I. Welcome and Call to Order. Sibilla Korulis, Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:01. She asked for a moment of silence for Docents to remember Rodger McLennan who passed away earlier this month. Joann McLennan is undergoing tests on her throat and we wish her a good outcome.

II. Approval of the Agenda. Having corrected the date for the agenda to November 17, the agenda was approved: moved by Cynthia Teeter, seconded by Margaret Bush and carried.

III. Approval of the Minutes of October 20, 2014. Approval of the minutes was moved by Anica Miter, seconded by Corinne Nemy and carried.

IV. Business Arising. None,

V. REPORTS

V.1 DMV. A report from the DMV Executive will be sent to all members after the DMV Board meeting. David reminded Docents of the Seasonal Celebration on December 9 at 11:30, when Janet Carding will help to hand out the awards. ROM for the Holidays is scheduled from December 20 to January 4, with extended hours on December 27 - 30 and January 2 and 3. The theme is "The ROM Goes Wild". All volunteers are asked to do at least one shift on the Plan Your Visit Desk.

V.2. Secretary Liz announced that Barbara Chisholm's and Sheila Marjoribanks's requests for changes of status to Docents Emerita were approved by the Executive on November 5. Changes were also approved for Janine Gagne and Bill McDonald to become Docents Emeriti on November 30 and December 31 respectively.

V.3. Chair. Sibilla's report is shown as a continuation of the Agenda. She commented that although the procedure for the cancellation of group tours may never be needed, it is an important safeguard, as paid tours are Docents only source of income. At the December 5 Executive Meeting, criteria were approved for applicants for Docent training and have been submitted to the next issue of First Magnitude.

V.4. Past Chair. No report.

V.5 Vice Chair. Joelle's report is on page 2 of the Agenda.
V.6 Education. Mari mentioned the difficulty in having material vetted when there is not a person in Curatorial to do it. She said a proposal to address the situation should be created, approved by the Docent Chair and then by Mark Engstrom in Curatorial.

Evelyn McIntyre gave the following report:

The VIVA MEXICO Exhibition is scheduled to open May 9, 2015 in the Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles & Costume, brought forward as not to overlap with the Pompeii Exhibition. It will be shown for one year, with NO rotations.

The guest curator Chloe Sayer, in conjunction with our own Alexandra Palmer is responsible for the Exhibition. Chloe is very familiar with the ROM’s Mexican textiles, has studied them and had presented some them on Feb. 21, 2014 at the Verónica Gervers Memorial Lecture here at the ROM.

The object list is still being selected, changes will happen on an on-going basis, - we are quite familiar with that situation.!

As it stands now, there will be over 200 objects represented - all are from the ROM’s own collections. All the drawers will also be part of the exhibition.

11 complete outfits both historical and contemporary. Most will be placed on the 3 central platforms and In Focus case, any with wool or silk components have to be placed in the glass cases.

Single garments such as huipiles, skirts, rebozos, sarapes most will be displayed in the peripheral cases. Smaller pieces will be in drawers.

Other objects to be shown will be: samplers, blankets, Beaded purses, sashes, headdresses, and one painted gourd.

The majority by far will be costumes and other artifacts from Southern and Central Mexico dated from about 1700 to the present. Costumes and artifacts from about 12 different Indian peoples will be shown, - Zapotec, Mixtec, Otomi to name a few.

Of special interest will be the flamboyant gala clothing of Zapotec women, that became a political and cultural symbol in the 1920’s, 30,’s and 40’s that were adopted by the painter Frida Kahlo and other intellectuals.

**Background:** Mexican textiles have evolved out of Pre-Conquest and Post-Conquest textile traditions. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico in 1519, they were impressed by the achievements of indigenous dyers, weavers, embroiderers and featherworkers. After the conquest, European skills, raw materials and garment styles were widely adopted in Mexico.

This cultural fusion of Old and New Worlds has given Mexican textiles their remarkable range and visual appeal.
Contrasting environmental conditions and a wide range of raw materials have influenced the evolution of costume throughout Mexico’s long history and have fostered the variety of clothing styles in use today.

Spanish records offer valuable information about pre-Conquest textile techniques among Aztec, Maya and other peoples, as to styles, fibres and dye stuffs. Cloth was produced on a backstrap loom with a multitude of colours and designs and worked by women.

The strong influence of the Catholic Church introduced changes, new garments for modesty’s sake, such as long trousers and shirts for men and blouses for women. Most of these garments are still worn today.

Post-Conquest various features of technology were introduced such as the much larger and complex Treadle loom and the spinning wheel. Of the new materials brought in, the largest impact perhaps was that of wool. It is quite remarkable that wool did not exist in Mexico only cotton and tougher plant fibres e.g. agave. For warmth, cotton was quilted or interspun with feathers and bits of rabbit fur. The llama and alpaca of South A. never were introduced to Mexico. Other Old World textile techniques introduced were: lace-making, threadwork and a large variety of embroidery stitches, which in turn had originated in China, Persia and the Near East.

The most popular men’s garment adopted by all social classes during the 18th and 19th C. was the *Sarape*, a rectangular blanket sized over-garment, produced on the wider treadle loom with complex geometric designs and made of wool.

An equivalent female garment is the *rebozo* or rectangular shawl of Spanish origin. Generally those were woven on a backstrap loom, often richly embroidered.

Continuity with the past is further reflected by crafts such as pottery and basketry and by the textile arts. Many Indian groups have adhered to a particular style of dress, with variations to distinguish different regions and villages. Costume acts as a bond, which unites people from the same community by proclaiming their cultural and geographical origins.

This being an exhibition, any interested docent is welcome to tour it as a full 45 minute Gallery tour, as well as several objects should to be included in the theme tour, “Fashion, Form & Function”.

There is no need to know how to sew, embroider or weave or explain complicated weaving or dyeing techniques.

I will post a sign-up sheet on the DMV bulletin board or contact me directly if you want to know more details.

**This exhibition certainly promises to be a colourful experience!!!!**
V.7 Treasurer/Statistician. Jane reported a 25% increase in public tours between October 2013 and October 2014. No zero attendance was noted in tour numbers for October 2014. Jane reminded Docents to check their tour numbers in the binder for accuracy.

V.8 Scheduler. Doug reminded Docents that the schedule will be frozen mid-month.

V.9 Accessibility. David followed up his emailed report by saying how well the collaboration is working between Gallery Interpreters and Docents on tactile tours. Gallery Interpreters will be given more training and a new Docent training in tactile tours will begin in February. ROM staff will promote Alzheimer tours more extensively to include organizations beyond the Alzheimer Society.

VI. Pompeii Exhibition. Liz reported that the topic of the last Pompeii meeting was marketing. The tag line in promotions will be "In the Shadow of the Volcano". The exhibition will be designed and promoted to appeal to all audiences, including families.


   Tour Announcements - Because of cut backs to staff, they are not longer always able to make tour announcements. At those times, Docents may ask to make their own announcement and then do so.

   Family Tours - With the ROM's push to expand family attendance, Sibilla thinks it is possible they may ask Docents to begin Family Tours that can be advertised at specific times and days.

   Aga Khan Museum - Sibilla will approach management about reciprocal Docent tours.

VIII. Adjournment. Barbara Milstein moved adjournment of the meeting at 10.52.

Mark Your Calendars

Next General Meeting
Monday, January 19 at 10:00 am
T K Boardroom

The DMV values all its members and recognizes the right of each to be treated with respect and courtesy without abuse, harassment or discrimination.