michelle Pennington, Neva Cole and Jane Seney for their editorial and proofreading assistance; Richard Russell for distributing guild invitations; and Patricia Howard, Carolyn Hollman and Dennie Dyer for submitting digital photographs of guild events throughout the year.

Museum Docents

About 60 museum docents, including a new class from spring 2011, provided a variety of tours and participated in museum programs serving the public. From January 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, museum docents contributed impressive hours conducting tours for students, adults, new parents and special groups.

"New Hampshire weather frequently presents challenges and obstacles for docents leading tours. Whether it is a downpour and flash flooding in the middle of a Zimmerman House tour or the beginnings of a blizzard on the morning of a large school group visit, docents adapt with on-the-spot creativity and flexibility. This past winter, four museum docents braved the elements to be at the museum early one morning to lead, of all things, a Forces of Nature tour. Just as the docents were taking off their coats we heard from the school; they weren't coming because the roads were in such poor shape. The docents accepted the news good-naturedly. In fact, they took the opportunity to get a cup of coffee and to chat informally about how tours had been going. It was a pleasure to see that level of camaraderie and commitment!" – Jane Seney, Educator for Tour and Docent Programs

The numbers of museum tours and people served during this period include:

- 460 public tours for adults and children six days a week
- 253 tours for 9,400 students led by docents 812 times
- 84 special adult group tours for 1,685 visitors and led by docents 97 times
- 21 focus tours offered 49 times by 24 docents

Docents also participated in special Currier programs targeting groups of parents, children, and adults. These include:

- New Parent Gallery Talks (monthly themed tours) with 48 participants led by six docents
- Family Saturdays (monthly themed tours followed by an art project) involving 560 participants assisted by three docents
- First Thursdays (monthly cultural experience) with 929 participants and six docents

Finally, pairs of museum docents conducted 18 *Currier on the Move* programs involving 1,011 participants in various community settings.

Zimmerman House Docents

The Zimmerman House Tour Program celebrated its 20th season and was recognized by the NH Preservation Alliance as one of its 25 Preservation Milestones for the state in the last 25 years.

From July 2009 through June 2010 the Zimmerman House had 3,387 visitors, and from July 2010 to June 2011 there were 3,740 visitors. The increase in visitors was due to adding more tours to the schedule and acquisition of a larger van with wheelchair lift.

Focus tours featured *Acoustics at the Zimmerman House: An Engineer's Perspective* by John Herper and *How Frank Lloyd Wright Makes a Small House Seem Bigger* by Victoria Duffy. Newly developed focus tours included *The Evolution of Design at the Zimmerman House* by Judy Ransmeier and *Landscaping a Usonian: The Zimmerman House Garden* by Jo Russavage. For the first time, a Spanish language tour *La Casa en Espanol* was offered by Angela Hoke.

On May 15, 2010, 16 new docents were added to the Zimmerman House volunteer corps.

During the summer, former museum staff member Hetty Startup taught a University of New Hampshire course called Manchester Architectural History to Zimmerman House docents. Some docents also attended UNH Manchester professor Andy Stangel's Art History courses.

In September, five docents - Victoria Duffy, Ann Milne, Mary Morrison, Pat Morrison, and Judy Ransmeier - attended the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Guest speakers were: Alan Banks from Fairsted, a Frederick Law Olmsted National Historical Site, spoke on *Frederick Law Olmsted and Suburbia* highlighting connections with Frank Lloyd Wright; Michael Vose presented computer-generated architectural renderings and 3-D models of the Zimmerman House he developed with Jim Cowan; Michael Komanecky, former Currier curator who was at the center of the museum's largest and most complex acquisition, discussed *Bringing the Avant-Garde to a Mill Town: Frank Lloyd Wright's Zimmerman House*; Melissa Renn, an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Associate at Harvard Art Museum, spoke on Frank Lloyd Wright and an important 1938 design contest sponsored by *Life Magazine*; and Kevin Jankowski spoke about his relationship with the Zimmermans, who supported his art education and career. Also, Pat Meyers, Fran Gordon and Ann Milne shared first-person accounts of the Zimmermans and their extraordinary house. They told stories about how it was constructed; the Currier's early work on the house; how early tours were conducted; and the celebrations when the house was opened to the public.

Field trips were taken to the Gropius House in Lincoln, Mass., and the Philip Johnson Glass House in New Canaan, Conn., with some docents on the latter trip also visiting the Wright-designed Roland Reisley House in Pleasantville, N.Y.

