

## Docent Dates

Council Meetings start at 10 AM, Coffee at 9:15

### December 2

UCSB Profs. Jon Snyder and Richard Wittman on the Piranesi prints in "Architecture of the Imagination."

### December 7

Holiday Party 2-4

### December 16

No Meeting

### January 11

Book Group 10 AM

### January 20

Lecture TBA

### February 3

### February 6

Trip (LA Sculptures)

### February 17

### March 2

### March 16

### April 6 & April 20

Meeting or Bus

### May 4

### May 18

### June 3

Graduation/Recognition



"Armchair Travels" Lecture : Keelan Overton on the Art and Experience of Iran  
SBMA December 6, 3:00 PM INTERNAL USE

Dear Docents,

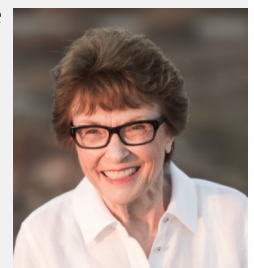
Searchlights pierced the evening sky November 14<sup>th</sup>, welcoming the community to our Museum's landmark event, *Wallbreaking*. The crowd was lively with excitement, eager to learn more about the long-awaited renovation project.

In his opening remarks, Director Larry Feinberg spoke of the horrific terrorist attacks in Paris the day before, expressing dismay at the loss of life and sympathy for the victims' families. He noted that in spite of these atrocities, in a free-society we are still able to gather together for worthwhile endeavors that enrich the community and honor the power of art to transform lives.

As the ceremony got underway, early contributors to the project were supplied hammers and outfitted with hard hats. They put both to good use with loud bangs, their efforts rewarded by blasting significant holes into the wall of McCormick gallery.

For the finale, a cloud of blue and white balloons floated from the ceiling onto the crowd, adding a flourish of festivity and color. This was such a special night!

As with any party for a landmark event, food and drink were plentiful.....and delicious. Guests had the opportunity to learn all about the renovation, including support from computer-generated images depicting how the museum will be transformed—including



Joan Dewhirst,  
President

new gallery and community spaces, improved layout and better access for viewing the art.

The evening was a good reminder of why we docents do what we do, as the month of giving thanks proved difficult with the loss of two elders from our Museum family. I know many of you have special memories of these fine docents, Jean Reese and Efrem Ostrow. Our Council is dynamic, expanding, and contracting like any family. So we are grateful for growth on the expanding end with our new provisionals. You can read about their progress on page 4 of this issue.

December is upon us---a season of joy, a time of giving and celebration. I look forward to sharing our annual Holiday Party with all of you.

Joan 🍷

## From Our Vice President



Gail Stichler

**Holiday Party, Monday, December 7, from 2 to 4pm at Andrea Gallo's home at 300 East Islay Street (corner of Islay and Garden Streets).**

Our party program will include introductions to this year's provisional class. We look forward to getting to know them a bit, and this festive event offers a perfect opportunity for welcoming them to our group. No wonder this party is always a favorite event. If you have not already Rsvp'd, please email me at [gmstichler@aol.com](mailto:gmstichler@aol.com).

Road trip! The sign-up list is looking strong for our next bus trip—a day of art in Long Beach on Saturday, February 6. Artist John Hills Sanders and Pma Tregenza are hard at work planning the day for us. At the Long Beach Museum of Art, we will meet the women featured in the Museum's exhibition of female artists: Terry Braunstein, Barbara Strasen and Lori LaMont.

We'll have plenty to talk about over lunch at the Museum's waterfront restaurant *Claire's*. Afterward, we'll take our bus to the Sculpture Garden of the California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) Art Museum, where we'll meet with the Museum Director for a walk-through of the sculpture garden. Our walk will end when we reach the University Art Museum.

