

# Bethany Center *News*

BETHANY CENTER 580 CAPP STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94110 WWW.BETHANYCENTER.ORG

Welcome to *Bethany Center News*, the biannual newsletter for Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco and Bethany Center Senior Housing of San Francisco. In this issue's feature article, you'll read about the world premiere of the documentary film *Ruth Asawa: Roots of an Artist*, which debuted at San Francisco's de Young Museum on Friday night, January 21, 2011. You'll hear all about the evening, which was a collaboration of the Academy of Art University, the de Young Museum and Ruth's Table. For the VIP reception, the inaugural screening and the private tour of Asawa's permanent exhibit at the de Young, hundreds of people turned out to celebrate the opening of the film and to support Ruth's Table. You will also meet Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco's president of the board, Jeffrey T. Ellis, in this issue, and you'll hear about how giving back to his community is in his blood. In other recent news, The Gallery at Ruth's Table welcomed its third exhibit, *Awakening the Worlds of Nature*, so please see coverage of the opening, where artists and admirers turned out for another evening of enjoying the arts. We have big news at BCSH as LeadingAge (formerly AAHSA) gave executive director Jerry W. Brown, caspf the 2010 Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor Award, so see that newsflash inside. And, as always, don't miss the Ruth's Table Events and Program Calendar which rips easily from this newsletter—tack it to your bulletin board or hang it on your fridge, and you will always have the information about new and exciting workshops and events happening at Ruth's Table.



PHOTO BY SUSANA BATES OF DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY

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*photo at left: on the evening of the Premiere, Daniell Cornell, the curator of the Ruth Asawa exhibit at the de Young, guides a private of Ruth's Work, which is permanently housed in the lobby of the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Education Tower.*

FEATURE  
ARTICLE

# Ruth Asawa: Roots of an Artist premieres at the de Young

JANUARY 21, 2011 / SAN FRANCISCO, CA — The world premiere of the documentary film chronicling artist Ruth Asawa's life and work, brought hundreds of people together at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, for a memorable and celebratory evening in honor of the internationally acclaimed artist. *Ruth Asawa: Roots of an Artist*, a film in the making for more than a year by director Bob Toy and assistant director Lola Fraknoi, was the draw for an extraordinary attendance at the first Friday Nights at the de Young of 2011. Hundreds of people gathered in line outside the Koret Auditorium for both showings—first the private showing for event attendees and then a second screening immediately following which was open to the public.

For attendees of the private event—donors, sponsors, the Asawa family, the honorary committee, Bethany Center board members and people involved with the project, among others—the evening began with a VIP reception in the de Young's Piazzoni Murals Room, which had special meaning as Asawa and her husband, Albert Lanier, were instrumental in bringing the Piazzoni Murals to the de Young Museum. People congregated and celebrated, congratulating most of all the film's director and producer, the Academy of Art University's Bob Toy.

At 5:00 pm, VIPs were welcomed to join Dr. Daniell Cornell, deputy director and senior curator at the Palm Springs Art Museum and the curator of the Ruth Asawa exhibit at the de Young, for a private tour of Ruth's Work, which is permanently housed in the lobby of the Nancy B. and Jake L. Hamon Tower, the education building of the de Young.

The exhibit showcases over a dozen of Asawa's ethereal wire sculptures, which hang from the ceiling and often only bare their souls when their shadows are cast, revealing forms within forms—a feast for the eyes thanks to strategic lighting in the Tower lobby.

For the film's debut, VIPs were welcomed into the Koret Auditorium by Mistress of Ceremonies Jan Yanehiro for opening remarks made first by Bethany Center Executive Director, Jerry W. Brown, CASPF, and Ruth's Table director of community programs Lola Fraknoi. John Buchanan, director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco made a brief stage appearance, offering short but powerful remarks about Asawa, her legacy and her impact on the San Francisco art community and far beyond. Finally, Susan Toland, vice president of the Academy of Art University, welcomed attendees and offered a huge congratulations to their own Bob Toy who has been a faculty member of the Academy of Art University since 1965.

