



Artlines

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Triannual Newsletter
Spring 2010

National Board Meeting and Pacific Region Eco-Art Conference

This year the summer board meeting has a new twist: along with the board meeting there will be special meetings and programs for chapter reps, and two full days of activities preceding the annual meeting planned by the Pacific Region chapters. On Thursday June 24, there is a bus tour to Recology and San Francisco artists' studios. On Friday, the much anticipated Eco Art conference will take place. Visit www.nationalwca.org for fee and registration information.

On Saturday June 26, the Executive Committee meets in the morning, followed by a special meeting for chapter reps and regional VPs in the afternoon. Chapter reps have always been welcome at the summer board meeting, but this year we are encouraging all chapters to send a rep for a special meeting focusing on forming short and long term goals for WCA. The full board will meet on Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We need to have a head count and contact information for everyone who's attending. Please email Janice Nesser-Chu at president@nationalwca.org with the following information by **Monday, June 14:**

- Your name
- Cell phone number
- Arrival date and information
- Departure date and information
- Hotel
- Which events you are attending: Thursday Bus Tour, Friday Eco-Art Conference, Saturday Chapter Rep/VP meeting, Sunday Board meeting

WCA Hotel: Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. WCA rates available until June 3: \$129 for a double/double room. Ask for National Women's Caucus for Art rate. For reservations: (415) 394-1111.

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 23

Early check-in. Informal dinner (TBA)

Thursday, June 24—9:15 a.m.–4 p.m.

Bus Tour of Recology and San Francisco Artists Studios: \$40 per person (includes box lunch) Seating limited. To register, email irmavelasquez@me.com and then mail \$40 (made out to NCWCA) to Irma Velasquez, 303 Franklin Street, San Mateo, CA 94402. Must be received no later than June 20.

Friday, June 25—8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Elements Eco-Art Conference, David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley: \$95.94 with advance registration; \$125 at the door. Includes box lunch. Register online at <http://elements.eventbrite.com>.

Saturday, June 26

- 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
- Noon–1 p.m. Lunch
- 12:30–4 p.m. Chapter Reps and Regional VP Meeting

Arc Studios & Gallery, 1246 Folsom Street, San Francisco

- 5–7 p.m. Blue Planet Reception, SOMArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street, San Francisco

Sunday, June 27—8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Board Meeting, Arc Studios & Gallery, 1246 Folsom Street

For more information on all these activities visit www.nationalwca.org. To learn more about the Eco Arts Conference, visit <http://ecoartactivism.wordpress.com>.

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Position Open, 2012 Conference Chair

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President's Message

A Call to Action

by Janice Nesser-Chu

I spent the last few hours thinking about this column and what to say to you in my first written communication. There are so many things to share with you. I could go on and on, as many of you know from our phone conversations these last few months. I thank you for the time you've spent talking to me. Those conversations have helped me build a clearer vision of the history and the possibilities of the future for WCA.



To those to whom I have not spoken directly, I have spent the last few months trying to connect with everyone who held a national board position and to the presidents of all the chapters, not only to thank them for their service, but to get their feedback on WCA. I wanted to hear their thoughts, concerns, and ideas so we can begin to forge a clear path for the future of WCA. I also spent time talking to all current board members about the responsibilities of their positions as well as their vision for WCA. Now I want to hear your words and thoughts. We are setting up an email survey. It should be in your email boxes just after this newsletter comes out. What does WCA mean to you? What does the future of WCA look like to you? Please give your organization a few minutes of your time to answer these important questions.

In 2008–2009, I coordinated the Mission Statement committee. We spent months surveying members formally and informally, working with the Board, working and reworking the wording. At the summer 2009 Board meeting the new statement was born:

WCA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Women's Caucus for Art is to create community through art, education, and social activism.

We are committed to:

- recognizing the contribution of women in the arts
- providing women with leadership opportunities and professional development
- expanding networking and exhibition opportunities for women
- supporting local, national, and global art activism
- advocating for equity in the arts for all.

But these are just words on a piece of paper. How do we put this into action? The next phase for the Mission Statement committee will be to look at your responses to the survey and to create a structure to achieve our mission. This of course will take time—and so we need to wait and hear what they have to say, right? *Wrong*. We cannot wait around for Board to tell us what needs to be done. The time to build is now, the future of WCA is not some abstract thought, and it is in the hands of every WCA member. I am the President, but *you* are WCA. We need your thoughts, your energy, your enthusiasm, and your time.

WCA is your organization. It was born of the feminist movement and out of the inequality that was woven into, and continues to be part of, the social fabric of every aspect of our culture. That is our foundation. It is something to be proud of and to honor. Long have we stood here on the foundation built by those who came before us but now is the time to build and grow. This is every member's *Call to Action*. I encourage you to join us, to participate, to play an active role.

What can you do in your community, in your chapter, in your region, in the country to recognize the contributions of women? To provide women with leadership opportunities? To support art activism? Every action begins with single step. We need to begin a dialogue, not just among ourselves but also with all those around us. I encourage you to contact other women's organizations: art organizations, activist organizations, local college students and faculty, and invite them into the conversation.

