

January/February 2014



Guild of Volunteers' Holiday Party photos
[See page 9](#)



Guild Semi-annual Meeting slide show
[Click here](#)
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<http://flic.kr/s/aHsjP9iqVe>

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Spotlight: Fran Hall

Several years ago, Fran Hall's daughter introduced her to Carol S. Dweck's book, [Mindset: The New Psychology of Success](#). Her daughter, Elizabeth Hall Olszewski, who lives in Wellesley, Mass., was then working for retailer TJX as director of leadership and organizational development. Dweck's book deals with how people have fixed ideas, attitudes, beliefs and assumptions, and how they can change these rigid states to better handle life's everyday situations. A person's mindset can shape a person's success.

After reading Dweck's book and Rika Burnham and Elliott Kai-Kee's book [Teaching in the Art Museum](#), which discusses how to bring people and artworks together in meaningful ways, she thought the mindset concept could be used to modify the way docents conduct tours. With that in mind she decided to submit a proposal, *Mindset Matters; Creating Experiential Tours*, to the National Docent Symposium that took place in October 2013. Fran consulted with Senior Educator Jane Seney and co-presenter Kim Tyndall. Illness prevented her from going to San Francisco and Kim stepped in to give the presentation. *Continued on p.2*



Fran Hall

Zimmerman House Fundraiser Tally

The numbers are in: Proceeds from the Silent Auction held in conjunction with November's Semi-annual Meeting and Luncheon totaled \$4,368. Combined with October's book sale profits, the Guild raised over \$5,500 for the Zimmerman House air conditioning project, reports the Currier's Director of Development Christine Louis.

"Victoria worked tirelessly with great flair and attention to detail to assure the success of not one, but two, fundraising events for the Zimmerman House," says Christine. "As a result of her enthusiasm, she gathered others to make both the book sale and the Guild silent auction tremendously successful. Her efforts also incorporated that of other volunteers and I believe that built a stronger bond for both the museum and its volunteers." These sentiments were echoed by Director of Operations & Human Resources Karen Graham. Karen, Christine and Lynn Thomson offered valuable organizational advice.

"We were inspired by the generosity of the Zimmermans as we planned these events," says Victoria Duffy, who headed up the fundraiser. "It was a challenge that required a lot of organization and communicating with many people. What is most meaningful to me is everybody pulled together and made it happen. I truly enjoyed getting to know other volunteers, and appreciate everyone who contributed so much."

There were 87 people attending. Among the 70 items up for bid was



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Spotlight: Fran Hall . . . continued from p.1

Fran gave her talk at a museum docent training in November. "I knew museum education was moving in the direction of experiential learning," Fran says, adding she "thought a lot about the way we think about ourselves and how our roles shape the way we design and lead a tour." The word docent comes from the Greek word for teacher, and there are many ways to teach. She believes the best way for people to learn is by participating and for the docent "not to do all the talking."

Fran grew up on experiential education at a progressive school in the 1950's and used the experiential teaching method in her 31-year career. She was a professor of organizational behavior at the University of New Hampshire for 25 years -- the second woman to be chosen for a full professorship in the university's business school. She co-authored [*Experiences in Management and Organizational Behavior*](#), one of three books she has written.

She retired from UNH in 2005 and became associated with The Ogunquit Museum of American Art, then in 2010 became a Currier docent. In her November docent presentation, Fran juxtaposed examples of Fanny Fixed

and Greta Growth. Among Fanny's rigid attitudes are not changing the way she does her tours and not adding new artwork or techniques; Greta on the other hand, sees change as an ongoing process, incorporates new techniques, and believes trial and error improve her tours.

"We tend to fall back on the tried and true," says Fran, because our "favorites always works." Yet, "keeping a growing mindset in front of us helps us face opportunities and choices with a fresh outlook. It keeps us motivated to try again."

If we change our set patterns -- what we eat, how we dress, attitudes toward others that are different, what we read, how we feel about society and culture, and our relationships with family and friends -- we can improve our quality of life.

"It's anything that takes us out of our comfort zone," she says. "We aren't growing old; we are growing older. Old is when we stop growing."

Zimmerman House Fundraiser Tally . . . continued from p.1

a week's stay at a Panama City, Fla., beach resort donated by Harry and Barbara Shepler, which reaped two winners and nearly \$1,000. Victoria salutes Barbara not only for her generosity, but for "embracing the whole crazy idea" and making all the paper cranes scattered about the Winter Garden Café.

Victoria says she couldn't have done the project without all the people who helped either donating goods and/or volunteering time. "Shoe-horning a silent auction into the semi-annual meeting was a formidable challenge," she says, "and there are many people to thank for pulling it off."

