

Docent Dates

June 7

5:30 PM

Graduation and
Recognition
Ceremony,
Mary Craig
Auditorium

September 23

Book group Meets



John Tunnard British, 1900-1971, *Last Day*, 1944
Pastel, wash, gouache, crayon, pen and ink on paper, 15 x 22"

As my term draws to an end, I wish to thank the Docent Council for the great privilege of being your president. It has been a delight learning about the breadth and depth of our involvement with the Museum, and how we touch the lives of young and old alike.

I wish to personally thank each and every board member for making my job easy. I am only as good as those who surround me, and I have been surrounded by the best! Thank you Vikki Duncan for always attending to those pesky details that keep us running smoothly, to Ralph Wilson for keeping our finances organized and our budget on point, to Rosemarie Gebhart for your thorough, punctual minutes without a single reminder from me, and the same for Andrea Gallo who kept up our thank you notes and correspondence without reminders.

Gail Stichler, thank you for always having the sign-in sheets available at meetings and maintaining current and organized reporting of our service hours. Laura DePaoli and Molora Vadnais deserve a thank you for stepping forward during Shirley Waxman's LOA and keeping our Adult Teams humming along efficiently, including the tracking of ten Talks and what hours work best for our visitors. Ann Robinson and Sylvia Mabee have been wizards at keeping classroom presentations



Kathryn Padgett

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and student tours running efficiently this year, which is no small task.

Gretchen Simpson, who has been my better half in teaching the class this year, deserves a huge thanks. Together we graduated eight phenomenal new docents and became dear friends in the process. Thank you Mary Ellen Hoffman for redefining the position of Research Chair, bringing greater clarity to this role in our ever-changing electronic milieu. Sue Skenderian, who has chaired the Evaluations as well as the Community Outreach programs, has done both with efficiency, dedication, and love. Thank you Ricki Morse for creating our website and paving the way for the new web team to work its alchemy. And where would we be without the most remarkable Lori Mohr and *La Muse*? Thank you for making this sophisticated publication a welcome addition to our email in boxes each month.

Irene Stone, thank you for negotiating our council through the nominations process this year. I have followed in Irene's very large footsteps and appreciate her as my mentor, my friend and solid supporter of my Presidency.

I am in awe of how much the women in the Education Office accomplish each year. Patsy and Rachael have helped organize fabulous speakers for our Docent Council lectures this year, and along with Amanda, have cheerfully assisted docents in front of and behind the scenes. The three of you have made my presidency a joy and a true pleasure—Thanks so much!

Graduation is here! Mark your calendars for June 7th at 5:30. We will honor long-term docents with service pins, welcome eight new graduates to our Council, install a new board and president, and select one very special Docent of the Year. Once again the reception will be in the galleries, a real treat.

As I bid a fond adieu to my presidency, I feel confident leaving the Docent Council in very able hands. Vikki, with the help of next year's board, will steer us on a steady course filled with new opportunities.

Have a wonderful summer, and happy docenting!

Kathryn

Message from Vice President Vikki Duncan



Dear Docents,

With only one week remaining in our service year, we are only one week away from congratulating our eight graduating Provisionals and honoring docents upon their service anniversaries. I look forward to this recognition event and the opportunity for everyone who has shone light on our SBMA collections and exhibitions in tours this year to enjoy each other's company on this celebratory evening. (Friday, June 7th, 5:30 p.m. in the Mary Craig Auditorium; reception to follow in the Ridley Tree Gallery.)

At year's end, too, I would like to recognize particular contributions. Thanks to Joan Dewhirst for organizing the docent refreshments through this year, and to each of you who brought wonderful treats and flowers, making our social time together enjoyable in each of our venues. Our holiday party was a festive and plein air occasion, with great thanks to our host Paul Guido. To our 2013 Provisional Lunch organizer Gabriella Schooley and our hosts, I salute your aplomb and the hospitality we enjoyed. And to Susan Billig and our Book Group hosts, thank you for turning thousands of pages of reading into lively discussion.

