

SPRING 2006

RACOURIER

RIVERTOWNS ARTS COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Mad About Duke: A Tribute to Duke Ellington with Carol Sloane

Saturday, December 9, 8:00 pm

Au Ciel, The Space, 50 South Buckhout St., Irvington

Tickets: \$100 - Includes light hors d'oeuvres, concert, complimentary CD and champagne toast with the artists. Cash bar.

The stars will align on the night of December 9th, when the Rivertowns Arts Council proudly presents one of the rarest jazz events of the season. Carol Sloane, a living legend with over 50 years of critically acclaimed jazz performances and recordings, will share an intimate evening of Duke Ellington songs in a beautiful historic setting. *Mad About Duke* is a benefit for RAC's many educational and outreach programs. Join us as we transform *Au Ciel, The Space* into the hottest New York jazz club and enjoy cocktails, tasty treats and an unforgettable musical experience!

Known as one of the great jazz interpreters in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Carmen McRae (singers to whom she is often compared), Ms. Sloane has performed in nearly every important jazz venue and concert hall from coast to coast and many major festivals in the US and throughout the world. For more information about her fascinating career, please go to www.carolsloane.com.



Duke Ellington



Carol Sloane

Ms. Sloane looks forward to taking advantage of the salon atmosphere of *Au Ciel, The Space*.

"In this intimate setting, people will really hear the music," said Ms. Sloane. "Duke Ellington wrote astonishing music. Whenever I sing these songs, it feels like the first time. It is amazing to have that reaction to music that is so familiar."

Carol Sloane will perform specially selected works by the prolific composer with an ensemble of top notch performers, including Brad Hatfield on the piano and Ken Peplowski on clarinet/tenor sax.

Pianist, arranger and Emmy Award winning composer, Brad Hatfield has added his unique sound to a wide variety of genres and has performed with such diverse artists as Aretha Franklin, YoYo Ma, kd lang, Bono, Gary Burton, James Taylor, and many more. www.bradhatfieldmusic.com.

Ken Peplowski has performed with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and has been heard with Benny Goodman, Bobby Short, Mel Torme, Charlie Byrd, Peggy Lee, George Shearing, Madonna, Rosemary Clooney, Woody Allen, and many others. www.kenpeplowski.com

There are a limited number of tickets for this special event, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. You won't want to miss this extraordinary evening. For tickets or more info, please go to www.riverarts.org or call (914) 476-2321.

Letter from the Co-Presidents:

Dear RAC members,

With the Hudson River as our back-drop and its presence a constant source of inspiration, we at RAC have been motivated to plan a variety of sensational artistic and educational programs for the coming season. RAC is quite unique in that we are able to put together first-rate events in music, dance, visual arts, theatre and other related arts with an all-volunteer, grassroots organization. We are so lucky to have such dedicated, talented members and a diverse community of artists and art lovers in the Rivertowns. We hope more of you will share your knowledge, interests and ideas in the planning stages. Contact us by phone or email us if you'd like to become involved "behind the scenes" as we plan our large signature events and expand our offerings to further stimulate learning, conversation and hands on interaction. Join the fun at RAC!

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to build a vibrant, artistic community together.

Sincerely,

Sandra De Novellis and Maxine Sherman
Co-Presidents, Rivertowns Arts Council

The RAC Board

We are pleased to introduce the
2006-2007 RAC Board:

Executive Committee

Sandra de Novellis, Co-President

Maxine Sherman, Co-President

Tracy Calvan, Vice President

John Gunther-Mohr, Treasurer

Nancy de Natale, Director of Fundraising

Niall Cain

Linda Cimillo

Lu Hamlin

Susan Lopeman

Maryann Noble*

Kevin O'Rourke

Emily Rubin

Liz Selzer

Mary Ford Sussman*

*New Board Members

Membership Party



RAC had a wonderful crowd gathered for the Kick-Off. This year's event was held at the fabulous "Octagon House" owned by Joe Pell Lombardi.

There was a spectacular turnout at RAC's annual kick-off event in September, when members had the unique opportunity to visit the historic "Octagon House" in Irvington. In addition to touring this beautiful 19th century landmark, its owner, expert preservation architect Joseph Pell Lombardi shared a fascinating history of the house. RAC members enjoyed entertainment by Suzanne and Jeff Pittson, vocalist and pianist, and Ron Vincent on drums, all of Dobbs Ferry with

Harvie S of Hastings on bass.

The RAC Board is happy to report that membership is on the rise. Rolling membership, online membership registration and a fantastic party all contributed to a membership increase of over thirty percent!

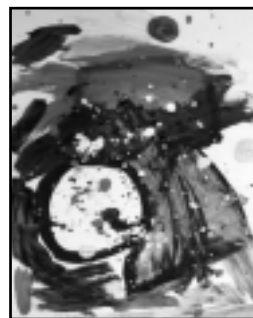
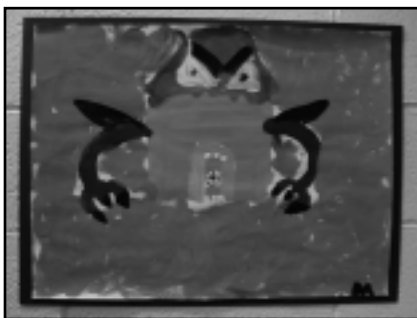
The Octagon House was the perfect setting to begin the year of artistic presentations and performances in the Rivertowns. Thank you again to Joe Lombardi for being such a generous and informative host.