This volunteer push, says Christine, is "a testament to the volunteers' enthusiasm and commitment for this project" and she sends a heartfelt thank you to all who worked on this project.

event cleanup were Nancy Johnson and her committee Yvonne Dunham, Nancy Stewart, Ann Richardson, Sally Douglass and Muriel McMillan. Also engaged in the pre- and post-event activities were co-leaders Jan Conover and Marilyn Watson, Nancy McGaan, Dennie Dyer, Pauline Bogaert, Anne Milne, Carol Resch and Pat Goss, especially, for folding and gluing 50 lanterns. Staff was also hands-on including Lisa Pavlopoulos, Karen Papineau, Nelson Goddard, Cindy Mackey, Alana Johanson, Heidi Norton and Winter Garden chef Joe Sylvester.

Victoria would do it again, she says, and adds, "I hope all the winning bidders enjoy their new treasures with the satisfaction they have helped a good cause."

- Pauline Bogaert

Among those helping with pre-event undertakings and post-



Executive Chair Report

New Year Begins With a Bang

I want to start 2014 by wishing you Happy New Year. The Currier ended 2013 with the popping of bubble-wrap and balloon-drops at the Noon Year's Eve party in the Winter Garden Café. What a wonderful signature occasion to close the holiday season and welcome 2014.

Thanks to Nancy Johnson and Victoria Duffy and their committees for another great time in 2013 -- the well-organized Semi-annual Meeting and Luncheon, and Silent Auction in November. The museum hosts this luncheon for the volunteers in appreciation for their time. Committee members began discussions more than a year ago on how to help the museum raise funds for the addition of a climate control system at the Zimmerman House. Although a fundraiser had never been combined with a semi-annual luncheon, the Guild fund-raising committee felt the luncheon was the best opportunity for volunteers to contribute to the Z-House project if they were inclined.

Executive Vice-Chair Report

Resolve to Get Involved

It's time for New Year's resolutions. This could be the year you become more involved with the Currier Guild of Volunteers. Each year the Guild forms a nominating committee to fill open seats on the executive committee. Committee chairs serve for two years and attend monthly meetings as representatives/liaisons for

I thank you for your goodwill and your cheerful participation in the auction. The items were of general interest, and well-displayed. Our active bidders went home with new treats and treasures, and helped the Currier in a satisfying way. The Z-House project should be completed before the house reopens this spring. I am proud Guild members made a significant contribution to this needed project.

Congratulations to our newly graduated museum docents, now conducting tours. And welcome to the new, incoming Z-House docents who begin training in February. Thank you for joining our volunteers.

Sadly, Alan Slotkin has recently resigned as a volunteer due to health issues. We will miss his humor and ideas in meetings and on tours. Alan has served us well as the Museum Docent Chair. Thank you, Alan. Please get well and come visit us when you are better.

their group. The committee exists to address all volunteer concerns, plan Guild functions and set volunteer policy.

Do you have ideas on areas where the Guild could improve? Would you like to become more involved? Consider filling a vacant seat on the Guild executive committee as a resolution

We are pleased to announce Roberta Lavey has agreed to serve as Museum Docent Chair. I know she will represent the museum docents well. We welcome you and thanks for joining the Guild executive committee.

If anyone is having persistent trouble with Volgistics scheduling or posting hours, we want to hear about it. Please contact Membership Chair Nancy Baker (email: ntbaker@att.net) or me. We will do everything we can to solve any lingering problems. It is likely that if one person is encountering a problem, others are as well. So please, don't hold back, let us know if you are having trouble. We like finding solutions.

Barbara Shepler,
Guild Chair
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for the New Year. Please contact me if you are interested.

Here's to a productive and prosperous year for the Currier and all volunteers.

Dennie Dyer
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**Guild of Volunteers
2013 - 2014
Executive Committee**

Executive Chair:
Barbara Shepler
Executive Vice Chair:
Dennie Dyer
Treasurer:
Angela Hoke
Secretary:
Richard Russell

**Committee Chairs
Guild Communications:**

Judy McKenna &
Pauline Bogaert

**Guild Meetings and
Programs:**

Nancy Johnson

Guild Membership:
Nancy Baker

Museum Docents:
Roberta Lavey
**Zimmerman House
Docents:**

Victoria Duffy

Museum Shop:
Sandra Chandonnet

Archivist/Historian:
Marilyn Davison

Library:
Charlotte DeBell

**The Currier Guild of
Volunteers newsletter**

is published 5 times a year.
Editors: Judy McKenna,
Peeps Bogaert; Design &
Production: Nancy
McGaan, Victoria Duffy;
Staff Advisor: Karen
Graham. Special thanks to
Alana Johanson, Nancy
McGaan and Victoria Duffy
for photos in this issue.