The decision to schedule this road trip on a Saturday was based on avoiding weekday traffic delays. We leave Santa Barbara at 8:30am and plan to be home by 6 or 6:30 pm. Much appreciation goes to John and Pma for their efforts in organizing an itinerary that includes spending time with the artists as well as the Director of the CSULB Museum. If you're interested in going, sign up at the docent meetings in December and January, or email me ([gmstichler@aol.com](mailto:gmstichler@aol.com)).

New York City, here we come! Save the dates of April 24 to 29, 2016. I have now secured rooms for our group. Those who have indicated interest in the trip will receive an email from me in early December with information about the hotel and how to make reservations.

Gail 🍷

## From our Student Teams



Karen Brill

Our student touring year started off in October, with a total of 118 students visiting over two days—42 second graders on October 14th, and 76 third graders the 15th. Docents are enjoying lots of opportunities for creative touring as we make bold and bright connections between two of our current exhibitions—Cayetano Ferrer and Peter Halley, both offering students the “wow” factor.

A fun and instructional mock session that will help our touring is in the works for early January while gallery space is at a premium. Patsy and Rachael will role play a demonstration of thinking routines, touring techniques, and finding creative connections in the art.

These demonstrations of visual literacy are always a welcome review for docents with all levels of experience, a chance for us to hone our skills so we can offer students the best experience possible.

Stay tuned for more information.

Karen 🍷

## From our Adult Teams



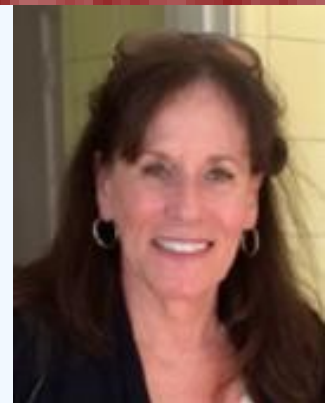
Christine Holland

During October, Docents had 327 visitors on 54 tours.

In addition, the Community Speakers Team gave two presentations outside the Museum for a combined total of 36 attendees.

Tours for the *Latin American Photography* exhibit have been well attended, with a good start in October—an average of 6 visitors on each of 10 tours.

There have been slow days here and there at the Museum, with a total of 10 scheduled tours with no visitors at all. As seasoned docents know, this doesn't



Teda Pilcher

mean you can't make yourself available in the galleries for guests who might have questions or comments. Think of yourself as a Roving Docent if you're faced with no visitors on your scheduled tour.

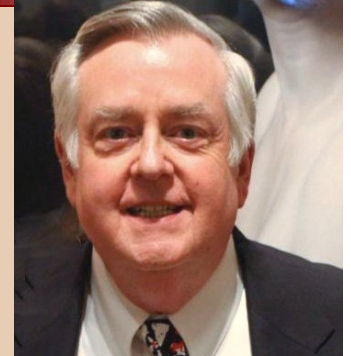
Docents continue to be flexible in adjusting as the Museum undergoes transformation. There has been the expected but unplanned re-scheduling of tours or Docents, each proceeding smoothly. Our reconfiguring art works to show as well as new transitions between works, sometimes right before greeting visitors, has become a higher order skill as we accommodate the fluid nature of our galleries.

Everyone is doing a great job.

Christine 🍷

Christine Holland, Co-chair with Teda Pilcher

Mary Ellen Hoffman, Wendi Hunter, Ralph Wilson



The provisional class now consists of a solid core of seven excellent candidates, pictured below. You won't want to miss the Holiday Party where we instructors will be introducing them.

Our provisionals are currently hard at work developing 3-minute talks, which will be evaluated December 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, they have selected objects for research papers, a draft of which will be submitted to Research Chair Barbara Boyd mid-January. We encourage mentors to contact their mentees with offers of assistance on both projects. These are key steps on the path to docentdom, milestone accomplishments most docents recall from their own training.

