

# Shiloh Scrapbook

SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37, No. 2 ♦ August 2018

## Building a Boat and a Community



Master boat-builder Liton Beasa (left) and crew carve a *kōrkōr*, a traditional Marshallese canoe.

**Mary Jean Sell**  
*Board of Trustees*

The monthly board of trustees meeting for the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History was moving along at its regular pace on a cold winter night. Suddenly, museum director Allyn Lord announced, “We are going to build a boat out by the barn.”

“What kind of boat?” I asked, sitting up a little straighter in my chair and leaning forward.

“A Marshallese *kōrkōr*,” she answered, as if that was all the explanation I needed.

It wasn’t. “What kind of boat is that?” I asked.

“It’s a small canoe, like an outrigger, only different,” she said.

I was instantly curious about how all this would happen. I know a bit about boats and have read various accounts of ancient and historic boat-building. But here was an

opportunity to actually to see the work in progress. I wasn’t going to miss it.

Allyn went on to explain that a group of organizations including the Shiloh Museum, the Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (ACOM), the National Endowment for the Humanities, Arkansas Humanities Council, and several area schools and individuals had put together a project called “Canoe of One Community.” The idea was to build the traditional canoe as a way to honor the ancient boat-building skills of the Marshall Islands people. The project was the dream of Springdale police officer Gomez Zackious, who believed the project would also help foster pride among local Marshallese residents.

With help from experts at the University of Arkansas, it was determined that the sycamore tree is closest thing we have locally to the breadfruit tree, which is native to the

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Unlike a lot of Americans, my family didn't celebrate birthdays in a big way. Because it seemed like the natural order of things, I more or less maintained the low-key celebrations most of my life, until I was about to turn fifty.

Somehow it seemed right to really acknowledge and celebrate a half-century. And luckily for me I have many good friends who saw to it that number fifty was something special. Suffice it to say that the festivities included a surprise "This is Your Life" celebration, with select friends and family secreted away until their moment at the mic to embarrass me in front of the assembled crowd. Humbling, to be sure.

I think at fifty I realized that there was so much to look back on and appreciate, as well as so much to shrug off and put behind me. And it also seemed like an excellent opportunity to look to the future, think about dreams still unfulfilled, and imagine what might come next.

I reminisce here because I've had the same experience with the

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



**Allyn Lord**

Shiloh Museum turning fifty this year. It's definitely a major milestone, especially given that we're one of the oldest existing museums in Northwest Arkansas.

We can look back with so much delight at where we began and how we've grown. Our staff, board members, and volunteers over the years here set the direction and steered the ship, all the while honoring our mission. We dedicated ourselves early on to telling the stories of the everyday folks of the Arkansas Ozarks and we've never veered from that course. Our most important value, from the very

beginning, was to be welcoming, inclusive, and service-oriented, and it's the value I'm most proud of.

Each year, it seems, we better serve our audiences, broaden our reach, more fiercely preserve authentic history, find new ways to connect, bump up the creativity, and welcome the participation of all. Yet there is so much on the horizon.

In 2019 we'll once again look to the future by developing a new strategic plan to carry us into the 2020s. Just as my friends helped me celebrate and consider the future, I hope all of you will help us set our course and achieve our goals. The museum is not just a place you visit and leave. It's a day-to-day, ever-growing resource that reflects the community and—with that community's voice and muscle—moves actively toward new goals.

Thank you to all who've helped us grow to become the vibrant, professional, open-armed museum we are today. We look forward to continuing our friendship as we age gracefully beyond fifty.

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### STAFF

Allyn Lord, director; Judy Costello, education manager; Marie Demeroukas, photo archivist/research librarian; Walt Gallagher, facilities manager; Michele Gibson, receptionist/store manager; Kimberly Hosey, education specialist/weekend manager; Kris Johnson, photographer; Aaron Loehndorf, collections/education specialist; Curtis Morris, exhibits manager; Marty Powers, maintenance; Carolyn Reno, assistant director/collections manager; Rachel Whitaker, research specialist; Susan Young, outreach coordinator

### SHILOH MUSEUM OF OZARK HISTORY

118 W. Johnson Avenue • Springdale, AR 72764 • 479-750-8165

[shilohmuseum.org](http://shilohmuseum.org) • [shiloh@springdalear.gov](mailto:shiloh@springdalear.gov)

Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. • Free Admission



# Volunteer Spotlight

**Susan Young**

*Outreach Coordinator*

Every Wednesday morning during the growing season, you'll find Debbie Gilmore hard at work on the museum grounds. Depending on the time of year, she might be tidying up the massive azalea bed at our front door, planting oak-leaf hydrangeas in a shady spot, or tending a pollinator garden of zinnias, bee balm, and milkweed. Debbie is one of the dozen or so Washington County Master Gardener volunteers who help make our museum grounds a delightful place to visit.

