

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

*The
1998
National Medal of Arts
National Humanities Medal
Celebration Luncheon*

NOVEMBER 5, 1998

Washington, D.C.



THE
1998
NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS
NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL

Celebration Luncheon



HONORING
THE

1998 National Medal of Arts Recipients

AND THE

1998 National Humanities Medal Recipients



November 5, 1998



From the Chairman

Today we honor the winners of the President's National Medal of Arts. Most are among America's greatest living artists--cultural treasures representing lifelong dedication to the artistic disciplines of dance, music, literature, architecture, painting, theater, film, and opera. One is a modern American patriot who devoted her life's work to nurturing the Constitutional freedoms many of us take for granted. Two are organizations that have achieved greatness, one by creating works that have thrilled an audience of millions, the other by investing millions to bring art to audiences. Taken together, our winners represent the diverse cultural heritage of a nation--the culmination of a century of American art and artistry.

Today we pause to savor the work of these artists and scholars who have made such vast contributions to the mosaic that is our living cultural heritage. Tomorrow, we shall begin again, inspired by their dedication and artistry. We shall move forward, toward the millennium, building a future for our children and our communities that is grounded in the arts and the humanities.

I congratulate each of today's Arts and Humanities honorees. Your contributions to culture will be remembered and appreciated, and will serve as a foundation on which artists will build their dreams for many years to come.



From the Chairman

It is with great pride that we take this special opportunity to honor nine individuals who have stimulated and expanded public understanding of the humanities. They are dedicated to the study and appreciation of history, literature, philosophy and the diverse traditions of this country's many peoples, and they have made momentous contributions to our nation's living cultural heritage. Their efforts have helped us all to gain a deeper understanding of ourselves and our society.

President Clinton has said, "The arts and humanities empower us to celebrate our individual identities while reminding us of the values and commitments that unite us as a country." As the millennium approaches, we recognize that the arts and humanities can help us interpret the past, understand the present, and envision the future.

I extend my wholehearted congratulations to both Endowments' honorees. Their investments in culture and education have resulted in increased access to the arts and the humanities for all our people, making our country a richer and wiser place in which to live.

FIRST COURSE

Autumn Greens with Pears, Walnuts, and warm Sage Croutons
walnut shallot vinaigrette

Country Breads

ENTREE

Sea Bass with Sun-dried Tomatoes
port wine sauce

Potato Nests with Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Roasted Asparagus
herb butter

DESSERT

Spiced Cake Alaska
layers of spice cake, vanilla ice cream and meringue
caramel sauce

Fresh Fruit

COFFEE & TEA

Welcoming Remarks

Garrison Keillor

Author of ten books and host of *A Prairie Home Companion*,
heard weekly on public radio stations from coast to coast

Lunch

Remarks

Bill Ivey, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts
William Ferris, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities

Observations

Garrison Keillor

Music

Loston Harris Trio

Loston Harris is one of the most intuitive newcomers to hit the jazz scene in years.

This young, provocative pianist/vocalist from Reston, Virginia,
transports the tradition of the piano trio in his 1998
nationally distributed N2K label, *Comes Love*.

Neil Caine is on bass and Tim Pratt is on drums.

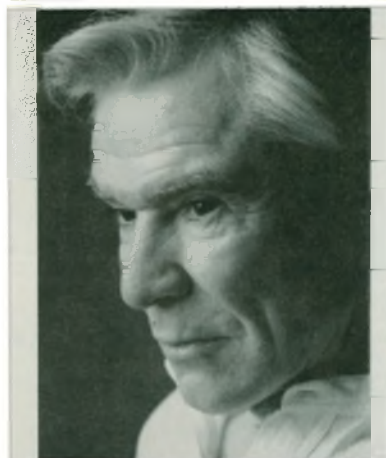


Photo Credit: Susan Johann

Jacques d'Amboise
NEW YORK, NY

Jacques d'Amboise, recognized as one of the finest classical dancers of our time, is also a talented choreographer and outstanding leader in dance education. A protege of George Balanchine who joined the New York City Ballet at age 15, Mr. d'Amboise has appeared on Broadway and in films including *Carousel* and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. In 1976, he founded the National Dance Institute. His advances in arts education have since brought numerous honors including: the Kennedy Center Honor, the Award for Distinguished Service to the Arts from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship.