For the run time of just shy of one hour, viewers got to listen to an original score written by Chus Alonso, faculty member of San Francisco's Community Music Center, the City's oldest community arts organization and largest provider of low-cost, high quality music education. And they saw interviews with curators, museum directors, friends and family of Asawa, who reflected on her legacy as an artist, and art education activist and a member of her community.

Peppered throughout the film were her actual works, and insights among viewers after the film ended indicated that many didn't previously know who was responsible for the various public and prominent works throughout San Francisco which are actually Asawa's, including but not limited to her Ghiradelli Square mermaid fountain, her origami fountains in Japantown and the Garden of Remembrance at San Francisco State University.

Immediately following the film, attendees were treated to a Q & A session with Toy, Fraknoi and Aiko Cuneo, Asawa's daughter. Cuneo answered questions about growing up with her mother, father and five siblings, in particular how Asawa integrated motherhood, her work and community involvement. Cuneo said that there was little delineation between those aspects of life. The home was the art studio and vice versa. Said Cuneo, "My mother gives this film her blessing, and she wishes she could be here." Asawa, at age 85, lives in her home/studio here in San Francisco.

As people lined up outside the Koret Auditorium for the second screening, a line that extended all the way from the auditorium to the tower lobby, VIPs flooded out of the theatre and made their way to various parts of the museum. Some returned to the tower lobby to absorb the Asawa exhibit one more time and some headed towards the main court and stage to take part in regular Friday Nights the de Young program which always includes live music, a full bar and dancing. Others attended a private dinner for those who made donations of \$5k or more to Ruth's Table, held in the Piazzoni Murals Room.

PRESENTED BY



ACADEMY of ART  
UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDED IN SAN FRANCISCO 1929  
BY ARTISTS FOR ARTISTS

de Young  
FINE ARTS MUSEUM



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

reception guests, left to right: Danielle Sveska-Gensch, president of the board of directors, Bethany Center Senior Housing (BCSH); Jori Hook; Priscilla Haynes, secretary of BCSH board of directors; Jennifer Asselstine, architecture instructor at Academy of Art University; Geraldine Earp, former BCSH board member; Sam Mathau, vice president, board of directors, Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco (BCFSF); Dr. Alicia Yballe; Mary Franz, BCFSF board member; Jerry Brown, CASPF, Bethany Center's executive Director; and Donna Murphy

Dr. Daniell Cornell, former curator of Ruth Asawa's work at the de Young, and filmmaker Bob Toy

San Francisco Supervisor Eric Mar with Susan Toland, Vice President of Academy of Art University, Jerry Brown and Laurie Hanover, treasurer of board of directors, BCSH

Jerry Brown with Bob Toy, Lola Fraknoi, Director of Community Programs at Ruth's Table, and Susan Toland

Mistress of Ceremonies, Jan Yanehiro

Jan Yanehiro gets the crowd ready for the premiere

Aiko Cuneo, artist, arts educator and Ruth Asawa's daughter, with Luis R. Cancel, Chair of the San Francisco Arts Commission

John Buchanan, Director of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, greets the guests

Three generations of Ruth Asawa's family

Susan Toland with husband Scott LeFevre and Julie Newhall

Bob Toy with his director's chair, given to him by Jerry Brown and Lola Fraknoi

PHOTOS BY SUSANA BATES OF DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY



BOARD  
SPOTLIGHT

PHOTO BY SUSANA BATES OF DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY

## Meet Jeffrey T. Ellis

### *Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco*

### *President of the Board*

Jeffrey T. Ellis has been involved with Bethany Center and Bethany United Methodist Church for the past decade. Now, he serves Bethany Center Senior Housing through Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco as the president of the board of directors. His vision for Bethany Center is to keep it vital, “Bethany Center has been an important part of the community for 40+ years, and it’s our responsibility to make sure it’s around for many more years.”

Ellis believes that programs at Bethany Center should meet the needs of Bethany Center residents, first and foremost. Furthermore, they need to be dynamic and connected.

