



# The Arts Club of Washington Special Edition—August 2011

## September Exhibition Revisits the Arts and Life of a Founding Member



***Portrait of a Lady: Rediscovering the Art of Mathilde Mueden Leisenring*** opens on Friday, September 9 and continues through the month in the Monroe Gallery and Parlors. The exhibition, curated by club member Patricia Moore, marks the first of what the Arts Club intends to be a series that will highlight the accomplishments of the club's founders as we approach our centennial year in 2016.

**Mathilde Mueden Leisenring** (1870–1949) was a founding member of the Arts Club of Washington, and her extraordinary life and work as a painter serves as a means to focus attention on the strength of Washington's artistic community in the early twentieth century. She was married to architect L. Morris Leisenring (1875–1965), another founding member who later served as the club's president. The portrait she painted of her husband hangs next to her own 1904 self-portrait in the second-floor front parlor.

Beginning in 1900 until her death, Mathilde Mueden Leisenring was known as one of the most productive and best painters in the city. She studied in Paris in the 1890s, exhibited abroad, was a frequent contributor to local exhibitions, and completed numerous important portrait commissions. From 1902 until 1940, with the exception of a few years, Leisenring was an instructor at the Corcoran School of Art, where she was among the first women faculty members. She was also a founding member of the Washington Water Color Club.

The September exhibition contains more than sixty portraits, landscapes, still lifes, and architectural scenes in oil, watercolor, pastel, and pencil created by Leisenring. In addition, nineteen works by other artists, many of them Arts Club members, given to the Leisenrings as a wedding gift in 1909 will be on display.

**The Arts Club is grateful to the artist's nephew, George F. Mueden, Jr., for donating his extensive collection of Leisenring's works to the club in 2008, a gift that made this exhibition possible.**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Board of Governors

Jack Hannula, *President*  
Walter Burns, *Vice President*  
Mark Ohnmacht, *Treasurer*  
Kevin Lane, *Corresponding Secretary*  
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## Trustees of the Endowment

Evelyn Woolston, *Chair*  
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Jerry Andersen  
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## Club Staff

Christopher Glenn, *Club Manager*  
Shelly Gardner, *Business Manager*  
Bill Colliton, *Chef*  
Dwayne Davis, *Maitre'D*  
Jenna Beebe, *Caretaker*

## Mission of the Arts Club of Washington

The mission of the Arts Club of Washington is to generate public appreciation for and participation in the arts in the Nation's capital, through ongoing educational programs that include seminars, literary events, art exhibitions and musical and theatrical performances. The club also is dedicated to promoting the appreciation of historic preservation through study, restoration and the preservation of the historic James Monroe House.

Dear Club Members:

Summer is slowly slipping by, before long, September will arrive. In many ways, September is the beginning of our Arts Club year with a new batch of artists and performers queued to enter our club. Many of the important events kick off in early September. These include two important exhibits: our own **Mathilde Leisenring**, a founding member (*Portrait of a Lady*); and the *Hanoi 1000*, an exhibit commemorating the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hanoi sponsored by Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations. The Hanoi 1000 exhibit will also feature workshops on traditional lacquer painting taught by a Vietnamese master.

In addition, we have our **Bill Bristor Dinner**, a black tie soirée; Cafe Spilsbury Happy Hours, and Friday Noon concerts. Be sure to bookmark the events you wish to attend.

I am delighted to welcome the following new members to the Arts Club:

### June:

**Ed Fichter** -Resident Membership- Graphic Arts and Painting  
**Cynthia Bickley-Green** -non-Resident membership(North Carolina) -  
Painting and Photography  
**Lois Lindstrom** -non-Resident membership (Richmond VA) - Literature and  
Photography  
**Suzanne Bourgeois Rabil** - Resident membership - Sustaining

### July:

**Dana Tai Soon Burgess -and-Jameson Paul Freeman** -Joint membership -  
Cinematography, Dance, Literature, New Media,  
Pictorial Photography  
**Martine Khadr-Van Schoote** - Resident membership - Design Arts, Graphic  
Arts, Painting  
**Laura Wordlaw** - Resident membership - Sculpture

To date, we have six pending applications for the August Admissions Committee meeting. This is an impressive increase in new memberships. Thanks all for your support!

