

November/December 2013

Come Join Us for the  
Guild of Volunteers  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
and Lunch  
Tuesday, Nov. 19  
10:45 a.m.  
[See page 2 for  
reservation details](#)



Silent Auction  
&  
Member Art Show  
to benefit the  
Z-House conservation

In this issue:

Spotlight	1
Silent Auction	1
Museum Docents	3
Book Sale	5
Conversation with Kurt Sundstrom	6
Museum Seen	8
Exec. Chair Report	4

## Spotlight: Museum Docent Class 2013

Jane Seney began training a new class of 29 docents Sept. 19, and she is awed by the group. "I am so impressed with this new class training to become museum docents," she says. "They're a dynamic and diverse group and very interested in interactive touring methods."

They come from around the southern part of the state, and all are unique in

their experiences and talents. Some have an art background like Russ Mowry, who received an art degree from the University of Vermont after serving as a helicopter aviator in Vietnam. The veteran also flew helicopters with the Vermont National Guard and as a corporate pilot. "I wanted to be a famous artist," he says, about his time studying art, "but life got in the way."

Now semi-retired from flying, Russ goes to motorcycle rallies and paints decorative pin striping on the powered bikes. Another way to connect with art again is by becoming a docent. He also takes his 93-year old mother to the Currier to see her favorite painting, *Shoot* by Jules Olitski. His favorite is *The Letter* by Emile Meyer. He is impressed by the reflection on the toe of the

*Continued on p.2*

## Unique Treasures Offered at Silent Auction

At the Semi-Annual Meeting Nov. 19, Guild members will have a chance to not only admire the work of fellow volunteers, but to take some home with them -- and benefit the Zimmerman House by doing so.

In addition to hand-crafted items such as crocheted shawls and framed cross-stich, there will be some exciting opportunities available. Bid on a Director's Tour of the museum with a Winter

Garden lunch for four; a week's accommodations in Panama Beach, Fla.; or made-to-order baklava, a Greek pastry.

Registrar Karen Papineau has donated mementos of the Rock and Roll exhibition, and the book sale netted two vintage copies of *The Little Prince* - one in English, one in French - that will go to the highest bidder.

There will be several creative baskets on offer, as well as ever-popular

*Continued on p.2*

## Fundraising Progress 24% of goal attained through Book Sale



**GUILD OF VOLUNTEERS  
SEMI-ANNUAL LUNCHEON & MEETING  
& SILENT AUCTION**

*Winter Garden Café*

Tuesday, Nov.19

Registration & Coffee: 10:45 a.m.

Meeting and Keynote Speakers: 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon and Arts and Crafts display: Noon

*Speaker*

Marg-e Kelley, of Kelley Auction House

Guild Members' Arts and Crafts

on display at the luncheon

and in the Community Gallery

until the end of December

RSVP for the luncheon by Nov. 5

to Nancy Johnson

[ami-art@comcast.net](mailto:ami-art@comcast.net) or 603-472-2040

*Special 30 percent discount for all*

*Guild volunteers*

*at the Museum Shop*

*after lunch from 1 – 3 p.m.*

***Unique Treasures Offered at Silent Auction***

*... continued from p.1*

gift cards.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to the many generous donors. To achieve our goal of raising \$4,000 at this event, we also need generous bidders. Snag a rare bargain with the bonus of knowing your contribution supports the museum's mission.

Please join us in this fundraising adventure. It promises to be a lot of fun.

Victoria Duffy

*Zimmerman House Docent Chair and*

*Fundraising Team Leader*

617-965-8999

[victoriaduffydesign@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaduffydesign@gmail.com)



*Bedford Farm,*  
a pastel painting by Sally Shea,  
will be one of the many items  
available at the silent auction.

***Spotlight: Docent Class 2013 ... continued from p.1***

cardinal reading the letter, the subjects' expressions, and the older cardinal's faded cassock. "What a masterful execution."

