

THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB BULLETIN

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IN REVIEW: FALL 2007

HAIL, OLYMPIA: HONORING DUKAKIS



The National Arts Club was filled with a star-studded crowd and alive with the sound of festive movie theme music on October 11 when The Film Committee presented The Gold Medal of Honor to Olympia Dukakis. Ms. Dukakis won the Academy Award for her role as Cher's mother in *Moonstruck*, and the film's legendary director, Norman Jewison, sent a message calling Ms. Dukakis "one of our finest actresses" and "a Greek Goddess," adding that "her sensitivity and comedic timing helped make the romantic comedy a classic."

Award-winning playwright, Christopher Durang, tuned up for the tribute—singing an amusing song he wrote for Ms. Dukakis. Richard Jenkins, star of the highly acclaimed series *Six Feet Under* was among those rising to the occasion to toast the honoree, along with Tony Award-winner Blythe Danner of *Meet the Fockers* fame, who embraced Ms. Dukakis with great enthusiasm when meeting up with her long time friend, and Academy Award nominee (for *Ordinary People*) Judd Hirsch, who pointed out he didn't come by Taxi in black tie on this rainy evening. Among the other speakers lining—and lighting up—the autumn-in-New York dais, decorated by Valerie O' Halpin,

was the beautiful model/actress Gina Raymond and husband Chris Lemmon. Noted WNYC talk show host Leonard Lopate spoke about Olympia's newest movie *Away From Her*, which has been proclaimed one of the best films of the year and is adapted from a story by NAC Gold Medal Honoree Alice Munro, as did Lisa Dickler Awano, who is writing an authorized book on the work of Munro.

A celebrated veteran of stage, screen and TV, Ms. Dukakis has received an array of awards and has starred in a wide range of films such as *Steel Magnolias*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Look Who's Talking* and *Tales of the City*. After bestowing the Gold Medal, President Aldon James delivered a laudatory state-of-the-family speech sent by Olympia's cousin Michael Dukakis, former Democratic Presidential Nominee, which provided a unique finale to the "Hail, Olympia Gala."

—Dary Day Derchin
Film Committee, Joint Chair

Left to right: Dary Day Derchin, Joint Chair, Film Committee; President, Aldon James; Honoree Olympia Dukakis; Sharon Jenkins; Richard Jenkins, star of *Six Feet Under*

MUSIC IN THE MANSION

Multi prize-winning mezzo-Soprano Sasha Cooke previewed her October official New York debut in our Grand Gallery on September 13, added richly to NAC's history. Ms. Cooke is on the fast track to stardom, as evidenced by the *New York Times'* October 18th review of her debut. Reviewer Steve Smith wrote Sondheim's *Take Me to the World* could have easily served as a banner for the entire concert, and predicted that American composers of a lyrical bent will beat a path to Ms. Cooke's door. Mr. Smith also glowingly endorsed our warm response to Ms. Cooke's excellent pianist-collaborator Pei-Yao Wang. We will long remember being the first to hear Ms. Cooke's debut program, courtesy of Young Concert Artists.

Music Chairman Daniel Schiffman spoke of our Club's tradition of providing opportunities to "run-out" new repertoire before NAC's sophisticated and receptive audiences. The Committee is happy to renew our valued relationship with Young Concert Artists, an organization that has generously nurtured and started the careers of countless musicians. YCO's Chairman, Susan Wadsworth, well-deserves our accolades for her valuable contributions to fledgling careers. We honored Ms. Wadsworth's husband, Charles Wadsworth with our Gold Medal for Music in 1980.

On October 24, Argentinian-born pianist Mirian Conti celebrated her newly acquired and long-overdue United States Citizenship with a performance in the jam-packed Sculpture Court, thanks to Music Committee member Pauline Gilbert Bader. Ms. Conti, who charmingly narrated her performance, opened by contrasting two Chopin Mazurkas with two Mazurkas of the Mexican composer Manuel Ponce. The program, mostly of works by Latin-American composers, climaxed with the New York premiere of Phillip Ramey's *Diversions*, with the composer in our audience.

—Linda Zagaria
Music Committee, Secretary

SAVE THE DATE!