Our Recruitment event, when visitors listened to presentations, toured, and stayed--talking with docents

while enjoying a fore-taste of docent hospitality, could not have happened without the score of docents who contributed, and the full support of the Department of Education. I want to offer a special thanks to Patsy Hicks, Rachael Krieps, Amanda Garcia, and Kristy Thomas for expertly navigating the pathways within the Museum for this and all our docent events.

I hope that you have enjoyed our art trips and experiences this year: seeing the *Caravaggio* exhibition at LACMA in fall; the February visit to the *Corot* exhibition at Westmont; travel to see *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* and *Rembrandt's Century* at the de Young Museum in San Francisco; the early spring visit to Los Angeles to see the Siqueiros mural, Olvera Street, and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels; discovering the print archive at the Natural History Museum; and the art experience of Boston in May.

Thank you, Social Committee (Susan Billig, Joan Dewhirst, Francis Hallinan, Christine Holland, Gabriella Schooley, Irene Stone and ex officio member Gail Stichler), Board members, and docents at large for mentions, clippings, emails, notes, and conversations suggesting activities and enrichments, for offering contacts for us this year, and for a fine list of possibilities we can carry forward.

It's been my pleasure to be part of organizing our 2012-2013 events, and a privilege, as well, having gained so much from the experience of so many while serving the Council this year. Thank you for this opportunity, and that of continuing to serve next year.

Vikki

Student Touring



Ann Robinson
Student Teams Chair

As the school year winds down and the number of student tours decreases, I am reminded of how docents are part of a discovery process each year — opening the eyes of thousands of Santa Barbara school children to the wonders of art that they may not have experienced if not for our Museum and its mission.

That is service at its best.

Once again, this school year was a success due to the commitment and persistence of all *touring docents*. I especially want to thank the Team leaders; Andrea Gallo, Rosemarie Gephart, Loree Gold, Sylvia Mabee, Barbara Ruediger, Molora Vadnais and Ralph Wilson for their proficiency and aplomb in managing students, school teachers, and team members alike.

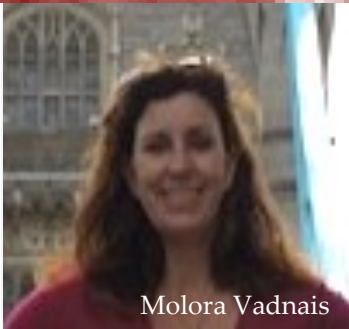
Our statistics tell the story: In total, student tours for 2012-2013 involved 134 classrooms with 3,366 students. The Power Point team lead by Sylvia Mabee visited 94 classrooms with 2,284 students participating! A truly remarkable accomplishment for a team of six docents!

A very special “thank you” to Molora Vadnais for her leadership role in rebuilding the Roman Villa and Lararium, a work of art that offers 6th graders an opportunity to visualize life in ancient Rome on a human scale, a welcome addition for docents teaching about Ancient times.

It is an honor participating in a program that brings Art front and center to students in Santa Barbara County, engaging them in the history, culture and artifacts of the ancient and modern world. It ends up being a voyage of discovery for students and docents alike.

I wish you all a summer holiday filled with all that brings you joyful moments of discovery.

by Molora Vadnais and Laura DePaoli, Co-chairs, Adult Teams



Molora Vadnais

In April, tour attendance was down from March for all days and tour types. In March, 525 visitors attended 64 tours for an average of 8.2 visitors per tour. But in April, only 441 visitors attended 71 tours for an average of 6.2 visitors per tour. As in March, *Myth and Materiality* drew in the most visitors followed closely by Ten Talks. There is no discernible reason why the numbers should be so much lower for April than for March.



Laura DePaoli

On a brighter note, Slow Art Day, held this year on April 27

was quite successful in large part due to our fine docents. Docents from each of our touring teams offered Ten Talk tours throughout the day. Thanks to Laura DePaoli, Doug McElwain, Jean Smith, Christine Holland, Ann Hammond and Ricki Morse. These docents toured 52 people with an average visitors per tour of 8.66.

Thanks to all of you for making Slow Art Day a huge success for the museum.

But, the best news of all is that THERE WERE NO MISSED TOURS IN APRIL!