Russ lives in Candia across the street from Sandra Minnick, who is a former elementary school teacher. She has a long association with the Currier. Her daughter, Jill Minnick Jennings, started classes at the Art Center when she was in second grade and continued through high

school. The Art Center helped Jill prepare an art portfolio for college. Minnick's daughter received a bachelor's in art, with an emphasis on ceramics, from Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y.

After retiring last year from teaching, Sandra wanted to connect with children again and hopes to do that by leading docent tours. "I had decided when I retired in February 2012 that I wanted to

become a docent at the Currier to stimulate my mind and use my teaching skills."

Like Sandra, Liz Keroack also had a career as an educator. After getting her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of N. H., she taught at Manchester Central H.S. Later she received a doctorate from Boston University. She was an educator in Massachusetts 35 years

before moving to Hampton, N.H.

"As an educator I've always been interested in life-long learning for my students and for myself," she says. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to get back to art history, which I studied and liked, but didn't pursue as a career."

- *Pauline Bogaert and Judy McKenna*

*Museum Docent Report*

## Fall Kicks Off New Docent Year

Fall is in the air. And while I don't believe the cooler temperatures are needed to energize our great group of museum docents, it surely does feel good after the summer's unusual heat.

As I worked on the museum docent section of the Guild of Volunteers annual report, I was struck again by how much time and effort we docents give to the Currier. I want to thank each one of you personally for the phenomenal job you do.

Senior Educator Jane Seney kicked off our fall trainings in early September with an excellent presentation by University of Florida's Susan Cooksey, curator of the initial exhibition of *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*.



*Technology in use for docent training*

Susan appeared via Skype, a first for docent training. She not only highlighted the differences between types of cloth and dying processes, but also focused on the interplay of techniques among African countries and between Africa and Europe. Her emphasis on the cultural significance of designs, indigo, and the various types of cloth, answered many of the questions docents raised. Everyone looked forward

to the exhibition's curator-led walk through.

Kurt Sundstrom provided a fascinating and highly entertaining presentation of his research into the provenance of *Madonna and Child* by Rossellino, tying it to potential Florentine families before narrowing it down to one. He showed slides of the distinctive wild boar emblem appearing on our art work and as it appears in church carvings and glass in Florence. He introduced us to various buildings and sections of Florence that influenced and were influenced by the Veneri-Talducci family.

It is a pleasure to serve as your representative to the Guild and I welcome your comments and

suggestions as to how the Guild might aid you in your tasks as docents. I am ready and willing to raise any and all matters you might want me to.

I have a request: There has been some confusion about counting the number of guests on tours when recording hours. The only responsibility for museum docents is counting guests on public tours. School tours and special tours are pre-booked and they are counted by Currier staff. We need the number for public tours to show just how valuable you are to the running of the Currier.

Alan R. Slotkin  
*Museum Docent Chair*  
603-244-2805  
[aslotkin@tntech.edu](mailto:aslotkin@tntech.edu)



*Africa Interweave Textile Diasporas Walkthrough*  
October 1, 2013



*From the Library Corner*

## Volunteers Work Double Duty

Mimi Crowley and Jean McGiffin have been wonderful volunteers who have worked many hours in the library this past year. They are dedicated docents who put in many hours in that capacity as well.

Some of the varied jobs that Mimi and Jean have performed over the last year are:

- Re-housing and performing archive maintenance

- Maintaining exhibition archives
- Helping get books ready for the Mother's Day sale
- Helping locate missing books
- Shelving books and periodicals
- Getting periodicals ready for the bindery
- Removing older auction house catalogs from the stacks

- Making sure all materials in the stacks are in order (called "reading the shelves")
- Performing a physical inventory

Thank you, Jean and Mimi, for all you do. You do a great job.

