

Docent Dates

Council meetings start at 10 am, coffee at 9:15.

April 5

Charlie Wylie (19th century photography rotation)

April 19

No Meeting in lieu of bus trip to Getty Ctr

May 1

Save the Date

May 3

Michael Duncan, speaking on the Pop print exhibition, "You Are Going On A Trip." Opening May 28.

May 9

Provisional Recruitment Event 3-5 pm

May 17

Julie Joyce and Jen Sales (Valeska Soares)

June 2

Service Recognition and Awards Ceremony and Reception Begins at 5:30 pm



Photo by Doug McElwain



Bicentennial Bandwagon (detail) Red Grooms, 1970s, from *You Are Going on A Trip: Modern and Contemporary Prints from the Permanent Collection*, on view at SBMA May 28-August 20, 2017

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Dear Docents,

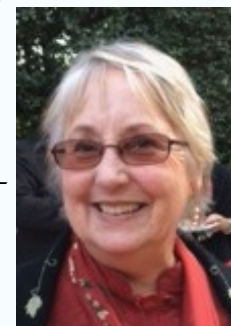
Our previous docent meeting, re-scheduled for Friday March 17, took some last minute planning, but it was worth it. Though many docents were unable to attend, we had a nice size group for the excellent lecture on 19th century sculpture by Gulru Camak. The lecture video is not on our website yet, but do look for it in the future. This is one you do not want to miss.

We are still looking for extra docents for the Summer *Highlights* Team to fill our sizable gaps in coverage. See Christine Holland's message in this issue.

We are busy planning our end-of-year calendar. There are only three meetings and lectures left in this service year. Charlie Wylie will be speaking on April 5 about 19th century photography. There is no second meeting in April in lieu of the bus trip on April 19.

In May we have our last two meetings. On May 3rd, Michael Duncan will speak on the new print exhibition. Our last docent meeting will be on May 9th with Julie Joyce and Jen Sales; the topic will be on the Valeska Soares exhibition.

Our Provisional reception is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9. If you know of anyone interested in the Docent Program, be sure to invite them. Having a class next year reinforces our sense of how strong our docent council will continue to be into the future. Many thanks go to



Gail Stichler,
President and
Docent of the Year

Wendi Hunter, who will bring enthusiasm and much flexibility to the training year.

Our last gathering for this year will be our Docent Recognition Celebration on June 2. It is always wonderful to see our fellow docents honored for all that they give to make our council so successful.

Hopefully, you have received the email about the European adventure some docents will be enjoying in June. As an informal travel group, they extend an invitation to all docents to join them. Right now six docents are planning to visit Paris, then travel to the Netherlands. If you're interested in this, contact Barbara Boyd for more details.

Gail

From our Vice President

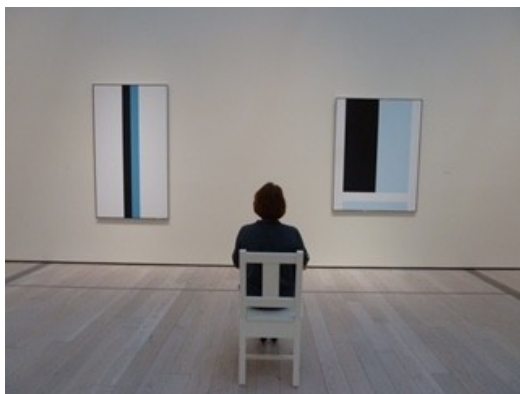


Ralph Wilson

Thanks to everyone who went on the LACMA bus trip. The *Picasso and Rivera: Conversations Across Time* exhibition was creative and instructive, and we had two excellent docent guides.

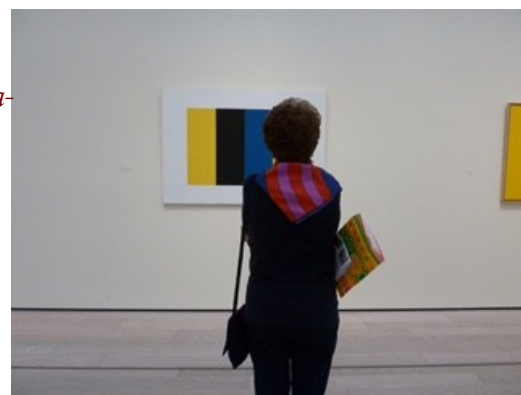
Picasso and Rivera were friends in Paris for about a year and a half, and both artists were influenced by the ancients—Picasso by the Greco-Roman traditions, Rivera by the Mesoamerican civilizations. Throughout the galleries ancient artifacts were juxtaposed with the artists' works to illustrate these influences.

