

Donor Profile: Bob and Joanne Gianniny

Next time you're in the 17th-century European Gallery, pay special attention to the wall text. In addition to descriptions of such masterworks as Ruysch's *Floral Still Life* and Snyders's *Fox and the Heron*, there's a plaque recognizing the room as the gift of Robert and Joanne Gianniny.

This capital campaign gift, to the "Challenge for the Eighties," is one of a long list of contributions dating back to the 1960s.

In just the past decade, the Gianninys have made a major donation to "Let the Art Live On"—the campaign that raised more than \$10 million for the Gallery's operating endowment. They've paid to refurbish two Cutler Union parlors that provide a steady source of rental income for the Gallery. And they've been generous contributors to numerous annual campaigns and special projects.

A private tour

Most recently, the Gianninys were the lead sponsors for the Director's Audiotour. It's not the first time they have been involved in such a project—in 1988 they underwrote a prototype version. That tour was retired because the technology available at the time made it impossible to change the audio when an object was loaned or moved. With the

new, state-of-the-art system, there's no such problem: it relies on "random access" tour stops that a visitor can enter in any order.

In addition to lending financial support, Bob Gianniny persuaded director Grant Holcomb to lend his voice to the tour. The result is an intensely personal experience—"a private tour" of the type both Gianninys have enjoyed in New York City and elsewhere.



GARY GRAHAM

At a 1990 preview of *Furniture by Wendell Castle*, Bob and Joanne Gianniny got a tour from the artist.

Volunteers extraordinaire

The Gianninys' contributions have not only been financial. Bob was elected to the Board of Managers in 1968 (he is still an honorary member) and served as President from 1988 to 1990. He was instrumental in creating Corporate Council, a membership level for companies giving \$1,000 or more, and helped establish the Patron Print program, a popular benefit for upper-level members.

As for Joanne, she has served on the Gallery Council board



RICHARD P. WEISINGER

and helped organize major events including Art in Bloom, which she cochaired in 1990.

Art in Bloom, for decades the Council's biggest fund-raiser, was an appropriate project for Joanne, who is a past president of Allyn's Creek Garden Club.

These days, she's less active in the garden but continues to contribute a floral arrangement a couple of times a year for the Gallery's Admission Desk. She remains a Council member, along with daughter Gayle Stiles (herself an active volunteer at MAG until her four daughters claimed her energies). And she still enjoys painting, a long-time hobby, "when the spirit moves me."

Bob has also slowed down, if only a little. In the early 1990s, he retired from the

law firm of Harter, Secrest & Emery to devote his time to his real estate development firm. Today, he's still at the helm, though he leaves the day-to-day running of the company, whose successes include Linden Oaks Office Park, to sons Mark and Bruce.

"As I enter my 20th year as director," says Grant Holcomb, "I can fully and deeply appreciate how fortunate we are to have patrons like Bob and Joanne Gianniny."

"Theirs is a legacy that has enhanced and enriched the Memorial Art Gallery for many decades. Their commitment has been one of leadership, keen counsel and generosity."