Charlotte DeBell  
Library Chair  
603-746-6077  
[charlottedebell@comcast.net](mailto:charlottedebell@comcast.net)

*Executive Chair Report*

## The Season for Rejoicing

A flock of plump turkeys was in my yard this morning. The vision turned my thoughts to Thanksgiving and the coming season of gratitude. I am so thankful for Moody and Hannah Currier's wealth and their vision to create a place where I experience art almost daily. It is art that stimulates my mind, senses and speaks to my heart.

From Henri Huet's photograph *Medic Thomas Cole Treats Wounded Staff Sgt. Harrison Pell* to Georges Rouault's *The Wounded Clown*, artists portray life and its complexities -- both its horror and beauty. The haunting, and, yes, beautiful black and white

images of *Visual Dispatches from the Vietnam War* compel me to consider the value of every life; to remember the desperation of those caught in war; to honor all those who serve in our military; and to celebrate compassion in the midst of devastation.

The delicacy of woven fibers, embroidery and embellishment, or the vibrancy of colorful garments in *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*, is testament to the enduring qualities of human culture. The viewer and weaver celebrate the skill and creativity of pattern and design in the perfection of clothing as art and fashion. It satisfies the yearning of the human

heart for beauty and joy, for identity and dignity. I am thankful for my son-in-law, who returned home from war. I am thankful for the birth of another grandchild. I am thankful for music and dance, and a body fit to run. I am thankful for favorite places, and for you, my friends.

May the One, who is Peace, be near to you at this season of rejoicing.

Happy Hanukkah. Happy Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas.

Barbara Shepler  
Executive Chair  
Currier Guild of Volunteers  
603-494-6015  
[Barbara.Shepler@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbara.Shepler@yahoo.com)

### 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 &  
Peeps Bogaert  
**Guild Meetings and Programs:**  
Nancy Johnson  
**Guild Membership:**  
Nancy Baker  
**Museum Docents:**  
Alan Slotkin  
**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 Judy McKenna for the photos in this issue.

*Fundraising Report*

## **Book Sale a Big Success**

Sixteen volunteers gathered Oct. 5 and 6 to help push the Guild Book Sale beyond its goal by 20 percent, netting \$1200 for the fall fundraising campaign.

More than 50 boxes of books were donated, and by 4 p.m. Sunday not a single book was left.

Most important, it was an enjoyable experience. "I had a blast... it was really fun," said Mary Morrison, who served as cashier on opening day.

After an initial flurry, the pace was steady. Thanks to the clever space planning and categorizing efforts of the set-up crew, customers had plenty of room to browse and could

easily find what they were looking for.

The LPs, or long playing record albums, were popular, especially among younger patrons, who appreciated them not only for the artwork, but for the condition of the vinyl. Art books and older volumes were also in high demand.

Sunday was bargain day, with everything half price. The action really picked up in the last hour, when books flew out the door at the irresistible price of \$5 per bag. Strategic marketing assured no books remained by Sunday's end.

Book sale organizers are grateful to museum staff for providing support in

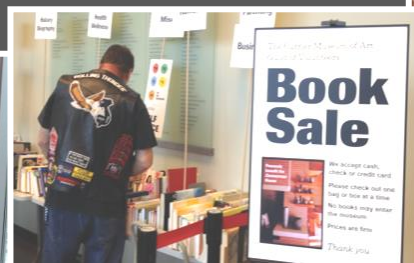
this project. Director of Facilities Operations Nelson Goddard and his team hauled almost 2,000 books to the Guild room, and then to the lobby. Museum Shop Manager Heidi Norton and Librarian/Archivist Meghan Petersen supplied essential bags and bookends, and invaluable advice. Director of PR & Marketing Steve Konick posted us on Facebook and sent Twitter feeds, and Director of Development Christine Louis guided us toward success.

It wouldn't have been possible without the volunteers who stepped up to help. Many thanks to everyone who generously donated books, and

especially to those who contributed their time and energy to this endeavor: Co-leaders Jan Conover and Marilyn Watson; and Susan Feltus, Pat Goss, Pam Harvey, Joann Jensen, Judy McKenna, Pat Meyers, Mary Morrison, Ann Richardson, Joan Sheldon, Barbara Shepler, Don Sieker, Cynthia Spinelli and Nancy Stewart.

