

# Volunteers *at* GRAM

A Newsletter for and about Volunteers at Grand Rapids Art Museum

APRIL, 2011 Volume 3#3

## **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH DORIS ANDERSON**

Doris was selected to be the Volunteer of the month of April and we were in contact with each other to celebrate her numerous contributions to GRAM since 1996. She served at the Guest Service Desk for many years, welcoming guests and providing information about the exhibitions. Doris also served on the Volunteer Association Council, as a member, and as President. In that capacity she also was a member of the Board of Trustees of GRAM through the Building Campaign, from October 1, 2005 - September 30, 2008.



On Wednesday April 6, 2011, Doris passed away. We will miss her warm smile and welcoming words. We express our sympathy to her husband Clarence and the rest of the Anderson Family, wishing them comfort and strength in their loss. Below are some additional reflections from the staff at GRAM. *Chris Overvoorde, Volunteer Council President*

"I will remember Doris as a very loving and elegant lady who loved GRAM and all of us who worked here."  
*Mary Panek, Development Director*

"Doris was the kind of person who would go out of her own way just to ask how you were doing. Not even how you were doing; she was sincerely interested in how your wife, your kids, and even your pets were doing. She was an incredibly compassionate and abundantly generous woman who will be missed greatly by everyone who knew her as a friend." *Matt Jonker, Head of Security*

"Doris Anderson made Tuesday special at GRAM. She assisted members and guests with a smile and easy manner and unlimited energy. Doris was an advocate for art patrons, had her pulse on museum events, helped visitors feel GRAM was their home-away-from-home and actively participated in community arts and cultural affairs. Tuesdays will not be the same without her." *Stephanie Neal, Planned Giving Officer*

"Doris was such an amazing person, the type of person most of us aspire to be, selfless and always kind, and I

always looked forward to seeing her on Tuesdays." *Natalie Thomas, Marketing and PR Assistant*

**Memorial Contributions for Seeley Fund:** The Anderson family has asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Doris Anderson to the Seeley Fund at Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids, MI 40503. The Seeley Fund was created as a tribute to Constance Ryan Seeley. Concy volunteered for several decades at Grand Rapids Art Museum. Her brother, Alan Ryan, and his wife Margaret wanted to create a lasting legacy to Concy's volunteerism and love for Grand Rapids Art Museum. Investment income from the Seeley Fund is used to promote volunteer and education programs at GRAM.

## **STAFF PROFILE AJ PASCHKA**

AJ Paschka moved to Grand Rapids from Pinckney, Michigan in 1997 to attend Kendall College of Art and Design. He graduated from KCAD with a Bachelor of Fine Arts concentrating in photography. After school Paschka lived in a variety of cities and returned back to Grand Rapids in late 2004.



He began working part-time as a preparator's assistant in 2006. Paschka became full-time staff in 2007. In 2008, he became Manager of Film, Photo, and New Media. Since the time that he began, AJ has installed exhibitions, produced videos and audio tours, and managed the website, photography, email, and GRAM's media equipment.

He admires the dedication and hard work of GRAM volunteers, and loves the rewards of engaging the public in conversations about art. "Keep up the fantastic work and enjoy the interactions!" says AJ.

AJ Paschka mainly works in the administrative offices, however he can be found in any department at any given time. He enjoys listening to visitors talk in the galleries and attending to the many lectures at GRAM.

When not working, he is interested in culinary arts, entrepreneurship, and foreign language.

**VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON**  
**Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**  
**Monday, May 23, 2011-12 noon, Cook Auditorium**

## FROM THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR- GRAM Docents Enjoy a Day of Learning and Fun!



On Monday, April 4, the Grand Rapids Art Museum's docent program traveled to the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (KIA) to participate in the Gathering of West Michigan Docents. This annual event brings together volunteer gallery teachers from the KIA, GRAM, and the Muskegon Museum of Art for sessions that discuss programming, tour strategies, and highlights in the galleries. The day's agenda also provided the opportunity to socialize, make new friends, and connect with volunteers from the other organizations.

This year, the KIA featured their new East Asian art gallery, which currently houses a spectacular array of Japanese prints from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. GRAM's docents also had the chance to view *The Wyeths: America's Artists* and learn more about the KIA's newly opened interactive gallery for youth and family audiences. The day concluded with a spectacular luncheon that was catered by Chin Chin: an Asian Bistro and the chance to purchase some unique gifts at the KIA's Gallery Shop. We look forward to next year's event, which will be hosted by the Muskegon Museum of Art during their centennial celebration.

*Jon Carfagno*



## TRUSTEE PROFILE JASON PATER

Jason has served as Trustee on GRAM's Board of Directors since the fall of 2008, and is active in the Accession and Development subcommittees.

Jason graduated with double majors in Business and Spanish from Hope College and earned his MBA at Michigan State University. He currently serves as the Vice-President at Westwater Group, a West Michigan-based investment and management company. Prior to joining Westwater, he worked in new business development at National Heritage Academies for eight years.

Jason has served on several area boards and committees, most recently completing nine years of service on the Board of Directors of The Potter's House School, which he chaired for the past four years. Potter's House is an inner-city, faith based school,



where 95% of students receive scholarship assistance in order to allow them to attend the school.

Jason loves to travel, and his most recent adventure took him to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. This passion may explain some of his dedication to GRAM, as he believes that art, like

travel, has a similar ability to transport us to other places - be it to another culture, another place or time period, or inside a particular artist's mind. He hopes that others will continue to see their own passions intersect with GRAM, so that more members of the community can have the shared experience of creating and enjoying art.

### GRAM Association Volunteer Council:

Chris Overvoorde - President,  
Janelle Hill - Secretary/Vice President,  
Barbara Paull - Hospitality Officer,  
Garrick Rollert - Record Keeper,  
Margaret Thomas - Member,  
Alan Bedell - Docent Council President,  
Erin Glupker - Education Staff,  
Jon Carfagno - Education Director.