Says Ellis, “Anything to connect our residents to the outside community and the outside community to our residents is beneficial. The generational gap is bridged. The social activity gap is bridged. Everyone wins when that happens.” He believes there is an inherent value, for everyone, when school-aged children and seniors share experiences and perspectives. He says, “Multi-generational programs that really enhance the quality of life,” are part of the Foundation’s mission.

Not only do the programs need to be community oriented, they need to be fresh. Bringing in new content and forming new partnerships is a priority. It’s this philosophy that most aligns Bethany Center and Ellis and explains why he chooses to serve this particular cause.

Says Ellis about Jerry W. Brown, CASP, executive director of Bethany Center Senior Housing, “Jerry is a great example of a leader who doesn’t just want to stay ahead of the curve in ensuring that the residents have a safe and stable home, but he bends the curve and makes the curve new.”

Along with Brown’s leadership, Ellis’s vision includes bringing together a diversified and talented team of people to serve on the board of directors. Bringing together a team of passionate and committed players makes it possible to expand existing programs and launch new ones such as Ruth’s Table.

That passion and commitment showed itself at the world premiere of the documentary *Ruth Asawa: Roots of an Artist*, which debuted this January at the de Young Museum. The film, which highlights Asawa’s role in arts education over many generations, cites Ruth’s Table as the vehicle for arts education to continue in the senior community, is a way to catch the attention of philanthropic partners.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to everyone who helped pull the premiere together,” says Ellis.

Ellis devotes his resources to Bethany Center because giving back is part of his wiring. “It’s important to remember that nobody gets where they are on their own, so one of my priorities is to find a way to contribute.” And Bethany Center’s root concept is one that hits home for him, as he saw his mother through her final days of terminal illness. She, too, was committed to giving back, and a legacy memorial fund was set up at Bethany Center in her memory, the Dodie Ellis Nursing Fund, which helps provide wellness programs for community members.

Ellis, who grew up in Tennessee, now calls San Francisco home. He enjoys spending time with his partner Scott, traveling, and attending the symphony.

*Anything to connect our residents to the outside community and the outside community to our residents is beneficial. The generational gap is bridged. The social activity gap is bridged. Everyone wins when that happens.*

—JEFFREY T. ELLIS

# Awakening the Worlds of Objects and Nature

## *The Gallery at Ruth's Table opens its third exhibition*

JANUARY 13, 2011 / SAN FRANCISCO, CA — Thursday night, artists and art lovers alike turned out to view works by Chelsea Wong, Mariana Garibay R., Irene Wibawa, Linda Massoti and Stan Chan, in the gallery opening at Ruth's Table, which kicked off the Awakening the Worlds of Objects and Nature exhibition.

Curated by Lydia Nakashima Degarrod, PhD, Artist in Residence at the California College of Art's Center for Art and Public Life, the exhibit features dioramas, prints, drawings, and relief works that take viewers to new and exciting worlds.

Miniature worlds come to life in Irene Wibawa's tiny scenes, created inside of glass jars. Pieces of cork, pebbles of tempered glass, and other minute materials come together to set a stage, and viewers engage them by using a magnifying glass that just happens to be hanging out right near her work, to add to the whimsy of it all.

Another type of scene is created by Stan Chan, who has used materials from his mother's home, pieces of doors and the like, to create colorful and vibrant mixed-media wall hangings.

Linda Massoti's work is varied, but her showpieces are miniature houses, with tin-like roofs that affix to the walls with small, hand-hammered nails. Paint and collage are used on the sides, evoking a feeling of transporting into another place and time. Using this mixed-media, she's created a series of these houses in what is called her Shelter Series.

Mariana Garibay R. is showing a series of her works done with acrylic on paper and canvas. Wonderfully bold and vibrant, the pieces are abstract and organic. The selection in this exhibit offers both hot and cool compositions—rich, energetic reds and cool, crisp blues.

Chelsea Wong offers a series of colorful and evocative drawings, which have viewers stopping and doing double takes. The pieces are unusual and quirky, powerful and thought-provoking conversation starters.