All of us agreed the day was worth the inconvenience of the 7 a.m. departure. The 18 who signed up but did not go missed a wonderful, art-filled day.



In addition to our tour of "*Picasso and Rivera: Conversations across Time*", we also toured "*John McLaughlin Paintings: Total Abstraction.*"

Left: Laura DePaoli;
right: Joan Dewhirst



Our last bus trip will be on Wednesday, April 19th, to the Getty Center, where the SBMA antiquities are on display. See the announcement on the next page.

Note that there will be no Council meeting on April 19th

Bus Trip to the Getty

Dear Docents,

As we're approaching the end of our Docent year, I thought it would be enjoyable to offer one more bus trip. What would be more timely than to visit the Getty Center to view the SBMA antiquities on display, especially the restored Lansdowne Hermes.

On Wednesday, April 19th, the bus will depart Santa Barbara at 8:30 and arrive at the Getty sometime between 10:30 and 11:00, depending on traffic. We will leave at 3:00 and arrive back in Santa Barbara around 5:30. Please let me know if you need to be picked up in Carpinteria or Ventura.

The cost is \$45.00 per person.

In order to help me plan, please reply to this email indicating one of the following:

YES — you definitely are going on the trip

NO — you are unable to join us

We generally have seats available on the bus if you would like to invite someone to accompany you. Since we are having a provisional class this fall, it would be appropriate to ask a friend who might be thinking about joining the Council. What a perfect recruiting opportunity! However, check with me first to confirm that space is available on the bus.

Please pay for the trip by our April 5th meeting so that I will know for how many travelers to prepare. Denise will be available at the next meeting to accept your payment by check, cash, or credit card. Below is a list of other exhibitions which will be on view, in addition to the Getty permanent collection.

Remembering Antiquity: The Ancient World through Medieval Eyes

The Sculptural Line (the relationship between drawing and sculpture)

Fashionable Likeness: Pastel Portraits in 18th-Century Britain

Degas: Russian Dancers and the Art of Pastel (a pastel on loan from a private collection)

For a full description of the shows, click here:

<http://www.getty.edu/museum/exhibitions/>

Looking forward to seeing you on the April 19th excursion!

Ralph

NOTE: There will be no Docent Council meeting on Wednesday, April 19th.

From our Student Teams Chair



Karen Brill

March was more laid back than usual due to students on spring break. There were 8 museums tours for 186 students, including 2 for a total of 56 high-school students. Two classroom presentations were given for 48 students. Those numbers add up to 234 young people reached- not bad for a quiet month!

Please feel free to share any touring anecdotes with me. Everyone enjoys hearing about seeing the art from a child's perspective, and La Muse is the perfect place for everyone to see it.

Karen

From our Adult Teams Chair



Christine Holland

We had a good touring month in February, with a total of 48 tours given to 320 visitors. The David Wisener exhibit opened and the tours have been well attended, with widespread enthusiasm from both visitors and docents. There were only 3 scheduled tours with no visitors.

The Community Speaker Team gave 9 presentations to a total of 241 attendees.

Our summer *Highlights* team is appealing for help with summer coverage. There are gaps we're struggling to fill. Five docents have volunteered so far, but we need more. If you are on a *Focus* team, such as *Techniques* or *Color*, perhaps you would like to pick up extra tours to round out the year. You could give your same tour during the summer in the *Highlights* time slot at 1 pm. Think of it as a *Highlights/Techniques* or *Highlights/Color* tour. If interested, please e mail me right away so I can schedule you on the calendar.

We all appreciate your help. *Christine*

From our Nominations Chair



Joan Dewhirst

Dear Docents,

A formal election of officers for the next service year will be made by majority vote at the April 5th Docent Council meeting. We are grateful for all who are willing to dedicate their time as officers on the Board. Their participation is vital to the strength and continued success of our organization. The slate of officers proposed by the Nominations Committee for the 2017-2018 Docent Council Board:

Proposed Slate of Officers

President	Ralph Wilson
Vice-President	Mary Ellen Hoffman
Secretary	Christine Holland
Treasurer	Denise Klassen
Membership	Mary Joyce Winder
Adult Teams	Irene Stone and Patty Santiago
Provisional Chair	Wendi Hunter
Research	Barbara Boyd
Evaluations	Laura DePaoli
Webmaster	Loree Gold
Nominations Chair/ Former President	Gail Stichler



Antelope Valley, March 2017 , by Doug McElwain

From our Community Speakers Program



Team Leaders Kathryn
and Shirley Waxman

The public talks for April:

SB Central Library: Saturday, April 1st,
4 pm. Mary Eckhart, "Artists of the Golden
West: Higher than High, Wider than Wide,
Deeper than Deep"



Solvang Library: Thursday, April 27, 10 am.
Wendi Hunter, "David Wiesner & The Art of
Wordless Storytelling"



Information on new talks will be out next month.

