

# galleryGAB

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NEWSLETTER of the AGH VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE  
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Recognition of AGH Centennial

**"Art for the 100th"**

Welcome to this second edition of *galleryGAB*, your AGH Volunteer newsletter.

We hope that news and views about your fellow volunteers will be of interest to you and that you will contribute to future editions with your own news and views.

## execGAB

by Maureen McKeating



The purpose of *galleryGAB* is to open up lines of communication among the volunteers at the AGH, and facilitate our getting to know one other a little better. With that in mind, members of the Volunteer Committee Executive have been encouraged to talk a bit about ourselves.

I am a retired teacher. I taught for over 30 years. One thing I enjoyed about teaching was the opportunity to work in different areas. I have taught both elementary and secondary. I worked as a classroom teacher, a teacher-librarian, a reading-improvement teacher, a special education resource teacher, a system-wide resource teacher, and head

of special education in a secondary school. I can't even count the number of schools I worked in! It is totally understandable that I am a docent. I continue to teach, to learn, and to enjoy new experiences here at AGH.

Now that you know a bit about me, let us know about you. One of the aims of *galleryGAB* is to help us to learn about each other. Please send Bill Manson or myself some information about you. What is your volunteer area and what do you enjoy about it? Perhaps you are celebrating a milestone this year? Let us know, and we will be happy to include you in our upcoming editions.

From time to time positions on the Volunteer Committee Executive need to be filled, or sometimes we may need volunteers to serve on subcommittees. If you have the interest and the time to

help on the Volunteer Executive or to serve on a subcommittee please let me know. I am available to you through email at [mmckeating@cogeco.ca](mailto:mmckeating@cogeco.ca) or through the volunteer telephone line at 905-527-6610 ext. 400.

**To all of you: Happy New Year  
and all of the best for 2010.**

With sadness, we acknowledge the passing of **Olga Spanier** on November 29, 2009. She was a helpful shop volunteer, an enthusiastic docent, and a friend who always had a beautiful, contagious smile. She will be missed.

## shopGAB

by Geoff Stephenson



Known affectionately as the “Shop Comedian”, **Ellen Irving** is a fifth generation Hamiltonian who can be found every Wednesday afternoon in the Shop at AGH entertaining both customers and staff with her dry humour.



Ellen is not only a volunteer, she is an artist in her own right, and says that she started to paint at the age of four, moving to oils two years later. She continued her art education and subsequently graduated from the Ontario College of Art (now the OCAD).

Asked to describe her work, Ellen says that she “paints anything that speaks to her”, and may include surrealist, whimsical and historical elements. She gets her inspiration from her travels to the more remote parts of the country. Most of Ellen’s work at the moment is in acrylic. In 2009 she had her first show, which was a success. When asked what had led to her decision to show her work, she is quite open – all her friends had been given some of her paintings and she had to find a way to reduce the space occupied by her work in her house

Ellen has been a volunteer since 2007 and spends much of her time in the Art Rental and Sales section of the Shop where her knowledge of art is particularly useful.

She is also currently volunteering on the AGH Art for the 100th Subcommittee.

**Way to go, Ellen!**

## recruitGAB

by Elise de Stein



I would like to introduce you to seven new volunteers who have joined our group this fall.

**John Garfield Stultz**, **John Michael McLaughlin** and **Andrea Skelly** have all started in the Media Programming area, so watch for them at the movies and say hello.

**John Garfield** has several diplomas in music, film and television production and is an accomplished photographer. **John Michael**, a film buff, is currently a student at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. **Andrea Skelly**, who is also volunteering at special events, recently completed her Master of Fine Arts Degree and hopes to find a position within the arts community.

**William To**, a student in his final year of the Bachelor of Health Sciences program at McMaster University, is our newest Tourism Ambassador. William’s knowledge of Hamilton was enhanced through a summer position at the Royal Botanical Gardens as a “garden host.”

**Marija Franjic** and **Kim Lupal** have begun volunteering in the Shop and Art Rental area.

**Marija Franjic**, currently in 3rd year of the Art History program at McMaster, is looking forward to gaining some experience in an art gallery.

**Kim Lupal** brings to us many years of curatorial experience at such places as the Joseph Brant Museum and Backus Heritage Village, and hopes to work on special projects within the Art Rental section.