Together, we made it happen. Thank you one and all.

Victoria Duffy  
*Zimmerman House*  
*Docent Chair*  
617-965-8999  
[victoriaduffydesign@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaduffydesign@gmail.com)



*Guild of Volunteers  
Book Sale  
October 5 & 6, 2013*

## A Conversation with. . . Kurt Sundstrom



**Kurt Sundstrom**  
Associate Curator

Kurt was born in Chicago and grew up in Grand Rapids, Mich. His parents believed the study of art, music, literature, math and science were all equally important. So, the family took regular trips to Chicago to visit the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Science and Industry, and Wrigley Field, where he learned how to lose with dignity.

He went to Beloit College and studied biochemistry the first couple of years, but changed his major after taking an introductory art history course. After college he interned for a year at the Art Institute of Chicago in the department of prints and drawings. After just a few days at the institute, he knew he wanted to be a curator. After the internship, he went to the University of Illinois and Florida State University.

**My favorite piece of art is . . .** Andrea del Verrocchio's *Doubting of Saint Thomas*. When I

was going to school in Florence, I would stop by the sculpture every night to just look and "listen." Sometimes it was a minute; sometimes an hour. I do not think any artist since has given visual expression to platonic love so beautifully.

**The art I like best . . .** stirs my mind and moves my heart. For example, no matter how many times I see Lorenzo Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise*, I am overtaken by emotion. The technical skill, artistic vision and aesthetic intuition embodied in the piece, to me, is the peak of human skill and creativity.

**If I weren't a curator I would be the . . .** first baseman for the Chicago Cubs. Since that dream died long ago, today I would like to live as a country gentleman in Italy.

**My least favorite type of art is . . .** pedantic, meaningless and

unnecessarily enigmatic.

**The last museum I visited was the . . .** Bargello National Museum in Florence, Italy.

**The best museum I've ever visited is . . .** Uffizi Gallery Museum also in Florence.

**I'm most proud of . . .** being trusted by the Currier executive staff and trustees to spend endowment money on works of art.

**My most memorable moment was when... I** discussed politics with Paul Newman while he was visiting the Currier.

**If I could have anything in the world, I'd get... a** vineyard in Italy.

**A quote I live by is... by** Dante Alighieri: "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis."

### Museum Shop Report

## African Goods Highlighted



**African-themed items are now available in the gift shop**

The Museum Shop will offer a 30 percent discount for Guild volunteers on Nov. 19 from 1 – 3 pm following the Semi-Annual Luncheon. In addition, a 30 percent discount will apply in the shop from Nov. 24 through Dec. 8 for staff and Guild volunteers.

There will be a member

discount of 10 percent on calendars in November and 10 percent on holiday cards in December. African merchandise is for sale to coincide with the Currier's current exhibition, *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*. These include fabric table runners, placemats, napkins, jewelry and baskets in all

sizes.

We have a large selection of prints, journals, children's gifts, cards, books, glass paperweights and other items suitable for holiday gift giving.

Sandra Chandonnet  
Museum Shop  
603-232-4684  
[Chandonnet42@msn.com](mailto:Chandonnet42@msn.com)

*Staff News*

## New Tour Programs Administrator



Alexis Nelson has been hired as Tour Programs Administrator. She will

oversee the reservations for all adult and student tours at the Currier and Zimmerman House, and manage these visits when they arrive. In addition, Alexis will help with the Educator Advisory Council and educator programs. She will coordinate docent-led focus tours and self-guided tours. Previous work included teaching middle school and high school, and working at the Montshire

Museum of Science in Norwich, Vt., teaching art programs to elementary grade visitors. You may remember Alexis when she was here a few summers ago as an intern helping with docent training, educator programs and other activities.