Ralph 🍷

Mary Ellen Hoffman, Ralph Wilson, and Wendi Hunter  
Co-Trainers of the Provisional Class



Claire Atcheson



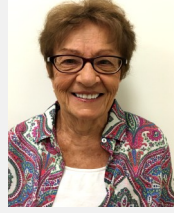
Erika Budig



Anne Miller



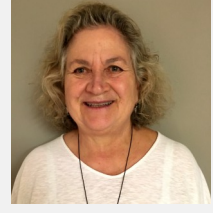
David Reichert



Gloria Richman



Patricia Santiago



Joanne Singer

From Our **Evaluations Chair**



I want to thank all of the evaluators for scheduling and conducting their docent evaluations. Many of you are emailing me that you've completed the actual evaluations but have not completed the written part to send me.

Sometimes I get the evals several months after the evaluation has been done. Please try sending the paperwork to me soon after you have done your evaluation so it doesn't become a burden for you, and so that I can keep the files up to date.

Paul Guido

Paul 🍷

## From Our Book Group




Laura DePaoli

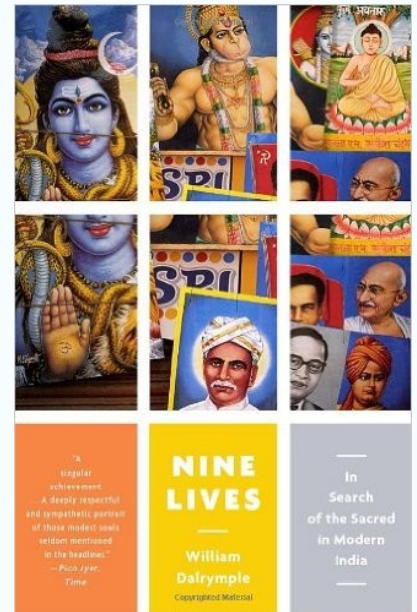
Please join us on **Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** for our first meeting of 2016!

We will be reading and discussing *Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India* by William Dalrymple. Curator Susan Tsai recommended this book to the *Puja and Piety* Special Exhibition touring team, but it's really a must read for any docent touring *Highlights* or students this spring and summer.

It's a "mesmerizing" book that draws on the author's twenty-five years of travel in India, illuminating the lives and religious practices of nine remarkable contemporary Indians. The first story, "A Nun's Tale" about Mataji, a Jain nun, has haunted me ever since I read it several months ago. It's the remarkable story of a religious life that has demanded sacrifices and hardships, a life lived in a way that is completely at odds with our American, materialist culture.

Please read the book, then come and talk about it. There will be a great deal to say.

Laura 



## In Our Own Backyard

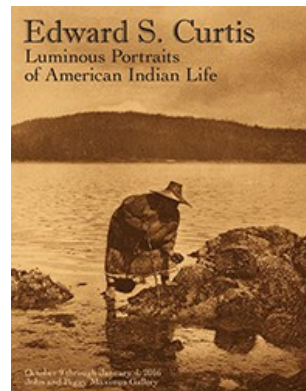


My art work, *Convergence*, will be in the 100 Grand at Sullivan Goss-An American Gallery, opening Thursday, December 3 from 5-8pm.

I hope you have an opportunity to join me at the opening or visit the gallery. The exhibition runs through January 31.

Submitted by Rosemary Gebhart

The photography of Edward S. Curtis is on view through January 4, 2016 at the SB Museum of Natural History. *Luminous Portraits of American Indian Life* includes many 100 year-old photographs from the museum collection.



Apache Storm

Submitted by Paul Guido

*By Josie Martin*

When last I interviewed Heather Brodhead nearly ten years ago, I wrote about the calm, serene, refined atmosphere that reigned in this treasure house of a library that she had created. I had been among the many who marveled appreciatively at her charm, elegance, her deep knowledge of the research process and art. To the many of us who have used the library since 2003 when she took it over, it has been a source of great creative help and enrichment. And in case you needed a cookie with a cup of coffee, there was that treat in the backroom as well. Heather, upbeat, cheerful - always ready to help find even the most obscure bits and pieces of material. Her creativity manifested not only in her handsome outfits and wit; it extended beyond with her thoughtful suggestions full of interesting possibilities for whatever project we were working on.