Summer Wrap Up

RAC was very busy this past summer with two exciting programs. A new outreach program was developed and run by Dobbs Ferry Architect and Board Member Niall Cain. The Architecture Workshop at the St. Christopher's Kenneth Clark Academy in Dobbs Ferry involved a series of planning sessions with students and the actual construction of a structural "folly" designed by the students and Mr. Cain to honor Dr. Clark, prominent African American psychologist, educator and civil rights activist. This was a successful and meaningful project for all

involved and RAC intends to expand its outreach efforts throughout the Rivertowns in the coming years. (See photos to the right.)

Also, another creative series of Summer Arts Workshops were enjoyed by children entering grades three through nine. The theme last summer was "I Can Change the World" and the kids had a great time exploring issues that they feel would improve their community and their world. Projects included painting and drawing, sculpture, architecture, music, theater and movement taught by some of the finest professionals in the field today.



News for Artists

Resources for visual and performing artists now available at www.riverarts.org. Please click on News for Artists to find the latest information on grants, fellowships, auditions and other Opportunities gathered from the Westchester Arts Council and other sources. Also, if you would like to submit an artist opportunity posting, please send it to info@riverarts.org.

The Sussman Variations: *A Play in Three Days*

Monday, November 6, 7:30 pm

The Hastings Library

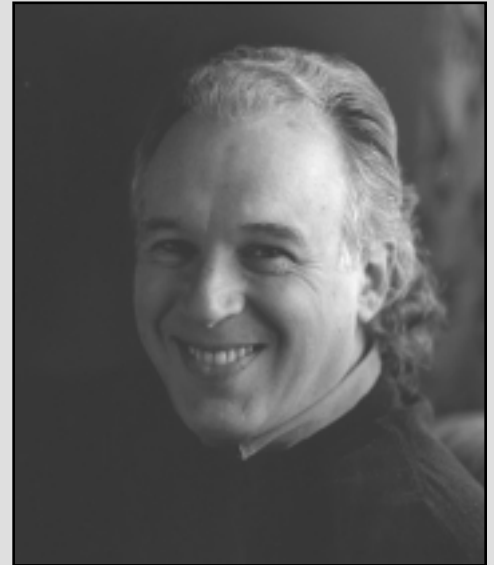
Tickets: \$10

Join us for a sneak peak at a fabulous new play by Hastings-based playwright Richard Schotter. The Sussman Variations, described by Mr. Schotter as "part intergenerational drama, part screwball comedy, part musical," will be presented in a staged reading at the Hastings library on November 6th. The reading is produced and directed by actor/director Kevin O'Rourke, a Hastings resident and RAC board member.

Schotter's 'Play in Three Days,' conveniently condensed into three acts, tells the story of a family coming together to celebrate the title character's 75th birthday. A veteran Broadway composer, Charlie Sussman has spent years trying to re-capture the success of his heyday

decades ago. Now living in his second wife's large home in an old Connecticut town, he yearns to perform his latest compositions for his visiting children. However, his daughter, son, daughter-in-law and teenage granddaughter are otherwise occupied by the ebb and flow of old grudges, new revelations, uninvited guests and unexpected happenings that are somehow always in abundance at family reunions.

Richard Schotter's plays have been performed in New York and across the U.S. and Europe. A former theatre critic, Fulbright Scholar and Literary Manager of the American Place Theatre, Richard Schotter holds a Ph. D. in Dramatic Literature from Columbia and is Professor of English at Queens College, CUNY and Visiting Professor of Playwriting in the Graduate Creative Writing program at Boston University. He has been an "Obie" Award nominee and received



Richard Schotter

a CAPS grant and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's Berman Playwriting Award. He lives in Hastings-on-Hudson.

Arts Outreach



Program founder, architect Niall Cain directs construction.



Students at St Christopher's Kenneth Clark Academy working on the structure they designed, inspired by key events in the life of Kenneth Clark. July 2006



Music Lessons

The RAC Music Lessons program is in full swing. Children of all ages may take lessons on a wide variety of instruments and voice with expert teachers, all performing professionals. Please contact nancyhenessee@aol.com for further information on music lessons for your child.



Our popular Winter Arts Workshops are being finalized now. Registration for the winter weekend programs will begin soon, so check www.riverarts.org for more info in the coming weeks.

Summer Arts Art



Above are some of the wonderful pieces of art created during our Summer Arts Workshops. To learn more about our very successful summer programs and to see more pieces of art go page 2.

Thank You to our wonderful supporters:

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arts

Westchester Arts Council

All events made possible, in part, by the Basic Program Support Grant of the Westchester Arts Council with funds from Westchester County Government.

Are you a Rivertowns resident involved in the arts? We'd like to hear about your accomplishments for possible inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.

Please call us at 914-476-2321.

Visit us at

www.riverarts.org



RIVERTOWNS
ARTS
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 60 Hastings-on-Hudson New York 10706

Calendar:

November 6

The Sussman Variations:

A Play in Three Days

December 9

Mad About Duke: A Tribute to

Duke Ellington with Carol Sloane

January through March

Winter Arts Workshops: Watch for details on the expanded program!

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