WCA is not second wave or third wave. You cannot define us or label us. We are multi-faceted. We are women who come from many backgrounds and experiences. We are a tidal wave to be reckoned with. WCA's time is now. Join us.

WOMEN & WATER RIGHTS: RIVERS OF REGENERATION

by Liz Dodson

“Women carry the water,” explained the Keepers of the Water—three generations of Ojibwe women—as they performed a traditional water ceremony. Soon the lobby of the center was vibrating with drumming and percussive beats of the Stirring the Waters Band.

At its opening reception on February 26, over 800 guests crossed the threshold into the Katherine E. Nash Gallery to view *Women & Water Rights: Rivers of Regeneration*, the art exhibition co-sponsored by WCA’s Minnesota Chapter, the Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (Minnesota Metro Chapter), and the Department of Art, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. With its record-breaking attendance, the event exceeded expectations and set the tone for the celebrated exhibition and its related programs, which continued through March 25. For complete information about WWR, its motivation, participating artists, and extended programming, see www.womenandwater.net



“Restoring Balance,” a sculpture installation incorporating glass, stainless steel, aluminum, video and water, by Liz Dodson and James Brenner. Photo by Sean Smuda.

Combining images with words to educate diverse audiences about the global water crisis and the need for gender mainstreaming in the management of this resource, the

exhibition included invited artists as well as a juried selection of work by women from the upper Mississippi River basin. Noted art writer and activist Lucy Lippard juried this component of the exhibition and also delivered her lecture “Ripple Effects” to a capacity audience as part of the related Two-Day Symposium – Women & Water Rights: Global Policy, Local Action.



“Sophia – Vessel of Water,” a mixed media piece by Lynnette Black

The work of WCA members, past and present, appeared in WWR and also at metro-area galleries, which organized and hosted their own water-themed exhibitions in support of the water rights mission. Current Minnesota Chapter President Lynnette Black was selected by Lippard as a WWR exhibitor. Contributing to the positive outcome is the increased exposure of works by women artists, as well as the enhanced image and increased visibility of WCA in this region.

Evolving over years of planning, WWR has drawn to its mission the commitment of many volunteers representing the co-sponsors, as well as community organizations. As WWR co-coordinator, WCA liaison, and invited artist, I’ve been able to participate in all aspects of this extraordinary achievement, from birth of the exhibition concept to building the partnerships that have taken the project through to fruition. In the importance of its mission, the complexity of its vision, and the extension of its influence, WWR represents a model of cooperation and what can be accomplished when women join in creative collaboration.

We are now exploring ways to keep the WWR ideas and momentum moving with some form of a traveling catalog to demonstrate how these WWR exhibition ideas and programs may be developed in many more WCA chapters and at six potential sites abroad.

2010 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

by Priscilla Otani

Several more WCA members joined the International Committee during February’s WCA Conference in Chicago. The 2010 Committee members are Anne Bouie, Laurie Carlock, Debra Claffey, Fay Grajower, Karen Gutfreund, Marsha Heck, Rachel X. Hobreigh, Niku Kashef, Avinger Nelson, Janice Nesser-Chu, Helen Poole Newman, and Allicette Torres.

The goals for the International Committee this year are:

- To apply for ECOSOC status with the United Nations, which will give WCA greater visibility and the possibility of using the UN premises for exhibitions;

- Collect data on art activism, which need to be compiled for a UN report every five years, and select examples to put on the WCA Activism section of the WCA Web site;
- Develop more presence within the UN DPI/NGO community by attending some of the UN briefings in New York, particularly those related to Women’s Issues;
- Apply for a workshop at the annual UN Conference, perhaps involving a youth delegate. This year the UN DPI/NGO Conference will be held from August 30 to September 1 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center in Melbourne, Australia. The general theme of the conference will be Global Health.

Two Views of the 2010 Chicago Conference

Chicago Conference 2010

by Brenda Oelbaum, Midwest Region Vice President

Two years ago, when I first started working toward planning the 2010 Chicago WCA Conference, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. It has been both challenging and rewarding on so many levels, giving me an opportunity to learn about a city I knew

nothing about and a chance to meet some fabulous people in the WCA Chicago Chapter. From my earliest meetings with Dale Osterle (the then-President of the Chicago Chapter) and her successors, to my trips to scout locations and galleries, it was all very exciting and exhilarating.

The conference was a great success. From the traditional elements like the JWAN exhibition *Drawing the Line* to new experimental ideas like the silent auction on the night of the Lifetime Achievement Awards Gala, and the Young Women's Caucus presentation, everything went like clockwork.

After several years without a national exhibition, entries for *From the Center—Now!* were abundant, with over 450 pieces in all. Lucy Lippard had a difficult time cutting it down to fit the Woman Made Gallery space we had blocked off! Beate Minkovski completely redesigned the gallery space to accommodate our show. Bert Leveille did a fabulous job of putting together an exhibition catalog that gave every artist, whether showing in the gallery or online only, equal attention and billing.

It was amazing to work with the International Museum of Surgical Science and the dynamic Juana Guzman from the National Museum of Mexican Art in planning the whirlwind bus tour on Sunday in Chicago and the surrounding areas. We were treated to a taste of Chicago that far exceeded a typical conference weekend.

