

Bowers Docent Guild
Sapphire Celebration and Awards Luncheon

Anne Llewellyn, Vice Chair

Monday, June 11, 2018

Awards Presentations

Good Afternoon, my name is Anne Llewellyn and I am the Vice Chair of our Docent Guild. The happy responsibility of the Vice Chair is to recognize and honor docents receiving our annual awards. The Awards Luncheon is also a time to celebrate our entire community of docents and to thank all of you for your dedicated service.

I would like to thank Anne Shih, Chairwoman of the Bowers Museum Board of Governors, Dr. Peter Keller, President, and Emily Mahon, Senior Director of Education, for coming here today to support our Guild and join us in celebrating the excellence contributed by Docents to the success of Bowers Museum. Thank you, too, to Donna Ray for her leadership this past year, and to Mark Nelson, Hospitality Chair, for planning this wonderful event.

Today is the Docent Guild's special **Sapphire Celebration** as we observe our 45th Anniversary. The Chairs of our celebration are Karen Rote and Pam Wheless, both past chairs of the Guild. Other members of our 45th Anniversary Committee are Sandy Bass, Raquel Garcia, Mark Nelson, Ginny Nishigaya, Donna Ray, Nancy Schager, Carole Van Houten, Kathryn Watton, and myself. Sandy, Ginny, and Carole are also past chairs of the Guild. Thanks to Raquel Garcia, the event has moved into the multimedia age with video and PowerPoint presentations to engage us!

Our Sapphire Celebration is enhanced by two bold actions: (1) The Board renamed the Guild's Community Connection Award the "Anne Shih Community Connection Award"; and (2) The Guild jumpstarted a new campaign to build the Bowers Museum Docent Guild Endowment Fund to secure our future.

I'll talk about the Endowment Fund later but want to begin with honoring Anne Shih who has been Chairwoman of the Bowers Museum Board of Governors since 2010. Anne is the Docent Guild's most ardent supporter and an "Honorary Docent." The Community Connection Award, renamed for her, is presented to a Docent who has directly connected the Guild to the community beyond Bowers. Anne is a master at engaging diverse external communities in supporting the Museum including community and civic leaders, friends, high value donors, and exhibit providers and sponsors. She has earned a well-deserved reputation in Orange County as an ambassador of cross-cultural understanding and an appreciation for the arts.

Anne, we are pleased to give you this crystal commemorative in appreciation for your many acts of kindness, generosity, and friendship to the Docent Guild. It says:

“Honoring Anne Shih in inaugurating the Anne Shih Community Connection Award, Sapphire Celebration, Docent Guild, 2018.”

Anne, please come forward to receive your gift. We hope you will say a few words!!

Thank you so much!

The first award today is the **Anne Shih Community Connection Award**. This award is presented to a docent who has directly connected the Guild to the community beyond Bowers. The docent must have at least three years of service. Significant impact on the community is the major criteria.

This year’s award recipient has been both an employee of Bowers Museum and a volunteer Docent: **Mette Djokovich**. Congratulations, Mette! *Please come forward and accept the Guild’s first Anne Shih Community Connection Award.*

Here are some comments made by Docents who nominated Mette for the award.

- As a 1st Sunday weekend Docent **Mette** connects with Santa Ana’s Latino community through presenting the Pre-Colombian cart and sharing the cultural heritage behind its objects.
- As Special Events Coordinator for the Guild, **Mette** makes sure the Museum’s after-hours events are staffed with Docents. She has a committee of Docents willing to tour these events. (Thanks to all of you who do!) If no one volunteers, Mette covers the event. She comes to every event to make sure all is well and to fill in, if needed.
- In Board meetings **Mette** expresses great concern for her work as Special Events Coordinator. She made the decision to come to each event so that she could connect to the community organization or business involved to thank them for coming and to convey how important they are to Bowers. After-hours events are critical to the Museum: providing an educational component through Docent touring supports the Museum’s vital nonprofit status.
- **Mette** reaches out to the community of visitors during and after museum hours. She has demonstrated great diligence and interest in specialized after-hours community work.
- A recent example of her commitment to Bowers and its varied communities was volunteering to represent the Museum at the June 2nd PTA Workshops for the Orange County Department of Education. Emily Mahon had sent out a last-minute request to Docents when a staff person was unable to attend. **Mette** quickly came to the rescue.

As you've heard in these comments, **Mette** is ready and willing to jump in where needed to fulfill the Docent Guild's obligation to serve communities outside Bowers.

Many thanks for your dedication to the Guild and Museum.

Please say a few words. Thank you!