Fats Domino
NEW ORLEANS, LA

The legendary Antoine "Fats" Domino, with his boogie-woogie piano style, is one of rock 'n' roll's earliest and greatest stars. In a career spanning five decades, he has garnered 23 gold singles, sold over 65 million records, and helped bridge cultural gaps nationally and internationally. In the 1950s, his stellar hits included *"Ain't That A Shame," "I'm Walking,"* and *"Blueberry Hill."* He also appeared in films and played London's Royal Festival Hall. In 1986, Domino received the Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement and joined the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

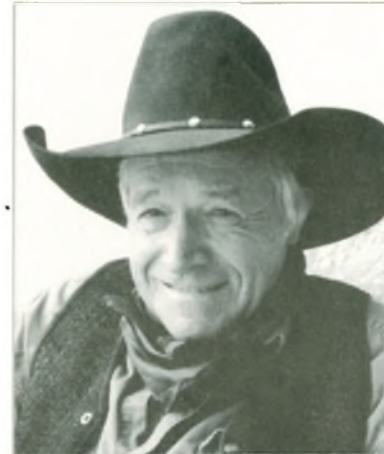


Photo Credit: Chris Fisher

Ramblin' Jack Elliott
MARSHALL, CA

Ramblin' Jack Elliott is a living American music treasure who has inspired generations of singers from Bob Dylan to Tom Waits and Beck. Profoundly influenced by his early years on the rodeo circuit and by Woody Guthrie in the early 1950s, Mr. Elliott developed a distinctive mix of folk, blues, country and western styles which he drew on in a legendary career encompassing more than 40 albums and three folk booms. In the 1970s he worked again with Dylan in the Rolling Thunder Revue and continued touring worldwide. Mr. Elliott earned a Grammy in 1966 for *South Coast*, received the 1996 Bill Graham Lifetime Achievement Award, and still delights his fans with his recordings and performances.



Photo Credit: Todd Elbert

Frank Gehry
SANTA MONICA, CA

Frank Gehry has built an architectural career that has spanned four decades, producing remarkable public and private buildings in America, Europe and Asia that address the context and culture of their sites. His new Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain, the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum in Minnesota, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in California (scheduled for completion in 2001) are among the world's most distinctive buildings. Mr. Gehry and his achievements have earned many of architecture's most prestigious awards including the Pritzker Architecture Prize, the Praemium Imperiale Award, the Wolf Prize in Art, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Award for lifetime contribution to the arts, the Friedrich Kiesler Prize, and over 100 awards from the American Institute of Architects.



Barbara Handman
NEW YORK, NY

Bobbie Handman has been a leading arts advocate and defender of free expression since the early 1970s, working to support a vibrant arts and cultural life while protecting basic First Amendment freedoms. As Treasurer of SAVE THE THEATRES in New York City and as a member of Mayor Ed Koch's Theatre Advisory Council, Ms. Handman has helped guarantee a place for the arts in people's lives. Since 1984, Ms. Handman has broadened her efforts to promote and protect artistic expression nationwide. As Vice President of People For The American Way Foundation, she launched *artsave*, a national project to protect artists and arts organizations facing challenges to their work.