It was inspirational to work with incredible women such as Lucy Lippard, Mary Jane Jacobs, Beate Minkovski, Arlene Raconca, and Judith Roth. I really enjoyed becoming better acquainted with them all, learning from them, and just being in their presence.



WCA members from across the country rubbing elbows at *From the Center—Now!* at Woman Made Gallery in Chicago. Photo by Sue Whittaker.

No Longer an Observer

by Roxanne Phillips, Chapter Council Director

The 2010 National WCA Annual Conference was held in Chicago and I was fortunate to attend. My experience this year was much different than my first conference in Los Angeles, where I was mostly an observer. I had a better idea of what to expect from the panels, bus tours, and meetings. I took better advantage of the short time I had with these

amazing women. I hit the ground running with my objectives in mind: support my fellow St. Louis members participating in panels, exhibitions, and events; fulfill my commitments on a national level serving on three committees; and re-connect and network with members on a national level.

I arrived on Thursday, when two of our St. Louis members had panels. "Investigating the Need for Women's Art Galleries, Exhibitions, and Organizations: From Our Center" was one of the best panels I have ever been to. Janice Nesser-Chu, the panel moderator, filled in as an impromptu speaker when a guest's flight was cancelled due to weather. There was much audience participation with comments and questions not only for the panel but each other. I left inspired, feeling that even though there are many opinions and approaches, there is support for women artists and organizations. That evening, Marsha Heck co-chaired the WCA-sponsored CAA panel, "The Power of the Image: Studio Artists and Civil Society." During this panel, I was introduced to Beatriz Mejia-Krumbein and her fascinating multi-cultural work.

Friday began with the reception and screening of the International Video Shorts Competition, directed by St. Louis' own Leslie Hume. The popcorn and chocolate in the silk-screened bags for the reception was a nice touch. I met women from around the country, members and non-members. I visited Dadaland as Helene Smith-Romer brought her Dada museum with her to the conference. At the Young Women's Caucus meeting, we discussed goals and how to make the group more national. Then we boarded the bus and visited Woman Made Gallery and ARC.

Saturday began with a meeting of the Chapter Council Representatives. It was interesting to hear how the different chapters interpret the Mission Statement and focus their activities. The Feminist Art Project sponsored panels on the theme of gender studies in the arts and I met a few people from this organization. Saturday evening was the Lifetime Achievement Awards dinner, honoring artists, art supporters, and art activists. The introductions for the artists were given by women whose lives were affected or shaped by the honorees. It reminded me that each of us does make a difference and how important it is to share our knowledge, experience and compassion.

Sunday, the second bus tour took us to the International Museum of Surgical Science, National Museum of Mexican Art, Beverly Arts Center, and Hyde Park Art Center. We saw exhibits, took part in a centering workshop by Yueh-mei Cheng, and the officers of the Young Women's Caucus gave a presentation on their work. The Chapter Council meeting took place during the morning. My favorite part of this day was at the Beverly Art Center because I had a piece in the show and the juror sought me out to talk to me about my piece. This made my day.



Past Presidents Jennifer Colby and Marilyn Hayes, President Janice Nesser-Chu and President-Elect Priscilla Otani.

The Honor Awards: Their Significance

by Anne Swartz, Honors Awards Selection Committee Chair

One of the most amazing things the Women's Caucus for Art does on a national level is to provide awards for mid-career and distinguished professional women in the visual arts. The President's Award, honoring those in mid-career, has been given intermittently since 1987, but has been more consistently given in recent years. The Lifetime Achievement Awards (LAA) have been given since 1979 with the first awards presented in President Jimmy Carter's Oval Office, courtesy of Joan Mondale, an arts activist and the wife of then-Vice President Walter Mondale. (Learn more about past awardees at www.nationalwca.org.) These awards are an important part of WCA's advocacy for women. When we recognize the accomplishments of individuals, we recognize ourselves and our hope for the future. Anyone who has attended an awards event will tell you how touching and delightful it is to hear the presentations and listen to the awardees.

As the Guerilla Girls first pointed out in the mid-1980s, women artists often toil without recognition. Many women in the visual arts have great difficulty receiving awards because of continuing sexism in the art world. The absence of awards is only one kind of discrimination; there is also the problem of access to grants and funding, exhibition opportunities, and educational support. Thus, these awards are extremely important in ensuring that the accomplishments of women in the visual arts do not go unnoticed, unrecognized, or unrecorded.

Diversity is a key component of these awards, which recognize the full range of the visual arts professions. When these awards were first created, there was attention paid to ensuring the awards committee would focus on women of accomplishment, with attention to racial, ethnic, sexual, and professional diversity, as well as women who are disabled. Artists are considered alongside curators and other professionals. The Selection Committee also emphasizes women who haven't received recognition despite serious accomplishments and achievements.

The President has complete autonomy in determining the President's Award(s). The President's Award is given to one or more emerging or mid-career women, solely determined by the President.