On a personal note, I would like to thank my good friend and colleague Laura DePaoli for a fun and productive year. She stepped up without hesitation when Shirley had to suddenly step down to care for her daughter. Without Laura's vast experience and wisdom as guidance, this year would have been much more challenging.

Thanks also to all of our team leaders for a job well done.

Molora Vadnais

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A Note from Evaluations Chair, Sue Skenderian



Senior Outreach was revived this year with a team of caring docents to bring slide /power point talks to senior residences. The team of seven; Katherine Eastman, Loree Gold, Ann Hammond, Christine Holland, Gail Stichler, Helene Strobel and myself made three visits each to nine residences and were received very enthusiastically. Each docent chose one residence and then made the three visits over the year. The team members were enthusiastic, flexible, caring and patient with our very diverse audience - some very aware and others not so much, but always happy to see us.

Thank you all for bringing SBMA to these seniors and the attendant joy they experienced. Hope to see you all next year and maybe a few more!

sue





Christy Close is originally from Seattle and moved to SB one year ago. She is the mother of two grown children, Christy Katy, 22, and David, 19. While raising them she also managed real estate. Christy has an AA in nutrition and a BS in Culture, Literature and Art from the University of Washington. Christy lives with her husband, Al, in Summerland. She enjoys reading, gardening, cooking, walking the beach with her dog, Dixie, wine tasting, and haunting museums.



Carlos Hernandez is an award winning bilingual journalist, who shares a deep passion for world history and the arts. Carlos has a degree in Social Communications and Advertising from Universidad José Matías Delgado, one of the best universities in his native El Salvador, and has been residing in SB for the last six years after moving from Southampton, NY. Currently he is editor of the bilingual publication *Santa Barbara Latino Newspaper*. Favorite periods in art include Classicism and the Renaissance. Carlos is excited about the opportunity to make a difference in the community as a docent, supporting the museum's mission of promoting a love of art.



Nicola Ghersen grew up in Norfolk, England, and moved to SB 25 yrs ago. Her husband, Cliff, is a local elementary school teacher. They have two children, Olivia, 20, in collage at Seattle U and Peter, 17, a senior at SB High school. Nicola has no formal art training but from an early age has had an appreciation of art. She has dabbled in adult art classes. For six years Nicola worked as an art assistant at Cesar Chavez charter school. Her passion for art and working with children was brought to life again! The timing for entering the docent program could not be better. Nicola is excited about being part of the program.



Denise Klassen was born and raised in Bakersfield. She attended several different colleges, and graduated from Northwestern University. She moved to SB 15 years ago with her now ex-husband and their children and has loved living here ever since. She has three great sons, two who live here one in Portland, Oregon. Denise loves art and art history and feels thrilled being accepted into the training program and becoming a docent.



Michelle Milakovich moved to SB last October after eight years in Madison, Wisconsin, where, as a retired first grade teacher, she was able to spend time auditing all kinds of classes at the University of Wisconsin. She went to college in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Her home was in a small town in Michigan – Ishpeming – near Lake Superior. She states she seems to have a talent for picking beautiful cities to live in and visit. Now that she’s in SB, she can more easily visit her son in Portland, Oregon. Michelle will celebrate her one year anniversary living in SB by beginning the adventure of provisional training in this



Sheila Prendiville was raised in southern California, attending the Bishops High school in La Jolla. She received her degree in art history at U.C. Santa Barbara and M.A. in Museum Studies at John F. Kennedy University. Her professional life focused on the arts, most recently as the Assistant Press Director at L.A. County Museum of Art. In 1991, Sheila moved to SB with her husband Tom and daughter Elizabeth. She has enjoyed volunteering at her daughter's schools and with local charities, and loves to cook, garden, read, and walk with friends.



Geri Servi is the owner of Jcollector and Jtansu, local and online retailers of Japanese fine art, furniture and antiques. She participates in shows and is completing a teacher’s program in Ikebana, the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging, about which she also writes a blog, Ikebana Dreaming (www.ikebanadreaming.com). She has worked as a writer and editor and holds a BA in English and an MA in Theater Arts. Geri attended UCLA, UCSB and San Diego State University. She has lived in SB nearly 20 years with her husband, Ruben, and two daughters, now grown. Her interests include swimming, hiking, yoga, reading, dogs and, of course, art!