All The Best

Jack Hannula

**Sandra Beasley**, former chair of our literature committee, has recently released her new book "Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales from an Allergic Life" It is available at Politics and Prose and also from Amazon. We wish her much success and hope that she will bring her book to the Arts Club for a reading in the fall.

# From the Archives

By Hal Matson

On Nov. 15, 1915 a group of members of the Art and Archeology League of Washington met at their regular monthly meeting to discuss the possibility of joining with the Society of Washington Artists to form a new club to be called the Art Association of Washington. They wanted to strengthen their mission and widen the scope of their activities.

They met again on Jan. 15, 1916 with members of the Society to discuss further their ideas. The members also discussed the possibility of hosting an art auction to fund the purchase of a new club house.

After several additional meetings they founded our Club on April 7, 1916. At the first official meeting of the two clubs in the studio of Henry Bush-Brown, considered by his contemporaries to be the "father of American sculptors," the members adopted a new constitution and by-laws. 26 members were present. They elected Henry Bush-Brown president.

The members decided at their first joint meeting to change the name of the new Club to the Arts Club of Washington. Artist member fees were set at 15 dollars annually, to be paid quarterly. Sustaining members would pay 20 dollars, and non-resident members would pay five.

They then dissolved their respective clubs. Although they had originally planned to found a men's club they decided to allow women to join as full members -- a very unusual arrangement in those days!

The auction to fund a new club house was held on May 15, 1916 in the Blue Room of the "new" Willard Hotel. It was by invitation only. The members managed to collect around 100 art works donated by themselves and their artist friends in New York. Included in the donations was an exquisite bronze bust of President Lincoln sculpted by Henry Bush-Brown. A copy of which is located in the Club library. The auction raised sufficient funds to purchase the mansion which today serves as the Club headquarters. The townhouse located to the right of the Monroe House was not purchased by the Club until several months before the Crash of 1929.



## Special Honor for the Arts Club

Washingtonian Magazine has selected our club as their 2011 Best Wedding

The 3rd floor painting studio is available Tuesday - Friday during the Club's open hours, 10 am to 5 pm. Business Manager Shelly Gardner will open the studio for members (no guests).

Please contact Shelly at 202-331-7282, ext. 11, when you plan to use the studio.



**Judith Ramage, Danute Debney Shaw and Joy Silverman**



**Martin Murray, Kamer Davis, and Danute Debney Shaw**



**Jane Work and Skip Moskey**

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**  
Membership Committee Chair, Eileen Kennedy organized a reception for new members . Committee Chairs were on hand to explain the various aspects of the Club's activities.



**Bob Sachelli and Michael Armstrong**



**Kurt Nemes, Laura Zam and Skip Moskey**

# Hanoi 1000' Exhibition in the Arts Club of Washington, September 9 - 24, 2011

In October 2010, Hanoi celebrated her 1000<sup>th</sup> birthday. To commemorate the millennium year, the Arts Club of Washington is hosting an exhibition of Vietnamese contemporary fine art from Hanoi, from the collection of Raquelle Azran.

*Inhabited since the Neolithic period, Hanoi was a seat of power and prestige at an early stage in Vietnam's past. In A.D. 1010 King Ly Thai To, known as Hanoi's founding father, established the site as the capital of the first Vietnamese dynasty independent from the Chinese. According to folklore, when the king stepped onto the riverbank a golden dragon flew toward the heavens, hence the original name Thang Long, City of the Soaring Dragon.*

The six exhibiting Vietnamese painters all live and work in Hanoi. Ranging in age from 77 to 29 years, male and female, they work in a variety of mediums: watercolor on handmade paper, oil on canvas, lacquer on wood and woodblock prints. All share a commitment to expressing human emotions through the cultural prism of their art. The artists: Dang Thao Ngoc, Dinh Thi Tham Poong, Phung Pham, Trinh Tuan, Vu Dinh Tuan, Vu Thu Hien.