“As summer is fleeting, our Museum Ambassador program at the Currier is active, and growing. We’re so pleased to have welcomed some new faces in recent months. We’ve seen a variety of new options for volunteering and working special events with our Public Programs department, which has made such a difference in the quality of service we offer to our visitors. The group has been meeting regularly on the first Friday of each month, sharing lunch together in the Winter Garden Café, while talking over the details of the program and sharing each other’s experiences. From here, we look forward to some wonderful exhibitions and programming slated for the fall, which will lend ample opportunity for our Ambassadors to be with us, assisting and inspiring our visitors.” - Barbara Case, Manager of Visitor and Membership Services

Museum Ambassadors

The role of Museum Ambassadors has continued to evolve. The visitor services role at the desk now involves many technical skills and requires a consistent schedule.

Ambassadors now greet visitors; give directions and general tourist information; and answer visitor’s questions about the museum, its collections and current exhibits. The position has transitioned to a much more interactive function.

Co-chaired by Frances Gray and Frances Wiggin, Museum Ambassadors are a friendly presence in the galleries and public spaces of the museum. The program’s volunteers, selected from the Guild of Volunteers, attend trainings about the museum and convey their knowledge and enthusiasm to our visitors.

“I am incredibly grateful for the time, effort, and commitment given by special projects volunteers. They allow me to do my job more effectively which in turn improves our visitors’ experience at the museum. I would like to particularly acknowledge those who assist with our family programs. My goal for our family programs is to provide a welcoming environment for families to spend quality time together. I could not possibly greet and orient each family to the days’ activities without the support of these volunteers. This personal interaction ensures that parents avoid feeling uncomfortable and unsure of where to go or what to do, and can spend their time connecting with their children and with the museum’s collection.” – Michelle Pennington, Associate Educator for Adult and Family Programs

Special Projects

Special Projects provides volunteers for museum staff for specific and usually short-term projects. Working from an email distribution list, volunteers are contacted when a request is received. When the job has been filled another notice goes out to the list. The list is updated when membership has new people who express an interest in Special Projects.

This year Special Projects has provided volunteers for school vacation weeks, First Thursdays, exhibit openings, the Wednesday summer family programs as well as mailings. Several volunteers are working with the librarian on a long-term basis cataloging the two libraries of books recently left to the Currier. Others volunteer at the Museum Shop on a regular basis.

A complete roster of staff and volunteers including photos is being compiled online making the update of staff and volunteer changes easier and available to everyone.

“How do you say thank you to twelve wonderful souls who whole heartedly give of their time, energy, and experience to the museum visitors and shop staff? Every day the volunteers come in and fill in wherever they are needed. The staff would not have a lunch, be able to do research, enter merchandise in the computer system, or attend meetings without the volunteer coverage in the shop. The shop manager would not be able to stay within her budget for staff salaries without the time volunteers donate to the shop. When one of the volunteers cannot come in to cover their shift, they call upon one another to fill that slot. During the watercolor exhibit, having that extra person in the shop kept the lines and cash flowing. To be honest I do not believe the shop would have the high level of service and organization without all of the hours that the volunteers give to the museum shop. Not only do they help with shop tasks but they also have to be familiar with all aspects of the museum. They are asked questions from information about the collection, to where are the restrooms, to what is the Zimmerman House and who is the artist who made...? Our volunteers are ambassadors, docents and shop clerks.” – Heidi Norton, Museum Shop Manager

Museum Shop

The volunteers for the Museum Shop during 2010 contributed 623 hours of volunteer time and an additional 253 hours for the first 6 months of 2011. That time has allowed the staff the freedom to accomplish tasks necessary to keep the shop functioning smoothly.

Three of the volunteers - Joan Camann, Sandra Chandonnet and Richard Russell - all deserve special thanks for each volunteering more than 100 hours to the shop.

The volunteers also attend a combination staff/volunteer meeting twice a year so the group can go over happenings in the shop and upcoming exhibits. One of those meetings, held in January, is more of a celebration of lots of hard work by everyone. At this meeting, everyone brings in a special treat to share and everyone has a Yankee swap where the gifts are provided by the shop. This is a great opportunity for all of the volunteers to meet as a group and tell their special stories about the incidents they have encountered throughout the year. The volunteer/staff group is family.