The process for the Lifetime Achievement Awards is more involved. It begins with the nominations database, which is a list of women who are eligible for this award. Anyone may nominate a woman for consideration for the LAA, simply by contacting me at axs@aol.com. Please provide whatever information you may have about the nominee. Once someone is in the database, she is eligible for consideration. Once the chair calls for the process to begin each year, the committee selects an initial list. The committee members are prominent women in the visual

arts professions, but not Board members. Usually, each of the committee members is asked to compile a list of about 10 names. The chair then culls that list to a shorter list for a final selection of awardees. The number of awardees each year is determined in consultation with the President.

Once the President notifies the Executive Committee of the Selection Committee's choices, I am charged with contacting each of the awardees. I have had a wide range of responses to that call, everything from tears to shouting to quiet expressions of appreciation. I was surprised the first time one of the awardees told me, "I had no idea anyone was paying attention," despite having had an active career for many, many decades. I laugh whenever an awardee asks "Who put you up to this? Are you making this up?" After some discussion, the awardee realizes I am sincere. Some awardees express thanks, asking me to pass along her appreciation for the recognition. Some who have spent years hardening their exteriors because of disrespect, lack of recognition, or decades of shouting to be heard, get misty-eyed and even well up with tears at the ceremony.

Think about how few women receive major awards and grants. There are so many women in the visual arts professions who have toiled in isolation, making art, creating exhibitions, writing books, among many other activities, hoping that their voice gets heard or their experiences speak to others. These awards are one of the truly activist aspects of WCA. With these awards, we ensure that women in the visual arts aren't sidelined. These awards are an important part of WCA's activism and advocacy of women in the visual arts; the awards recognize women who developed a new language or image, pressed against any limitations or categories, made a difference, and opened up opportunities we all enjoy today.

If you would like to participate in the Honors Awards process, please consider getting involved in the fundraising. This aspect of the awards is a key component to building WCA's name and reputation, and fostering relationships with significant colleges and universities, galleries and museums, and individuals, as well as other organizations.



The Lifetime Achievement Award dinner was held in the beautiful and historic Chicago Cultural Center.

The Honors Awards

Reflecting on 2010 and Looking to 2011

by Anne Swartz, Honors Awards Selection Committee Chair

The Honors Awards offer WCA a special opportunity to reflect on the achievements and accomplishments of extraordinary women in the visual arts.

The 2010 Lifetime Achievement Awards celebrated Tritobia Hayes Benjamin, educator and art historian, Washington, D.C.; Mary Jane Jacob, curator and critic, Chicago, Ill.; Senga Nengudi, performance and installation artist, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Joyce J. Scott, visual and performance artist, Baltimore, Md.; and Spiderwoman Theater—Lisa Mayo, Gloria Miguel, and Muriel Miguel—performance artists, Brooklyn, N.Y. The President's Awardees were Karen Reimer, fiber artist, and Juana Guzman, museum director, both of Chicago, on Saturday, February 13, 2010.

Past-President Marilyn Hayes presided over the events at the impressive Chicago Cultural Center, known historically as the People's Palace. The dinner was held in the GAR Memorial Hall and the awards ceremony in the Cassidy Theater. She was assisted in planning and fundraising by current President Janice Nesser and National Administrator Karin Luner. National Board members Yuriko Takata, Nominations Chair, Holly Dodge, Advisor, and Priscilla Otani, President-Elect and International Chair, managed the raffle, which included the major prize of *The Life Cycle of the Moth*, a lithograph printed by Anchor Graphics of Chicago, and donated by the artist Eleanor Spiess-Ferris. Moving and delightful, the events were enjoyed by all present.

The Honors Awards events planning for 2011 began last fall with the selection of the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Awardees. The committee selected six women of accomplishment, representing a range of visual arts professionals.

- Sculptor Beverly Buchanan, of Michigan, is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships.
- Artist and arts activist Diane Burko, of Pennsylvania, is one of the founding members of the Women's Caucus for Art. She also founded and organized the first multi-venue feminist art festival, which was also the first city-wide art festival in Philadelphia.
- Artist and educator Ofelia Garcia, of New Jersey, is Professor of Art at William Paterson College and has served as President of the Atlanta College of Art, and later of Rosemont College. She served as President of WCA from 1984 to 1986.



Past President Marilyn Hayes (far right) with 2010 LAA awardees, President Awardees and selected presenters: Mary Jane Jacobs (LAA), Senga Nengudi (LAA), Juana Guzman (President's Award), Karen Reimer (President's Award), Muriel Borst (Spiderwoman Theater presenter), Monique Mojica-Thomas (Spiderwoman Theater presenter), and Sonya Clark (Joyce Scott presenter)

- Art historian Joan Marter, of New Jersey, is Distinguished Professor of Art History at Rutgers University, as well as serving as President of the Dorothy Dehner Foundation.
- Artist Carolee Schneemann, of New York, currently has a solo exhibition, *Carolee Schneemann: Within and Beyond the Premises*, at the Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art through July 25, 2010.
- Artist Sylvia Sleight, also of New York, is highly regarded as a figurative painter, especially her portraits and life-size nudes, which have been widely exhibited and are held in numerous public and private collections.