To better reflect how responsibilities have evolved over the years, the Public Programs Department has changed its name to Department of Interpretation and Audience Engagement. Directing the new program is Leah Fox, with Jane

Seney as Senior Educator, Lynn Thomson as Associate Educator for Adult and Family Audiences, and Alexis Nelson as Tour Programs Administrator. While they continue to focus their efforts on the museum/Zimmerman House experience, audience engagement now encompasses increased programming efforts in the community and through the web.

Chris Kassaras retired from his security position in October. He came to work at the museum in November of 2011. Since

joining the museum staff he has been a knowledgeable and dedicated officer. Chris took a great deal of pride in his job and in the museum as well, and has trained a number of personnel. He is highly respected in the department and will be missed.

Lynn Thomson  
*Guild Liaison and Associate Educator for Adult and Family Audiences*  
603-669-6144, ext. 151  
[lthomson@currier.org](mailto:lthomson@currier.org)

*Membership Report*

## New Museum Docents Welcomed

We have welcomed 29 new museum docents as part of the ongoing training. Barbara Shepler held an orientation workshop for the new class on Sept. 19 and four other volunteers joined the Guild since July. These four will help out in the museum shop, library,

business office, and curatorial department.

At the Semi-Annual Luncheon on Nov. 19, those who have earned service awards will be presented with their certificates. This event is a special time to celebrate

the depth and breadth of service the Guild provides to the museum, so please plan to attend.

As we all get comfortable with Volgistics software as a scheduling and time-tracking tool, please let me know if you need any

assistance. I check my home email every day, so for a quick response use home email.

Nancy Baker  
*Membership Chair*  
603-673-7659  
[ntbaker@att.net](mailto:ntbaker@att.net)  
[nbaker@currier.org](mailto:nbaker@currier.org)

*Special Projects/Ambassadors Report*

## Group Assists with Tours, Programs, Discovery Gallery

Special Projects and Ambassadors have been busy, not only assisting with family programs and tour groups, but also with a variety of other happenings.

Several members helped with the October book

sale both in the prep work and during the sale. Others assisted in preparing the Discovery Gallery for *Africa Interweave*, which involved cutting paper for a magnet interactive and cutting yarn for a weaving activity.

Additionally, several Special Projects volunteers acted as ushers during our recent play reading and film screening events. Thank you to all who assisted in making these programs and interactive spaces possible and successful.

Lynn Thomson  
*Guild Liaison and Associate Educator for Adult and Family Audiences*  
603-669-6144, ext. 15  
[lthomson@currier.org](mailto:lthomson@currier.org)



### Highclere Castle Museum Seen



#### Regional Museum Exhibitions of Interest

[Whitney Museum of American Art](#)  
New York City  
*Robert Indiana: Beyond LOVE*  
Sept. 26, 2013 - Jan. 5, 2014

[Museum of Fine Arts](#)  
Boston  
*John Singer Sargent Watercolors*  
Oct. 13, 2013 - Jan. 20, 2014

[Frick Collection](#)  
New York City  
*Vermeer*  
Oct. 22, 2013 - Jan. 19, 2014

[Winterthur Museum](#)  
Winterthur, Delaware  
*Costumes of Downton Abbey*  
March 1, 2014 - Jan. 4, 2015

Whether or not you are a dedicated fan of *Downton Abbey*, a trip to Highclere Castle, just outside London, is a great day outing away from the city's bustle. As you ride alongside green meadows and then crest a hill, this ornate Jacobethan castle comes into view and it is every bit as imposing and lovely as expected.

The property is owned by the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carnarvon and his second wife, who reside in this impressive home. Highclere has been continuously occupied by the Carnarvon family since 1679.