Pma Tregenza Having spent more than half her life in the foothills of SB, she thought moving into town as a result of the Jesusita fire would be a difficult adjustment. Not so. The Museum, as well as the many other riches of the city, are just a walk away. Writing and travel are side-by-side at the apex of her passions. Blending those two things has helped her develop an eye toward viewing art in 40 countries, and counting. While her career has been in medicine, her heart has been in humanitarian causes and the arts. She is fascinated by the connection she sees in works from lands that have never known one another but seem to share a like mind and creativity. She says, “When I am learning, I am at my happiest.”

Provisional Recruitment Event 2013

Photos by Doug McElwain



By Josie Martin



First, we can't find a parking place. My brother insists there will be plenty of spaces around the Capital Mall, but there aren't. We keep circling the National Gallery and other great museums, up Constitution across 4th St., back down Independence to 14th St. and around again. After about half an hour, I beg, "Just let me out and walk until you guys can park it." Then a miracle, right at Jefferson and Third, a car moves out, we back in.

It's a bleak cold day, snow is threatening, not a cherry blossom in sight, but we don't care. Those gorgeous banners advertising the Durer Exhibit in the East Wing, the Pre-Raphaelites in the West, Ai Weiwei at the Hirshorn. There are "Angels, Demons, and Savages" at the Phillips which we'll never get to. If only I could be here a few days. We have barely four hours.

Despite being the shortest, I walk twice as fast as my husband and brother, then I have to wait for them at the entrance, affording me a moment to stare at the short pyramids between the two wings of the National Gallery. I.M.Pei again?

It is, harking back to the late 70's when the East Wing was added housing mostly modern art. And here is one of those wonderful serendipities. The National Gallery of Art opened on March 18, 1941, the same year as our own SBMA did! I decided ahead of time on the East Wing because there will be my favorites: the Rembrandts, the Vermeers, Franz Hals, and the Dutch genre



paintings that always remind me of the simple interiors of my childhood in rural France. But, I also want to see the Pre-Raphaelites because of Virginia Wolfe, Bloomsbury, and those magnificent women's long necks and voluptuous hair. No matter how many times I've seen the Alma Tadema painting of those Grecian robed girls coming down the great stairs in triumphant march, I always return to them at the Getty. As a provisional docent ten years ago, I stood in front of it and whispered a bit too loudly to Terry Pagels, "It's not cool, but I love this painting!". Jill Finsten burst out laughing and generously replied, "It's alright, when I worked at the Getty, everybody else did too."

A receptionist directs us up an equally grand marble staircase to the Main Floor. She hands us a thick Visitor's Guide with "Ginevra de'Benci" by Leonardo on the front cover. Very tactfully she suggests a self-guided one hour Highlights tour. We go in that direction, but there's a room full of Cezannes on the way, how can we not stop there? Ed heads for the gallery of Gauguins, my brother stops to study Picasso's "Family of Saltimbanques", while I'm agog on too many possibilities and not enough time. At least Titian's "Venus With a Mirror"?

There's a large crowd by the time I get to the Pre-Raphaelites. A basso-profundo voiced docent is telling tales from Shakespeare, Arthurian legends, and Greek myths. He expounds brilliantly on John Ruskin's influence, the mystical search for truth. Nearly ten precious minutes in front of a Dante Gabriel Rosetti! I can't spend that much time on "Prosperine" eating her single grain of a pomegranate. Best to see the whole show and read the captions as I go. A glorious hour passes and like the mythical Persephone, I must soon go back down to the Underworld and the temptations of the fabulous gift shop along the concourse to the East Wing And here's where it pays to be a docent. Into my basket go the book "Romance and Realism," three small Florentine notebooks because the paper is so fine. I pretend I'm going to give them away, though I probably won't. A few enchanting toys just as if I was a grandmother and besides, you never know. One of these is a finger-puppet of Munch's "Scream" that I'll use when I tour our own three Munchs. Finally, a beautiful pair of silver earrings for a beloved cousin who was unable to come on this trip. Over a hundred dollar's worth of gifts in less than five minutes.

