



... news flashes from the Ethnic Arts Council

may 2010

Chairman's Message

Dr. Richard Baum



Newsletters contain news that is good to hear, but also news we would prefer not to read. But let us start with the happy news first.

Our beloved **Harry Steinberg** has reached his 100th birthday today, March 12th. Mentally quick, eager to learn, Harry attends most EAC events. He and his lovely wife Claire are the EAC's Couple of All Time. Harry and Claire were friends long before they were a couple. After each of them lost their first spouses—and the couples had been close friends—Harry and Claire came to find they were more than friends and became husband and wife some 30 odd years ago. Harry had been in the Army

Medical Corp during WWII, attaining the rank of colonel. He moved to LA in 1946 and started his practice and became a highly respected ENT specialist, retiring in 1982. Together he and Claire have built a very impressive collection of African, Pre-Columbian and contemporary art. Over the years they have been very active in EAC affairs. To you, Harry, from the EAC go our very best wishes, our love and our respect on this most auspicious occasion!

Helen Kuhn, one of the founding member of the EAC, celebrated her 90th birthday May 8th. Best remembered for the superb collection of African art that she and her late husband, Bob, put together, she has now gone on to collect Japanese masks and scrolls, many appearing in the Japanese Pavilion at LACMA. Strong and vigorous as ever, it is hard to imagine that this daily bridge player is really 90. Helen, best wishes from all of us.

Sad news comes with the good. **Alfred Stendahl**, one of the founders of the Ethnic Arts Council, passed away May 1st at age 94, as according to Ron and April Dammann. As they so devotedly wrote: "Al, who was the son of Earl L. and Enid Stendahl, was one of the founders of the Ethnic Arts Council. He enjoyed a long career in his family business (Stendahl Galleries) and, with his father Earl and his brother-in-law, Joseph Dammann, helped to introduce Southern California to Modern and Pre-Columbian Art.



“Al was a World War II hero (he was a B29 pilot), an author, a devoted family man—predeceased by his wife Ursula—and a really fun uncle,” according to Ron, his nephew. “Al’s passion for art and art history contributed immeasurably to collectors, museums, students and artists. His scholarship and commerce in the field of Pre-Columbian art continued a long tradition begun by his visionary father. But Al Stendahl stood apart—a man of distinction and accomplishment, proud to see the family business thrive long after his active years.”

A most lovely tribute from two people who were so close to this outstanding man.

To you, Ron and April, go the heart felt condolences from all of us.

On May 13th Bonhams is featuring at their New York auction house selections from the African collection of **Leon and Fern Wallace**. This collection has thrilled and exhilarated the EAC over many years when we were fortunate enough to view it. We will remember the pride Leon had as he told about each piece in loving detail. We will miss seeing the collection with its many great examples of art from many tribes.



Leon is greatly missed by all of us. His sudden leaving in November 2009 was a shock indeed. The threat of very inclement weather caused the cancellation of the memorial service for Leon at the Fowler. As chair of the EAC I had been asked to give a toast from us all. The cancellation disappointed me because I could not say the words to honor this unusual and wonderful person. Bear with me while I give this toast now.

“What can I say to toast Leon that is not redundant—and about now in this discourse, if Leon were here, he would have at least one pun and by the time I finished, three or four more. And such was the way he hopped on everything you said.”

Some man—a foolish man, indeed—once said that a pun was the lowest form of humor. NOT SO! A pun shows intelligence on the part of the punster by his dissecting a phrase and cloning it into a witty parody; and it assumes intelligence upon the listeners that they will be able to understand the punster’s meaning.

Thus it was that Leon complimented us all by assuming our intelligence when he so often punned. And thus it was that Leon endeared himself to us all.

But he was so much more! As a professional colleague of mine, he was highly respected by his fellow physicians and much beloved by his patients from whom he



retired such a brief time ago. He—with Fern—was an avid and a refined collector of African Art, contemporary and modern art, and of basketry sculpture to name only some of their collections. He was thoroughly bright, scholarly, intelligent, and a fine, fine person.

Leon will be remembered fondly by us all—to some few as a great traveling companion, to others as a good friend, or a colleague or an acquaintance. But to all of us as a person who always kept us on our toes so we did not miss the quintessential Leon Wallace—the greatest punster of then all. To Leon.”

Fern, we so share your loss.

Thanks from all of us go to our dedicated EAC Board. The smooth running of our Council depends on the concerted efforts of many people working tirelessly together and often behind the scene. To Kaija Keel for keeping our finances in order and for her exhaustive preparation of our IRS filings. To David Hayen for steering our non-profit entity on course and for his incisive updating of our bylaws. To the Membership co-chairs, Lyn Avins and Scott Keesling, for growing our organization to its 200 member strength. To our indefatigable Feelie Lee for over-seeing the Grants program this year to insure that our museum partners' requests will be met in whole or part. I especially want to thank Program chair Tamara Hoffman who has performed such a wonderful job of finding, organizing and executing so many fine programs this past year. But volunteer sweat and labor are not enough to assure the continued relevance and financial health of our EAC. To Peggy Jacobson and her development team for creating our wonderful **Tribute Program**, a program that acknowledges and honors our friends on special occasions – whether a birthday, a wedding or a memorial service with a tax-deductible contributions to EAC. With such a Board I am indeed proud to serve the EAC Membership.



Home of Armin & Barbara Sadoff with program chair, Tamara Hoffman, attentive as ever to suggestions from Edwin and Cheri Silver



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 23, 2010 • Noon – 2 pm • LACMA Brown Auditorium • Film Program

2501 Migrants: A Journey examines the far reaching effects of mass emigration in the Oaxacan town of Teococuilco and the monumental art that emerges as both a memorial and a powerful political statement



Alejandro Santiago and I are both from Oaxaca – one of Mexico's poorest states - and both of us have created art that comments on the state's status as a leading exporter of human labor to the United States. Both of us left home as children and returned to find our communities irreversibly altered by mass migration to the United States. We each have a foot in two worlds – Oaxaca and the international community of artists and filmmakers

- Yolanda Cruz

June 13, 2010 • 2-5 pm • Dr. Daniel & Fala Powers Art Collection

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Alphabet Linda & David Caplan Elizabeth Lees & Bill Caskey

Mary Herne & David Kenin Edward Roski, Jr. Lesley Anne Martin



Wise old members Drs. Christopher Donnan and Alan Grinnell at Little Lake



Happy 100th Birthday, Harry Steinberg !!



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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)**