Zimmerman House Docent Report

Z-House Training Focuses on Visitor's Experience

The last two Zimmerman House docent meetings of 2013 continued to emphasize the importance of audience engagement.

The Sept. 28 training included a review of the most-visited Frank Lloyd Wright sites, as well as an overview of recent museum acquisitions and changes in the galleries. The informal session was an opportunity to provide feedback about the van video as well as to check in on how questioning strategies are working on tours.

On Nov. 16, docent Dorothy Savery used the experience she's gained through her involvement with Toastmasters International to speak about effective presentation techniques. She offered helpful advice on how to overcome fears (transform nervous energy into enthusiasm, and realize that people want you to succeed); on how to interact with the group (make eye contact and *be yourself*); and on how to develop skill (know your material--and rehearse). She reminded us that pauses and silence are acceptable and that standing straight, tall and at ease, with shoulders relaxed, conveys confidence.

Dorothy also worked with Jane Seney to design an exercise that drew docents into the discussion. Two-person teams

considered ways to create a better working partnership between the house and van docents. Suggestions included interjecting comments so both docents are part of the narrative flow; and revising the traditional "house" and "van" roles so there is greater parity between them.

A concluding video entitled "The Presentation Secrets of Steve Jobs" reinforced the importance of being excited and having fun. The audience wants to be wowed.

The season will officially conclude with a celebratory gathering on the last day of tours, Jan. 5.

On a sad note, a member of the Zimmerman House docent class of 2005, Mary Carroll, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 3, 2013, following a sudden illness. She is remembered by her fellow docents as kind, warm, insightful, and wise. She is sadly missed.

Victoria Duffy
Zimmerman House Docent Chair
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Dorothy Savery



Remembering Mary Carroll

Noon Year's Eve

Special Projects and Ambassadors have been busy assisting with family programs, holiday photo shoots, and First Thursdays. We also had over 22 volunteers help us with our Noon Year's Eve event which saw close to 700 guests. Volunteers handed out prizes, ushered families in the auditorium, provided guests with bags at the front desk, and so much more. The event is an important one for the museum and its success depends on volunteers. Thank you to all who came out for the day and made the event possible.

For photo collage and article – see page 9

Lynn Thomson
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Museum Docent Report

From Visual Dispatches to Robert Indiana

Fall was a busy time for museum docents. School tours recommenced, bringing swarms of inquisitive students to the museum and underscoring the need for a new class of docents to help handle these tours. Those new docents began tours last month, each bringing his/her insights to our interactions with visitors.

Those insights, along with our varied backgrounds, likes and dislikes, and so much more, contribute to our mindsets when we give tours. That our mindsets matter was amply demonstrated by Kim Tyndall in a presentation last October at the National Docent Symposium in San Francisco and by Fran Hall at our November training session.

October and November saw us focused not only on *Africa Interweave:Textile Diasporas* which leaves Jan. 12, but also on *Visual Dispatches from the Vietnam War*, which closed Veterans' Day. I really appreciated having veterans on hand to give their insights and relate their experiences to visitors, especially those too young to have memories of the nightly news stories that brought images of war,

quite literally, into our homes.

Finally, docents began preparation for *Signs from the Sixties--Robert Indiana's Decade* by discussing the Pop Art movement as a reaction against abstract expressionism. We also examined forces such as comic books, record album covers, and advertisements that influenced not only much of Andy Warhol's and Roy Lichtenstein's output, but also Indiana's use of stencils in his own art. Jane Seney presented details of Indiana's background, which shaped his work of bold colors and succinct signage that broke the monotony of the countryside he knew. The exhibit will allow docents to introduce Currier visitors to more than just the iconic "love" images, for which the artist is so well known.

Alan R. Slotkin
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Walkthrough
"Signs from the Sixties – Robert Indiana's Decade"
Dec. 3, 2013

A Conversation with . . . Lynn Thomson



Lynn Thomson
Guild Liaison and
Associate Educator for
Adult and Family Audiences

Lynn Thomson joined the Currier staff in November 2012. Before coming to the Currier she spent 12 years at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, Mass. Her role changed over time, and her positions ranged from working at the front desk to completing a fellowship position in the Corporate Program and, lastly, serving as acting director of education.

Lynn has a bachelor of fine arts in Photography from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University and a master's in Museum Education from Tufts University. She is one class away from earning a certificate in Early Childhood Education from Nashua Community College.