The results of this collection of works is at the same time playful and serious, and these thoughtful creations truly awaken worlds that are often dormant or silent to us.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARKUS STORZER

## Jerry Brown Receives Outstanding Mentor Award from LeadingAge

Jerry Brown, executive director of Bethany Center Senior Housing in San Francisco for 23 years, is well-known for his consistent support and mentorship of staff, board members and colleagues. In recognition of his exceptional mentoring abilities LeadingAge (formerly AAHSA) gave him the 2010 Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor Award. Jerry has coached dozens of younger colleagues in the aging-services field, giving his encouragement, guidance and genuine interest in helping them become better leaders. As one of the young leaders he mentored told LeadingAge, "Through Jerry's guidance, I discovered a new self-confidence and have taken on [a] state leadership position...None of this would have happened without him."

## From the Office of Jerry W. Brown, CASPF

*On July 31, 2010, through the strategic leadership by both board and staff, Bethany Center is debt free having paid its 40-year mortgage from HUD in full. This is truly an accomplishment in this economy and allows us to reach out and serve people in our surrounding community.*

JERRY W. BROWN, CASPF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BETHANY CENTER SENIOR HOUSING

# We thank our donors

During the past year, members of the community have shown a tremendous outpouring of support for Ruth's Table—donating or pledging over \$102,000. The Bethany Center Foundation of San Francisco thanks the following for their generosity:

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

30th Street Senior Center  
Academy of Art University  
California College of the Arts  
City College of San Francisco  
Community Music Center  
de Young Museum  
San Francisco State University

## \$20,000 OR MORE

Anonymous

## \$10,000 OR MORE

Bethany Center Foundation Board of Directors  
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Jeffrey T. Ellis

## \$5,000 OR MORE

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San Francisco Greater Mission Rotary Club

## \$2,500 OR MORE

Rena Bransten for Rena Bransten Gallery  
Sue and John Diekman  
Mary Franz and Kyle McEwen

## \$1,500 OR MORE

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## \$1,000 OR MORE

Bethany United Methodist Church  
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## RUTH'S TABLE GRAND OPENING

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Asian Art Museum  
Teresa Bao  
Beach Blanket Babylon  
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Cline Cellars  
B.R. Cohn Winery and Olive Oil Company  
Courtyard by Marriott San Francisco  
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The Dark Room Theater  
Diego Rivera Mural Project (City College)  
Disneyland  
Dore Studios  
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Farallon  
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco  
Fior d'Italia  
First Crush Restaurant, Wine Bar and Lounge  
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Kenwood Vineyards  
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Frank Malifrando  
Marin Symphony Association  
Marin Theatre Company  
Marlowe  
Sam Mathau  
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Medjool Restaurant, Lounge & Sky Terrace  
Mel's Drive-In  
Mercury Lounge  
Mission Bay Chiropractic  
Mission Minis  
Mission Pie  
Robert Mowat  
Napa Valley Wine Train  
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Peju Province Winery  
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Rainbow Grocery  
Ravenswood Winery  
Regalito Rosticeria  
Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum  
Rosemary Cottages  
San Francisco Giants  
San Francisco Greater Mission Rotary Club  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
Patricia Saraceni  
Schug Carneros Estate Winery  
Slim's  
Small Office Networks  
Trader Joe's  
Valencia Whole Foods  
David Vasquez—Hearing & Low Vision Solutions  
The Walt Disney Family Museum  
Waterbar  
Wax Museum of San Francisco  
Wildfox Restaurant  
Liz Worthy  
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts  
Tao Yin  
Yoshi's San Francisco



This page is perforated so you can tear it away and hang it on your refrigerator or tack it to your bulletin board!



