

galleryGAB

Published by
the AGH Volunteer
Committee Executive

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NEWSLETTER of the AGH VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE
volume 2 number 2 : April 2010



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Welcome to this third 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. We welcome your comments.

execGAB

by Maureen McKeating



The Annual General Meeting of the Volunteer Committee is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Sunday, May 16th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Jean and Ross Fischer Community Gallery. Please mark this date in your calendars. The AGM is a once a year opportunity for all of us to get together.

The AGM is also a chance for you to hear what Volunteers have been doing in all of the Volunteer areas in 2009. The Volunteer Committee Executive hopes that a Sunday AGM will be a more convenient day for Volunteers to attend. I look forward to meeting all of you on May 16th.

The speaker at the AGM will be Jeremy Freiburger. Jeremy is the Executive Director of The Imperial Cotton Centre for the Arts in Hamilton. He is going to speak about the historical evolution of the art scene in Hamilton.

If you are interested in working on the Volunteer Committee Executive, there are some vacancies that need to be filled. A Liaison volunteer is needed in Media Programming as well as in Membership/Administrative. A Volunteer is also needed to sit on the Recruitment Sub-committee. The Volunteer Committee Executive also requires a Secretary. Contact me at mckeating@cogeco.ca if you would like more information on any of these positions.

This is also the time of year to nominate your fellow volunteers for Volunteer

Awards. Volunteer awards will be handed out at the AGH AGM on June 16th, 2010. Please take a few moments to think about the Volunteers you work with. Nomination forms are available on the AGH website. Click on “support AGH” and this will take you to the Volunteer Page where you will find the nomination forms. Nomination forms are also in the back of the white binder where you record your hours.

galleryGAB is sent to all active Volunteers, and it is also sent to AGH staff and the AGH Board of Directors. In the last issue, I asked you to let me know about your milestones. Here is one. **Charles Criminisi** is a volunteer AGH Board of Directors member who has an exciting year. Charles is turning 50 this year and will also be celebrating 25 years as a lawyer. Congratulations, Charles.

Congratulations also to **Valerie Cousens**, who is the Volunteer Liaison with Media Programming. Valerie was nominated for an Award with Tourism Hamilton. Valerie's artwork was also selected for display at the Hamilton Public Library. Check out **Gary Duncan's** article in this issue of *galleryGAB*. Gary is a Docent and is the Secretary for the Volunteer Committee Executive.

shopGAB

by **Geoff Stephenson**



For this edition I would like to put the spotlight on our newest Shop volunteer, Kate Bliss.

Kate works in the travel industry, primarily with corporate clients, which means that she can do most of her work from home. Volunteering in the Shop gives her the opportunity meet people face-to-face whilst at the same time giving the AGH the benefit of her retail experience. She is looking forward to the new environment and the chance to improve her knowledge of art. Her availability at weekends will be particularly appreciated.



Welcome to the AGH Kate!

For those of you who volunteer at the Shop: the on-line sign-up system is now "debugged" and available for those who wish to use it. Anyone who needs instructions should contact me at

brendageoff@gmail.com

recruitGAB

by **Elise de Stein**



We welcome four new volunteers who have joined our ranks since January.

Somayeh Mousavi Asl is volunteering in the Film and Performance area as well as helping as a Tourism Ambassador. Somayeh, who has a degree in Industrial Engineering, came to Canada with her husband from Iran last year.

Kate Bliss and **Donna Hollands-Hurst** have begun volunteering in the Shop and Art Rental area. Kate, a graduate of Glendon College, York University, has worked in the travel industry for many years. Donna started her career as a secondary school teacher, then went back to university to obtain a Master of Theology degree, and is now working part-time as a hospital chaplain.

Celine St. Michael has just begun volunteering in the Film and Performance area. Celine, who will graduate this spring from the Film Studies program at Carleton University, is currently working at a law firm in Burlington.

Over the spring and summer we will be recruiting and selecting approximately ten individuals for the Docent Programme. We are particularly looking for people who are capable of conducting tours in French. If you know of anyone who might be interested, contact me at:

volunteering@artgalleryofhamilton.com

officeGAB

by **Gary Duncan**



My background is that of a metallurgical engineer with 38 years experience in the steel industry. When I retired in 2005 I decided to pursue a second career as an artist and in order to enhance my knowledge of art and art history I decided to volunteer at the AGH. This has been a valuable experience not only in learning about art, researching materials, making presentations, and taking tours but also in meeting so many wonderful volunteers and people on tour. I have always had a keen

interest in drawing and painting, have studied with numerous artists over the past 29 years, and have been on many painting trips within Canada, France, Italy, and the United States. I have sold numerous paintings and reproductions and had work accepted and recognized in several juried exhibitions as well as being published in the International Artist magazine. I am a member of the Central Ontario Art Association, and Six Degrees of Freedom.