The **Life Appreciation Award**, our second award today, is given to a Docent for having actively contributed to the Guild for a minimum of 15 years. It is presented to a Docent having special qualities that reflect the highest standards of the Docent Guild. This award is voted upon and awarded each year by the Docent Guild Board. This year the Board unanimously chose **Carole Van Houten**. Congratulations, Carole! *Please come forward and accept your Life Appreciation Award.*

Carole has been a docent for 34 years. She joined the Guild in 1984 and has been Chair, Vice Chair, Program Chair, Speakers Bureau Chair, Mentor Co-Chair, and Parliamentarian. She received the Ann Spencer Award in 1998. Carole is unique among Docent Guild members in that she is also a member of the Bowers Museum Board of Governors, serving on that Board for more than ten years.

Here are some comments made by Board members who nominated her:

- As a 34-year docent, **Carol** has been an integral part of this Guild. She commanded the helm as Chair from 1992-1994. Her leadership and dedication has assisted us in maintaining the outstanding qualities of this organization. As a member of the Museum's Board of Governors, she is our "voice" in matters that pertain to our high standards of touring. She has a life-long love of quilts and had presented a delightful outreach program entitled "Under the Covers with Carole."
- **Carole** feels free to ask questions and voice her opinions in General Meetings, which is helpful to others who may be reluctant to speak up.
- **Carole** has been an Active Docent for 34 years. She continues to attend training and professional development sessions and other Docent events, successfully lobbies Dr. Keller and the Governing Board for Museum improvements, and models friendship and cooperation with new and seasoned docents.
- I have enjoyed asking Carole questions about the Museum's and the Guild's histories and she has always been helpful and insightful. The new lighting throughout the Historic Wing results from her advocacy efforts. Visitors can finally see and enjoy the fabulous Historic Ceiling in the Fluor Gallery.
- **Carole** is a gracious and informed Docent who helps visitors enjoy the Bowers as much as she does!

Carole, many thanks for your dedication to the Guild and Museum.

I hope you'll say a few words. Thank you!

Like the Anne Shih Community Connection Award, **the next two awards** are based on nominations made by all of you. Thank you to everyone who nominated fellow Docents. Recipients of last year's awards reviewed all of the nominations. We then convened to discuss the awards and make the final selections. For each award, past recipients are ineligible to receive it again.

The Ann Spencer Award is named for the founder and first Chair of the Docent Guild in 1973. This award is presented to a Docent for continually having made outstanding contributions to the Guild. This Docent must have at least seven years of service.

The 2018 Ann Spencer Award recipient joined the Docent Guild in 2001. She has been Corresponding Secretary, School Outreach Chair, Parliamentarian, Day Captain, Weekend Day Captain Chair, Vice Chair, and is our current Chair -- **Donna Ray**.

Please come forward to accept your award.

Here are some comments from Docents who nominated Donna for the award.

- Over the past 2 ½ years Donna has led the Guild through challenging times with grace, humor, and a calm demeanor.
- Donna has done a wonderful job in not only leading the Docent Guild but building a stronger, more positive relationship between the Docent Guild and the Museum's Education Department.
- Donna's many hours of dedicated service to the Guild has set the gold standard!
- During the past 2 ½ years Donna and her Board members have encountered many challenges and have found solutions that have kept the Guild on an even keel. Each challenge has been handled by Donna with confidence, humor, and outstanding leadership skill.
- Donna has taken great pleasure in being Chair of the Docent Guild and has conveyed this attitude to generate enthusiasm in both the Board and Docent members. Donna was steadfast in addressing and building morale through a period of change. The Guild is stronger now than it was when she began.
- In the past, Donna contributed many hours presenting the Guild's Bowhotep Egyptian Mummy to students in their classrooms – a special enjoyment for her.

- Over the years, Donna has found many ways to experience and support joy within the Docent Guild – a great advantage for us all!

With all of her contributions, Donna is the perfect recipient of the Ann Spencer Award.

Donna, congratulations!

Please say a few words. Thank you!

The final annual Guild award, Kennedy Docent of the Year, is named for Donald Kennedy, a former member of the Board of Governors and a generous benefactor to Bowers Museum. It is presented to a Docent for a special project that was undertaken during the current year. The Docent must have at least three years of service.

Once again, the Kennedy Docent of the Year was our most competitive award this year, with several strong candidates. The Award recipient, **Rita Slayton**, received 13 nominations. Rita, *please come forward and accept your well-deserved Kennedy Docent of the Year Award.*

Here are some examples from the nomination forms:

- Rita, more than any other Docent in the Guild this year, acted strategically in designing and implementing a project that reached to the core of Guild priorities: new Docent recruitment. Coming into Membership two years ago, she noted that talented Docents were beginning to leave in higher numbers than would have been anticipated. In addition, our training classes were drawing lower numbers. The centerpiece of her solution was an Open House/ Member Recruitment event in July 2017. Her collaboration with the Museum brought new assets to this effort: promotion in Museum publications and on the Museum's Facebook page as well as a new "Become a Docent" brochure. This broader reach has brought more varied professionals into the Guild, bringing new skills that are strengthening our organization.
- Rita expanded the scope and reach of membership recruitment to one of active engagement. She spent countless hours emailing prospective docents, following up their questions, plus managed the applications, interviews, and first meeting to select the provisional classes.
- While performing her duties as Membership Chair, Rita also initiated and documented procedures to insure continuity. Rita's most outstanding contribution to the Guild is the Recruitment Event she organized, which resulted in the largest fall and spring provisional classes in several years.
- Rita's organization, communication, and follow through as well as putting a responsible committee together resulted in a very successful Recruitment Event.