Born in Batesville, Arkansas, Debbie was three when her family moved to Springdale, where they opened Gilmore's Pharmacy. While she was in high school, Debbie helped her folks at the drugstore and was a candy striper and nurse's aide at Springdale Memorial Hospital. On Saturdays, Debbie and her friends might go roller skating or see a movie at the Apollo Theater on Emma Avenue and stop in at the Hitchin' Post cafe for french fries and a Coke. At that time in her life, Debbie's only encounter with gardening was her regular chore of mowing the yard!

After graduating from Springdale High School in 1972 Debbie's goal was to become a nurse, but soon after enrolling in nursing school, she saw that her parents needed help running the pharmacy. Debbie put her own plans aside and returned to the drugstore. Then life's pathway led her to become a rural mail carrier for the Springdale Post Office, a job she held for thirty years.

After retiring from the post office, Debbie found herself with some much-deserved free time. Two of her high school buddies, Geri Armstrong Alvis and Gail Dennis Pianalto, encouraged Debbie to join them in the Washington County Master Gardeners (WCMG) volunteer organization. She took them up on it.

Master Gardeners are required to annually contribute a substantial number of volunteer hours to help beautify their communities. Luckily for us, the Shiloh Museum is a sanctioned WCMG project and even luckier still, Debbie chose the museum as a place to share her gardening



talents. She really enjoys spending time with the other Master Gardeners who work here at the museum, including museum groundskeeper (and fellow Master Gardener) Marty Powers, who always provides fresh-baked pies for the gardeners' mid-morning break. "The friendships I've made here over the last two years are priceless," Debbie says.

Debbie Gilmore has a green thumb and a heart of gold. Thank you, Debbie, for all you do!

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# DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTIONS

April–June 2018

*Ann Blackshire*: “Tom’s Peanuts” jar and unmarked store jar, Bellefonte, (Boone County), mid-1900s

*Betty Bradford*: Paintings, drawings, and model of a tub mill, all by M. E. Oliver, Madison County, 1930s–1960s

*Reeva Clark*: SEFOR brochures, Washington County; Springdale Ministerial Alliance church service program; Springdale advertising items, 1960s–1970s

*Karen Cordell*: *Fayetteville City Directory*, 1993; University of Arkansas alumni directory, 2015

*Lea Ann Crisp*: Hand-painted necktie by Billie Jones Maestri featuring “Able Willingwater,” Springdale, 1950s

*Cathy and David Evans*: Hand-painted china plates by Gertrude Kelly and Helen Sisco, Springdale, 1952

*Nettie Everett*: Vol Walker Vansandt’s button-top shoes, Spring Valley (Washington County), circa 1910

*Tom D. Fowler*: Powers L. Fowler’s Navy service records, Fayetteville, 1944–45

*Terry Gibson*: Handmade split-oak cracker basket, Farmington, 2018

*Wilma Lacy*: Catfish Hole menu; Ozark Smokehouse catalog; Christmas card from UA president and Mrs. David Mullins; all from Fayetteville, 1970s–1990s

*Craig Larson*: Fred Larson’s Merchant Marine uniform, Rogers, 1944

*Lowell Historical Museum (Liz Estes)*: Springdale Junior Auxiliary community planner, 1996–1997

*Sue Lynch*: *Tales from Silver Lands* by Charles J. Finger, 1942

*Lisa Mendoza and Maggie Muller*: Handmade jewelry from the Marshall Islands

*Pam Redfern*: Photograph of Frisco shop employees picnic, Fayetteville, 1936

*Carolyn Reno*: Color postcard of Burns Gables, Winslow, before 1950

*Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees*: postcard photograph of Welch Grape Juice Factory, Springdale, 1920s

*Alice Ann Simkins*: Plat maps of Benton and Washington counties, early 1960s

*Springdale Public School Support Service*: Records and annual reports of Springdale Public Schools, early 1900s–1979

*Dolores Stamps*: Photographs of Monica and Ray Kuester and Jim and Margaret Taylor, 1968, and of Eastside Café and Autry Wilson’s car, 1941, all from Springdale

*Justin Swope family*: Shaving horse made by Peter C. Miller, Round Mountain (Washington County), late 1800s

*UA African-American Resource Group*: Volunteer t-shirt from NWA Juneteenth Celebration, Fayetteville, 2017

*Oreta and Steven Wohlford*: Glass plate negatives made by Marion Mason, Johnson (Washington County) early 1900s

*Mary Vaughan*: Photograph of drawing of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church (Tontitown) by John McGlone, 1992

**Photographs loaned for copying**  
*Reuben Blood Jr.*: Reuben Sr. and Grace Blood’s tent camp, Fayetteville, 1932

*Thomas D. Fowler*: Fowler and Lichlyter families, Springdale, 1910s–1940s

To further explore our collections, visit our website’s [Artifact of the Month](#) and [Photo of the Month](#).

