

Learning is a Joy

Winter
'04/'05

The Narrator



JAE STAATS



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Grownup's Report / Message from the Executive Director - Debbie Gilpin

Hello to the friends and families of the Phoenix Family Museum! As PFM's new Executive Director, I am thrilled to join this exciting organization. The PFM vision is a wonderful culmination of the dreams and hopes of families and leaders in our region. My deepest appreciation goes to Kim van der Veen and the other founders who began with the seed of an idea and have prepared the way for this museum. I am pleased to see that this new vision for a children's museum has embraced the lessons learned by others, and added its own, unique spirit. With nearly twenty years in the field of children's and science museums, and years of consulting to others as they created children's museums, I am honored to have the opportunity to apply my experience and philosophy to create

a special place for children to learn and play.

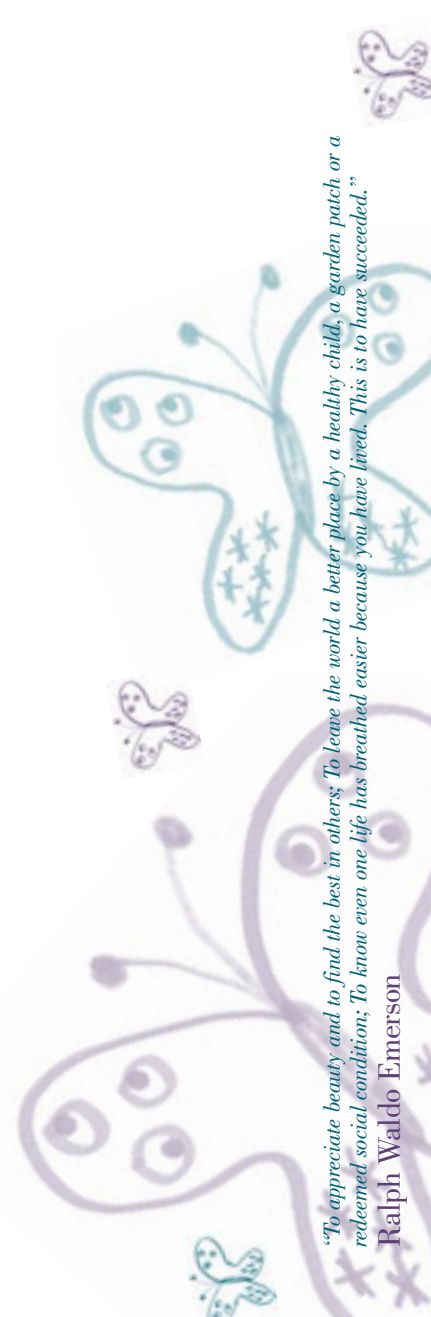
Allow me to introduce myself! Originally from Wisconsin, I have lived in Boston for most of my adult life. At the Discovery Museums in Acton, Massachusetts I was Deputy Director for five years, and Executive Director for ten years. During my tenure there, we grew from a small children's museum, expanding into a second museum on the same campus geared for older children with a science focus. It was exciting to oversee the tripling of our physical space, and the growth to serving 150,000 visitors annually. My first visit to Phoenix was in 2001, when I attended a conference here to accept the "Award for Innovation" presented by the Association of Science and Technology Centers.

In early 2003 my husband and

Continued inside

"To appreciate beauty and to find the best in others; To leave the world a better place by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

Ralph Waldo Emerson



2003 / 2004 PFM Contributors

Thanks to all of the generous individuals and groups who made financial contributions to the Phoenix Family Museum in the last two fiscal years. Because of your generosity, this magnificent dream is becoming real. Please accept our heartfelt appreciation!

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"I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

– Lewis Carroll

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Watch closely...

In this New Year, great things are going to happen.

Fantastic, wonderful, AMAZING things, that will stop us in our tracks, make us laugh out loud, and turn to each other and say, "How cool was THAT?!" These things will be happening before our very eyes, in broad daylight, practically every single moment of every day. Some of us will even observe these wonderful things happening right on our laps.

What is it, you ask?

What wonderful promise could this year possibly bring, when there seems to be no end to tragic evening news, political arguments, and global strife?

To find out, you need look no farther than the nearest child. Astounding things are happening within that child. Over the course of this ordinary year, babies will learn to walk. Toddlers will learn to talk. Children will learn to express ideas, make friends, read, write, draw, explore their worlds in new ways. Their minds, muscles, and imaginations will develop through unique stages which are universal to childhood. In the process, these children will build and create, learn and grow, work and play; they will test their parents and teachers (and make them better people) they will discover the rules, and break a few too.

Each day of this New Year, children of all ages will be going about the extraordinary business of growing up. We grown-ups are lucky to be looking forward with them, and cheering every step of the way.

Message from the Executive Director- Debbie Gilpin



Continued

two children (now ages six and eleven) and I relocated to Arizona, where I joined the Arizona Science Center as Vice President of Exhibits and Programs. I look forward to continuing my service to children through collaborations with the Science Center and with other organizations in the region. Together we can support children on their path from birth through adulthood with resources and enriched opportunities that will help them achieve their greatest potential as contributors to our society.