That was then, by the time you read this the library will be no more. It is being dismantled, boxed away for an uncertain period of time. Not even Heather knows where all of the collection of books will be stored. No one will have access as the Museum undergoes construction. After reeling from the shock of such loss, I carefully asked how she felt about this news. "It was a bit like the stages of grief," she replied, "or perhaps like sending your child off into the unknown." But by now, she has come to the stage of "acceptance". She is applying the same dedication and energy to making sure the collection will be in the best possible condition for when it becomes available again. This is a massive amount of work. Some of her volunteers are putting in many extra hours toward this monumental effort.

Over the years, there has been a corps of volunteers, many of them retired professional cataloguers and art librarians, who have helped create an on-line catalog of the collection for public use. They also helped to reduce it from 60,000 volumes to a more relevant 20,000. This meant evaluating each and every item to determine its relevance, from the thinnest exhibition pamphlet to huge weighty volumes of art books. Heather repeatedly insists that it would not have been possible without these remarkable people. Clearly she carries a deep affection for them. She quotes one of her volunteers, "We've moved mountains, one spoonful at a time." Not surprisingly, they've agreed to meet privately once a month with their esteemed leader after the library closes to maintain the deep bond of friendship that has formed over the past thirteen years.



Heather Brodhead

As we speak, there is the hum of typewriters clacking away, stacks of books on trolleys, piles of archival materials that will be stored in special acid-free containers. In the midst of it all, a volunteer is assisting a gentleman making a large purchase. During Heather's tenure at SBMA over \$60,000 has been raised for the Museum from the ongoing book sale. But this is not her proudest achievement. What she has cherished most has been the satisfaction of helping staff and docents, especially the new provisionals, do their research. The process, working with wonderful people - the celebrations of accomplishments; these will be among her treasured memories. I cannot think of a single docent who has benefited from Heather's resourcefulness, warmth, and generosity who will not miss her and that calm oasis of the library.

Inevitably I have to ask "the question." How does she plan to spend those twenty weekly hours once

her work at the library ends? She laughs, “No big plans, first I’m going to let the dust settle... I’m going to just stare and get my bearings.” It turns out that her house is going through some major reorganization as well. A beloved sister has come to live in her home overlooking the sea not far up from Arroyo Burro Beach. So there is more “order out of chaos” to be made, she explains with great equanimity. There’s a home office to be organized, a big garden, just catching up with the things that get deferred when one has a job. She has no travel plans, “I’m very internal; I need solitude for creativity.”

To this end, Heather speaks of an on-going commitment to the practice and teachings of Metapsychiatry with its principles of P.A.G.L. —Peace, Assurance, Gratitude, Love. She has long served as a spiritual guide to persons seeking to understand and follow these principles. Metapsychiatry is not a philosophy, a new religion, or some kind of cult. Rather, it is an inspired and enlightened teaching that can clarify lives, according to the writings of Dr. Thomas Hora, its founder. Heather looks forward to continuing her active involvement and making herself available to those sharing this interest. It is entirely consistent with a conversation we had long ago in which she quoted Joseph Campbell, “Follow your bliss and the doors will open.”

Peace, assurance, gratitude, love? It strikes me as a most desirable path that few express so exactly when they are anticipating their retirement. It sounds like an enviable inner journey. Quite the opposite of what many set upon: big travel plans, continents, cruise ships, airports, and passports. It is a very different kind of itinerary.

Yes, she will attend some of our meetings and events, having been declared an honorary docent. Her favorite docent activity has long been the-end-of-the-year provisional graduation when the culmination of so much effort is celebrated. It is reassuring to know that she will not disappear from our lives altogether.

And for that inner journey, there is no doubt that we all wish her,  
Bon Voyage!