- The Docent Guild has been rescued because of Rita’s Recruitment Project! The morning Docent roster is rejuvenated, and the weekend teams, where there are also serious shortages, will gradually be replenished. She’s developed a format for the future, so it can continue to grow, supporting both Bowers Museum and our beloved Docent Guild. Now, that’s a mighty team effort!

Rita, please say a few words. Thank you!

We can all be proud of the Docent Guild’s **2018 Award Recipients** – and the outstanding work and contributions made by all of them!

For the past three years, the Docent Guild has also selected a “**Docent Guild Staff Person of the Year.**”

At our May General Meeting, the Docent Guild honored **Lesley Ann Hamilton** as our “**Staff Person of the Year**” for 2018. Lesley has been the Assistant to Dr. Peter Keller, President of Bowers, since July 2007. One purpose of this annual award is helping Docents to learn more about Bowers’ staff and what they do. For me and many other Docents, Lesley is my “go-to” person. She answers every question I ask, and tells me where to find information, or whom to see. Over the years, Lesley says she has learned you cannot live by wine alone, sometimes you must add chocolate! A motto we can all live by! Read more about Lesley in my article in the June *Docent Digest*.

New Active Docents

Will Andrea Krupka, Pam Wheless, and Sherry Wright, this spring’s provisional trainers, please come forward to introduce us to two new Active Docents. Congratulations and Thank you!

Special Recognition for 20+ Year Docents

I now want to acknowledge and thank **14 Active Docents who have served between 20 and 42 years**, an outstanding contribution to the Museum and our Guild. As I mention your name and the number of years you’ve served, **will you please stand up at your table**. We’ll applaud all of you once all the names have been read.

We’ll begin with **Ginny Nishigaya** who received her 40-year service award two years’ ago, This year marks 42! Amazing! From 1985 to 1988 Ginny served as the Guild’s Board Chair, the longest Chair tenure in our history.

30+ year docents are:

Betty Koines (38),
Kathy Johnson (35), and
Carole Van Houten (34)

Ginny, Betty, Kathy, and Carole have all been honored with **Life Appreciation Awards**. Along with Ann Andres, they form the formidable 4th Tuesday PM team.

Other recipients of this prestigious award who are here today include: Marge Frost, Mary Jane Schrader, Meredith Wylie, and Pam Wheless.

Those who have served 20 – 29 Years are:

Metta Djokovich and Mary Jane Schrader (27)
Barbara Lubke and Meredith Wylie (24)
Sandy Bass, Mary Ann Mooney, and Jo Shelton (23)
Jean Drum (21)
Cathy Choma and Carol Colodny (20)

Bowers Museum Docent Guild Endowment Fund

I want to come back, now, to the **Bowers Museum Docent Guild Endowment Fund**. As part of the 45th Anniversary Sapphire Celebration, the Guild created an awareness campaign that included a “Donate Now” button on the Guild’s Website. The Fund’s purpose is to secure our future! The Museum and Guild are both hopeful we can engage Docents and Museum members in building this vital resource that will benefit the diverse families and communities we serve for many years to come.

I would like to recognize Docents who have already been inspired to contribute to the Endowment. Donors through the Website include: Doug Burch, Kathy Calkins, Marcia Hackett, Andrea Krupka, Anne Llewellyn, Donna Ray, Karen Rote, Pam Wheless, Ellen Winter, and Sherry Wright.

In addition, Sylvia Schmidt (Active), and Barbara Roberts (Associate). contributed through the Bowers' membership system.

Our goal for this year, ending in December, is \$45,000 in recognition of our 45th Anniversary.

My final presentation is the **Board Chair’s Appreciation Gift**. Donna, will you please step forward. The Docent Guild Board and membership are grateful for the energy, commitment, and competence with which you assumed leadership of our Guild in January 2016. 2 ½ years later ... we are still grateful!

To show our appreciation, we are pleased to present you with a gift certificate from – where else – the Bowers Museum Store. Best of all, it comes with a bottle of wine! Last week you chaired your last Board Meeting, and today you are hosting your last Docent Luncheon. Now you can put up your feet, relax, and enjoy a glass (or bottle) of wine. Thank you and all good wishes!

Thank you so much ... and congratulations to all of you.