President’s Message
May 2011

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”
Theodore Roosevelt

Having spent almost a year working with members of the Gallery Council Board, I think these women exemplify this quote by Theodore Roosevelt. They have all worked hard at the worthwhile activities of the Gallery Council. And it has been my privilege to watch these amazing people raise the standard of excellence for which the Council is well known. Certainly, work worth doing.

Next month I say goodbye to five of the members of our Board, who are leaving at the end of their two year terms. They will be missed although Carmen and Bonnie will do another term and I’m sure that Sheila, Carol and Vinnie will all be around.

- **Sheila Lytle** has done a wonderful job as the Corresponding Secretary. She successfully juggled her Council work with her “real life” role of caring for an elderly mother.
- **Carol Kase** has chaired the Art Tours Committee for two years. This large committee has been skillfully led by Carol, resulting in wildly popular trips that have been financially productive. So much so, that Carol and her group contributed the first dollars into our Centennial Fund.
- **Carmen Signorino** cheerfully took on the Hospitality Chair to finish my term of office. Carmen has been such a pleasure to have on our Board; she takes on any and all challenges with an aura of confidence: “I can do that.” And she always does. All Board members have been appreciative of and benefitted from her culinary skills. Her next Board challenge will be that of Corresponding Secretary.
- **Vinnie Silverman** has been Project Treasurer for two years; Vinnie has role modeled for all of us a dedication to the Council, willingness to help out and an ability to help us understand numbers! She works endlessly behind the scenes to improve the financial situation of the Council.
- **Bonnie Voll** has skillfully headed up the Future Planning Committee. She and her group have managed to reconcile and update all the major working documents of the Gallery Council. The By Laws, the Gallery Council Strategic Plan and the Gallery Council Job Descriptions all have similar language and messages. And she has smiled all the time!

Happily the Gallery Council Board has nine returning Board members who will fulfill the last year of their two year appointment in 2011-2012.

- **Anita Bonanni**, representative of the Docents, keeps us well informed about the many learning opportunities offered to the Gallery Council members by our active Docents.
- **Pam Foye** heads up the Membership Committee. She graciously welcomes new members with a thorough orientation as well as some social time with Board members. She carefully got the Membership Directory ready for print which has benefitted all of the members.
• **Kathy King** is the well-respected chair of the Public Relations committee. She has implemented a user-friendly on-line newsletter, worked with Future Planning committee to initiate focus groups to determine a direction of the Council and worked with Lu Harper to improve the GC web site.

• **Connie Klein**, our Recording Secretary, accurately records the minutes of our meetings, which is no small task since discussions can be carried out at a rapid pace.

• **Sandy Koon**, as immediate past president will again chair the Nominating Committee. And now she wears a new hat: that of Chair of the Gallery Council Centennial Committee, entrusted in obtaining the $250,000 that we have pledged to the MAG for naming rights for the Cutler Garden. Even though this is not a Board position, since she attends all the Board meetings in her Nominating Chair hat, we benefit from her updates on the Centennial Committee as well.

• **Karen Larkin** has been the Admin Treasurer for three years now. She meticulously keeps track of budgetary matters as well as has put together a Finance Procedure Book which guides all of us.

• **Bev Pickering** and her Program Committee are planning exciting and educational programs for 2011-2012. And for the upcoming year, Bev has negotiated with Max’s to provide us free coffee prior to the programs; a long-time goal of Bev’s to increase the socialization of Gallery Council members.

• **Lois Sumberg** will continue to lead the Project Committee to plan for future fund raisers. She and her committee have a couple of great ideas for the next two years; stay tuned for updates. She has also worked tirelessly in planning and implementing Fanciful Fibers; the results of this major fund raiser will be in the next newsletter.

• **Margaret Thompson** boldly and unhesitatingly took on the new role of GC Historian this year. She regularly brings artifacts and information which enlightens Board members.

Clearly all of the Board members, through their long hours of volunteer work have made lasting contributions to the Gallery Council and the MAG. As they consistently demonstrate cheerful and uncomplaining attention to their roles, I’m left to believe that they have found a true prize in volunteering for the GC.

Many thanks to you all!!

Mary Sue