2008 marks the 40th anniversary of the Gallery docents, dedicated volunteers who collectively have led tours for more than half a million schoolchildren and adults. The docent program began informally in the 1960s and officially kicked off in 1968 with the adoption of bylaws and the institution of formal training. Over the years, the ranks have included some 400 men and women, of whom 100 are still active.

At a June 9 anniversary celebration, tribute was paid to four decades of docent chairs (list at right), and Honey Heyer was recognized as the only member of the first formal docent “class” who is still leading tours. There was also a round of applause for volunteer administrator Mary Ann Monley and other members of MAG’s education department, past and present.

“Docents come to the program from many walks of life,” says Susan Daiss, director of education. “Some are retired, and some juggle their docent responsibilities with their professional lives. All share a love of the visual arts and the belief that life is richer for art’s inclusion in it. And all make a major time commitment—a year of rigorous weekly training followed by frequent refreshers and a minimum of 25 tours a year.”

To honor the docents and help ensure the future of the program, the Gallery has established the Docent Endowment Fund. To learn more, contact Barbara Stewart, 276.8942 (bstewart@mag.rochester.edu).

**Docent Chairs**
- Joan Morgan (1966–68)
- Gwynie Hunting (1968–70)
- Judy McKelvey (1970–72)
- Jean Sutherland (1972–74)*
- Virginia Skuse (1974–76)
- Diane Grosso (1976–78)*
- Germaine Knapp (1978–80)
- Nancy Swett (1980–82)
- Helen Williams (1982–84)
- Joan Yanni (1984–86)
- Bonnie Nolen (1986–88)
- Maureen Basil (1988–90)
- Heidi Friederich (1990–92)
- Joan Baden (1992–94)
- Sandi Neal (1994–96)
- Libby Clay (1996–98)
- Barbara Flynn (2000–02)
- Carolyn Friedlander (2002–04)
- Margaret Thompson (2004–06)
- Connie Klein (2006–08)

* deceased