Photo by Charles R. Rulison/Courtesy: Pace Wildenstein

Agnes Martin TAOS, NM

Agnes Martin is a distinguished legend in American art. Known as a "painter's painter," she is one of the country's foremost abstract artists and one of the few women artists of her generation to gain recognition for her contributions to the field. Her paintings, described as subtle abstract expressionism, have been exhibited in renowned museums and galleries nationally and internationally. Among her many honors are a 1997 Golden Lion for Contribution to Contemporary Art at the Venice Biennale and in 1998 the Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement from the College Art Association. Ms. Martin lives and works in Taos, New Mexico, where she finds the solitude and inspiration to concentrate on



Gregory Peck

Gregory Peck, actor and producer, has worked in film for more than fifty years, reaching a singular stature in the motion picture industry. His classic role as *To Kill a Mockingbird* earned Mr. Peck an Academy Award for Best Performance in 1962. He received four previous Oscar nominations for *The Keys of David*, *The Young Man*, *Gentleman's Agreement*, and *Twelve O'Clock High*. Mr. Peck's many honors include the American Film Institute's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award (1989), the Kennedy Center Honor (1991), and Lincoln Center's Lifetime Achievement Award (1992). He was twice appointed to the National Council on the Arts, was awarded the Medal of Honor, and served as President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

SCARLETT

International opera star Roberta Peters defined with the Metropolitan Opera nearly fifty years ago, achieving the longest tenure of any soprano in the Met's history. Known for her incandescent voice and spectacular stage presence, Miss Peters is noted for her coloratura roles. She has performed at the White House, on national television, in films, for recordings with most of the world's major orchestras, and at premier summer festivals worldwide. Miss Peters has taught many master classes at Harvard and other universities, and was appointed to the National Council on the Arts. She was the first American-born artist to receive the coveted Bolshoi Medal.



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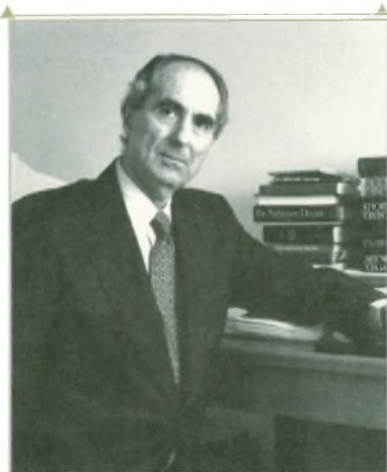


Photo Credit: Nancy Crumpton

Philip Roth

CORNWALL BRIDGE, CT

Philip Roth is one of the nation's foremost writers. With his last four books, all published in the 1990s, Philip Roth has won America's four major literary awards. *Patrimony* won the 1991 National Book Critics Circle Award, *Operation Shylock* the 1993 PEN/Faulkner Award, and *Sabbath's Theater* the 1995 National Book Award. *American Pastoral* received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize in fiction. His most recent novel, *I Married A Communist*, is his twenty-third published book. Mr. Roth was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1933, was educated at Bucknell University and the University of Chicago, and for many years taught comparative literature at the University of Pennsylvania. He retired from teaching in 1992 as Distinguished Professor of Literature at New York's Hunter College. Until 1989, he was General Editor of the Penguin Book series, "Writers from the Other Europe," which he inaugurated in 1974.



Sara Lee Corporation

CHICAGO, IL

Sara Lee Corporation and the Sara Lee Foundation have supported hundreds of arts organizations around the world. During the past 26 years, John H. Bryan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, has demonstrated through his personal and professional roles the remarkable impact that visionary leadership can have in promoting and preserving the arts. With headquarters in Chicago, operations in more than 40 countries and marketing products in more than 140 nations, Sara Lee Corporation is a global manufacturer and marketer of high-quality, brand-name products for consumers throughout the world.



Steppenwolf Theatre Company

CHICAGO, IL

The Steppenwolf Theatre Company, founded in 1976 by Terry Kinney, Jeff Perry, and Gary Sinise, has for the past two decades been dedicated to the ensemble approach to theater, superior acting, and the desire to create and maintain an artistic home. Bursting into public consciousness in the early 1980s with Sam Shepard's *True West* starring Sinise and John Malkovich, the ensemble has continued to grow in size and national acclaim adding members and building a state-of-the-art performing space. In addition to extensive touring, Steppenwolf has garnered three Tony Awards—one for Regional Theatre Excellence in 1985, and two in 1990 for Best Play and Best Director for the production of *The Grapes of Wrath*.