Enough about me! We have much work to do! As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, it has been a year of mostly behind-the-scenes progress. Don't let that fool you...it is critical work that will ensure that PFM is ready and able to transition from a planning and creating organization to an open museum, ready for play.

I invite your comments and feedback at any time, and look forward to getting to know each of you as together we create this wonderful museum! Thank you for your continued support.

There are so many ways to help open a unique and wonderful children's museum in downtown Phoenix!

- Use the enclosed pledge card
- Give online
- Purchase *A Family Affair* Gala tickets
- Contribute in-kind items or services (see wishlist)
- Volunteer your time!

福



The Friends of the Phoenix Family Museum

PRESENT

the 3rd Annual

A Family Affair Gala! Chinese New Year

Saturday, February 5th, 2005

4:00pm to 8:00pm

The Historic Monroe School grounds

Adults \$250, children \$85

Corporate Sponsorships Available

A Family Affair is a gala for the entire family....

Children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, and of course friends, too! The proceeds from *A Family Affair* will help PFM build a children's museum in the historic Monroe School in downtown Phoenix. By supporting *A Family Affair*, you are helping to build a legacy of life-long learning for the children and families of Arizona.

Explore another culture...

Feast on delicacies rich in tradition, sure to bring good luck and prosperity. Discover the lore of the Chinese Lunar calendar and learn "what animal hides in your heart". Be amazed and amused by performers, dancers, and a mysterious and magical dragon.... And back by popular demand...be inspired to PLAY by the unique experiences offered at PFM's one-of-a-kind "Play Date" auction.

Learn, explore, celebrate!

This year's theme, Chinese New Year, celebrates the traditions of the Spring Festival, a time of reunion and thanks-giving, of ushering out the old and bringing in the new, and honoring the household and family ancestors. Learning about and exploring other cultures is a great way to teach kids, and kids-at-heart, about the world we live in...

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US!

For more information on purchasing tickets, volunteering at the event, or becoming a sponsor of the gala, please call Kate Wells at 602.253.0501 or email her at kate@phoenixfamilymuseum.org

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Wishlist:

- Donations for 500 Gala 2005 goodie bags: Fun trinkets, Chinese food boxes, red envelopes, good luck bamboo, red paper lanterns, crates of oranges
- A Chinese Dragon
- 1500 beautiful 37¢ stamps
- 8000 fortune cookies with custom PFM fortunes
- Volunteers for Gala set-up
- Items or experiences to auction at the gala (day with an artist, backstage passes, unique party packages, etc)
- Movie/Theatre passes/coupons for volunteer recognition
- Your children's wonderful drawings (will be scanned and returned)
- Spare tickets to networking or fundraising events
- Airline passes
- Spanish translators for our website and printed materials
- A paper shredder

GOT IT!

- 36 beautifully hemmed fabric panels (thanks Maura Finnerty!)
- Museum without walls Bus repairs (thanks City of Phoenix Transit!)
- 2 magnificent dragon-puppets and 6 pounds of home-made play-dough (thanks Josie Young!)
- 2 amazing kid-built mosaic concrete pipes for the outdoor exhibits (thanks Mel, Jardin de la Gentes, and Pete Orona!)
- Discounted crane services to move above-mentioned pipes (thanks Casey at Sun Valley Crane!)
- A thorough and complete office clean-up (thanks NCL volunteers!)
- An astonishing collection of educational resources and artifacts from around the world (thanks Kathy Maledon!)
- Donated storage space for the above-mentioned collection (thanks Daniel's Moving and Storage!)
- 4 hours of creative painting services (thanks Tomas, Kassady, Anika, Julia, Madi, and Jasper!)
- Original photos and renderings from the Monroe School's early days (thanks Carolyn Weiss of the D.A.R., Dr. Marsten, and Phx. Elementary School District!)
- Microsoft Project software (thanks Vinnie!)



wishlist



Where we'll be in the next couple of months...

Come play with us as we visit schools, festivals, and community events with hands-on Museum Without Walls exhibits. Here's where we'll be, and we hope to see you there!

A Family Affair Gala 2005

Date: Saturday, February 5th

Location: Monroe School site (southeast corner of 7th street and Van Buren)

Time: 4:00 pm-8:00 pm

Description: Volunteers needed to staff PFM's Annual Gala, celebrating the Chinese New Year (see article, enclosed!) The proceeds from *A Family Affair* will help PFM build a children's museum in the historic Monroe School in downtown Phoenix.

Preschool Fun Fair

Date: Saturday, February 26th

Location: Ira Murphy Elementary (7231 W. North Lane)

Time: 10am-2pm

Admission: Free

The Peoria School District is hosting a "Fun Fair" for all of their preschool families. The event will be complete with moonwalks, train rides and of course, PFM's *Shake, Rattle & Roam*.

Art Detour

Date: Saturday, March 4th and Sunday, March 5th

Location: Faith North Mystery Gallery (910 E. Washington)

Time: 10am-4pm

Admission: Free

A hub of children's activities at Art Detour, Faith North Mystery Gallery will host artists work, free interactive art projects, snacks, children's gardens to explore, a silent auction of children's chairs painted by local artists, and PFM's *Shake, Rattle, and Roam*.