*By the seventeenth century the city was protected by 16 gates which were locked at night by heavy wooden doors. The Quan Chuong gate built in 1744 still stands at the end of Hang Chieu street. At the end of the eighteenth century, the Nguyen Dynasty set up its capital in Hue. Thang Long, renamed Hanoi, lost its political power but retained its economic vitality. The citadel of Hanoi was reconstructed and remains the western boundary of the Old Quarter.*

*The ancient Vietnamese technique of lacquer on wood was utilized to decorate the interiors of the pagodas. In 1925, as part of the cultural movement in French Indochina, friends of Matisse established in Hanoi the Ecole des Beaux Arts d'Indochine – still in existence and known as the Hanoi Academy of Fine Art – and introduced the use of lacquer as a fine art medium.*

Vietnamese art is defined by its lush colors and directness, as well as by its poetic, dreamlike meditateness. Stylistic elements of Impressionism, Expressionism, figurative art, Cubism and Fauvism intermingle with traditional Vietnamese motifs and values: the village, the buffalo, ancestral spirits. The juxtaposition of handmade rice paper and traditional lacquer painting with contemporary artistic techniques such as oil and acrylic creates an exciting fusion of temporal and cultural worlds.

**Lacquer Painting Workshops**, As a highlight of the exhibition, the master lacquer artist and teacher Trinh Tuan will be giving workshops on lacquer painting, the week of 9/10 to 9/16. **Pre-registration is required. ( Cost is \$40) Call Jack Hannula at 202-549-7245**

*Curator: Raquelle Azran*

**When making Reservations for Club events:** Either Email your reservation to: **administrator@artsclubofwashington.org**

Or call the club at **202-331-7282 extension 16**. Be sure to name the event and date and include a list of all of your guests as well as a follow up contact telephone number should there be any questions.

# Calendar Preview

Save the Dates!!!

## August:

Monday 22nd 6 :30 pm **Board of Governors**

Tuesday 30th 6 :30 pm **Spilsbury Gallery Meeting**

## September:

Friday 9th 6:30-9pm **Art Opening**  
Leisenring Exhibit

Friday 16th 6:30-10:30 **Club Opening**  
Black Tie Dinner

Tuesday 20th 7:00 **Drama Committee**  
First Read Series

Wednesday 27th 5:30-9pm **Outreach Evening**  
with Susan Farrell

Friday 30th 6:30-10:30pm **Club Dinner**

## October:

Tuesday 4th 7-10pm **Literary Evening**

Friday 7th 6:30-9pm **Art Opening**

Friday 14th 6:30-10:30pm **Club Dinner**

Friday 21st 12pm-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

Tuesday 25th 7:00 **Drama Committee**  
First Read Series

Wednesday 26th 5:30-9pm **Outreach Evening**

Friday 28th 12-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

Friday 28th 6:30-10:30pm **Club Dinner**  
**Halloween Party**

## November:

Friday 4th 12pm-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

4 6:30-9pm **Art Opening**

Tuesday 8th 7-10pm **Literary Evening**  
featuring Sandra Beasley

Wednesday 9th 6:30-10:30pm  
**Cinematography Cmte.**  
Evening of Asian Arts Film Fest.

Friday 11th 12pm-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

Friday 11 6 :30-10:30pm **Club Dinner**

Tuesday 15 7:00 **Drama Committee**  
First Read Series

Friday 18th 12pm-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

Thursday 24th 2-6pm - **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Wednesday 30th 5:30-9pm - **Outreach Evening**

## December:

Friday 2nd 6:30-10:30 **Tree Trimming**  
and **Club Dinner**

Sunday 4th 3-5pm - **Members' Show Reception**

Friday 9th 12-2pm **Noon Concert**  
and **Club Lunch**

Saturday 17th 6:30-10:30pm **Club Dinner**  
**President's Dinner**

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## REPORT FROM THE HOUSE AND GARDEN COMMITTEE

Over the past year we have made many improvements to our old house! Once the guest bathroom was totally gutted and remodeled, we then decided to upgrade both of our powder rooms—one on the third floor and one off the library. These are very important enhancements for our members and for groups using our club for weddings and other events. We are taking active steps to reduce our utility consumption and to better the control the climate in the house. In June we took the important step of insulating the upstairs ceiling. We recently went out for bids to replace our windows with insulated glass. More to follow.

After completing a thorough clean- up of our courtyard area, our group will soon determine how best to beautify this beautiful space.

