

# Docent Doings

April 2015

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## President's Message

Recently, a close docent friend asked, "What is it that has motivated you to remain a docent for so many years?"

My response may not be what you'd expect. Non-docent friends assume that I'm drawn to OCMA out of a passion for contemporary art; others believe it may be because of the chance to glimpse the behind-the-scenes workings of a cultural institution or even the opportunity to meet with artists at the museum or more privately in their studios.

Museum staff might speculate that the draw is entrée to exhibition openings, group excursions, free exhibition catalogs or perhaps even a discount in the now somewhat defunct museum gift shop.

While all of these are compelling benefits that I didn't expect at the onset, the thing that initially attracted me to the Docent Council was the chance to offer an important community service, one I believed in, as well as the promise of keeping my professional skills tuned and humming.

Of course, none of these incentives has been the glue. The true sticking stuff has been all of you. You, fellow docents, have created a group that I want to stick with, a group I want to call mine.

What is it about all of you that I find so magnetic? First and foremost, I love your thinking. I love how you embrace new and even challenging ideas, never hesitating to step outside your comfort zone to explore and, yes, to sometimes question the unusual or peculiar.

Then there's the fact that you all really understand the meaning of collaboration. You know how to roll up your sleeves and pitch in when there's a job to be done. You have understood the meaning of "it takes a village" long before it was a catch phrase. Whether it's brainstorming ideas about how to tour a new exhibition, researching titles for the book group reading list, cooking for a potluck feast, or solving problems that seem to threaten the solidarity of the Council, you make the jobs we have easier by sharing the workload and almost always enjoying the process.

While your brains and muscle prove incredible attributes, it's definitely your hearts that make all the difference. You motivate that shy young fourth grader to raise his hand; you comfort your fellow docent who has suffered great personal loss; you encourage our young OCMA staffers to explore new possibilities.

So, yes, because of all of you, I'm still here, looking to you to show your mettle, even when times seem tough.

Nancy Kiddie

President  
Sustaining Docent 1999

*Editor's Note:*

*Inspired by this month's message from Nancy, I would like to invite everyone to reflect upon their own motivations for belonging to the OCMA Docent Council, and to consider sharing these stories in next month's Docent Doings.*

## **A Note of Thanks**

The prospect of moving away from everyone I know and love and everything that I have grown accustomed to is becoming more and more of a reality. It is hard for me to believe that it has been just more than a month since the heartfelt farewell party organized by my museum family. I cannot tell you all how much it has meant to me to be given the gift of your presence, your thoughtfulness and your kindness over the past nine years. The going away party that you hosted for me highlighted all of those elements in one beautiful (and for me, emotional) afternoon. I so appreciate you including my mom and my fiancé Trevor in the festivities. I loved being able to merge my worlds, sharing aspects of my professional life and allowing them an opportunity to meet all of the wonderful docents that they had heard so much about.

Thank you Barbara for opening your beautiful home for the celebration. Thank you to Gale for organizing the delicious potluck and crafting the personalized napkins. Thank you to the countless docents who provided amazing food and thoughtful notes of support and encouragement. Thank you to Jeanne, Nancy, and the other docents who banded together to collect

photos of my near decade at OCMA and created a timeless book of memories. Thank you to Lynda who oversaw the collection for a most generous going away gift. As the planning of the festivities were kept secret to me, I don't know who else specifically to thank, but know that there could have been no greater send off. I was so deeply touched by the party and have reflected back on the experience often over the last month. I am so incredibly lucky. Teaching and working with the incredible OCMA docent community has been one of the most joyous and uplifting experiences of my life.

In looking forward to where I'm going, it's of course unavoidable for me to reflect on where I've been. At its most basic, a museum is an institution that collects and displays objects. Being fascinated by the art on the gallery walls and the artists who created it, I found myself drawn to museums and their collections. What I didn't grasp when I began working in a museum was that the objects were simply a catalyst for a whole new world of discovery. For me, the objects only came to life through close observation, boundless wondering, and lots of discussion with astute friends and colleagues (aka my fellow gallery educators). The objects inspired dialogue about otherwise unknowable topics and allowed me to discover insights about myself, my community, and the world at large.

As I prepare to move out of my apartment, I find myself contemplating objects once again, albeit of a slightly different kind. I sit surrounded by my belongings, sifting through what will join me in Maine, what will be tossed, and what will be stored while I am away. While I cannot spend as much time as I did in the museum contemplating each

object (as that would make an already untenable moving process even less tenable), that doesn't make each object any less loaded with meaning.

While I filter through my belongings, I have come across so many reminders of my work with docents: a Guatemalan worry doll, a chic black and white scarf gifted to me after a training class, and countless docent training notebooks. Many of these items will make their way with me to whatever the future holds for me and Trevor. However, what I am most struck by are the things that won't take any space in my car as I drive across the country—the memories, lessons, and endless joy that I have gained from my years spent working with this incredible group. Thank you for all that you have given me. I am a better teacher, better administrator, and overall better person because of each and every one of you. Thank you. You have given me the courage and fortitude to move on to greener pastures and set forth on a new epic adventure.