SBMA Docent Evaluation Program Breaks New Ground

By Paul Guido



Acting Evaluations Chair Laura DePaoli asked me to share news about our Program.

The National Docent Symposium is a biannual event in which council presidents and vice presidents from across the country convene to discuss program matters. Joan De-whirst, our then-acting President in 2015, suggested that as Evaluations Chair I apply to give a “break out” session on our Evaluation Program at the Symposium in Cincinnati that year. Since none of the council’s previous applications had ever been accepted, our chances seemed very low.

The application required a one-page summary of the subject and who would be speaking. I wrote the summation of our process, which had been evolving over the past 20 years. Then I asked Kathryn Padgett, who is a great public speaker and enjoys the experience, if she would present our work. I would participate in the Q & A segment that followed. Kathryn reviewed the application and we submitted it.

A year later we got the news. Kathryn and I would be going with Joan to the Symposium in Cincinnati. At the time, we had no idea how our evaluation process stood in comparison with councils across the country.

It turns out ours is unique. Docents understand how difficult peer review is to pull off. Symposium session attendees expressed appreciation of our approach, as well as amazement that we could evaluate each other and still be friendly colleagues.

During the Q & A segment, docents expressed great interest in more specifics about our process, and were genuinely impressed that it worked so well. Even after the session ended, docents from around the country approached us with both critical and laudatory remarks. Many said there was no way docents in their respective programs would ever allow peer evaluation. One docent from a prestigious museum in Cincinnati said that they were so protective of their tours that if another docent walked into the room, the touring docent would hold off speaking until the second docent left. When we told her that we highly encouraged both neophyte and senior docents to borrow freely from others, she was shocked, and said it would never happen in her museum.

Six months ago, we submitted a proposal to give more in-depth information about our process at the next National Docent Symposium in Montreal in October of 2017. Again, knowing very few from across the country are chosen to present, I felt there was little chance we would be selected a second time.

I submitted a one-page synopsis on how to create a collegial culture in which incorporation of peer evaluation would be successful. I described our environment of mutual respect for the highest standard of tours for visitors, and the necessary structure for maintaining excellence. I outlined the selection and functions of evaluators, who understand the supportive nature inherent in evaluations, and also the importance and functions of team captains. Our structure builds accountability and follow through at every level. In maintaining our standards, we evaluate every docent who joins a new team—adult, student, special exhibitions—and adhere to a schedule in which all docents are evaluated every two years.

Again, I enlisted Kathryn to speak with me joining in for the Q & A.

Apparently lightning does strike twice. We are going to Montreal in October. Now we need to come up with an interesting presentation!

India: Another World

By Denise Klassen



Sensory overload, that's how I would describe my initial reaction to India. Once I stepped off the plane, it was full immersion into the noise, colors and smells that surrounded me and my friend.

Driving from the airport to our hotel, we shared the road with cars, buses, trucks, bicycles, mopeds, tuk-tuks (three-wheeled



motorized vehicles) and animals, all sharing the street in a cacophony of horns

honking. It turns out honking is considered a polite gesture, and drivers are very polite. It was complete chaos, no seeming order at all. Yet in the midst of disarray, there was no tension or anger, unimaginable for Southern California drivers.

We arrived in Delhi during the last days of Diwali, the autumn Hindu festival of lights. It's celebrated across India by virtually every religion. Each night fireworks and music filled the air with not only color and



sound, but also an incredible amount of smoke. Looking back at my photos, I couldn't help but notice the smoke made the landscape look similar to that of the Chinese paintings at our Museum.

It was late afternoon when we set off to visit Old Delhi in a rickshaw (one of my goals was to experience as many modes of transport as possible). Streets in the old city were so narrow that four people couldn't walk side-by-side.

I was horrified seeing a rat's nest of electrical wires tangled into a knot the size of a grown man. Our guide told us that upkeep of the electrical is passed down from father to son so they can mentally track which cables supply which buildings. In code-conscious California, it would be a building inspector's worst nightmare.

