

# Volunteers at GRAM

A Newsletter for and about Volunteers at the Grand Rapids Art Museum February, 2010 Volume 2 # 3



## Volunteer of the Month: HELEN BEUKER

The Grand Rapids Art Museum wants to congratulate Helen Beuker for being selected as the Volunteer of the Month. Helen volunteers as a docent and this is why she became a docent: I always said that when I retired as an English teacher at GRCC, whatever volunteer

work I did would have to provide me an opportunity to learn. About eight years ago, when I finally got tired of Nancy Clouse's hectoring, I joined the Docent League at GRAM, apprehensively, as I knew so little about art.

Thank goodness for the marvelous training GRAM offers us docents and for the nurture and encouragement of other docents who so willingly share their knowledge and their extensive experiences as museum tour guides.

What she likes best about being a docent is the chance to learn and to discover some new ways to teach. Each tour is different and involves homework and challenges. What appeals to and turns on one group falls flat with another. So we docents do lots of improvising! It's wonderful to open the eyes of visitors to new insights we can help them discover.

Helen is married to a retired banker who is really nice about visiting art museums with her and even read parts of an art book once. They have one daughter, also a college professor.

Helen volunteers at Blodgett Hospital and Breton Manor. She enjoys theatre, music, reading, and travel.



## Staff Profile

### DAN VAN DE STEEG

Dan earned his bachelors in Art and Education from Calvin College in 1997. After substitute teaching for a year and a half, he started to work at GRAM as a security guard hoping to attain a position in the education department. Slowly he transitioned into the curatorial department as the preparator, greatly enjoying direct

contact with artwork on a daily basis, and now is focused on artwork made on paper. While he performs various tasks, he spends most of his time in the basement mounting, matting and framing artwork made on paper.

Dan loves the opportunity to take care of art work and contribute to the education of the public here at GRAM. Outside of GRAM, Dan loves storytelling every week to the Kindergarten through Fourth graders at his church. He also pursues creativity with adults in discussion groups, collaborative writing projects, and occasionally drawing, painting or sculpting.

From Dan: "My encouragement to volunteers is to remind viewers that creativity is engrained in life and therefore not found solely inside an art museum. We at GRAM have the great opportunity to expose people to beauty in ways they may not normally see. Respect for the artwork inside GRAM (visually and physically) will naturally encourage our guests to respect art outside of GRAM, and eventually art as a whole. Everyone has what it takes to be part of the art world because everyone has creativity inside of them. I believe we need to affirm this and then encourage that creativity to be used. What fun to be in your position!"

## First Quarter Volunteer Hours of 120 Volunteers +

	October	Nov.	Dec.	
TOTAL				
Docents	235	244	174.75	653.75
Gift Shop	41.5	45	20	106.5
Visitor Services	33	32	30	95
Library	61.25	44	51	156.25
Special Events	28.25	2	7	37.25
Membership	19.25	8.5	3.5	31.25
Administration	6	6	3	15
Education	5	6	13.5	24.5
Other 0			2#	160.5*
TOTAL	418.5 -	389.5 -	305.75 -	1274.25

+ does not include parties # Grounds

\* Holiday Party 60.5 and New Years Party 100

## Volunteer Birthdays and Stories

We would like to recognize birthdays, not years, in the newsletter. Please provide Erin with your birthday the next time you come in. You could write it down on the sign in sheet at the Education Desk. Also we would like to recognize exhibitions of the volunteers and share other stories with each other as well. Please send these to Chris Overvoorde via email, so that we can easily incorporate them in the layout. We would welcome pictures and announcements as well. send the all to: [over@calvin.edu](mailto:over@calvin.edu)

## VOLUNTEER COUNCIL REPORT

The Volunteer Council met on January 15, 2010. We reviewed the final details of the Volunteer Mixer and added the names of the Trustees to the invitation list. Next we reviewed "Volunteers at GRAM" and concluded that in forthcoming issues we should include the Volunteer of the Month, a profile of Board of Trustee members, and a staff profile. A rotation schedule was set up for the various areas the volunteers serve: docent, library, visitor services, special events, education, gift shop, and administration for the Volunteer of the Month. The appropriate department will select the volunteer. Council members are not to be considered for this selection.

The Volunteer Luncheon has been scheduled for May 17, 2010 and the Sub-Committee members, Jon Carfagno, Erin Glupker, Janelle Hill, Chris Overvoorde, and Pat Nelson will review the nature of the awards, the badges, and plan the program.

Various roles were discussed for the Council members and at the next meeting we will further define these roles and make assignments so that we can function more effectively as a full Council.

A discussion took place regarding sign-in procedures. We will continue to explore ways to improve the current system and explore how this is done in other places.

A new issue arose regarding tipping of volunteers. After some discussion it was agreed that the Council will consider a policy on this matter at the next meeting. This policy will become part of the Volunteer Handbook.

Progress on the Volunteer Wall was shared and after reviewing the possibilities it was recommended that we place symbols after peoples names to indicate their volunteer role at GRAM. The names would be listed alphabetically. People with more than one area of service will be recognized this way without repeating their names. It was further recommended that the glass wall be displayed upstairs so that the public can see the what volunteers do at the museum.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2010 and the agenda will include two volunteer concerns; a volunteer lounge and parking.

*Dutch Utopia Exhibition*



## Board Profile

### Charlie Stehouwer

Charley Stehouwer has been associated with the Grand Rapids Art Museum for over 10 years. He has served as Treasurer/ Secretary for the last 6 years and in that capacity has worked with the Finance Committee on budgetary planning and strategic planning for the museum as a whole. He has served the community in other ways as well including Mission India- has traveled to India previously, Grand Rapids Christian Schools, West Side Christian Schools, Senior Neighbors and Habitat for Humanity. His is retired from Deloitte and Touche.

Charley graduated from Calvin College with a B.A degree and received his M.B.A from the University of Michigan. His is married and has three children, two of whom are married and two of them have a PhD.

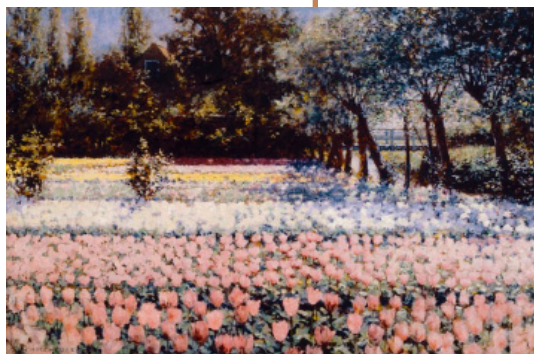
Charley stated: The Board of Trustees is grateful to help support such a committed group of volunteers and he feels that the health of the museum depends on volunteers—we couldn't function without them.



*Calder Jewelry Exhibition*



*The Legacy of Armand Merizon*



## EXHIBITIONS

### Calder Jewelry

January 29 – April 18, 2010

### The Legacy of Armand Merizon

March 12-April 11, 2010

### Side by Side: Alten and Chamberlain

April 16 – May 30, 2010

### Art in Bloom

May 7, 8, 9, 2010

### Dutch Utopia

May 21 – August 15

Exhibition Preview

Thursday May 20, 2010

### Chris Stoffel Overvoorde: Albert Drawings

May 21 – August 15, 2010