The Visual Arts Program Medal of Honor to Jim Dine: Monday, December 17 • The Culinary Arts Committee Medal of Honor: Monday, February 11 • Le Cocktail Français' Medal of Honor: Tuesday, March 4 • The Shakespeare Guild's Medal of Honor to Patrick Stewart: Monday, March 10 • The Literary Committee Medal of Honor: Tuesday, April 8 • The Photography Committee Medal of Honor: Monday, May 19 • The Decorative Arts Committee Medal of Honor: Thursday, May 22

THE NEW KESSELRING FELLOWSHIP

In October, the Club announced the relaunch of the Kesselring Award for Playwrights. The Club has invited the Exchange and its development center, The Orchard Project, to collaborate in redefining the award as a fellowship to ensure its legacy and maximize the support it provides to NYC playwrights. The new Kesselring Fellowship is committed to generating new work, further ensuring that outstanding playwrights are provided with the tools and support to keep working in NY theatre and contributing to the cultural life of the city. An industry panel of writers, literary managers, actors, producers, directors and writers comprised the nominating committee. Four playwrights—one fellowship and three honorees—will receive direct support and indirect support through development. Ari Edelson will act as the Artistic Director of the Kesselring Panel.

Named in honor of beloved playwright and Club member Joseph Kesselring, the award was first presented by the Club in 1980, funded by his widow, the late Charlotte Kesselring. In 2005 the Kesselring Fund was enhanced with a significant contribution by the estate of Club member Dr. Paul Cranefield, Jr.

THE HALLOWEEN BALL



The Club's traditional Halloween party with its Chinese theme, "Year of the Golden Boar," elicited an enormous response from the membership. Chef Joseph prepared a delicious buffet of traditional Chinese delicacies, and the Club rooms glowed with red and gold lanterns. The dinner groups merged, and the music of Eddie Perrera under the direction of Florence Boyle kept scores of members dancing all night. At 1 a.m. the party closed with many members meeting each other and experiencing directly the creative energy of The Club. Prizes went to Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins, who came dressed as two Chinese polluting smoke stacks as hats. Other festive couples included Mr. and Mrs. Alan Boss, and Donald and Rose Billings.

NOTES FROM THE CURATOR

One of the club's finest portraits—*Samuel T. Shaw* by Wayman Adams—was featured in the exhibition, *Body & Soul: From Exploration to Expression*, held at the Osilas Gallery at Concordia College in Bronxville, New York, during September and October. The show consisted of works by Old Masters and contemporary figural artists who explore the depths of the human soul contained in and expressed by the body.

Elected an Artist Life Member of the club in 1924, Adams was one of the most sought-after portraitists of his day. Recognized for his alla prima brushwork and his candid Realism, he attracted an elite group of sitters that included the author Theodore Dreiser and presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. Painted in about 1925, the club's portrait depicts Samuel T. Shaw (1861-1945)—a noted collector of American art and a founding member of the National Arts Club—relaxing after one of the annual dinners held at the Salmagundi Club, where he sponsored the Shaw Purchase Prize. The painting is an excellent example of Adams's facility with the brush, his fluent handling imbuing the image with verve and spontaneity while conveying the ease and elegance of his subject. The conservation of *Samuel T. Shaw* was underwritten by club member Flora Giffuni in 1991.

—Carol Lowrey, Ph.D.
Curator

RARE & RADIANT

An unusually warm October was rendered even steamier when the Sixteenth Annual Roundtable Exhibition opened on October 2. The opening reception drew an enthusiastic throng, filling the Sculpture Court to legal capacity and then some. Many returned at a later date for an unobstructed view and the opportunity to purchase a favorite piece in a more tranquil setting.

This year's show entitled "Rare and Radiant" was rather hot and happening, judging from the works on view in the Sculpture Court. A variety of genres submitted by Committee members and their invited guests indicated an underlying camaraderie exemplified by a sharing of ideas and visions. This eclectic representation of painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, and assemblage encompassed the abstract and the realist, with many accomplished artists showing their strongest works to date.

The Annual Roundtable Exhibition was instituted as a way to introduce new artists to the National Arts Club – and vice versa. That it has become a much-anticipated annual event is testament to the show's integrity, consistency, and universal appeal. We applaud and congratulate all the artists and extend sincere thanks to Exhibit Chairperson Kathy Anderson and her assistants Dorothy Graham and Mira Stulman. See you in 2008.

—Linda Zagaria
The Roundtable, Chair

LE COCKTAILS STRAIGHT UP!