Warmest regards,  
Jenni

### **Docent Kudos**

Kudos to Gale Edelberg for planning a wonderful goodbye party for Jenni and Barbara DeGroot for opening her home for the occasion. Big thanks to Mary Blacker, Diane Cherniss, Barbara DeGroot, Valerie Greeley, Katherine Jacobs, Pat Jorgensen, Anita Mishook, Bonita Stern, and Lynda Wilson for making themselves available for additional tours.

### **Important Dates to Remember**

**04.06.15/10:00am**

**Docent Council Board Meeting**

**04.06.15/11:30am**

**Docent Council Book Club**

Join fellow docents in the community room for a discussion around docent Anne Grob's play [The Glass Gallery](#).

**04.10.15/7:00pm**

**Cinema Orange | *Sign Painters***

Watch a special screening of *Sign Painters* on OCMA's Lyon Auditorium. *Sign Painters*, directed by Faythe Levine and Sam Macon, explores the unacknowledged art form of sign painting through anecdotal accounts from artists across the country.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** StuffNIt Burger food truck onsite

**7:00pm – 8:30pm** Film screening

**8:30pm – 9:00pm** Live sign painter demonstration

**04.13.15/10:00am**

**Docent Council Meeting & Movie Screening: *Dorothy and Herb***

Join fellow docents in the Lyon Auditorium for a Docent Council meeting followed by a screening of *Dorothy and Herb*, a 2008 documentary film by [Megumi Sasaki](#). The film tells the story of two middle-class collectors of [contemporary art](#), [Herbert and Dorothy Vogel](#), and the enormous and valuable collection of [conceptual art](#) and [minimalist art](#) they amassed in spite of their relatively meager salaries as New York City civil servants.

**04.15.15/1:00pm**

***My Generation* exhibition presentation**

Join fellow docents and support groups for a presentation on our upcoming

summer/fall exhibition *My Generation* with curator Barbara Pollack. This will be a great opportunity to hear directly from the curator on background and insights and ask questions.

**04.17.15/6:00pm**

***Fanatic: A zine workshop***

OCMA's *Fanatic* celebrates the history and modern iteration of the "zine," with legendary zine artists and scholars in conversation, drop-in workshops led by print and sound artist Rob Brown and As Issued Art + Design Bookstore.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** Soho Taco food truck onsite

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** *BOOKMOBILE Project* onsite

**6:00pm – 7:00pm** Zine artists in conversation

**7:00pm – 9:00pm** Zine workshop

**04.25.15/6:00pm**

**Riot @ the Museum: *The Sex Stains***

Dance to the sounds of punk music from around OC and watch performances by original Riot GRRRL band members including Allison Wolfe of *Bratmobile* and *Partyline*.

**6:00pm – 9:00pm** Ninjas with Appetite food truck onsite

**8:00pm** Galleries close

**6:00pm** *Kim & The Created* perform

**7:00pm – 9:00pm** *The Sex Stains* perform

## **2015 Spring Exhibitions Research**

Research for the current exhibitions is available online at:

<https://spring2015ocma.wordpress.com/>

Additionally, the following documentaries are available online to help you further understand the Riot

Grrrl and DIY (Do-It-Yourself) movements:

Riot Grrrl Documentaries

[The Punk Singer](#) (Netflix)

[GRRRL](#) (excerpt)

[Don't Need You: The Herstory of Riot](#)

[Grrrl](#) (Youtube)

Riot Grrrl Film

[Ladies and Gentleman, The Fabulous Stains](#) (Netflix)

DIY Documentaries

[Roll Up Your Sleeves](#) (Vimeo)

[Makers](#) (Vimeo)

[DIY or Die](#) (Netflix)

## **May Reading Group Selection**

[The Blazing World](#), by Siri Hustvedt, will be discussed on Monday, May 4 2015.

## **Upcoming Birthdays**

### **April:**

Barbara Klein – 4/16

Joyce Rosenblum – 4/25

### **May:**

Robert Butnik – 5/3

Patricia Gibson – 5/13

Dagny Thorgilsdottir – 5/13

Pat Jorgenson – 5/15

Connie Sakamoto – 5/24

Anita Mishook – 5/26

Maxine Cohen – 5/28

## **Call for Contributors**

As always, *Docent Doings* is looking to increase its offerings of unique, original content pertaining to the OCMA docent experience. If you attend a fieldtrip, view a film during Movie Madness, take part in book club, or participate in any other docent activity and are interested in writing about your experience, we'd love to hear from you!

**\*\*In the spirit of this month's President's Message, please consider sharing the story behind your own involvement with OCMA's**

**Docent Council in the upcoming edition of *Docent Doings*.**

## **Deadline for the next *Docent Doings***

Monday, April 27, 2015

Submit all copy to:  
[desiree.glenn@gmail.com](mailto:desiree.glenn@gmail.com)