# Save the Dates!

**September 7, 2018, marks our 50th anniversary.  
Come help us celebrate!**

**September 8, 5:00-7:30 p.m.** 50th Anniversary Frolic, an adults-only event with local music, adult beverages, delicious bites from local food trucks, signature cake and ice cream, and uniquely Ozark activities.

**September 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** 50th Anniversary Family Celebration. Fun for children and families, including old-time toys and games, a scavenger hunt, photo booth, and cake and ice cream.



## Board Member Brief: KATHRYN BIRKHEAD

**Name:** Kathryn (Kathy) Lankford Birkhead

**Family:** I have two sons, Nate (thirty-four) and Colin (thirty-two) and four grandchildren, with number five due in early September. Sadly, none of them live here, so our visits always involve travel. Nate and his wife, Shannon, and their three (almost four) kids live in Manhattan, Kansas, and Colin and his wife, Amanda, and their twenty-month-old daughter Natalie live in Durham, North Carolina. They're all too far away!

**Job:** Although I'm retired now, I still love staying in touch with the people in the places where I have worked. My last job was as director for diversity and inclusion at Northwest Arkansas Community College, and before that I was in that same role at the Jones Center. Prior to my work in diversity and inclusion, I taught Spanish at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs.

**Pets:** Pearl and Trudy, my two dogs, came to me by way of the Springdale Animal Shelter ten years ago. Pearl is thirteen now and Trudy is twelve, and three years ago they were joined by a cat who was christened Sulli. She appeared in the side yard when she was about five weeks old and in really bad shape, and now she thinks she runs the household. She may be right.

**Favorite TV show:** Since I don't have cable, almost everything I watch these days is on Netflix or PBS, so I tend to watch series, such as *The Great British Baking Show* or *Civilization* or old TV series.

**Hobbies:** When the weather allows it, I love being in my yard, and volunteering with the Washington County Master Gardeners on the grounds at Shiloh Museum is an absolute delight. I've always been drawn to the grounds there, and [museum groundskeeper] Marty Powers' passion for taking care of this beautiful place is contagious. Besides working outside, I can get lost in a good book, and cooking is a big stress reliever for me.



Kathryn Birkhead with her sons Nate (left) and Colin

**Describe a perfect day.** A perfect day starts with a cup of tea and ends with gratitude, but it's hard to define what comes between those two things. Some of the things that come to mind are a little breeze, good music, nature, visiting with friends and family, good food, learning something new, helping someone, and best of all, feeling my grandchildren's arms around my neck.

**What is your favorite animal and why?** This is a hard one. Dogs are going to win out, I think, simply because of their openness and affection. There's nothing like being greeted by someone at the end of a hard day who's always glad to see you.

**What three people, living or dead, would you invite to dinner?** It's going to need to be a long dinner, because there's a lot to talk about. Two of the three people I'd invite for dinner are my sister Francie, who died when she was thirty-three, and my maternal grandmother, Eva Lena Reder. There are so many things I'd love to have a chance to ask them about and things I'd love to be sure they knew. The third one is Jesus. I've got a lot of questions for him.



Does your company or employer offer a matching gift program? These programs can match your contribution dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount! Check with your company or employer to see if they'll double the impact of your gift to the Shiloh Museum.

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*We are proud to recognize these members for their generous annual contributions.*

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 Daymara Baker  
 David Beauchamp  
 Jacqueline Burnett  
 Butler Center for  
 Arkansas Studies

Shelley Craig  
 Sharon Daughters  
 Georgia Davis  
 Susan Dewey  
 Ann Engskov  
 Charla Franco  
 Lani Froelich  
 Zessna Garcia Rios  
 Mrs. Willard Gatewood  
 Judy Graham  
 Joseph Grave  
 Glenita Guthrie  
 Cathy Hale  
 Nadine Hamilton  
 Sharon Harris  
 Dr. Kevin Hatfield  
 Randy Hayes  
 Ruthanne Hill  
 Barbara Hubbard  
 Chris Huggard  
 Mickey Jackson  
 Raymond Jones  
 Roxanna Juergens  
 Sandra Keene  
 Patricia Kile  
 Gerald Klingaman  
 Evy Lamb  
 Melinda R. Lambaren  
 Cheryl Larson  
 Jeff Ledbetter  
 James S. Longacre