On September 18, Le Cocktail Français hosted NAC Member Debra Finerman reading her first novel, *Mademoiselle Victorine*, based on Manet's favorite model. The well-attended event sold out a remarkable 190 copies of the book. Both the book and the slide lecture were in English. The slide gave a great glimpse into the colorful Belle Epoque scene where courtesans mingled and often married into high society. On September 24, Le Cocktail and the Theatre/Drama Committee presented a hilarious one-act farce by the master of the genre—Georges Feydeau. The staged reading as performed by The Little French Church Players. First in French and then after the intermission in English with another cast, it drew many chuckles from the audience. Both versions were a succès fou.

Save the date: December 12, Le Cocktail presents a slide lecture with club member Angele Parlange and her charming book about her family's Louisiana plantation. A few creole dishes will be served in the dining room following their program.

—Constance Brock
le Cocktail Français, Chair

MOZART FOR CHILDREN

Mozart for Children introduces young children ages 2-7 to the wonderful world of classical music in a creative and magical way. Founder and director Debbie Surowicz is a classically trained singer with extensive educational experience. The program has been taught in New York City, Lenox, MA, and Paris, France. Articles about Mozart for Children have appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Parent Guide* and *Family Magazine*. WNBC and WCBS have featured Mozart for Children on their newscasts.

Studies have shown how classical music helps shape and improve the minds of young children. Works by great composers are played as children actively engage in story telling, movement, and song. Extensive use of handpuppets, small rhythmic instruments and props are used to give children hands on experience as listeners and music makers. Former clients include Uma Thurman, Kate Spade, Dianne Wiest, Carole Bouquet, and Patricia Duff. Winter/Spring classes held at the Club begin January 2008. Visit www.mozartforchildren.com or call 212-942-2743.

“WAITING” ON THE NAC LITERARY COMMITTEE



L to R. Front row: Dara Mandle, Bettijane Long Eisenpreis, Dee Shapiro, Constance Brock. Middle: Viviana Pimstein Epelbaum, Martin Tucker, Mary Campbell Gallagher, Johanna Garfield, John James, Lisa Dickler Awano. Back: Cor van den Heuvel, Hiroo Dickler Awano, Joan Comiskey, Ruth Lilian, Arlene Heyman.

The following are selections from the October 23 Literary Committee event, “Waiting: Eighteen Literary Committee Members Read Excerpts from their Fiction and Memoirs,” coordinated by Lisa Dickler Awano.

“Hideouts” by Cor van den Heuvel On a bright sunny day in summer when I was hiding alone in such a wooden crate the light would glow through the thin walls of pine to create a soft golden atmosphere around me that I wanted to live in forever.

“Waiting” by Susan Jackson ...like a path of repentance you keep going, unable to look up or down, just one foot after the other, breathing—you and the mountain and the breath. This is waiting in motion. Ten more minutes....we're almost there...

“Waiting for a Visit” by Martin Tucker All his talk, it doesn't stop me from worrying about him, the way I've always worried about him when he's late. He says I don't need to worry. It makes him feel guilty. That's not my fault. I guess we never change.

“Dependable Dependents” by Lisa Dickler Awano Mom jumped when she heard the news, then began trembling. She stood silent and frail, her closed mouth working as if she were sucking on a hard candy. I can't recall if I remembered to put my arm around her.

Home Soon by Joan Comiskey As far as Andrew was concerned, his wife Elizabeth was going back to her mother for a visit. The trip would be long and arduous, and boarding a ship with three small children, the youngest barely a year old, would be a challenge.

“Ten Minutes” by Hiroo Dickler Awano Streetlights are in a line with orange color. Moving small dots are headlights from cars. While I look up at the stars; some are still and some are moving for reasons. Now I see the L.I.E. which runs from east to west.

“Dancing with Matt” by Arlene Heyman “I'm sorry to tell you, Matt,” the doctor says. “But it's—the leukemia—well, it's back.” Matt clutches himself. Ann moans. Their son rises from his chair, lifts the basketball over his head, and sends it crashing through the window.

“Second Grade Was Worse the Second Time Around” by Johanna Garfield A week went by...two...three. I realized the longer the delay, the harder it would be to catch up with the third graders, a class with only three girls, all, curiously, named Carol....How I longed to join that enchanted trio.

Falling Angels by Mary Campbell Gallagher I was stunned. What had happened? “Did Noel tell the Parish Council why she had cut her contributions to ten per cent of what they had been?” I asked. “Well, yes and no,” John said. I waited.

From a story by Aldon James The night was rainy and the wind was blowing in the city to create a film noir atmosphere. The arrangement was to meet in the bar of the Club where the front windows provided the best escape from the damp night.