Exclusively Little Festival

Date: Saturday, March 5th

Location: McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park (7301 East Indian Bend Road)

Time: 11am-2pm

Admission: Free

It's a festival filled with hands-on crafts and exhibits geared towards the littlest ones (children 6 and under). Come play with our toddler exhibit *For the Littlest Ones*, and let your imagination run wild with our building exhibit, *In the Pipeline*.

Sunday On Central

Date: Sunday, April 17th

Location: Central Avenue from Virginia to Osborn

Time: 11am-5pm

Admission: Free

Walk, bike, or roller-blade down the city's central corridor and enjoy live entertainment, yummy food, informational booths, and PFM's *Shake, Rattle, and Roam*.

For more information, and a complete listing of school visits and other public events, please feel free to contact Kelley de Haan at (602) 253-0501 or visit PFM's website calendar at www.phoenixfamilymuseum.org

2004 has been busy and interesting, with many lessons learned. Here are a few of the accomplishments that mark the 6th year of the Phoenix Family Museum:

In February, PFM's 2nd annual *Family Affair* fundraiser, "Let's Have a Ball," wowed a sold-out crowd at the Bank One Ballpark. Co-chaired by Naomi Gautier, Tina Majerle, Jennifer Blank-Matney, and Christine Gonzalez, this event was great fun--and generated more than \$235,000.

In March, PFM bid farewell to two of our co-founders, Kim and Doug van der Veen. As our first Executive Director, Kim built unprecedented community support for PFM as a new grass-roots organization. Doug contributed thousands of skilled volunteer hours to PFM's Museum without Walls program and operational systems. We wish them all the best as they pursue exciting new endeavors!

Over the summer, under the direction of Interim Manager Herb Paine, the Board of Directors reviewed planning, marketing, and fundraising goals to ensure the feasibility of a children's museum in the community. The review ended on a high note: PFM will be a community anchor for the children and families of the Valley!

In the fall, early demolition work began at the Monroe School building, which will undergo a complete renovation. Over 75 organizations, and hundreds of individuals, have shared ideas about how PFM will look, feel, and function in this historic building.

In October, Debbie Gilpin took on the role of PFM's new Executive Director, with nearly 20 years of experience as a director and leader in

children's/science museums. We welcome her with great enthusiasm (*see Grownup's Report, front page!*)

In the last fiscal year, Museum without Walls exhibits were enjoyed by nearly 30,000 people at 20 public events and 4,500 students at 30 schools across Phoenix, Scottsdale/Paradise Valley, Peoria, Chandler, Tempe, Tolleson, Mesa, and Glendale!

Now, PFM is looking forward to exciting work ahead:

The 3rd annual Family Affair Gala will celebrate Chinese New Year at the Monroe School site!

Exhibit prototypes will be presented to the public through Museum without Walls programs in fall 2005--so we can learn, as you play!

Plans will move forward for the Monroe School facility that include unique and wonderful spaces indoors and out, classrooms and party/meeting facilities, resources and information, community networking, and amenities for children and the grown-ups who care about them.

This is **SO** exciting. Literally acting upon the principle that learning is a joy, **PFM continues to build community support by engaging the minds, muscles, and imaginations of people of all ages.** We are building the foundation of our future as an essential community landmark, for children and the grown-ups who care about them. **Thank you** for your patience, your enthusiasm, and your support!

Watching the crane move the mosaic pipes



Phoenix Family Museum

A place where children play to learn, and grown-ups learn to play!

Who

"And what makes a children's museum different is that it is for somebody, rather than about something..."
Michael Spock.

PFM will be a wonderful place, a place that engages the minds, muscles, and imaginations of children and their families, and inspires people of all ages to learn and play together...A place for the whole community to enjoy.

What

- Learning by discovering
- Role play experience
- Creative process
- Constructive projects
- Infant / Toddler activities
- Social interaction
- New perspectives

How

- Provide engaging exhibits and build community support through Museum Without Walls
- Renovate the historic Monroe School building through City of Phoenix Bond funding
- Secure funds to design and build fantastic exhibits for the Monroe School facility with community participation
- Open the doors and invite your family in to play!

Why

This unique and engaging place will meet four key community needs:

- 1.** Provide hands-on educational and cultural opportunities for young children and their parents, teachers, and caregivers.
- 2.** Encourage learning about child development and the art of parenting.
- 3.** Celebrate diversity and build cultural understanding.
- 4.** Act as a gateway to other cultural institutions and social service organizations.

www.phoenixfamilymuseum.org

at PFM the numbers keep growing!

32,500

participants at 20 Community Events at 30 local schools, including -

(Phoenix, Scottsdale/Paradise Valley, Peoria, Chandler, Tempe, Tolleson, Mesa and Glendale)

261,939

total participants attending events, since 1999

volunteers hours to date!

41,000

4,366

active volunteers as of 12.01.04

The Narrator

The Narrator
The Newsletter of the Phoenix Family Museum
Winter '04 / '05

Contributing Writers Angela Cazel-Jahn, Kelley de Haan, Debbie Gilpin, and Kate Wells.

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