Gwen Verdon

BRONXVILLE, NY

Gwen Verdon is an acclaimed Broadway, theater, film and television dancer and actress who has garnered four Tony Awards for her outstanding artistic achievements. Her first Tony was for *Can-Can* (1953). Her second was for *Damn Yankees* (1955), which was choreographed by Bob Fosse whom she later married. Her third Tony was awarded for *New Girl in Town* (1957) and the fourth for *Redhead* (1959), which also received a Grammy. She also received two additional Tony nominations for *Sweet Charity* (1966) and *Chicago* (1975). Ms. Verdon's extensive work in film and television includes roles in the films *Cocoon* and *Marvin's Room*, and television credits on *M*A*S*H*, *Homicide*, and the PBS documentary about Bob Fosse, *Steam Heat*. Ms. Verdon has returned to Broadway as an artist advisor for *Fosse: A Celebration in Song & Dance*.

Humanities



Photo Copyright Helena Photography

Stephen E. Ambrose
HELENA, MT

One of the nation's leading scholars of military and diplomatic history, Stephen Ambrose saw three of his books appear simultaneously on the New York Times bestseller list: *Citizen Soldiers*, *Undaunted Courage*, and *D-Day, June 6, 1944*. He reaches a broad public audience serving as a historical advisor for many documentaries and most recently for the film *Saving Private Ryan*. Ambrose is founding director of the Eisenhower Center and the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans.



E. L. Doctorow
NEW YORK, NY

Published in 30 languages, E. L. Doctorow's work might be read as a spiritual history of America's last hundred years. Film adaptations have been made of his books, and a musical version of *Ragtime* is currently running on Broadway. Honors include the National Book Critics Circle Award (twice), the National Book Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the Edith Wharton Citation for Fiction, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' William Dean Howells Medal. Doctorow is a professor of English at New York University.

Channing L. Fife
CAMBRIDGE, MA

Through her directorship of the Pluralism Project, a Harvard-based research project aimed at studying and documenting the rich religious diversity of America, Diana Eck is credited with showing how the American religious landscape has diversified in the past 25 years. The project's multimedia CD-ROM, *On Common Ground: World Religions in America* (1997), features portraits of some 400 communities and an in-depth analysis of the 15 major religious traditions in the United States. Eck is professor of comparative religion and Indian studies at Harvard.



Photo Copyright Helina Photography

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Photo Copyright Jerry Bauer

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Photo Credit: Jon Chase, Harvard News Office

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Photo Courtesy of Nancye Brown Gaj

Nancye Brown Gaj

RALEIGH, NC

Founded by Nancye Brown Gaj in 1987, Motherhead, Inc., is a national family literacy program designed to improve parents' reading and language skills while helping them encourage and guide their children's learning. At first working with incarcerated women, Gaj found them to be powerfully motivated to read stories to their children. She also found this to be true for families outside the prison walls. An adult educator, Gaj developed a curriculum based on multicultural children's literature that is now used and taught in 19 states. Gaj is president of Motherhead, Inc., located in North Carolina.



Photo Copyright 1994 Mark Morelli

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

CAMBRIDGE, MA

A leading scholar of Afro-American culture, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., has written best sellers, *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars* (1992), and *Colored People: A Memoir* (1994), among others, and is coeditor of *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* (1996), a major compendium that introduces black writing to the literary canon. Named to Time magazine's "25 Most Influential Americans" list (1997), Gates hosts and narrates *Into Africa*, a film series on ancient African culture scheduled for release in 1999 by PBS and BBC. Gates is director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University.