The shop continues its tradition of offering a 30 percent discount to all of the museum's volunteers during the Christmas holiday season, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Volunteers 2010-11

Abbott, Nathaniel
Amendolara, Arlene
Baker, Nancy
Bennett, James
Bentas, Jane
Bergevin, Pauline C.
Block, Roslyn
Bogaert, Pauline
Borgman, Marti
Bouchard, Gloria
Broad, Muriel
Buckland, Brittney
Camann, Joan
Capistran, Cecile
Carroll, Mary
Cartmill, Janet R.
Case, Peg
Chamberlain, Doug
Chandonnet, Sandra
Christy, Mary
Cody, Arthur
Colageo, Nancy
Comiskey, Margaret
Conover, Jan
Conway, Judith
Cooper, Jane G.
Crowley, Mimi
Curran, Diane
Davison, Marilyn
DeBell, Charlotte
Di Stefano, Julia
DiGirolamo, Diane
Douglass, Sally
Drisko, Katherine
Duffy, Victoria
Duhaime, Lucie O.
Dunham, Yvonne
Duranceau, Deborah
Durning, Jean
Dyer, Denise
Eckerson, Arlene
Ellis, Diane
Farley, Dot
Feltus, David
Feltus, Susan
Filatov, Valera

Fischer, Aletheia
Fitzgerald, Flo
Fregeau, Julie
French, Morgan
Friedman, Blanche
Glennon, Jayne
Gordon, H. Frances
Gray, Fran
Gregorich, Margaret
Hall, Francine
Harvey, Eunice
Harvey, Pam
Herper, John
Hills, Jane
Hoke, Angela
Hollman, Carolyn
Howard, Pat
Hoyt, Phyllis
Jensen, Joann
Johnson, Bob
Johnson, Denise
Johnson, Nancy
Jones, Fern
Kuhns, Becki
Larson, Melanie
Lavey, Roberta
LeBlanc, Andrew
MacKenzie, Beryl
McCartney, Elaine
McEntee, Diane
McGaan, Nancy
McGiffin, Jean
McGorry, Mary
McGovern, Sean
McKenna, Judy
McMillan, Muriel
Merrill, Florence
Meyers, Pat
Milne, Anne
Molan, Patricia
Morrison, Mary
Morrison, Pat
Nelson, Jean
Nguyen, Hieu
Padfield, John-Paul
Parrot, Pam

Parrot, Ted
Perutz, Hannah
Posner, Susan
Previe, Nicholas
Prinz, Tricia
Raine, Thelma
Ransmeier, Judith
Reigstad, Patricia
Resch, Carol
Ribeca, Melody
Richardson, Ann
Richter, Liz
Rogers, Peggy
Russavage, Jo
Russell, Richard
Salo, Pluma E.
Sarcione, Paul
Savery, Dorothy
Schmida, Paula
Scott, Seaborn
Shanahan, Jr, James A.
Sharkey, Kathleen
Shea, Sally
Sheldon, Joan
Shepler, Barbara
Sieker, Don
Silver, Steven
Slotkin, Alan
Spinelli, Cynthia
Stewart, Nancy
Therrien, Jean
Tingleff, Carol
Townsend, Jim
Townsend, Sandra
Twombly, Nathan
Tyndall, Kim
VanOrden, Lisa
Watson, Marilyn
White, Jane
Whitford, Karin
Wiggin, Fran
Williams, Carol
Yanulis, Alice
Zadravec, Nancy
Zhurbey, Anna

Guild of Volunteers 2010 Awards

Frances P. Nelson Award

Marilyn Davison

Distinguished Service Award

James Bennett

Currier Award Pins 2010

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Joan Camann | Angela Hoke |
| Sandra Chandonnet | Nancy McGaan |
| Aletheia Fischer | Tricia Prinz |
| Pam Harvey | Jo Russavage |
| Richard Russell | |

Guild Membership categories are described in the Guild of Volunteers Handbook

Emeriti/ae Members

Pauline C. Bergevin
Cecile Capistran
Janet R. Cartmill
Jane G. Cooper
Wende W. Derby
Lucie O. Duhaime
Arlene Eckerson
Lillian R. Garfunkel
H. Frances Gordon
Eunice Harvey
Phyllis Hoyt
Denise Johnson
Fern Jones
Mary McGorry
Polly S. McLane-Lit
Pluma E. Salo
James A. Shanahan, Jr.