



... news flashes from the Ethnic Arts Council

July 2010



Barbara Goldenberg

Dec. 9, 1928 – July 7, 2010

“Barbara died peacefully on July 7th in the company of her loving daughter Amy, her loyal companion Ruth, and her devoted caregivers. Barbara is survived by her son-in-law Patrick Sweeney, her grandson Alexander, her family, and myriad friends.

Trying to catch the essence of Barbara is like trying to catch lightning in a bottle. Diminutive in size, grand in spirit and generosity, she will be missed by all. She will be remembered for her beauty (both inner and outer), her grace, her intelligence, her wit, her philanthropy, her exquisite taste, and her ability to work the New York Times Sunday crossword puzzle-in ink! “ (LA Times, July 11, 2010)

One of Barbara’s long-abiding interests began 46 years ago when some pre-Columbian objects caught her eye in the Brentwood home she and her late husband, Joe, would soon acquire. Such a home with so “many empty shelves” inspired her and Joe to attend their first auction where they spent \$200 on what turned out to be “three very ugly pre-Columbian pieces.” They promptly traded them for two other pieces (cost \$35) that remain in the collection today. A chance meeting at a neighbor’s home – George Kennedy – to discuss establishing an art council (the EAC)–produced their first serious purchase, the Nayarit village tableau that sits in her living room. That visit also initiated their life-long journey of passionate collecting, auction houses visits, travels abroad, and collaborating and competing with EAC’s tribal elders --the Stanoffs, Silvers, Dammanns, Kuhns *et al.* She and Joe were involved in all kinds of grand adventures: runners coming late at night; a well publicized theft of 14 artifacts, 11 which miraculously were returned 25 years later; and trips to Nigeria, Upper Volta, Wagadogu, Mali and Senegal. In many ways much of their passion for ethnic art reflects the very history of the EAC from its founding nearly 45 years ago.

Barbara exemplified the conscientious steward of a country’s cultural history. She and Joe have insured that the cultural patrimony of Mexico, Africa, and Papua New Guinea will be shared and appreciated by the public-at-large – to wit, the Fowler,



LACMA, the Smithsonian, & Stanford museums have been named as the repositories for their prized collections.

Barbara gave generously of her time and money to the EAC with her home often the favorite choice for many fundraisers, programs, and even an Annual Dinner. This understated and unassuming woman, who handed out nametags at the EAC registration table, was the same person who would spend a summer month in a Vermont cabin with Stanford classmates like Sandra Day O’Conner.

But Barbara was much more than the steward of a premier collection. She has been a committed activist for the past 40 years. This “tree lady”, as she is fondly called, was responsible for much of the greening of Brentwood - the green grass alongside Bundy, the flower and vegetable gardens at Brentwood Magnet School, and the restored coral trees along San Vicente.

In addition to her art and green activities, Barbara was a consummate activist Democrat– fundraising with Jon Stewart, registering voters in Nevada for John Kerry or at 80 traveling to Arizona to register more voters. She managed also to pursue her love of opera, theater, films, tap dancing, and golf. She truly embraced life fully, passionately, and with a joy that was infectious. When she accepted the EAC honorary award *in absentia* in 2009, she was taking the trip of a lifetime – cruising along the Dalmatian Coast, accompanied by family members as well as Marilyn Horne and a troupe of performing musicians.

Yes, her legacy will benefit generations to come because *ars longa, vita brevis* - life is short, art is long. But we celebrate an exemplary life well-lived ...fare thee well, Barbara Goldenberg.

Feelie Lee, a friend and member of the EAC Board

SAVE the DATE • The ANNUAL DINNER • OCTOBER 10, 2010



at the Fowler Museum • 5- 9 pm • invitation forthcoming



Silent Auction Items Wanted Now!!

Time to Make the **Annual Sacrifice**
EAC Annual Dinner • October 10, 2010
Fowler Museum at UCLA

Check out your home/warehouse for **tax-deductible** contributions to EAC.

Ethnic artifacts, textiles, jewelry, theater tickets, special wines, stay at vacation home, spa visit, dinner prepared *chez vous*, or a lovely cash donation. Use your imagination!

Questions? Please call Mark Johnson (888-980-2662) or Phliip Garaway (310-577-8555). **October 1st, 2010** drop-off deadline.

Drop off Sites:

The Baums at 362 S. Las Palmas Ave., LA 90020 (323) 936-0012
Christine Gregory at 201 S. Linden Dr., Beverly Hills 90212 (310) 277-9200
Sara Lee Gallery, Unit T1 Bergamot Station, Santa Monica (310) 829-4938

Membership Renewal campaign begins in July!!

To guarantee your seat for the Annual Dinner at the Fowler, your membership **must** be current. Please look for the renewal notice this month and pay immediately. Your dues support our year-round educational programs as well as crucial grant support to museums and other non-profit organizations. Thanks in advance.



EAC e-news • Published – July 13, 2010
Contact: Feelie Lee, Guest Editor at feelie@ucla.edu

The Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles (EAC)

• Dedicated to Advancing the Knowledge, Interest, and Appreciation of Ethnic Art •

**Become a member! Contact: Lyn Avins (lavins@ucla.edu) or
Scott Keesling (CyberScott@att.net)**

