



April 2011

CATALOG

Community Access to the Arts' Annual Newsletter



NEXT STOP: FOUNDERS' THEATRE!

Let's go! CATA's theme for the year is "Going Places," and this year's gala promises you a great trip. Participants and faculty, crooners and choreographers, drummers and dancers, actors and artists have traveled all sorts of twists and turns in the road to the May 14 & 15 performances, and the resulting evening will delight and inspire. Set designer **Susie Hardcastle** has led our participants in building a set from recycled road maps donated by friends of CATA. **Vikki True** is traveling inwards with dozens of participants, using percussion to evoke our personal rhythms. Drawing upon CATA's Shakespeare repertory, **Barby Cardillo** and **Diane Prusha** will lead the Players through the seven stages of man, in an excerpt from *As You Like It*. Tap instructor **Stefanie Weber** is teaching the Shim Sham, a universal series of steps that, through technology, will connect CATA participants with shim-shammers around the globe. Singer/songwriter **JoAnne Spies**, who travels with the Art Cart to elder care facili-

ties, will sing the unusual stories of the seniors she visits every week. **Dawn Lane** and The Moving Company are creating "Melting Pot," a dance piece that explores fleeing, relocation and belonging. **Michael Wolski** and friends are exploring the places we go when we are daydreaming. Throw in a little improv and the premier of CATA's new 90-second film trailer, and you've got a journey to remember!

This year the show is being sponsored by Berkshire Mountain Distillers, Domaney's Liquors & Fine Wines, Janet & Bart Elsbach, Lola Jaffe, Nancy Kalodner, Rhee Kasky & Bill Cohn, Kwik Print, Joyce Linde, Beth Maher, Kate & Joel Millonzi, Elaine & Bernard Roberts, Ben & Elaine Silberstein, Marjorie Yudkin & Randy Tiffany. Major underwriting is provided by Emily Rechnitz & John Paladino and Liz & Mark Williams. We welcome additional sponsors and underwriters to help offset the cost of production and add more revenue for CATA programs.

SAVE the DATES

May 14

Annual Performance & Gala
Founders' Theatre, Lenox

May 15

Matinee Performance
Founders' Theatre, Lenox

July 11-15

CATA Art on Tour
State House, Boston

August 7-22

Annual Art Show
Lenox Library

September 2-3

"one potato, two potato"
Doris Duke Theatre, Jacob's Pillow



BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

Each year, the annual CATA performance weekend shares the culmination of hundreds of performing arts workshops happening throughout Berkshire County. But what if you are not one of the 700 people who claimed a seat at the Founders' Theatre last year? How would you know about CATA's unique work?

Without the resources to take the show on the road, so to speak, CATA's biggest challenge remains awareness. Enter **George Minkoff** to the rescue. A film-lover and philanthropist, George immediately recognized CATA's basic marketing need and generously produced a 90-second public service announcement to reach thousands of people unfamiliar with CATA's valuable work and inform the community of important upcoming events.

Working closely with **John Whalan** of Black Ice Entertainment, filmmakers **Mati Kiin** and **Michael Sinopoli** have tirelessly viewed and edited hours of CATA footage which will premier at the annual performance and then air in local and regional movie theatres, community television stations, film festivals and more. Many thanks to George and Carol Minkoff for partnering with CATA in this creative enterprise.

Montessori School Partners with CATA

With a grant from **The Lawrence J. and Anne Rubenstein Foundation** and the guidance of CATA board member **Emily Rechnitz**, Community Access to the Arts is partnering with the Montessori School of the Berkshires to connect students with CATA participants. Pictured below: **David Zahorian** with student, **Raven Ross Kelso**.



Teacher, **Julie Haagenson**, observed:

"Our trip to the juggling class went well again today. Casey has expressed interest in continuing to the show. I wanted to share a sweet moment from Sean. He was sharing his stories about the day and mentioned how he was chatting with David. They got to talking about how Sean is from Turkey. He was so delighted at how much interest and kindness David showed him. He said, "It felt so good to feel respected by him; to be respected by an adult." I was very touched by this. It seems the mission of joining our two communities is beginning to come to life.....It is also the mission of our classroom to help the students be connected to caring adults during this fragile time in their lives. Thank you so much for letting us participate with CATA."

CATA Goes to the Hospital

N. ADAMS REGIONAL HOSPITAL



Sharon Carson, Curator of the Community Art Program at **North Adams Regional Hospital**, selects 250 original works of art by area artists to fill the hallways and waiting rooms on four floors. CATA has 19 pieces on display through April 22nd on the 2nd floor, outside the Birthing Unit.

FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL



Pat Hogan, CATA's Art on Tour Curator, hangs art at Fairview Hospital with nurse, Rey Bradbury, Sandy Newman, and Fairview Hospital President, Gene Dellea looking on.

CATA is pleased to help **Fairview Hospital** pilot a new art program designed to bring cheer to patients as they convalesce. Fifteen works of art now grace the walls of the recovery rooms on the 4th floor.