Mary Ann Marquette  
 Carol McCormick  
 Barbi McPhee  
 Oda Mulloy  
 Kaye Ogilvie  
 Lou Orr  
 Rebecca Palmer  
 Carmel Perry  
 Gail Pianalto  
 Toni Prachick  
 Ronna Precure  
 Paula Proppe  
 Susan Raymond  
 Barbara Roberts  
 Joy Russell  
 Nadine Sewak  
 Linda Sheets  
 Robyn Sizemore  
 Carly Squyres  
 Margaret Stamps  
 Barbara Still  
 Jerry Stockton  
 B. Jean Strong  
 Marion Tichenor  
 Maxie Tomlinson  
 Gene Vinzant  
 Tony Wappel  
 Nova Jean Watson  
 Ann Webb  
 Patti Williams



A crowd of more than 150 folks were shoehorned into the Shiloh Meeting Hall for its grand opening on June 30. A variety of speakers and musical selections from the Northwest Arkansas Sacred Harp Singers kept visitors informed and entertained. The hall is now available for rental use; learn more about rentals on our [website](#).



## NEWSLETTER

From page 1

Marshall Islands and the tree of choice for making canoes there. A very tall sycamore from Carroll County near the community of Osage was donated by the parents of team member Bill Mills. The tree was cut and brought to the Shiloh Museum. The canoe was planned to have a finished length of about nine feet, big enough to accommodate two or three fishermen.

An opening ceremony for the project was held on April 14, an almost-sunny but cold and damp spring day. The wind was strong. There was singing, praying, and short speeches by a variety of officials, then the work started. Liton Beasa, a Marshallese master boat carver, led the project.

It was about ten days before I returned to the museum to see what progress was being made. A “regular-looking” paddle and the outrigger (the off-side balance piece) was carved and finished. A rough-out of the bottom portion of the canoe sat on wooden blocks. Liton Beasa spoke quietly, occasionally pointing, as he instructed his crew. The men (mostly young adults and teens) were using chain saws, splitting mauls, axes, and hatchets to cut and shape the log.

To the untrained ear, the Marshallese language is incomprehensible. It is a series of rolling sounds, with nothing recognizable to me—except for one day when museum education manager Judy Costello had baked a plate of brownies for the workers. As one man stuffed a third brownie into his mouth, he said something to the others and the word “brownie” was carefully enunciated as he chewed.

I couldn’t talk to the workers or understand what they were saying, but the process moved steadily along. The young men took turns cutting the sides of the log, some chopping out



**Weaving the sail made of pandanus leaf strips**

the middle, all shaping the canoe. It may have been the sharpness of the tools or the strength of the workers, but as they chopped, the wood gave way like a wheel of cheese.

On May 1, as I walked across the museum grounds toward the construction tent, I heard a rhythmic thudding coming from the back porch of the museum’s Searcy House. There I found four Marshallese women sitting cross-legged on the floor, chatting away as they wove strips of pandanus leaf fibers (a palm-like tree native to the Marshall Islands) for the canoe sail. The thudding noise was coming from one woman using a hollowed-out World War II mortar shell as her mallet. She rolled lengths of the leaves into loose bundles and pounded them on a rock to make the fibers more pliable.

The ladies were a jolly group, laughing as they worked. The woman in charge of pounding the pandanus fibers was

gracious as she showed me the mallet. She wouldn’t let me hold it, but I was able to get an idea of its weight, about three or four pounds.

As I continued to observe the boat-building project over the next few weeks, the days grew brighter and warmer. The finish date was scheduled for mid-May. The last day I visited, there was a large work crew gathered. They were lashing together pieces and parts of the boat, applying glue to the seams, and tending to the final details. There were crowds of schoolchildren and a lot of adults watching. Excitement was in the air. The workers were very focused on their tasks, but still laughing and joking together.

On May 11, the completion of the canoe was celebrated, with lots of good food, speeches, prayers, and singing. The sun was warm and bright and it was a joyous day. 🍷

*(See related photo on page 10.)*





**Canoe of One Community.** Those involved with the boat-building project gather in Springdale with the finished *kōrkōr* at Jemenei Day, a Marshallese national holiday of independence, on May 25, 2018.