In New Delhi we were fortunate enough to be invited to three schools for slum children. After selling an Internet company, my traveling companion's friend founded and staffed the schools for impoverished kids. At each school we met the children (photo top right) who attend from 9 until 12:30. Situated in gardens at the back of temples, students sit outside all year round on mats in the dirt.

Children are given a morning meal, usually fruit and milk, and a noon meal before they go home or to work, as many of them also would be expected to contribute to the family's income. I was astonished by one very little girl who took care of two younger siblings during the day, as well as prepared all the family's meals, including shopping. All this at the age of six. What a different world!

The teachers are also from the slums, mothers with no formal education who are trained to teach. I spoke with one woman who expressed how proud



she was in the role. Not only had it given her income, teaching had boosted her self esteem to the point of changing her life and that of her family.

After the schools, we went back to the founder's lovely home for lunch with her father, a wonderful man who had recently retired after 40 years as Head Keeper for the largest Tiger Preserve in India.

Next we traveled to Mumbai, where we met friends who had moved from Delhi four years earlier. They gave us a personal tour of the city. Slums were everywhere—houses built upon houses and crammed into such small spaces they reminded me of the elaborate houses my boys constructed out of



playing cards, each level dependent on the one below, going higher and higher until one misstep and the entire structure collapsed.

I was so struck that even in these vast slums, satellite dishes were everywhere, TV perhaps a much-needed diversion in such poverty. Manav explained that often an entire family would live in a space no more than eight-by-ten feet. One slum we passed was built next to magnificent towers owned and occupied by a single family. The income disparity was mind-boggling. Yet most of the people seemed so happy.

In Mumbai we also visited one of the largest and most affluent Ganesha temples in the world. Parking outside, we “tipped” a man to watch the car while we were inside the temple, several blocks away. Once inside, we also had to leave our shoes with a man who, for a price, would make sure they were there when we returned.

I could only think back on the advice of so many people who had told me to take shoes I could throw away or leave behind. It seemed ironic that as Americans we would literally pay someone whose sole job it was to guard our shoes, and then discard them before heading back to the US. Shame was never far away as I was reminded at every turn how much we have, how spoiled we are. But, as I was learning, India is a land of contradictions, with beautiful



women in their colorful saris everywhere, a odd juxtaposition amidst the poverty.

While we waited in long lines to get inside the temple, so many locals wanted to talk to us, so curious, kind and happy. Leaving the Puja we had purchased outside, we moved on to whisper our “secret wish” into the ear of the two-foot tall rat before leaving the temple.

Next we were off to Jaipur and the beautiful, vast Amber Fort. We arrived in the afternoon. What a thrill to see fully decorated elephants moving through the streets! They are quite accustomed to taking tourists up to the Fort for most of the day. By late afternoon, however, the elephants are ridden down the steep roads by their keepers for the evening, headed for much needed food and rest.

It was wonderful to see the elegance of such large animals, painted in beautiful bright colors, moving quietly through the streets. The city



itself is very colorful, many buildings painted yellow and pink. There's a reason it's called the Pink City.

I spent much of my time rummaging through the incredibly beautiful fabrics made there, trying to decide which to purchase. Visiting the shops is almost overwhelming, with so much rich color, such a vast array of items on display. It was visual overload, but I couldn't quit looking. I wanted to take it all in.

No trip to India would be complete without a visit to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal. We left at dawn to avoid the long lines and the mass of visitors. We also went early because it's the best time to see the monument. There's too much sun reflecting on the marble later in the day.

Moving through the women-only security line, the woman in front of me was carrying a banana for breakfast. The guard told her food was not permitted on the grounds. She took the banana out of her handbag and

started peeling it. At that moment, a monkey swung down from the roof and snatched it from her hand! The woman screamed in shock.

I burst into laughter. It was one of those sights you catch that goes by so fast, and is so out of the ordinary, that you're not sure you saw it, and could never see it again.

Entering the grounds through the archway, I was so struck that the building itself was so much bigger and more impressive than any picture I had ever seen. As most of you know, the Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan as a tomb for his favorite wife, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

Walking around the monument it is simply breathtaking to see the amount of detailed carving, inlaid stone. One side had scaffolding with workers. My guide explained they clean the marble by packing it with clay



mud, which draws out all the impurities and brings the color back. Only in India, a spa treatment for an entire building. Standing in the rear exit before leaving, I was awed by the beautiful row of tangerine colored doorways. They reminded me of the Torii gates in Kyoto.