I get to the cashier who is Ms Efficiency herself. I explain why I'm buying the puppet She quickly notes, "Oh, you're a docent?" "I am, at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art" and immediately I know she'll ask for proof which I didn't bring !!! "How about a badge?" I plow around my traveling purse and all I come up with is my red LACMA membership card. "A Costco card?" I joke weakly. "But I really do conduct European tours."

She turns to another cashier next to her who rings me up silently. The number on the register is exactly twenty percent under the total. I quietly say, "Thank You Very Munch" to them both and rush triumphantly down the Concourse to meet Ed and my brother.



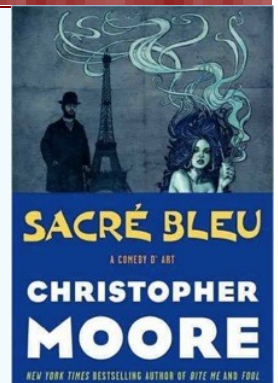
SBMA Book Group

Sue Billig



The first meeting will be Monday
September 23, 2013 at 1:30 pm

Susan Billig's house
1693 Franceschi Rd
RSVP to
956-9505
suebillig@gmail.com





Under the tree at Boston Common



An Impressionist moment on the Boston Common



Boston Museum of Fine Art



Apple Blossoms on Beacon Street



Loree placing her project and tribute at the Memorial at Copley Square



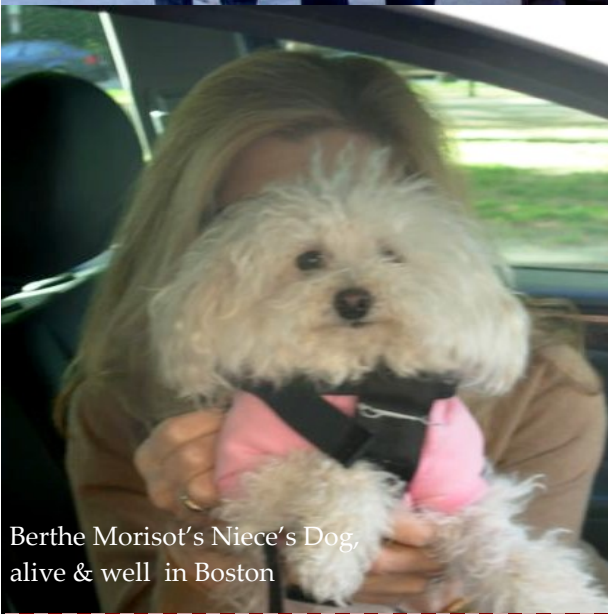
Memorial at Copley Square



Boston Public Library



Near Copley Square

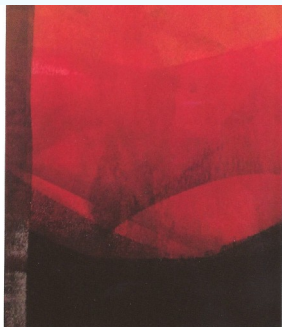


Berthe Morisot's Niece's Dog,
alive & well in Boston



Swan Boats

SBMA Book Group



ROSEMARIE C. GEBHART
Recollections

Rosemarie C. Gebhart invites you to her solo show of new art images called *Recollections* through the month of July in the East Wing of the Faulkner Gallery.

Come celebrate her pre-4th of July reception on **Tuesday, July 2 from 5-7pm.**

THE LAST PAGE



Gretchen Simpson, Ann Hammond and Kathryn Padgett at the provisional Information Event, May 2013
Photo by Doug McElwain

We'd love to hear feedback on museums you visit during the summer in the July and August issues of *La Muse*. And let's have more snippets of touring moments for A Bird's eye View, docent to docent.

LM

NEW WEBSITE: <http://www.docentssbma.org/wordpress/>

Comments?
Mohrojai@aol.com

Lori Mohr, Editor