# CALENDAR FOR Ruth's Table at Bethany Center

## workshops and special events

### February – May 2011

#### every week

##### **Always Active Wellness Program**

Mondays and Wednesdays

11 am to 12 pm

*We are a selected site chosen by San Francisco's Department of Aging and Adult Services to host the Always Active program. Always Active staff deliver programs designed to encourage members to understand the importance of exercise in maintaining life-long function and health, help each interested member develop an individual exercise plan that considers their medical condition and that includes activities in each of the key areas of fitness—strength, flexibility, balance and aerobic capacity.*

FREE

##### **Tai Chi**

**with Sifu Janet Gee**

Saturdays

9 am to 10:15 am

*Janet Gee teaches Tai Chi to children, adults, and seniors all over San Francisco. She was voted Best Self-Defense Teacher in the Bay Area. Besides her knowledge of many martial arts styles (holds the rank of 7th degree black belt), she's also certified in the Alexander technique and a yoga instructor.*

\$36 FOR 6 CLASS SERIES

##### **Community Music Center's**

**Latin Vocal Workshop**

**with Martha Rodriguez Salazar**

Mondays

7 pm to 8 pm

*Enjoy classic Latin-American songs by students performing solo, duets and group songs from various Spanish-speaking countries.*

FREE

##### **Join the Dance Generators**

**Performance Company**

7:30 pm to 9 pm

*Dance Generators is an intergenerational performance company comprised of USF students and senior adults from the Bay Area. Ranging in age from 17 to 74, the company comes together through a shared commitment to innovative dance making. In the Fall of 2010 Dance Generators began to use Ruth's Table as a site for a community class that will be open to the public. The intent for the class is to create an artistically based environment where older and younger adults can participate in a creative exchange through movement. The class will also serve as a training ground for adults of all ages who are interested in joining the Dance Generator's intergenerational dance company. Skills will be developed in improvisation, dance/theater and body-mind awareness through movement.*

FREE

#### special event *save this date!*

##### **Spring Party**

Sunday, April 17 at 4 pm

*In collaboration with the Community Music Center, enjoy live music, dancing, apple crisp, and punch*

FREE

#### february

##### **Finding Work that Matters in the Second Half of Life**

Saturday, February 26

11 am until 1 pm

*Jim Emerman, the Executive Vice President of Encore Careers, will advise you on beginning a new career search.*

FREE

SNACKS PROVIDED

#### march

##### **Miniature Scenes**

**with Irene Wibawa and Chelsea Wong**

Sunday, March 6th

1 pm to 3 pm

*Have you ever looked inside a dollhouse or a ship in a bottle, and gotten absorbed in all the detail? Now is your chance to create a world in miniature with Irene and Chelsea as your guides*

\$15 INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES

##### **Ruth Asawa: Roots of an Artist**

Friday, March 21

6:30pm and 7:30pm

*See the story of world-famous artist, Ruth Asawa, who has been a tireless advocate for art education and is the inspiration for Ruth's Table.*

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

\*LOCATION IS THE DE YOUNG MUSEUM

50 HAGIWARA TEA GARDEN DRIVE

SAN FRANCISCO

##### **Awakening the World of Objects and Nature**

Exhibit runs through March 4

12 pm to 5 pm Monday through Friday

*Works by Stan Chan, Mariana Garibay R, Linda Masotti, Irene Wibawa, and Chelsea Ryoko Wong.*

FREE

#### may

##### **Orizomegami Workshop with Aiko Cuneo**

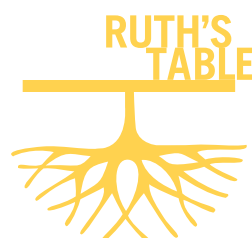
Saturday, May 14

11 am to 12:30 pm

*Learn to create, Orizomegami, the intricate Japanese art of decorating papers by a method of folding and dipping them into pools of natural dyes. Use the paper for origami, cards, book covers, or hang as an art piece. About the instructor: Aiko Cuneo, the daughter of Ruth Asawa, works as an artist in residence in public schools, and gives workshops in museums, and arts organizations like Scrap.*

\$15.00

REGISTER NOW, MAXIMUM OF 20 PARTICIPANTS



A center for creative learning  
rooted in the life of artist Ruth Asawa  
[www.ruthstable.org](http://www.ruthstable.org)