I will be sharing an exhibition at the Etobicoke Civic Centre from April 29 – May 24, 2010. All volunteers are invited to the opening reception on May 2 at 2:00PM. For further information see

www.sixdegreesoffreedom.ca

Volunteer Hours Update: During January and February, 2010 the AGH volunteers logged 843 hours which was 50 hours more than the same period in 2009. About ¼ of the volunteers did not record any hours so please make sure that the log book is up to-date as these hours can affect grants received.

tourismGAB

by **Jean Carey**





Committee Update: Art for the 100th

In 2014 the AGH will be 100 years old, and last February The Art for the 100th Committee launched a four year fund raising campaign inviting Active and Sustaining Volunteers to participate in providing funds for the AGH to acquire a piece of art as the Volunteers' gift to commemorate the Centennial of the Gallery.

By providing funds for an acquisition, we will be continuing the tradition begun in 1954 by the first Women's Volunteer Committee. Over the years, the Women's Volunteer Committee and later the Volunteer Committee provided funds for the acquisition of many important works in the Permanent Collection such as Johannes Verspronck's *Portrait of a Lady* (1652), gift of the Volunteer Committee 1987. We hope that current Active and Sustaining Volunteers will continue this tradition.



To launch the campaign, letters were sent to all of our Active and Sustaining Volunteers inviting them to support the project through one-time gifts or by pledging support over four years (2010 – 2013). The Committee has been greatly encouraged by the response so far, and we do have some exciting news. **Monies contributed to the acquisition fund to celebrate the AGH Centennial will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000, through the generosity of John Hutton, a member of the AGH Board of Governors.** However, we still have a way to go to reach our goal by December 2013. Remember, this is a four-year campaign, so there is plenty of opportunity for all of us to become involved and offer support. We are confident that in 2014, with your help, another work in the Permanent Collection will proudly state on its label:

GIFT OF MEMBERS OF THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Ann Manson , Chair, Art for the 100th Committee

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

We would like to recognize those who have responded with gifts and pledges thus far: Thank You!

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Irene Bailey
- Charles F. Brown
- Jean Carey
- Betty Carlyle
- Dr. and Mrs. J.R. Cranston
- Mrs. J.J. Dravis
- Gary Duncan
- Margaret Fong
- Barbara Freeman
- Alexandra Gall
- P. Joan Gallagher
- Marion Harrison
- Marilyn Hollick
- Bev Lafferty
- Sylvia and Fred Laidman
- Ann Manson
- Bill Manson
- Maureen McKeating
- Elvira Peterson
- Miriam Stanbury
- Elise de Stein
- Frances J. Waters
- Gary Wells

Volunteer News!

Elizabeth O'Malley and Ann Manson

have both been awarded Volunteer Service Awards. The Government of Ontario, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration sponsor these awards. Both Elizabeth and Ann have received the award for their volunteer service to the AGH.

Congratulations!

Doors Open Hamilton at the AGH

Saturday May 1

1 pm *An Illustrated History of the AGH*: Bill and Ann Manson

Sunday May 2

1pm *The Bruegel-Bosch Bus Rocks History*: Maureen McKeating

Guided Tours of the Banner Exhibitions at 2:00 pm both days.

eduGAB

by Marilyn Hollick



Getting to Know Elizabeth O'Malley

Elizabeth's childhood was filled with art galleries, the ballet, music, reading and visiting churches and museums. A native Hungarian, she spent 5 years in a refugee camp in Salzburg, Austria. At the age of 14, her family moved to Boston (1950). While in Boston, exposure to a cultural life continued and was enhanced by taking courses at the Boston Art Gallery.

Her professional career took a scientific, not artistic curve, as she became a diagnostic x-ray technologist. She learned to fine tune the skill of observation.

Her married life took her around the world, living in London, Dublin, Oslo, and Hamilton. In 1984, after raising 4 children and leaving behind leadership roles in her children's activities, she became a docent at the AGH. As she had always had a passion for the arts, she felt it was the perfect fit.

To enhance her docent skills and knowledge, she attended McMaster University and graduated in 1996 with a BA in Art History and German.

experiences when visiting other world galleries is enhanced is an added bonus. Whenever she tours a group, she is inspired. It is definitely a "feel good" experience.