## PATRONS OF THE ARTS CLUB OF WASHINGTON

We deeply appreciate the support of our Patron Members:

**Jerome Andersen**

**Joanne Brignolo**

**Susanne Eisinger**

**June Hajjar**

**Austin Hay**

**Robert Hemphill, Jr.**

**Anne Kennedy**

**Faith Lambert**

**Gail McGinley**

**Pat O'Shea**

**Lois Schutte**

**Grover Wickersham**

**Jane Work**

Please consider joining them by changing your membership level to Patron. Call Extension 11 to do so!

## BECOME A SPONSOR OF THE FRIDAY NOON CONCERTS

The Friday noon concerts are a highlight of the public programs offered by the Arts Club of Washington. We want these concerts to continue to be free and open to the public; however, the cost has become difficult to sustain as Club expenditures have increased over the past few years. With your support Dr. Montgomery can continue to bring high quality performances and outstanding artists each Friday for our enjoyment. Members who donate will be named on the concert programs as "Concert Supporters." Please call 202 331-7282, ext. 14 or mail your check to the Arts Club, attention Shelly Gardner.

We are extremely grateful to our members who have renewed their sponsorship for 2011.

**Jerome Andersen Priscilla Baker Sandra Blake**  
**Roger Hart Austin Hay Celia Hoke Anne Kennedy**  
**Ann Joseph Faith Lambert Pat O'Shea**

Please add your name to this list by making a donation to keep these wonderful concerts free to the

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**administrator@artsclubofwashington.org**

Or call the club at **202-331-7282 extension 16**. Be sure to name the event and date and include a list of all of your guests as well as a follow up contact telephone number should there be any questions.

Washington, DC 20006-1804

2017 I Street, NW

CLUB OF WASHINGTON



## Information and Services for Arts Club Members

### Club Hours

The Arts Club is open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday through Friday; 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday. The Club is closed on Sunday and Monday

### To Reach the Club

Tel: 202-331-7282

Fax: 202-857-3678

Web Page - [www.artsclubofwashington.org](http://www.artsclubofwashington.org)

E-mail: [administrator@artsclubofwashington.org](mailto:administrator@artsclubofwashington.org)

### Staff Extensions

**11** Shelly Gardner, *Business Manager*

**13** Kitchen

**14** Jack Hannula, *President*

**15** Leslie Lundgren, *Literary Award Administrator*

**16** Reservations

**17** *Gallery Manager*

**19** Bill Colliton, *Chef*

**20** Christopher Glenn, *Club Manager*

**21** Jenna Beebe, *Caretaker*

**23** Gallery Hours & Exhibitions, Friday Noon Concerts & Literary Programs

**24** Painting Studio

### Club Lunches and Dinners

Lunch is served at the Arts Club each Friday coinciding with the Noon Concert Series at 12:30 pm. Club dinners are noted in the newsletter schedule. **To make a reservations, call 202 331-7282 ext 16, or e-mail your requests to: [administrator@artsclubofwashington.org](mailto:administrator@artsclubofwashington.org)** . Reservations must be made by 3:00 pm on the day preceding the event. We regret that late requests cannot be accommodated.

### Validated Parking

For weekday evening member events, Arts Club members and their guests may park free of charge at the Nation Parking garage on 20th Street between I and K Streets. This garage closes promptly at 11:00 pm. (Please note: Enter the garage closest to I Street.) Bring your ticket to the Arts Club to have it stamped, and present it to the attendant when you retrieve your car.

### Reciprocal Clubs

**United States and Canada — Chicago:** The Arts Club of Chicago.

**Detroit:** The Scarab Club. **Kansas City, MO:** The Kansas City Club. **New York City:** The Coffee House, The Midtown Executive & Chemists Club, The Montauk Club (Brooklyn), The National Arts Club, The Salmagundi Club.

**Oakland, CA:** The Bellevue Club. **Philadelphia:** The Racquet Club of Philadelphia, The Franklin Inn Club. **Providence:** The Providence Art Club.

**Toronto:** The Arts and Letters Club.

**United Kingdom: England — Brighton:** The Sussex Arts Club. **London:** The Arts Club, The Chelsea Arts Club, The City University Club, The Eccentric Club, The National Liberal Club, The Royal Commonwealth Society. **Penzance** The Penzance Arts Club. **Scotland — Edinburgh:** The Scottish Arts Club. **Glasgow:** The Glasgow Art Club. **Ireland — Dublin:** The United Arts Club. **Ulster:** The Ulster Arts Club.