The 2011 awards presentations will also include the President's Awards, still to be announced. More biographical details of our 2011 honorees will be posted on the Web site later this summer. Save the date for the awards events scheduled for Saturday evening, February 12, 2011, with more details to follow.

We're Accepting LAA Nominations

The Honors Awards process for 2012 (to be presented at the conference in Los Angeles) has begun! Please submit names for the Lifetime Achievement Awards nominations database to Anne Swartz at axs30@aol.com by June 30, 2010

Regional and Chapter News

by Barbara Wolanin, Vice President for Chapter Relations

News from the chapters is primarily based on reports presented at the Chapters' Council meeting in Chicago. Comments in italics are mine.
—Barbara Wolanin

Northeast Region

Welcome New Chapter: Pioneer River Valley!

Rochleigh Wolfe, formerly of the St. Louis chapter, took on starting a new chapter after she moved to Massachusetts near the border with Vermont. Within just a few months, she recruited members from Massachusetts and Vermont, got officers in place, and developed bylaws. The new group is now in the process of being recognized by our President as a full-fledged chapter. It hasn't been easy, with such problems as getting a PO box and bank account set up correctly. She is gearing up for a membership drive, and plans to attend a Boston chapter meeting and develop chapter collaborations. The chapter has been invited to show in India this year or early next year.

Other Northeast chapters are encouraged to support and connect with our newest chapter.

New Hampshire

In November, WCA/NH opened its *Ninth Annual 6x6* show, where all artworks are on 6 x 6 inch panels; 39 members participated. Bedford Community TV interviewed members at the opening and spread the word about the mission of the chapter. *Hues & Views*, an exhibition of art journals and altered books, was shown at the New Hampshire Institute of Art, with the books displayed on white chairs. The project grew out of a 2007 collaborative round robin of art journals and altered books based on different color palettes. For 2010, the chapter has four exhibitions planned. The chapter continues with the Artist Trading Cards project and has archived five cards from each of the 30 trades they've had since 2004.

Central Massachusetts

The chapter had two exhibitions in the fall, *Priced to Sell*, at Design at 639, in Fitchburg, featuring reasonably priced works, and an invitational at the Fitchburg Access Television Studios entitled *Heavenly Bodies*, the chapter's fourth annual show in that venue, with a live broadcast of the panel discussion and interviews with artists. The chapter received a grant from the Fitchburg Cultural Council to bring Rachel "Rocky" Lehr to talk about her work with Rubia Inc. on *Inside Fitchburg*, broadcast live to the local community. The chapter continues with the Artist Trading Card activity with bi-monthly exchanges and invites other chapters to trade with them. A series of art shares in varying locations entitled Round Robin Salons has begun. The CMWCA Chapter History has been completed and the chapter hopes to have 501(c)(3) status in place this spring.

Congratulations on all of the television coverage for your chapter and members, getting your non-profit status, and especially for completing your chapter history—an excellent idea for all chapters to consider!

Southeast Region

Greater Washington, D.C.

The chapter is planning a juried exhibition at the Delaplaine Arts Center in Frederick, MD. Its annual Networking Day in May features a founding WCA member, Ellouise Schoettler, now a professional storyteller. She will focus her stories on the birth of WCA. The chapter's Web site now includes the online newsletter and members' art pages.

Georgia

The Georgia chapter's next member exhibition, *WCAGA TwentyTen*, will opened in March at Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston. They will end the year with *Brainstorm* at the downtown Atlanta Public Library, which will be part of the First Thursday Art Walk. The chapter's popular Art Share program features informal discussion and critiques. Their Book Club/Discussion group meets bi-monthly to discuss writings (books, articles, blogs, etc.) chosen by participants.

Art shares and book discussion are excellent opportunities to share ideas and make contacts.

Midwest Region

Chicago

The chapter has barely caught its breath after presenting the smashing 2010 Awards for Excellence in the Arts to five deserving women, and a Midwestern exhibition that was well received. These successful events grew out of a period of reflection for the chapter, focusing on "who we were, what is our focus, should we disband." Somehow the talks revitalized the chapter and it formed committees, tried to meet regularly, spent a lot of time planning the 2010 Awards Ceremony, and is now busy with a membership drive. Also in the hopper is an annual members' exhibition in October and the Women and Water Rights traveling exhibit in 2011.

Thank you, Chicago chapter for all you did to make the February Confab and Lifetime Achievement Awards a success!

Michigan

The Michigan chapter headed by Brenda Oelbaum made great contributions to the Confab in February by helping with the bus tour and assisting at the awards ceremony and book table. The chapter's annual exhibition at the University of Michigan North Campus travels to two other Michigan sites in 2010. Inspired by the California chapters' collaborative project, Michigan is pairing artists from different regions of the state to exchange art on the theme of "Balance with." An exhibition of the final work of the 38 participating artists will travel to The

Gallery in the Duderstadt Center, University of Michigan; River's Edge Gallery, in Wyandotte; Finlandia Reflections Gallery, Finlandia University; and possibly the Holland (Mich.) Area Arts Council. Attendance has increased with bi-monthly Meetings of the Mind, fostering networking and talking about members' work.