After being a docent for 26 years, Elizabeth still has the passion for art and says she thinks and even at times, dreams about works of art. WOW!

What famous Canadian Artist said:

I hope to bring the dynamics of doing and undoing into a common productive cause.

Answer to the quote in the last edition:

mediaGAB

by Valerie Cousens



I am an active volunteer, an artist, a freelance writer, an environmentalist, and a Reiki practitioner, all of which bring me great joy. I also organize, promote, and consult on benefit concerts, fundraisers, and conferences in Hamilton.

Volunteering in film, performance, and special events at the AGH enables me to meet and interact with many people of varying ages and cultural backgrounds. I started volunteering at the Art Gallery of Hamilton in 2006 where my love for art grew into a passion. I love abstract painting because it is always open to interpretation by the viewer. I believe that all people should be encouraged to follow their creativity, no matter what barriers they face.

staffGAB

by Bill Manson



Phase 2 of the AGH Strategic Development Plan

In a recent Interview with Louise Dompierre, AGH President and CEO, I asked her about the significance of the Tanenbaum donation of African Art to the Gallery. She indicated that the collection provides the AGH with a "coherent body of work" that will promote research and augment collaboration with other major collections.

This led to the next question: "Where the collection will be housed?"

Louise explained that in the years leading up to the AGH Centennial in 2014, the Gallery will be implementing Phase 2 of a strategic plan that will focus on programming and audience development. The aim of the plan is to augment Gallery revenues and to address infrastructure needs, such as the creation of a second studio for children's programming and the construction of a new vault.

Also, as part of Phase 2, the Gallery is committing to the development of a "broader" audience base through - as Louise put it - annual "blockbuster must-see" exhibitions, and other special cultural programmes. Another aim of Phase 2 is to diversify revenues and fundraising, with a view not only to enhancing operations and programmes, but also to build an Acquisition Fund for the Gallery.

My next questions concerned programming and events around the celebration of the Centennial of the AGH in 2014. Louise indicated that currently the "blockbuster must-see" exhibition for 2014 is still being "explored" by Staff, and that the AGH Board has established a "2014 Committee" to develop proposed areas of focus for the AGH 2014 Centennial celebrations. Louise also mentioned that **John Hutton, a member of the AGH Board of Governors, has pledged to match all acquisition fund donations by staff and volunteers up to \$10,000 for the acquisition of art. Great news, indeed, for our Volunteer Committee Art for the 100th Project.**

We also talked about the evolution of the current Volunteer Committee from a handful of female volunteers (The Woman's Volunteer Committee) in 1950. Louise pointed out that today there are several active volunteers groups beyond our Volunteer Committee working with AGH, including the CLIC group, the AGH Board of Directors, the AGH Board of Governors, and individuals and groups who volunteer for special events. Louise hopes, down the line, that the Gallery will be able to establish a staff volunteer coordinator position to coordinate and facilitate the activities and programmes of all these volunteer groups.



Elizabeth comments that the best part of being a docent is the opportunity to explain art and encourage children of all ages to really look. The fact that you are continually learning from the excellent AGH resources and that your art

**A Note from our
Past-President:
Rudin Knights**



Volunteering at the AGH is exhilarating and rewarding. My experience as a volunteer started in 1999 when I was assigned to the Shop / Sales and Rentals. Here I learned about merchandising as well as customer relations. My desire to be more knowledgeable about art led me to enroll in the Docent Programme. Unfortunately, it was difficult trying to juggle both areas, so I eventually chose Art Education, as it afforded me the opportunity to work with pupils visiting the Gallery.

In 2005, I was invited to join the Volunteer Executive Committee. I served as Chair from 2007 to 2009, and this was a very enriching experience. The past ten years has been very stimulating. It has provided me with the opportunity to work with enthusiastic fellow volunteers, supportive AGH staff, and members of the Board of Directors. As Past-Chair, today my role is to provide support and advice to the current Chair, and Vice-Chair. The Past-chair also promotes volunteering at the AGH, in addition to serving as Chair on the Nominating Committee. This ensures that positions on the Volunteer Committee are filled as necessary, and that the strong volunteer component to support AGH programmes continues.

I invite you to become involved in leadership roles in the Volunteer Committee. Organizations remain vibrant and effective when there is an influx of new ideas and experiences. Volunteers who have completed one year of active service and are keen on sharing their talent and expertise are always welcome.

If you wish to find out more about any of the vacant positions, or wish to put your name forth as a nominee, please contact me at dknights1@cogeco.ca, or Maureen Mc Keating at mmckeating@cogeco.ca

Looking forward to hearing from you.
Have a splendid Spring and Summer!