She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, hiking and eating pizza. She lives in Nashua with her husband, Mike McGowan, and her very active toddler, Eli.

My favorite pieces of art are...? That is hard to answer. I'm drawn to art that strikes a chord emotionally and challenges my perception, both visually and intellectually. I'm always fascinated with the work of Jean-François Millet, Janine Antoni, and Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison. Really the list goes on

and on.

The art I like best is...? I'm always drawn to photography. Studying and training to be a photographer as an undergrad gave me a deep understanding and appreciation for the medium, both its history and its process.

If I weren't a museum educator, I would be...? I would be a preschool teacher. I enjoy engaging with people, particularly children in fun and creative ways. Learning through play is so important and is something I try to incorporate in programs I oversee at the museum and in how I spend time with my son. I often find myself spending an extra 10 minutes in Eli's classroom each morning reading or dancing with the children and saying, "I wish I could stay here all day."

My least favorite type of art is...? Not sure I have a least favorite type. I try to find value in all art, and even though I may not enjoy a piece personally, I like the conversation that can come from not liking a piece just as much as a conversation that can come from liking an object.

The last museum I visited was...? I recently visited the Farnsworth Art

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Museum Shop Report

Shop Features Indiana Merchandise



Looking for a special Valentine's Day gift, or do you just want to let your loved ones know you love them? Then consider artist Robert Indiana's iconic LOVE art. We have t-shirts, coasters, notecards, sterling silver charms and tote bags emblazoned with the LOVE symbol.

The museum shop is pleased to welcome Jane Bentas to our volunteer family. We want to wish our "winter bird" Judy Conway

a happy New Year and await her return in the spring. Museum Shop manager Heidi Norton welcomes all Guild members interested in volunteering in the shop.

On Jan. 2, all calendars, daily planners and engagement calendars will be discounted 50 percent. Currier stoneware mugs are also discounted 10 percent in January.

The shop will be doing its annual house cleaning to make room for the new merchandise. Come in and browse our sale table, where goods are marked down at least 40 percent. Membership discount is not available on markdown prices.

A Conversation with . . . continued from p.6

Museum in Rockland, Maine. I only had 45 minutes, so I quickly went through a few galleries, leaving the majority of my time for the special exhibition *The Wonderful World of Oz -- Selections from the Willard Carroll/Tom Wilhite Collection*. Similar to many, the movie reminds me of childhood and I found the exhibition to be fun and nostalgic. I was surprised to learn that [L. Frank Baum](#) wrote 14 children's books about Oz. Since seeing this exhibition I have added a few of them to my reading list.

I'm most proud of...? My incredible family and the values my parents instilled in me. I incorporate them in my life every

day and will pass them on to my son.

My most memorable moment was when...? I met my son.

If I could have anything in the world, I'd get...? My list is endless and includes items that can't be bought like more time with my family, health and happiness for my loved ones, for my husband's work hours to be shorter....

A quote I live by is...? Not really a quote but a philosophy my parents taught me: Treat others as you'd like to be treated.

Staff News

Staff Updates

Kathy Card, administrator and registrar at the Art Center, departed the Currier for a job opportunity in Bedford, N.H. in mid-November. Kathy has worked at the Art Center for the last 5 years and will be missed.

Lynn Thomson
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Read a good book lately?

We are looking for volunteers and staff members who would like to share their thoughts about a book that may be of interest to our readers. The review can be on any art-related fiction, non-fiction, whodunits, biographies, etc. and should be about 250 words. If interested, contact Judy McKenna, 624-5521, email: judith.mckenna@comcast.net or Peeps Bogaert, 623-1345, email: peepsb@comcast.net.

Regional Museum Exhibitions of Interest

[Frick Collection](#)
 New York City
Vermeer
 through Jan. 19

[Jackson Historical Society](#)
 Jackson, NH
Shapleigh from the Inside Out
 through Feb. 1

[Museum of Fine Arts](#)
 Boston
John Singer Sargent Watercolors
 through Jan. 20

[Peabody Essex Museum](#)
 Salem, Mass.
Impressionists on the Water
 through Feb 17