## New Faces at the Museum

We're so happy to welcome Walt Gallagher and Michele Gibson to the museum team!

Walt is our facilities manager, in charge of scheduling and maintenance for the newly opened Shiloh Meeting Hall. A native of New England and a veteran of the U. S. Navy, Walt married a Fayetteville girl which led the couple to settle down in Northwest Arkansas, along with five dogs and three cats. In his spare time, Walt enjoys woodworking, tinkering, and motorcycle riding.

A self-proclaimed "Okie from Muskogee," Michele is our receptionist and store manager. After graduating from Oklahoma State University, she raised three children (Sarah, Ben, and Rachel), lived in Fort Smith, and worked at the Fayetteville Public Library before moving to Springdale. Michele's hobbies include reading, hiking, cooking, and gardening.



## CALENDAR

### CURRENT SPECIAL EXHIBITS

**Through December 15.** *"Happy Birthday, Shiloh!"*, a photo exhibit celebrating the museum's first fifty years.

**Through January 12, 2019.** *Fifty from Fifty*, an exhibit featuring an artifact acquired during each of the Shiloh Museum's fifty years, from 1968 to 2018.

**Through April 13, 2019.** *Selected*, an exhibit of objects from the Shiloh Museum's fifty-year collection, selected by guest curators from the Northwest Arkansas community.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

**August 11.** To celebrate the museum's 50th anniversary, the [Bella Vista Radio Club](#) will operate a "Special Event" radio station throughout the day in our General Store. Drop by the station, where radio operators will be on hand to answer questions about the station and amateur radio. You may even have a chance to talk to an operator in a faraway land.

**August 15, noon.** "Ozark Fiddle Music," a program by Dr. Drew Beisswenger, musicologist and librarian at the University of Arkansas.

**August 18, 10:00–11:00 a.m.** Potter Teresa Griffith of [Griffith Pottery Works](#) will demonstrate the art and craft of pottery. Part of our Shiloh Saturday Series for families.

**September 8, 5:00–7:30 p.m.** 50th Anniversary Frolic, an adult event celebrating the Shiloh Museum. Come as you are and enjoy old-time chore stations (like we provide during school tours), local music, adult beverages, delicious bites from local food trucks, and of course, cake and ice cream. It's all free!

**September 19, noon.** "The Art and Craft of Prehistoric Indian Pottery," a program by Dr. Ann Early, state archeologist with the [Arkansas Archeological Survey](#).

**September 22, 2:00–4:00 p.m.** 50th Anniversary Family Celebration for children and families. Enjoy a scavenger hunt, old-fashioned toys and games, life-size historic cut-outs for photographs, and of course, cake and ice cream, as we celebrate the Shiloh Museum. It's all free!

**September 29, 2:00 p.m.** Program and booksigning with Brooks Blevins, who will discuss his latest work, *A History of the Ozarks, Vol. 1: The Old Ozarks*, published by the University of Illinois Press.

**October 15–January 5, 2019.** *First Person Plural*, an Arkansas Humanities Council exhibit exploring life stories of women throughout the state who came of age in the 20th century during times of great change that saw the civil rights movement, new roles for women, and access to new technologies.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Shiloh Museum of Ozark History serves the public by preserving and providing resources for finding meaning, enjoyment, and inspiration in the exploration of the Arkansas Ozarks.* Adopted by the Shiloh Museum Board of Trustees on February 11, 2016.

### Join the Shiloh Museum Association

- Satisfaction of knowing you are supporting an important cultural institution and helping preserve our Arkansas Ozark heritage, *and*
- 10% discount on Shiloh Store purchases
- Discount on photo reproduction fees
- Reduced fees for children's and adult workshops
- Invitations to exhibit openings and special events

#### ***Consider a gift to the Shiloh Museum Endowment Fund***

- ☐ Check here if you would like more information about the endowment fund.

#### ***Help us save money and trees***

- ☐ Check here if you would like to receive your newsletter by email instead of U. S. mail.

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15              | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$50      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School class - \$12.50         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor - \$100    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$20                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining - \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65+) - \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple - \$15           | <input type="checkbox"/> Founding - \$1,000 |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: Shiloh Museum  
118 W. Johnson Avenue  
Springdale, AR 72764  
479-750-8165



# Scenes from History Camp 2018



Clockwise from top left: Johnny Appleseed (aka museum groundskeeper Marty Powers) shows campers how to play "Apple on a String;" making an exhibit for a 1904 World's Fair display using recyclable materials; practicing writing skills on a slate like George Washington Carver did as a boy in the 1870s; hula-hooping in the History Camp Olympics.