The western branch of the Michigan WCA will begin meeting regularly and will be visited by members of the eastern branch. Susan Mulder (western branch) has started a blog to help artists exchange information about calls for art, brainstorm, and generally keep in touch statewide, at <http://miwca.wordpress.com>.

Yueh-Mei Cheng is working to form a new chapter of young women at her university in the Upper Peninsula. They meet once a month for lunch and critiques as part of the Young Women's Caucus for WCA.

Chapters are encouraged to adopt successful ideas that worked in other chapters.

Minnesota

The chapter co-sponsored *Women & Water Rights: Rivers of Regeneration*, an exhibition curated by Lucy Lippard with symposium and speakers at the University of Minnesota, February 23 through March 25. Concurrent related art exhibitions are also going on in the area.

An impressive event focused on eco-activism.

St. Louis

The St. Louis chapter partnered with area colleges and other organizations to host a wide range of activities for Women's History month, beginning with *Contemporary Women Artists XV—Art as Activism*, a national biennial exhibition juried by Yolanda Lopez. The events surrounding the exhibition included Yolanda's talk on Activism in Art, a gallery talk and reception, and a brunch at the home of WCA President Janice Nesser-Chu, where Yolanda talked about what art activism means today. Other STL chapter events included an exhibition of work at Spirits; a screening of the national video arts competition at Florissant Valley College, and a collaborative exhibition at the NAC gallery, *We All Relate: Celebrating Global and Local Connections*, to benefit Red Cross Haitian Relief. St. Louis was proud to have 10 members attend the conference in Chicago!

Great examples of art activism.

Nebraska

The small Nebraska chapter encourages other artists in their area to participate in events, exhibitions, and workshops, as well as to join WCA. Every March, the chapter shows at the University of Nebraska Student Union for Women's History Month. This year's theme is *Any Dream Will Do*. Their *Full Plate* show—all in the form of plates—was rehung in October, and the chapter has workshops and other shows planned for 2010.

We were very pleased to have the chapter represented at the Chicago Chapters' Council meeting this year.

Southwest Region

Colorado

The chapter is working to build membership and has designed a new poster. They have a young women's scholarship to help students buy art supplies and are organizing a show called *The Price of Fashion*.

Northwest Region

Oregon

The chapter has monthly workshops in Portland focusing on a variety of media from crochet with plastic bags to computer skills. The international focus of the chapter continues with their exchanges with South Korean women artists. In August, the *International Women Artists Exhibition USA 2010* will be at Portland State University. The chapter will be going to Korea in 2011.

The other small chapters in the region decided to disband this year, leaving Portland the shining light in the Northwest.



Members of WCA's Oregon chapter met with their South Korean counterparts for Cultural Sensibilities IV, an important part of this chapter's work and outreach.

Pacific Region

Regional VP Helen Poole Newman and the chapters have been busy organizing the Eco-Art Conference, juried exhibition and National Board Meeting to be held in the San Francisco Bay Area from June 23–27, 2010. See the story on page 1. All WCA members are encouraged to attend this regional conference.

Northern California

The chapter met in artists' studios throughout the Bay Area, held a retreat, and focused on revising its bylaws. Members participated in collaboration rounds, based on themes such as "Altered Images," "Shadowplay," "What About Tomorrow?," "Frida & Me," and "Moisture." Artists sent pieces inspired by the theme to other players, then created second and third pieces influenced by pieces sent to them on the same theme. Afterward, they gathered to discuss their experiences. Each round resulted in a catalog documenting the works created.

Peninsula

The Peninsula Chapter meets monthly to discuss outstanding business and upcoming events, and for art shares/critiques. The chapter organized three member shows in 2009 at the Coastal Art League in Half Moon Bay, the Community Gallery in Redwood City, and Avenue 25 Gallery in San Mateo. With the South Bay Area chapter, they hosted the *CONTROL* show, an exhibition of 79 California women artists juried by the Guerrilla Girls West, in August at the SOMArts Cultural Center in San Francisco with over 500 people at the opening reception and a literature reading on the theme. Both chapters led art workshops in juvenile detention homes with the incarcerated young women exploring the theme of control. The exhibition will travel to the Ceres Gallery in New York City in February 2011. Ruth Waters led a workshop for 50 local artists on writing an artist statement. Ruth Waters, Arabella Decker, Karen Gutfreund, and Leigh Toldi co-authored and compiled *Exhibition Catalogues: Why? How?*, a step-by-step guide on creating exhibition catalogs from three different perspectives and methods.

This useful guide can be downloaded at no cost from the National WCA Web site at <http://www.nationalwca.org/membership/memberpublications.html>.