*Josie Martin, Class of 2003* 🍷

View from Above with Photos by Pma Tregenza  
*Cayetano Ferrer's Interventions*  
Installed by Seasoned Santa Barbara Carpet Installer, Chuy



# A Small Ship Cruise of the Undiscovered Greek Islands

By Judy and Dale Seborg



Judy and Dale in the Epidaurus Theater

In October we were fortunate to participate in an SBMA-sponsored cruise of lesser known Greek islands. The tour was led by an eminently qualified tour director, Nigel McGilchrist, the author of the definitive 2010 Blue Guide: *Greece: The Aegean Islands*. (Much of the background material in this article is based on this book.) Nigel has been a favorite of the SBMA community for years due to his excellent talks and previous tours of Italy (including Sicily), the Greek islands, and Turkey. Our two Greek guides were also first rate and with us during the entire trip. The SBMA representatives on the tour, Jill Finsten and Devon Scott (who produced four of the photos in this article), offered their knowledge and experience.

Our tour group for the ten night cruise consisted of 36 passengers, many from the Santa Barbara area. We were the only group on the *Harmony Vship*, which has 25 cabins and was launched in 2009. A major advantage of a small ship is that it expedites rapid transfers to and from shore. The main shortcoming of our ship was its relatively small cabins. Yet we were comfortable and appreciated both the attentiveness of the ship staff and the variety and quality of our meals.

The cruise originated in the Athens port of Piraeus. Our itinerary was to visit a different island each day. Our first stop was **Sifnos**, an unspoiled mountainous island in the Western Cyclades. The traditional white-washed villages and an archeological site with spectacular views were the highlights of the visit. An interesting feature of Sifnos is its 55 ancient watchtowers that were used to provide an early warning system for naval attacks and security for mining operations.

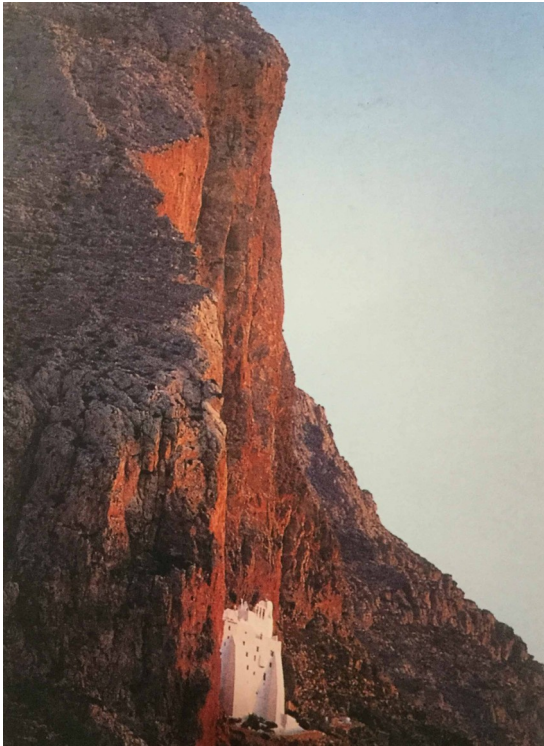
Our second island visit was to **Amorgos**, a seldom visited Cycladic island. It is the origin of many of the iconic Cycladic figurines dating back to around 2700 B.C. The most striking site is the 11<sup>th</sup> century Monastery of Khosoviotissa, (*see next page*) a strikingly white structure built into a precipitous cliff that faces the sea. To reach it, we had to climb 330 steps!

Our next stop was **Symi**, a beautiful island that is very close to both Rhodes and the Turkish coastline. The port of Gialos has a distinctive character of colorful neoclassical houses and narrow streets with steep staircases. Symi was famous for sponge diving that provided sponges for the harem of the Ottoman court.