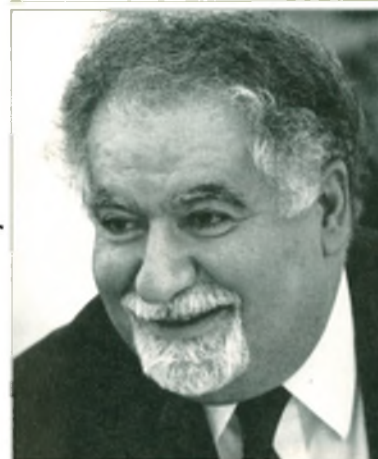


Photo Credit: John Foran/Brown University

Vartan Gregorian

NEW YORK, NY

Dedicating his career to broadening educational opportunity for all people, Vartan Gregorian is currently president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a philanthropic organization founded by Andrew Carnegie "for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding." Gregorian was president of Brown University (1989-1997) and president of the New York Public Library (1981-1989). Among his national and international awards are the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters' Gold Medal for Service to the Arts, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Silver Cultural Medal, the City and Province of Vienna's Gold Medal of Honor, and the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in France.



Photo Credit: University of California, San Diego

Ramón Eduardo Ruiz

RANCHO SANTA FE, CA

A distinguished historian of Hispanic America, Ramón Eduardo Ruiz has had an influential career as an educator, scholar, and intellectual. Author of numerous books and articles, he has written on multiple aspects of Mexico's history and on the two most important upheavals in Hispanic America, the Cuban and Mexican revolutions. These studies are now standard reference works. Ruiz has been honored for his contributions to education by the Chicano Federation of San Diego and by his students at the University of California, San Diego, where he is professor emeritus of Latin American history.



Photo Copyright Dominique Nabokov

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
NEW YORK, NY

Since the appearance more than five decades ago of his Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Age of Jackson* (1945), Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., has remained one of America's most widely known historians. A special assistant to President Kennedy, in 1966 he won a second Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House* (1965). Former president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Schlesinger is a frequent contributor to magazines and newspapers. He taught history for many years at Harvard and the City University of New York, where he is now Albert Schweitzer Professor Emeritus of the Humanities.



Photo Credit: Natalie Wills

Garry Wills
EVANSTON, IL

In addition to a distinguished career as a professor and visiting professor at many American colleges and universities, syndicated columnist Garry Wills has authored many widely read books on American culture and politics. *Lincoln at Gettysburg* (1993) won the Pulitzer Prize for its close textual analysis of the Gettysburg Address, words that Wills argues remade modern America. Other books include *Nixon Agonistes* (1970), *Reagan's America* (1987), and *John Wayne's America: The Politics of Celebrity* (1997). He has received the National Book Critics Award twice, the Organization of American Historians' Merle Curti Award, and the Yale Graduate School's Wilber Cross medal. Wills is adjunct professor of history at Northwestern University.



National Humanities Medal

In 1964, David Macaulay, intending architecture as his life's work, studied at the Rhode Island School of Design. He now teaches there and is the author and illustrator of 18 books. Best known for the 1988 best seller, *The Way Things Work*, and *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction* (1973), Macaulay combined his writing and architectural experience to create the medal for NEH in 1997.

The *National Humanities Medal* honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, broadened our citizens' engagement with the humanities, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities. The medal's inscription reads: "Understanding who we were, who we are, and who we will be."

National Council On The Humanities

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Bruce Cole	Martha C. Howell
Margaret P. Duckett	Alicia Juarrero
David Finn	Nicolas Kanellos
Lorraine W. Frank	Jon N. Moline
Darryl J. Gless	Robert I. Rotberg
Ramón A. Gutiérrez	Harold Skramstad
Joseph H. Hagan	Susan E. Trees
Theodore S. Hamerow	Susan F. Wiltshire



National Medal of Arts

Robert Graham, an internationally known American sculptor, is the designer of the *National Medal of Arts*. Among his many noted works are the "*Olympic Gateway*" for the 1984 Olympiad in Los Angeles and "*Social Programs*" and "*First Inaugural*" for the 1997 Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. The four-inch medal is cast in sterling silver, plated in 24 karat gold and depicts six dancing figures and the words "National Medal of Arts" in bas relief on the obverse. The reverse has the cast words "United States of America" and the engraved name of the recipient. Mr. Graham lives in Venice, California.

National Council On The Arts

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