Southern California

This chapter continues to organize a range of stimulating programs such as studio visits, museum tours, workshops, panels, Art Matters, Art Buddy program, and EcoArt meetings. It coordinates The Feminist Art Project events in the region. The chapter was awarded an LA County Arts Commission grant to make it a hub for women artists. The

chapter is collaborating on the June regional conference. *Check out this chapter's Web site for program ideas. Other chapters may want to consider being TFAP coordinators in their areas—WCA is one of its sponsors.*

South Bay

The chapter hosts Art Circles to critique work and held a 20th anniversary show. In the fall, five chapter members facilitated a six-week sculpture workshop led by Fabienne Bismuth at the Muriel Wright Residential Center for 17 girls living at the facility. The girls sculpted and cast reliefs, which were then painted. The chapter celebrates SWAN Day—Support Women Artists Now—on the last Saturday of March, and encourages other chapters to join them next year. *A great example of community activism.*

Monterey Bay

The Monterey Bay chapter collaborated with nine other cultural and environmental groups on the exhibition *The Creeks of Salinas: The Bagilan Watershed Experience* at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, Calif., from February 5–April 25, 2010, closing on Earth Day. The chapter is planning *Roots of Jazz: An Exhibition of Women in the Visual Arts* in the summer.

Another good example of collaboration for eco-activism.

San Diego

The chapter holds monthly meetings, usually with workshops or demonstrations, and holds an annual retreat. The chapter just elected a new slate of officers.

Heartfelt Thanks

by Janice Nesser-Chu, WCA President

WCA is made up of many volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to this organization. We may all come here for different reasons, but we come here nonetheless. From the members-at-large in Montana to the President of the New Orleans chapter to the Vice President of the Southwest Region, every single member is important to the sustainability and growth of this organization. I encourage us all to stand up, and at every meeting, say their names. When we acknowledge people out loud for others to hear, we write them into the history of WCA.

I especially want to acknowledge those who have worked tirelessly for WCA in the last administration. I want to thank the 2008–2009 Board of Directors for all their hard work and passion for WCA, especially the Executive Board members: Barbara Wolanin, Fay Grajower, Margaret Lutze, Holly Dodge, and our Past-President Marilyn Hayes. Marilyn continues to be a source of information, inspiration, and friendship, not only for me but for all WCA. I also want to thank Karin Luner, our National Administrator, for always going above and beyond. I would like to thank all those who served in so many capacities for WCA over those years, from the Vice

Presidents of the Regions, to Chapter Directors, to Chapter Relations Board members, to Committee Chairs, to national committee members, to Chapter Presidents, to Chapter Boards, to our membership. I also want to thank Midwest VP Brenda Oelbaum, the Chicago chapter members, and all the volunteers who pulled off one amazing conference and Lifetime Achievement Awards in Chicago. I was privileged to co-chair the committee with Brenda and to work with a dedicated, tireless group of women. As always, I am in awe.

I also want to welcome the new Board of Directors and thank them for committing the next two to three years to creating the future of WCA. There are many new names listed in this newsletter, and many new faces to learn and voices to hear.

And finally, I'd like to again acknowledge and thank the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Awardees: Tritobia Hayes Benjamin, Mary Jane Jacob, Senga Nengudi, Joyce J. Scott, and Spiderwoman Theater (Lisa Mayo, Gloria Miguel, and Muriel Miguel) and the President's Awardees, Karen Reimer and Juana Guzman. Their lives and work are a source of inspiration to all of us.

Dates to Remember

2010

June 1	Call to submit names to LAA database
June 2	Board/committee reports, proposals and agenda items for the June Board meeting are due
June 23–27	Board meeting/Pacific Region Eco Arts Conference, Berkeley, Calif.
June 30	Deadline to submit names to database for possible 2012 LAA nominees
July 31	Article deadline for Artlines Fall newsletter
Sept 22	Artlines Fall newsletter mailed
Oct 1	2011 Membership Drive begins
Oct 29	Article deadline for Artlines Winter newsletter
Oct 30	Tentative deadline for national exhibition Live Space
Nov 12	Tentative deadline for 7th annual video art competition
Nov 20–Jan 7	Early registration for WCA conference Live Space–Women, Art, Activism in New York City

2011

Jan 7	Early registration ends for WCA conference in New York City
Jan 15	Winter Artlines mailed
Jan 20	Board/committee reports and proposals for the February Board meeting are due
Feb 2	Deadline to register online for WCA conference
Feb 10–14	Board meeting/WCA conference Live Space–Women, Art, Activism New York/announce 2012 mid-year meeting location
Feb 12	2011 WCA Lifetime Achievement Awards ceremony
April 2	Article deadline for Artlines Spring/Summer newsletter
April 18	Call for nominations for President Elect to serve 2012–14
June 1	Call to submit names to LAA database
June 4	Artlines mailed
June 15	Nominations due for President Elect
June 30	Deadline to submit names to database for possible 2013 LAA nominees
July 1	Board/committee reports, proposals and agenda items for the July Board meeting are due
July 21–24	Board meeting/Midwest Region conference, St. Louis, MO.
July 30	Announcement of President Elect candidate(s)
July 30	Article deadline for Artlines Fall newsletter
Sept 22	Artlines Fall newsletter mailed; includes info on candidates for President Elect
Oct 1	2012 Membership Drive begins
Oct 28	Article deadline for Artlines Winter newsletter
Oct 29	Tentative deadline for national exhibition in LA
Nov 12	Tentative deadline for 8th annual video art competition
Nov 18–Jan 6	Early registration begins for WCA conference in Los Angeles
Nov 27	Deadline to cast vote for 2012–14 President Elect
Dec 1	Members notified by email of election result