Golden Light: Selections from the Van Otterloo Collection
 through May 30

[Worcester Art Museum](#)
Art Since the Mid-20th Century
 ongoing

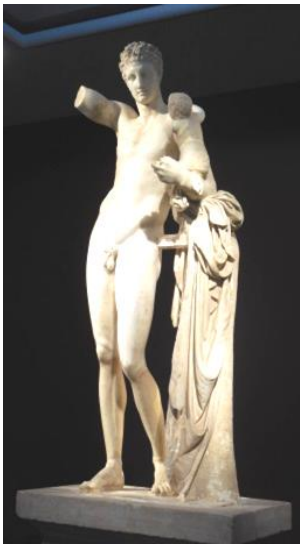
Olympia, Greece

Museum Seen

On a recent trip from Athens to Venice to visit archeological ruins along the Aegean coast, touring Ancient Olympia on the Peloponnese Peninsula was surprisingly timely. I learned about ancient Greek culture, the history of the original Olympic Games dedicated to the god Zeus in 776 BC, visited the Archaeological Museum, and toured the vast site consisting of temples, athletic facilities, baths, and a stadium that could accommodate 45,000 spectators.



Column of Temple of Zeus



Hermes by Praxiteles

The story of Pheidias, considered the greatest sculptor of classical Greece, was particularly captivating. After completing work on the frieze and statue of Athena at the Parthenon, he spent ten years in Olympia--from 440-430 BC--creating the great statue of Zeus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was constructed of gold and ivory panels over a wooden substructure and compared in size to his statue of Athena (over 40-feet high). The statue of Zeus was taken to Constantinople at the end of the fourth century where it was destroyed by fire; however, remains of the Doric temple in which it was housed have been uncovered, including many of the monumental columns toppled by earthquakes over the centuries.

The site of Pheidias' workshop has been excavated along with an Early Christian basilica that was built later using part of the workshop walls.

The Archaeological Museum of Olympia is adjacent to the site where the games were born. Numerous artifacts uncovered from layers of civilization beginning with the Late Neolithic through the Early Christian periods are displayed in the 12 galleries. In addition to the friezes from the Temple of Zeus, important objects include the Head of Hera; the famous 330 BC statue of Hermes by Praxiteles; and the helmet of Miltiades, a general during the Athenian Golden Age. There is pottery from Pheidias' workshop, molds of various sizes used to make the drapery

for the statue of Zeus, tools, and most impressive, a small black glazed wine jug known as the "Cup of Pheidias" with the Greek inscription on the bottom, "I belong to Pheidias" – nearly 2,500 years old.



The Olympic Games began as religious events and were held continuously every four years from eighth century BC to fourth century AD. In Hellenistic times, they became professional athletic activities until 393 AD when the Christian emperor of Byzantium, Theodosios I, banned paganism. Fifteen centuries later, in 1896, the games were reinstated. Except for three interruptions during World Wars, they have continued since.

We watched the rehearsal of the lighting of the torch for the 2014 Winter Games to be held in Sochi, Russia. Several days later the ceremony took place at the altar of the temple as old as the games, dedicated to Hera, wife of Zeus. The flame, lit by the reflection of sunlight in a mirror, was carried by runners to Russia. This year's event made headlines when the flame blew out during the relay in Moscow and was relit with a cigarette lighter. Ah, how times have changed.

- Nancy McGaan



*Lighting of the Torch
for the 2014 Winter Olympics*

HOLIDAY PARTY



Noon Year's Eve a Resounding Success



Squealing children ran across the bubble-wrap coated floor across the Winter Garden Café causing the bubbly material to explode like firecrackers. For the grand finale of the second annual Noon Year's Eve 2013, 900 balloons dropped from the café's ceiling and the children gleefully burst those. Seven hundred parents and kids attended the Currier party that included activities such as face painting, party-hat making, ice carving, a scavenger hunt and magician. There were 22 Guild volunteers helping in the event, including Jan Conover, Joann Jensen and newly graduated museum docent Megan McIntyre who worked the night before inflating all those balloons and preparing the bubble wrap.

It was "all hands on deck" for the Currier staff, said Lynn Thomson, who coordinated the party with Leah Fox, Karen Graham and others. Currier Director Susan Strickler got into the spirit being first to design a party hat. Bruce McColl from the art center painted children's faces and Neva Cole snapped photos.

Some volunteers -- Kim Tyndall, Roberta Lavey, to name two -- did double-duty serving two shifts in the nearly five-hour event. Mimi Crowley filled give-away popcorn bags and Carolyn Hollman stocked buckets with

stick-on items in the hat-making room. Among other volunteers helping were Pat Howard, Carol Tingleff, Judy McKenna, Jean McGiffin and Jane Bentas. Aiding in the event were other newly graduated docents, including Katya Torres-Terrazas, Fran Nutter-Upham and Sandy Minnick. "It's a terrific idea," said Sandy. "I wish they had this when my daughter was growing up. It's a good way for the museum to connect with the public." - *Pauline Bogaert*