**Kerrie Bernard** has just begun volunteering in the Membership area and will also work one Sunday a month in the Shop. Kerrie, who has a Diploma in Graphic Design, recently moved to Hamilton and is commuting to a position in Toronto.

## tourismGAB

by Jean Carey



We have been asked to tell a little about ourselves in *galleryGAB*. I am currently Tourism Liaison on the Volunteer Committee Executive, and come from a background in this field having volunteered in the Tourism Hamilton Office for twenty-three years. I also worked for twelve years on the Executive Committee for the annual Gage Park Mum Show.

Having worked in retail as a retail-administer, I felt quite comfortable volunteering in the Shop at AGH. As well, in my nine years here at AGH, I have volunteered as Recruitment Chair.

As you can tell, I enjoy meeting people. So please stop by and chat the next time you see me at the tourism desk at AGH.

## officeGAB

by Gary Duncan



Volunteers assist the AGH in many ways. We are all required to log our hours in the Volunteer Hours Log Book, which is available at the main desk. My duties as Secretary on the Volunteer Committee Executive are to take minutes at the Volunteer Committee Executive meetings held nine times per year, and to maintain the Volunteer Hours Log Book. Every two months I tally the volunteer hours and report to the Committee Executive. It is important that we all record our volunteer hours because they help determine the grants received by the AGH.

Over 5100 hours were logged in 2009 --  
January/February - 793 hours  
March/April - 941 hours  
May/June - 1144 hours  
July/August - 634 hours  
September/October - 860 hours  
November/December - 785 hours

In other words, in hours we volunteers contribute close to three full-time staff equivalents to the AGH. **We should all be very proud of our efforts.**

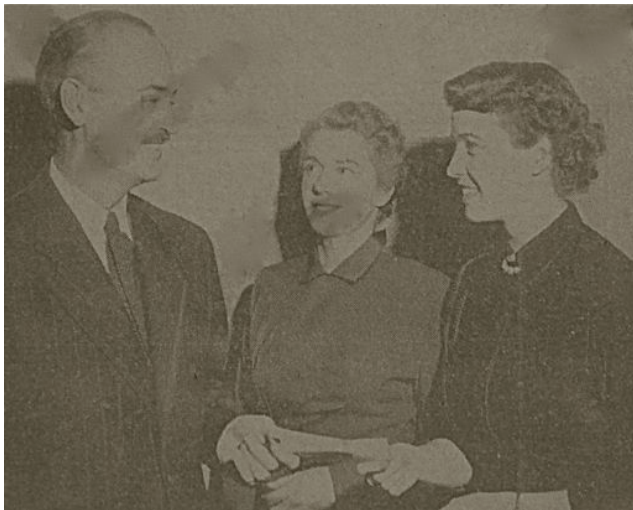


Have you ever discovered some long forgotten fascinating bit of family history? Maureen McKeating found such a gem in the form of a booklet chronicling the early years of the Volunteer Committee. Maureen found it so interesting that she passed it on to me, and I would like to share some of it with you.

The Women's Volunteer Committee was formed at a meeting in March 1950. From that meeting, attended by only seven people, emerged an organization, which has been an integral part of the history of the AGH for sixty years. Yes, in March of this year, the Volunteer Committee will mark sixty years of continuous service to the AGH.

Back in 1950, the AGH was looking to move from its original location to a purpose built gallery. So the first project those volunteers undertook was to help raise money for the building fund. They were nothing, if not ambitious and creative.

Their first project was a "Mile of Pictures" in which works by local artists were exhibited in the windows of shops surrounding Gore Park and down James Street to Eaton's. It was a bold undertaking, which saw fifty paintings sold. A.Y. Jackson, who took part in the exhibition, actually donated his artist's share (\$25.18) of his painting, which sold for \$50.36. The Women's Volunteer Committee was able to present the AGH with a \$2000 cheque for the building fund -- a significant sum in the 1950's.



Mrs. H. Hunter and Mrs. D Keogh present a cheque from "Fun Fair" to Mr. D. C. Barber chair of the AGH Board in 1951. (Photo courtesy of the Hamilton Spectator.)

The account of those early years is a window back in time with many, sometimes humorous, stories describing their fund raising efforts. However, one of the most important and lasting legacies of the AGH volunteers through the years has been the large number of art works acquired for the Permanent Collection with funds provided by the Volunteer Committee.