Join the Young Women’s Caucus Network Dialogue

by Yueh-mei Cheng

WCA’s Young Women’s Caucus has been organizing discussions on YWC’s Facebook. Some of the things we’ve been talking about include:

- YWC is currently planning a performance art piece at WCA’s 2011 Conference in New York, a wide-open discussion for generating ideas/theme of the performance is in the brainstorming stage. Exciting ideas are piling up, such as “turning the audience into the main act,” and “getting people involved in more than one way,” including something like “where’s Waldo” for presenting the question, “Where are women in the art world?”
- Another topic on “What Women Want” is ongoing as well. Jaimianne Amicucci started the discussion, “Ladies lets speak up for WHAT WOMEN WANT constructively, let’s take back the idea to determine what we want in the arts to live a successful life!”
- As YWC is planning this year’s events and future development, the topic of “Strategic Planning (Officers)” is also being discussed. The individual’s strengths and resources are posted here. If you are willing to be part of YWC’s leadership, please join this discussion.

YWC is also preparing the *Apron Show* to travel to University of Wisconsin–Madison this summer. More information for this exhibition will be posted on YWC’s Facebook page.

YWC thanks its members and friends who have already generously contributed ideas and thoughts, and hopes more artists will join this discussion forum. It is open to people of any gender and all ages. I believe the valuable information that Young Women’s Caucus needed most will be generated from your suggestions.

Please check YWC’s Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&gid=141638976822>. To join Young Women’s Caucus, please log on to the WCA Web site for membership registration: www.nationalwca.org/membership/membership.html.

Book Review: *The Great Man*

Reviewed by Barbara Wolanin

The Great Man by Kate Christensen (Doubleday and Anchor Books)

This prize-winning novel starts with the fictional obituary of the “great man,” Oscar Feldman, successful painter of female nudes, and focuses on the women who revolved around him, including his sister, Maxine, who is a prominent abstract painter. Two rival and very different male biographers interview his wife, his mistress, and his sister, which stirs up memories and tensions. Christensen convincingly and wittily captures the New York art world, the inner and sensual life of older women, and the way, as she says, that “The ‘truth’—about a life, an artistic oeuvre, a single work of art, a biographical stance, a relationship, conversation or love affair—is mutable and slippery.”

I found the descriptions of the interview process very convincing as well because they paralleled my own doctoral dissertation research interviewing the daughters and students of a colorful and difficult male painter. At times I became the one analyzed and my life became entwined with those of my subjects, in a way similar to what happens to the two biographers.

Christensen won a 2008 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction for *The Great Man* out of a field of 350. In 28 years, only four other women have won this award. Reviewers were consistently positive; one called it a “profoundly feminist story.” Its colorful characters, vivid descriptions, and surprising twists make it one of the most enjoyable books I read all year.



2010 Lifetime Achievement Award Donors

The annual Lifetime Achievement Awards are made possible by the generous support of WCA members and chapters. The National Board is very grateful to the following donors:

Rita Al Rheuston	Nancy Grossman	Helen Poole Newman
Joan Arbeiter, Joan Arbeiter Studio	Ann Sutherland Harris	Ferris Olin, Rutgers University
Barbara Van Arnam	Maren Hassinger	Priscilla H. Otani
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Holly Dodge	Muriel Magenta	Barbara Wolanin
Noreen Dean Dresser	Linda Whelan Marks	WCA Washington DC, c/o Katie Weaver
Clairan Ferrono	M.G. Martin	WCA Peninsula Chapter, c/o Beate Amler
Rosalie Friis-Ross	Mary Maughelli	WCA-STL
Margaret W. Gallegos, Gallegos Studio	Diane J. Mayer	
Ofelia Garcia	Ruth Aizuss Migdal	
	Susan Moreno	
	Sandra Mueller	

Featured Member Artists

WCA's Featured Member Artists are chosen annually by blind review. Each month, the work of one of these talented artists is featured on the home page of our Web site, www.nationalwca.org. Join us in congratulating:

FEBRUARY 2010

Noreen Larinde | Southern California Chapter

MARCH 2010

Laura Morrison | New Hampshire Chapter

APRIL 2010

Elizabeth D'Amico | New Hampshire Chapter

MAY 2010

Joyce Polance | Chicago Chapter

JUNE 2010

Pamela Daum | Member-at-Large

JULY 2010

Shaqe Kalaj | Michigan Chapter

AUGUST 2010

Miriam Schaer | Member-at-Large

SEPTEMBER 2010

Jeannine Cook | Georgia Chapter

OCTOBER 2010

Dorothy Krause | Boston Chapter

NOVEMBER 2010

Freyda Miller | Southern California Chapter

DECEMBER 2010

Heather Stoltz | Member-at-Large

JANUARY 2011

Tara Fadenrecht | Chicago Chapter



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Call to Action!

WCA needs you to play an active role in our future. We are looking for members to serve on these important national committees:

- Finance
- International
- Chapter Relations
- LAA Awards
- 2011 New York Conference
- 2012 Los Angeles Conference
- Publications

For more information or to serve on a committee, contact Ulla Barr at ullaebarr@gmail.com or Barbara Wolanin at bwolanin2@comcast.net.