Capability Brown designed the gardens, and the grand scale and carving of the hillsides are this famed gardener's signature work. His nickname "Capability" comes from the "capabilities" he envisioned for Carnarvon's land. From the castle your eye wanders to a nearby hillside with a monument. This highest point is the final resting place of the present Earl's great grandfather who was famous for discovering King Tut's tomb in 1922, along with colleague, Howard Carter. There is a fascinating display of Kit Tut artifacts and replicas in the castle's

basement. This area is accessible to visitors, as are other gardens within easy walking distance of Highclere. One is Monks' Garden, which is a name derived from the Bishops of Winchester who owned the estate for 800 years before the Canarvon family.

Julian Fellowes, creator and writer of the *Downton Abbey* series, says the project came about by chance. Fellowes is a friend of the present earl. He had Highclere in mind when he conceived the television project. A lucky thing, for the fame of this well-loved BBC series has brought fortune to Highclere, which has been used for renovations and restoration.

Highclere's interior is what visitors really want to see. The state rooms – including the dining, drawing, smoking and music rooms – are open to the public. Not open are the family's private living space and kitchen. Visitors are warned photography is not allowed before entering a small library, adorned with family photos and memorabilia. Some rooms,

like the saloon, feel familiar as the rooms we've seen *Downton*'s characters, Lord and Lady Grantham, entertain in.

The dining room table can expand to seat 40 people. Hanging over the table is Flemish Baroque painter Anthony Van Dyck's huge equestrian portrait of Charles I. Superstition has it the portrait must never be removed from this room or the Carnarvon dynasty would lose possession of Highclere. The furniture is grand, but is also livable. If promotional material is to be believed, these rooms are used by the family and important visitors on a regular basis. Visitors can also see the second floor with the Grantham family's bedrooms and dressing rooms.

Highclere's [website](#) is full of information and photos. Whether you are a fan of homes like Highclere or a dedicated *Downton* groupie, make sure you book your reservation well-ahead for this popular tourist spot.

- Pat Howard



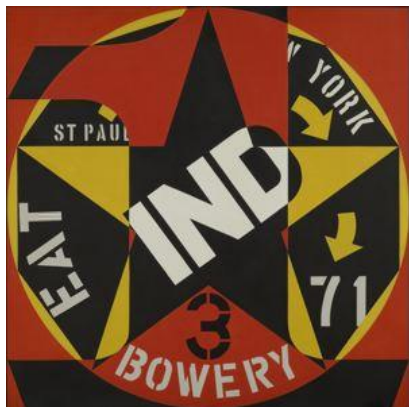
Pat Howard with her husband Don Logan and *Downton Abbey* characters the Earl of Grantham (far left) and Thomas (far right).



## Upcoming Currier Exhibition

**Signs from the Sixties: Robert Indiana's Decade**

**Nov. 27, 2013 — April 30, 2014**



*Robert Indiana, Decade Autoportrait  
1963, 1971, oil on canvas,  
48 x 48 in.*

*Museum Purchase:  
The Henry Melville Fuller  
Acquisition Fund, 2012.49.  
© 2013 Morgan Art Foundation / Artists  
Rights Society (ARS),  
New York.*

In the 1960s, Pop artist Robert Indiana achieved worldwide acclaim for his bold, graphical images composed of geometric shapes, short words and numbers, including his popular LOVE design,

which he used in paintings, sculptures and even a postage stamp in 1973. This exhibition features ten large, colorful silkscreen prints that formed Indiana's important portfolio entitled

*Decade*. The original silkscreens are composed of symbols and words that reflect Indiana's response to the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam War and art created by notable gay Americans. Indiana's

painting *Decade Autoportrait*, 1963 (1971), a new acquisition in the Currier collection, will be on view in the exhibition as a complement to these works on paper.

## African Drumming at First Thursday Live

The Akwaaba Traditional African Drum and Dance Ensemble consisting of Ensemble Director and member of the Currier Security Staff, Theo Martey, and ensemble members Ernest Borketey, Evelyn Morkor Martey, Michael Osendah and Kinsley Pipim performed in the Winter Garden Café as part of First Thursday Live on October 3 to celebrate the opening of *Africa Interweave: Textile Diasporas*.