Times have changed and so has the role of the AGH Volunteer Committee. However, one thing has not changed – the continuing commitment of AGH volunteers to supporting and promoting the Gallery. We can be proud of a sixty-year history which each of us continues every time we volunteer at the Gallery.

You will shortly be receiving a letter from the "Art for the 100th" Committee. This letter outlines a plan which, with your support, will allow us to continue the legacy by providing funds toward the purchase of a work of art in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the AGH.

I am confident that in 2014, with your help, another work in the Permanent Collection will proudly state on its label --

### **"Gift of the Volunteer Committee"**

**Ann Manson , Chair, Art for the 100th Committee**

Committee members: Margaret Fong, Ellen Irving, Rudin Knights, Maureen McKeating



*Whiplash Northern Lights* by K.M. Graham: a gift of the Volunteer Committee to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the AGH in 1989. (Photo courtesy of the AGH.)

## eduGAB

by Marilyn Hollick



The Autumn season was packed with opportunities to enhance our knowledge of the current exhibitions, through presentations by Dr. Ann Thomas on Modernist photography, Shirley Madill on contemporary art and photography, Regina Haggio on narrative in portraiture, Dr. Kathleen Schwartz on knowing vs. understanding in the Ontario Arts Curriculum, **Gary Duncan** on William Blair Bruce, **Maureen McKeating** on the *Bruegel Bosch Bus*, and Melissa Bennett our new Contemporary Art Curator on Jesse Boles' *Crude Landscapes* and on the exhibition, *Liquid of Rain and Rivers*.

*Theatre Aquarius*, in conjunction with the *Anne Frank Center (NYC)*, offered docents an opportunity to provide public tours during the playing of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This proved to be a genuine and inspiring learning experience.



A hands-on silkscreen print lesson in the AGH studio provided both technical knowledge and a "messy" camaraderie time for the docents.

**What famous Canadian Artist said this? (Answer in the next edition.)**

*What I am going to say is not braggadocio but what I have arrived at by close study of landscape artists is that in one year from the date of this letter I will paint pictures that will have more poetic feeling in a square inch than the other painters have in a square yard.*

**Answer to the quote in the 1st edition:  
Lawren Harris**

**Linda Sinclair**, a retired Family Studies high school teacher, has a quiet, consistent way of inspiring passion for the arts in the children that she tours. She has been an AGH docent for approximately five years, starting when the AGH reopened following the renovation. Previously, she had been a docent at the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre (WAHC) in Hamilton. She is a member of the Women's Art Association and describes herself as a "trying artist" after taking several watercolour lessons at Mohawk College.



Linda especially enjoys interacting and sharing her passion with children who visit the gallery, with the goal of having them return one day, being exposed to the AGH art education and expertise and the autonomous flavour of being an AGH docent.

## mediaGAB

by Valerie Cousens



## staffGAB

by Bill Manson



Always resourceful, always helpful, always upbeat, and always with a smile: that describes **Laurie Kilgour-Walsh**, our Educator here at the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

Laurie grew up in Ancaster, and "thanks to an artistic and determined mother" as a child, she became a regular visitor to the AGH. This upbringing led her to acquiring Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from McMaster University in 1998, and to becoming a practicing visual artist.



Inspired by nature, found objects, sciences and religious relics, her work seeks to manifest connections between spirit and environment that were once prevalent in all activities of daily life but have now been discarded in the rush of postmodern existence. Titled "Lost and Found", her current body of work explores, through mixed media and assemblage, the sacred qualities inherent in every day found objects, and her studio is littered with scraps of old books, bits of rusted metal, dried flowers, glass oddities and other random items -- all carefully gathered for future use.

As AGH Educator, Laurie is responsible for Educational programming, including planning and coordinating lectures, studio activities, and tours for children, adults, and their families. She manages the studio, camp and education staff, and is responsible for administrative tasks like writing grants, managing budgets, and designing programs that address AGH exhibitions, the Ministry of Education's curriculum, and the interests of the public. As well, Laurie trains and coordinates a dedicated team of volunteer docents.

*I could not do my job without volunteers. It is as simple as that. I am always very grateful for the assistance and support that I receive from volunteers here at the Gallery, and am always so impressed by their talent, dedication and willingness to share their time and experience.*

Laurie lives happily in Brantford with her husband, Colin, and two "spoiled" dogs.