GOOD NEWS

Community Access to the Arts was recently named a top disability organization by **Great Nonprofits**, a national online review site. Reviews and ratings are posted by ordinary people who have been touched by a nonprofit and want to share their story. CATA was rated highly by donors, volunteers, board members, and others in the community for its work with people with disabilities in Berkshire County. One reviewer wrote, "*CATA is a leader organization; its mission is embodied in every interaction and activity I've witnessed between participants and their community. Core values of dignity, warmth and respect drive their work and their vision for artistic achievement.*"

Several organizations made CATA the beneficiary of donations related to an event or sale. **Our Berkshire Green**, the Berkshires' quarterly green living magazine, held a lovely event at Chrissey Farm in November where 165 people showed their support for CATA, The Guthrie Center, and Berkshire Music School. Each organization received a \$1,000 donation from the proceeds of the community fundraiser.



SmARTWORKS donated 15% of their fall online scarf sales to CATA through their "GoodWORKS" community giving program, founded by designer Sonya Mackintosh (left). Photographer and CATA Board Member, **Elaine Radiss**, donated the

net proceeds of the sale of her photographs exhibited at Barnbrook Realty's "Art on Main."

CATA was invited by the **Berkshire Creative Challenge** to present products made in CATA-direct to **HARDWARE**, The MASS MoCA store. Buyer, **Jody Joseph**, chose hexnut and washer/ribbon bracelets among other items. We are honored to have been included in the challenge and thrilled with the focus on locally-made products. The CATAdirect Crafts Co-operative is hard at work producing handmade beads made from recycled newspaper that will form lightweight, chunky necklaces for the Spring 2011 Collection.

ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS

September 1, 2010 – March 9, 2011

We are so pleased to report that our very loyal and generous supporters are making it possible for CATA to continue offering over 1,000 workshops annually, serving over 600 people with disabilities in Berkshire County. If we haven't heard from you and you are still considering a gift of any amount, please know it will be much appreciated and put to good use in many and varied ways...from exhibiting in community spaces, to growing programs in our schools, to providing special painting workshops for those with severe physical disabilities. Our thanks to all of you listed below for supporting our annual appeal:

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In Memoriam



CATA remembers two very talented artists, **Carol Ray** of Riverbrook and **Stephen H.** of Berkshire Service Group.

REFLECTIONS ON SANDY NEWMAN

“Sandy Newman represents a form of leadership less often recognized. It’s based on connecting and defining commonly held values. She doesn’t hold the banner high; she does not put her foot down. She simply creates the atmosphere in which collaborations cascade – one from the other – and from which -- the best in most of us is able to emerge. Sandy recognizes and invests in the higher aspirations of other people.”

- **John Whalan**, *Board President*

“In most countries, those with mental, emotional, physical and developmental disabilities are left at home or in an institution, alone, secluded, cloistered, and separated from the mainstream and local communities. They watch TV or sit in a dark room - I know, I have seen them and talked to people who have relatives who do this in foreign countries and in many parts of America. But not in Berkshire County, where Sandy Newman with her gentle soft spoken manner, has created a concept where everyone can be a contributing, valuable, and inspirational member of their community - through Art!”

- **Kathleen Favaloro**, *CATA Supporter*

“What I am telling you, if you don’t know it for yourself already, you will learn in your first conversation with Sandy. You will be hard pressed to meet anyone outside your own mother (or if that’s not the case for you, outside of the qualified mental health professional you now employ) who is as interested in your story, as patient a listener and as compassionate an advocate for the real you as Sandy is. She has Xray vision for human merit. She wants to know who everyone is, at their core, and if she can, to be involved in helping them let their inner light shine. How lucky we are she landed here, with her love beams trained on the Berkshires.”

- **Janet Elsbach**, *Board Member*





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Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.

Annual Art Show Moves to New Location

Each year over 100 people pack our studio to attend the opening of CATA's annual art exhibit and poetry reading usually held at the end of July. This summer, CATA is thrilled to present the "I'm a Part of Art" Exhibit at the [Lenox Memorial Library Wells Gallery](#) in August. The opening reception takes place [August 7th from 2pm-4pm](#) and the show will run through August 22nd. *Art on Tour is funded in part by [Rhee Kasky & Bill Cohn](#), [Susie Crofut & Ben Luxon](#), and the Cultural Councils of [Lenox](#), [Richmond](#), [Stockbridge](#), and [West Stockbridge](#).



Left: Artwork by Cathy Crofut.



Right: Myles Tosk poses in front of his painting created in CATA's A.R.T. painting workshop.

WELCOME



We welcome new faculty members, [Merritt Kraft Fletcher](#) (visual arts) and [Sonia Pilcer](#) (creative writing). Merritt (pictured left) earned her BFA in Fine Arts from MCLA, in North Adams, MA where she currently lives and paints. Sonia (pictured right) is the author of five novels and a recipient of a grant from the New York Foundation of Arts. She has taught writing at City College of New York, the Writers Voice, and Berkshire Community College, and was Director of Writing at the Chautauqua Institute.