**The following is the Volunteer Committee Executive Slate of
Officers for the upcoming AGM in June:**

Chair - Maureen Mc Keating - 2nd year of 2-year term
Vice Chair - Bill Manson - 2nd year of 2-year term
Past Chair - Rudin Knights - 2nd year of 2-year term
Volunteer Recruitment Subcommittee Chair - Elise de Stein - 2nd year of 2-year term
Secretary - Vacant
Shop Liaison - Geoff Stephenson
Docents / Library Liaison - Marilyn Hollick
Media Programming Liaison - Vacant
Membership / Administration Liaison - Vacant
Tourism Ambassador Liaison - Jean Carey
Art for the 100th Sub-committee - Ann Manson

There is also a vacancy for an additional volunteer to serve on the Volunteer Recruitment Sub-committee.

The deadline for putting your name forth as a nominee is Monday 10th

As a member of the Volunteer Committee YOU are cordially invited to attend

The Art Gallery of Hamilton Volunteer Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and SOCIAL

**on Sunday May 16, 2010
in the Jean and Ross Fisher Gallery
at the Art Gallery of Hamilton**

1:45 p.m. Registration

2:00 p.m. Volunteer Committee Business Meeting

**2:30 p.m. Speaker: Jeremy Freiburger
Executive Director Imperial Cotton Centre for the Arts
*A History of the Arts Scene in Hamilton***

**3:00 p.m. Complimentary Light Refreshments:
an opportunity to socialize with other volunteers**

Please reserve for the Social by Friday May 7th

e-mail volunteering@artgalleryofhamilton.com or

phone 905-527-6610 ext. 400

to leave your name and telephone number

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the **ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON** will be held at the Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4S8, on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 together with the Auditors report thereon.
2. To appoint the Auditors for the ensuing year.
3. To elect the Board of Directors for the ensuing year.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

DATED this 16th day of April, 2010.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

RICK COURT
Chair, Art Gallery of Hamilton

April 16, 2010

Dear Member:

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** for the Art Gallery of Hamilton's **Annual General Meeting**. Please note that the meeting will be held at the following location:

The Art Gallery of Hamilton, 123 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario.

The meeting will be immediately followed by the **2010 Volunteer Awards** in recognition of these individuals' commitment and dedication to the Art Gallery of Hamilton.

I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Louise Dompierre
President and CEO

P.S. Kindly see the notice of meeting details on the reverse.

AGH Volunteer Awards: Volunteer Committee Recipients

The Ruth McQuaig Volunteer of the Year

2006: Paul Forte
2007: Geoff Stephenson
2008: Susan Kilby

The Patrick J. Collins Rookie of the Year

2002: Jean Carey
2003: Irene Klatka
2005: Bill Manson
2006: Lois Quider
2007: Rita Plansky
2008: Debbie Hogan / Doug White

The Irving Zucker Lifetime Dedication Award

2002: Linda Brown / Helen Hadden
2003: Jane Hamilton / Freda Smith
2004: Marie Di Silvestro / Doris Festeryga
2005: Paula Hampson / Elizabeth O'Malley
2006: Rosemary Mann

The Outstanding Customer Service Award

2002: Margaret Fong
2003: Audrey Fleming
2004: Elise deStein
2006: Audrey Kayser
2007: Wendy Murray
2008: Jean Carey / Liam Scanlon
2009: Owen Caine / Ellen Irving

AGH Volunteer Awards: Volunteer Committee Recipients

The Ann and Bill Manson Outstanding Docent of the Year Award

2002: Ann Manson
2003: Charles Brown
2004: Mirian Ruppenthal / Johanna Terbogt
2006: Eileen Lampard
2007: Maureen McKeating
2008: Jenny De Alwis
2009: Sylvia Laidman / Cathy Yantsis

Don Pether Award for Excellence

2005: Linda Brown / Karen Mills
2007: Ann Manson
2008: Elise de Stein Bill Manson
2009: Gary Duncan / Geoff Stephenson

Certificate of Recognition

2006: Elise de Stein / Ruth Pollard
2008: Valerie Cousens / Glen Doe / Rudin Knights / Ardra Shephard / Jim Unsworth / Jesse Watson / Mabel Young
2009: David Barry / Joanne Stanojevich / Rudin Knights / Peter Rice / Gary Wells

As members of the AGH Volunteer Committee, you are also voting members of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. Please plan to attend the AGH AGM on June 16. As well consider nominating one of your colleagues for an AGH Volunteer Award. Forms are available in the Volunteers Hours Book at the Front Desk.