From a story by Constance Brock The small thin woman with blue stiletto eyes and military posture was the Duchess of Windsor! She gave me an astute look. We were the only people in the area and we were waiting for the elevator.

“A Gift Worth Waiting For” by Viviana Pimstein Epelbaum Suddenly they were on top of me. My nerves twitched. I pushed them away and grabbed it. I blew it at the top of my lungs. It made a shrill sound, but what I heard was the sound of silence, smooth as oil.

“Getting In” by Dara Mandle After teaching remedial writing at various colleges, I knew I wanted a cushier way of life, and Landon would provide it. It had everything Kennedy Community College in Mott Haven didn't: wealth, resources, tagliatelle with portobello mushrooms and sundried tomatoes for lunch.

“Women in Waiting” by Bettijane Long Eisenpreis A wife waits for her husband to come home for dinner, a secretary for her boss to go home for dinner, a lady for a gentleman to take her out to dinner.

“Something She Thought Forever” by Barbara Daddino They were fine little nubbins—a set of perfectly aligned white teeth; but when she felt the weakness in the first tooth, that nearly imperceptible shift like the shrug the earth makes before an avalanche, she suffered a moment of panic.”

“Eve” by Ruth Lilian “Sweet Eve, I may look fierce but I'm really a sweetheart. I know I'm short, I'm twenty feet of neck, a long string of bones and I have a terrible lisp.” Snake smiled. “And I'd like to lick your feet.”

“Waiting” by Dee Shapiro Her feet were killing her. It was the third pair of shoes she tried this week. Waitress, the term did not go the way of actress, sculptress, seamstress and all the other tresses in favor of the masculine.

The President's Letter

Dear Members,

The Club has indeed launched a memorable season with many members introducing friends to the Club. The mood of the myriad committees is quite festive and individuals are contributing an enormous amount of volunteer time. There is a great energy connected with the theatre-drama area of programming. Jason, Jeff Stocker, Pat Addis, Dianne Bernhard and Rose Billings have all been catalysts for memorable evenings. And the Literary Committee under Cherry Provost has been a veritable race horse in making a weekly appearance.

There is no question that the content drives the audience and the membership will support its exceptional events with ingredients unique to the Club's history. It is certainly a good time to be involved with the Club. The holiday season always reminds us how much more we have as a committed group endeavor than we do individually.

In November, a longtime member and friend, Selma Goldstein, passed away. I have asked her dear friend and mine, Bernice Shaftan, to write about Selma for this letter to the membership.

"Selma was a lovely looking, always elegant, woman involved in cultural pursuits in many diverse areas. As a member of the NAC Fashion Committee, she modeled Doris Duke's clothes in the Legendary Ladies fashion show at the NAC. She had been fashion model long ago, and wrote about articles about fashion for many years. Her impeccable style and taste were evident in her home, her attire, and her manners.

She was also a sculptor who did outstanding pieces in the modern genre. She loved the exhibits at the Museum of Modern Art and took college courses in art Marymount all her adult life. As a resident of 60 Gramercy Park, attending the ballet, theatre and events at the neighboring NAC were among her particular pleasures. Another pleasure was shocking people by telling them her age (88) because with her young good looks no one would believe her.

She is survived by her daughters Jane Shapiro and Cathy Goldstein as well as her son-in-law Robert Shapiro, and three grandsons."

This holiday season, let us remember to treasure, above all, each other.

Aldon

MEMBERS @ WORK

In November, the REV. WILLIAM A.F. BLASINGAME was invested with the ancient order of chivalry of the Sovereign and Most Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem by decree of England's Queen Elizabeth.

SHERRY CAMHY's "Silverpoint: Old Medium, New Artists" was published in *Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine's* August Issue.

This September through October, recent paintings by BRAD MARSHALL were on display at the Fischbach Gallery in NYC.

Work by JOAN MEYER was auctioned at the Puck building in November—along with work from Warhol, Picasso and Dali.

TAKAYO NODA's MTA-commissioned faceted glass windows were installed in the Sutter Avenue Station on L-line in August.

MARCIA RAFF's steel columns Columns 1, 2 & 3", Series III are on exhibit at Westchester County's Ward Pound Ridge from Jan 2007-Jan 2008, or longer.

STU RICHEL played Alec Baldwin's boss in an episode of *30 Rock* on NBC.