Church on the island of Sifnos





Monastery of Khosoviotissa on Amorgos  
(courtesy of Jorgos Kapsalis)

Next, we visited **Nisyros**, a small, round volcanic island five miles in diameter. It is the most significant volcano in the Aegean, relatively stable but not extinct. Fortunately, a path facilitates the descent to the flat floor of the largest crater. Once there, we were greeted by fumaroles with distinct hissing sounds, and sulfurous odors, and large quantities of bright yellow sulfur. A nearby village has a small excellent museum on volcanic activity.



Monastery chapel

**Ikaria**, a large mountainous island that is seldom visited, was our next visit. Our tour included picturesque villages and hilly slopes covered with vegetation. We visited a small winery that produces organically grown wines. Some adventurous group members went for a swim on a small beach.

At this point in our itinerary we were scheduled to visit the islands of Chios, Samothraki, Skopelos, and Skyros before returning to Piraeus. But the God of the Sea, Poseidon, was in a bad mood and had different ideas. Because a large storm was brewing in the Eastern Aegean Sea, it was wisely decided that we should change our itinerary in order to evade the storm. (Recall that we were in a *small ship*.)



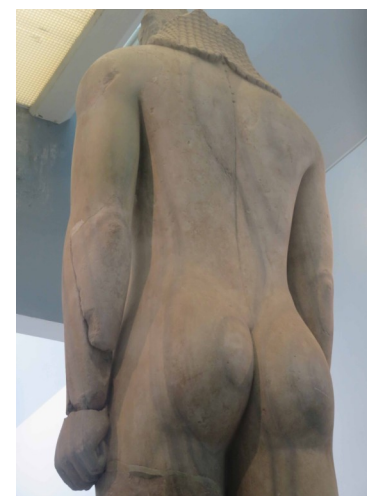
Symi harbor and our ship (courtesy of Devon Scott)

For the next two nights, anti-seasick medicine was made available free of charge. These two voyages were a bit “rough” but we were able to sleep and apparently none of our group became ill. (We rested and watched two relevant movies: *Zorba the Greek* and *Mama Mia*.)

In the revised itinerary, we visited the islands of Samos, Syros, and Aegina and also spent a day on the Greek mainland. Fortunately, the new itinerary was a great choice.

**Samos** is a large mountainous island with what was the site of a very important city in 6<sup>th</sup>-century BC Archaic Greece. The huge 6<sup>th</sup> century BC site of Heraion (Sanctuary of Hera) is very important and one of the most thoroughly investigated sites in the Aegean. It was four times the size of the Parthenon.

The Samos Archaeological Museum is considered to be a one of the most important museums in Greece. It contains a marble sculpture of a kouros (male youth) which is 5.5 meters high and the largest kouros in Greece .



The kouros of Samos (courtesy of Devon Scott) with back view showing the clever use of marble's features

Next, we visited the island of **Syros**. A three hour walking tour of the port city, Ermoupoli, featured imposing buildings, a cathedral, and a church with an early El Greco painting, *Dormition of the Virgin*.

The next day we toured **Aegina**, an island in the Saronic Gulf that is only 17 miles from Athens. The highlight was the well-preserved Temple of Aphaia, one of the most important and beautiful temples in Greece. The temple is in a well-preserved sanctuary dedicated to a somewhat mysterious goddess, Aphaia.



Pythagoras monument in Samos

Our final day in Greece featured a tour of two important sites: the remains of the Mycenaean fortress in Mycenae and the well-preserved, 4<sup>th</sup> century BC theater at Epidaurus. We also saw the famous Corinth Canal and had a panoramic view of the Parthenon .



The well-preserved Temple of Aphaia in Aegina(courtesy of Devon Scott)

This exceptional tour was truly splendid and informative. We are very grateful to SBMA and Nigel McGilchrist for arranging it. 🇬🇷



Corinth Canal (courtesy of Spiros Spirou)



Parthenon and Athens (courtesy of Devon Scott)

Judy Seborg, Class of 1991



THE LAST PAGE



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