From there we were off to see the palace of the Shah's son, which was also built from the same beautiful white marble. It sits down river from the Taj Mahal. I was so impressed by the stunning courtyard until our tour guide told us the son had built it to imprison hundreds of young virgin's so that nightly he would have them available to choose from.



His wives were so incensed by his behavior that he lived daily in fear of being poisoned, insisting one of them taste his food before meals. He also kept his aging father in an upper corner of the “palace of women.” After forcefully taking over his father’s kingdom, he imprisoned the man for the last years of his life, along with his wives, the only solace that he had a view of the Taj Mahal.

Our last destination was the Agra Fort, the only Fort in India where all the Mughal emperors lived. Originally the compound included 500 buildings. The ones that remain are truly magnificent, but again, it was the people that delighted me. While taking pictures of the Pavilion with the white marble buildings in the background, a young man approached me and pointed to a handbag against the wall. I indicated to him that the bag was not mine. He left to get a police officer so the bag could be checked for explosives. The officer came and did so—it was cleared—but I was dumbstruck, sadly reminded that in a place of such history and beauty, these wonderful and gracious people live every day with this kind of threat.

Traveling to India is truly a trip to a different country but also to such a uniquely old and ancient culture.



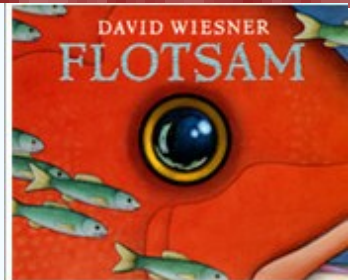
Ten Talks— with a difference

By Ann Hammond



I arrived at the Museum for my tour. It was a beautiful warm evening, so not too many visitors at first. Those already there were looking at the David Wiesner exhibit, all of them with big smiles as they perused the works.

I’m not on the Special Exhibition team touring Wiesner, but with no one for *Ten Talks* yet, I went into the gallery and made myself available for questions, comments, or just sharing a



look, a more relaxed, conversational approach. This show is so delightful, so easy to talk about with visitors.

The first lady I spoke to, looking at *Flotsam* just loved the exhibit. This was her second visit to see the show, and she said there would be a third. The woman had attended Wiesner’s talk in the library the previous week when he spoke to children, who, by this visitor’s account, were enthralled and inspired with his work and his talk.

Here’s the surprise I got on my “tour.” I got the opportunity to engage with a gentleman in the gallery, who seemed very interested in art. After a few minutes, I mentioned we had a Docent Program and asked if he would be interested. And he was! You never know who you are going to meet.

Finally I found three young people from LA looking closely at the Monets. I took this as an opportunity to give my *Ten Talks* tour! After the Monets, we moved to Pechstein. It was all very casual and pleasant.

I really enjoyed the “wandering docent” approach, making myself available. After ten years of touring, I was confident talking about any of the works visitors wanted to know about. That’s a lovely feeling.

On my way out I couldn’t resist approaching two ladies who were so obviously enjoying Wiesner. Both women were painters and loved his work and, of course, they were smiling!

A good end to an evening in the museum.

WE'RE INVITED!



Following in the tradition of Spring Luncheons, which offer us an opportunity to get to know our new Docents and enjoy time together, the Museum and Patsy Hicks are hosting a
“Luncheon on the Lawn”
to celebrate our Docent Council, Sustaining members and Past Presidents.

Georges Seurat, *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, 1884-86

Save the date for **Monday, May 1** from 11:30 -2PM at Patsy's home: 145 Pomar Lane, Montecito. *Kindly respond to Kelly at kalmeida@sbma.net. A printed invitation will follow.*

"Building the Wall" Premieres in LA at the Fountain Theater

By Ricki Morse



Robert Schenkken, Tony and Pulitzer award-winning screenwriter, playwright and actor wrote this play in an immediate response to the Trump election. This remarkable new work is opening in Maryland, Tucson and premiering in Los Angeles. It is getting rave reviews, and I will be seeing it this weekend, but wanted to give you a heads-up now.



The Fountain is one of those very small theatres with reasonable ticket prices and their own parking, available if you arrive early. I've seen deeply moving, powerful performances there, and love the chance to share that ambiance of camaraderie and verve which surges in a thriving little theatre.

This two person play is receiving a very enthusiastic critical welcome, particularly for its emotional impact and raw examination of a projected future.

See you there!



THE LAST PAGE



Ricki touring at the New Members reception. *Photo by Alison Denbach.*



Antelope Valley, March 2017, *Photo by Doug McElwain*