FANNY SANIN's works were shown as part of the International Bogota Art Fair, ARTBO, in Colombia in October.

OLGA SHEIRR's new work "Calligraphy" was presented in a Long Island City open studio exhibition in October.

TONI SILBER-DELERIVE's paintings recently appeared in a group show in Windham, NY, and are currently in a show in Washington, DC, at the Decorative Design Center.

Traveling with the Dead, a book of poems by CAROLE STONE, was published in October by Backwaters Press.

BEVERLY WILLIS' Architecture Foundation co-hosted with and at the Museum of Modern Art the program "Women in Modernism" in October.

If you would like to include your announcement in Members@Work, contact the Art Director, Jennifer Knox at jknox@thenationalartsclub.org

“SCENE” AROUND



9/21/07 Aldon James and actress Liv Ullmann enjoying the reception for William Polk's new book, *Violent Politics*.



9/26/07 Aldon James, Rolland Lewis, President of the NY Waterfront Alliance, Member Gary Scharfman, and Edward Mohylowski of Environmental Defense.



9/25/07 Fulbright Award-winner and playwright Dr. Rosary O'Neil Hartell and Dianne Bernhard at the reading of Rosary's play, *A Louisiana Gentleman*.



9/27/07 Film Director Wes Anderson's premier party for *The Darjeeling Limited* was held at the Club. Guests included Bill Murray and Jason Schwartzman.



9/25/07 Aldon James, actress and NAC Governor Jo Anne Bonn, Jennifer Ellsworth, and the cast of *A Louisiana Gentleman*.



10/1/07 Cherry Lane Theatre honored the NAC for its support of the dramatic arts. Other honorees at the dinner were Harry Smith, Lynn Nottage, Tamara Tunie and Harold Prince (left, with Aldon James and Dianne Bernhard).

You can view these pictures, in color, and **MANY MORE** event photos at www.nationalartsclub.org.
Go to **“EVENTS,”** then **“PHOTO ALBUMS”**



Aldon James, Bev Kaufman and Dianne Bernhard enjoying Joseph's entrees in the dining room.



10/11/07 Honoree Olympia Dukakis, Aldon James, and actress Blythe Danner take in a magical tribute to a renowned actress



10/2/07 Mary Cava and Ginger Pennington enjoy the well-attended 2007 Roundtable Exhibition.



10/11/07 Thespians Richard Jenkins of *Six Feet Under*, Judd Hirsch of *Taxi*, and Chris Lemmon discuss the craft of acting at the tribute to Olympia Dukakis.



10/2/07 Governor Guy Frazier, Elizabeth Cho, Caroline Bergonzi and Katherine Dolgy Ludwig at crowded Roundtable Exhibition.



10/11/07 Governor Rose Billings, John James and Governor Marguerite R. Jossel enjoy the star-studded tribute to Olympia Dukakis.

WINNERS OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL OPEN ONLINE EXHIBITION

This year, 55 Club members entered the 5th Open Online Exhibition which was viewed around the world every day, via the NAC website.

While the Club hosts several group shows annually—such as the Exhibiting Artist Members' Exhibition which has featured works by nationally renowned artists—the OOE is the first exhibition open to all Club members in its 107-year history.

The exhibition was also featured in *The Villager* newspaper including images of works by Ralph Casado, Anita Shrager, and Toni Silber-Delerville.

Thanks to our special guest judge, Dr. Richard Firestone, Psychoanalyst. The popular vote award was based on member votes, sent via the NAC website.

Members and nonmembers can view the entire exhibitor and the winners on the NAC website: www.nationalartsclub.org.



Loryn Brazier, "Wet Streets"

GUEST JUDGE AWARDS

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Symon Cowles

Katherine Dolgy Ludwig

Rosalyn A. Engelman

THE NEW VISION AWARD

Cynthia Guest

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

FIRST PRIZE: Patrick Bancel

SECOND PRIZE: Rolland Golden

THIRD PRIZE: Karen L. Hartmann

THE VISUAL ARTS AWARD

FIRST PRIZE: Loryn Brazier

SECOND PRIZE: Nancy Burack

THIRD PRIZE: Mary Melikian Haynes

POPULAR VOTE AWARDS

FIRST PRIZE: Rose Billings

SECOND PRIZE (Tie): Kathy Anderson

& Fred Rosenberg

THIRD PRIZE (Tie): Christopher Pierce

& Ginger Pennington



The National Arts Club
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Fall 2007

In This Issue:

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