

# Luncheon Speaker Leonard Breger

## A Personal Profile by Longtime OAA member Stan Cohen

I met Len in 1967, when we were both actively involved with the National Art Education Conference held at the San Francisco Hilton. As the Local Arrangements Chair, I was responsible for making sure each event had the equipment, time and space requested by the Presenters. Most of the speakers or demonstrators asked for an amplifier and one slide projector, but Mr. Breger asked for a list of equipment that all but emptied our supply room. Luckily there were no other events on the evening that he and his students from Lick-Wilmerding High School were scheduled for a "Sound and Light Show" in the Main Ballroom. After dinner, the conference group of several hundred teach-

ers walked across the Mezzanine for the entertainment. The Ballroom had been cleared of all furniture and was completely darkened. Suddenly recorded music flowed from many speakers and a most amazing and unexpected colorful and playful light began to grow, change and merge on the floor, walls and ceiling from projectors placed around the room. Colors, shapes and patterns moved and interacted with the music. Some images appeared to bubble and condense into new and alive forms. Slides of nature overlaid fanciful cutouts of color transparencies. The teen-age students improvised and moved their images to overlay other pro-

jections. The result was a stunning demonstration of the use of the cutting-edge technology of the day, in a beautiful, memorable hour of color and sound, presented with artful spirit by a group of talented students led by a daring and creative teacher.

Years passed and I lost touch with Leonard. In the 1990's, when we had both retired, he gained a reputation as mentor for local artists who wanted to improve and grow through critique sessions on an on-going basis.

In 1998, OAA invited Breger to a single open session for members that generated interest in having a continuing series of critiques. A major problem was the space to meet on a regular ba-

### *Inside this issue:*

Leonard Breger	1-2
Calendar	2
News and Notes	3
Annual Meeting/Lunch	3
Chamber Show Catalog	4
Annual Meeting/Lunch	5

**Continued Page 2**

# Leonard Breger



Self Portrait © 1991 Leonard Breger

sis, and the cost involved. At that point, a group of OAA members requested a small part of our association budget to support periodic critiques for interested artists in the organization. The group also offered, free, the studio space for the critiques, which they were already renting for their weekly painting sessions at the Kensington Recreation Center.

With OAA funding, (partially

repaid by participants,) Breger began meeting in 1999, with the group in Kensington every two months to review their artwork and to learn what a Master Teacher could add to their knowledge. We are pleased that the series is continuing this year.

Historically, the concepts of "criticism", "critics" and "critiques" have had a troubling connotation for artists who may

## continued from page 1

have suffered from an "Art Critic's" sneering, or negative reviews of their exhibited work. Our own critiques have none of that.

My own experience with Breger, (and I believe most of the other artists who attend would agree,) has been one of caring encouragement, delivered with wit and humor. True, he has a limited patience for excuses and "stuck-ness". He is also not overwhelmed by slick technique. But, for each individual, he looks for growth, for personal expression, and for honest attempts to reach further and dig deeper.

At age 90, Breger is still a daring and creative teacher and artist. OAA should be proud to have provided it's members this unique opportunity to learn.

## Mark your calendar:

**April 7th and June 2nd** upcoming **Breger Critiques 11am-1:30pm** at Kensington Community Center. Show several works for best critique. A fee of \$5 will be requested of all participants. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee/Tea provided.

**April 17th** 11:30 until 1:30pm, the **Annual Meeting and**

**Luncheon.** Please mail the form printed on page 5 to reserve your place.

**May 21, July 16, Sept 17, November 19, 2010 and January 21st 2011.** These are the dates for the upcoming **Oakland Chamber shows.** (pick up previous and enter the new show) .

**May 24th, 10am** Change art at the **Jack London Square show.** Please note the **call for artists** on the back page of this newsletter!

**May 28th, 4pm Board meeting** in the **upstairs meeting room of the Rockridge Library** located at 5366 College Ave in Oakland. All members are encouraged to attend!

## Notes and other news

• **OAA Member Iris Sabre** is the guest artist for the California Watercolor Associations **Spring Show April 1 thru June 27, 2010 at the Gallery Concord** 1765 Galindo, Concord, CA **Reception: Friday, April 9, 6 to 8PM**

• **The rules for the next Oakland Chamber of Commerce Show** will change slightly once again for the next show. In addition to the one hour take in period (**now 10am to 11am**) a further change will be made to allow members to **submit a total of two pieces**. Since the maximum number of allowed pieces in the show is still only 21, **members who submit a second work will need to be sure they are available to pick up a painting at 11am** in the event one of their two paintings must be removed from the show for space considerations. The **fee**

for paintings removed from the show **will be refunded**. Rule sheet will be published in the next newsletter!

• Please collect any **clippings or other information concerning OAA** that you may come across, and get them to **Norma Yaglijian** so she can include it in our 50 plus year **scrap book collection**.

• The **Frank Bette Center** is starting a new series of **classes in painting, drawing and photography**, more information: [http://www.frankbettecenter.org/learn\\_homepage.html](http://www.frankbettecenter.org/learn_homepage.html)

• The **City of Oakland** has launched a **website** to promote Oakland as the Bay Area's multicultural arts destination. It is very impressive, and if you live in Oakland you should consider promoting your work on this site. **[www.oaklandarts.org](http://www.oaklandarts.org)** . (Notice

the web address is only an "s" different than the OAA address!)

• As all of the **OAA juried shows** will now be presented on the **OAA website**, please take a few minutes to look at our shows: **[www.oaklandart.org](http://www.oaklandart.org)** and follow the "gallery of OAA Shows" link.

• **Contact the editor** as follows with any corrections and suggestions: **Rick Nelson** / 1584 Webb Lane / Walnut Creek 94595

[rivingm@gmail.com](mailto:rivingm@gmail.com) / (925) 256-6849

• **Thanks** to all the members who helped with this months newsletter, including:

**Evelyn Call**

**Stan Cohen**

**Marie Guelld**

**Tina Nelson**

## OAA Annual Meeting and Lunch April 17th at 11:30

The OAA annual meeting and spring lunch will be held at the Lake Merritt Hotel on Saturday April 17th. If you have not already filled out the reservation form and sent it to our Treasurer, please clip the form printed on page 5, and send it with your check today. The event starts at 11:30, with a social hour, (wine and soft drinks provided, also a no host bar will be available). A sit down Lunch will be served shortly after noon, followed by

a brief meeting agenda:

1. President Marie Guelld will introduce all the current Officers, Directors and Show/Committee Chairmen.
2. President Marie will make some brief remarks concerning the progress of OAA.
3. Bobbie Anderson will make a special presentation to John Mallon for his years of effort on behalf of

OAA.

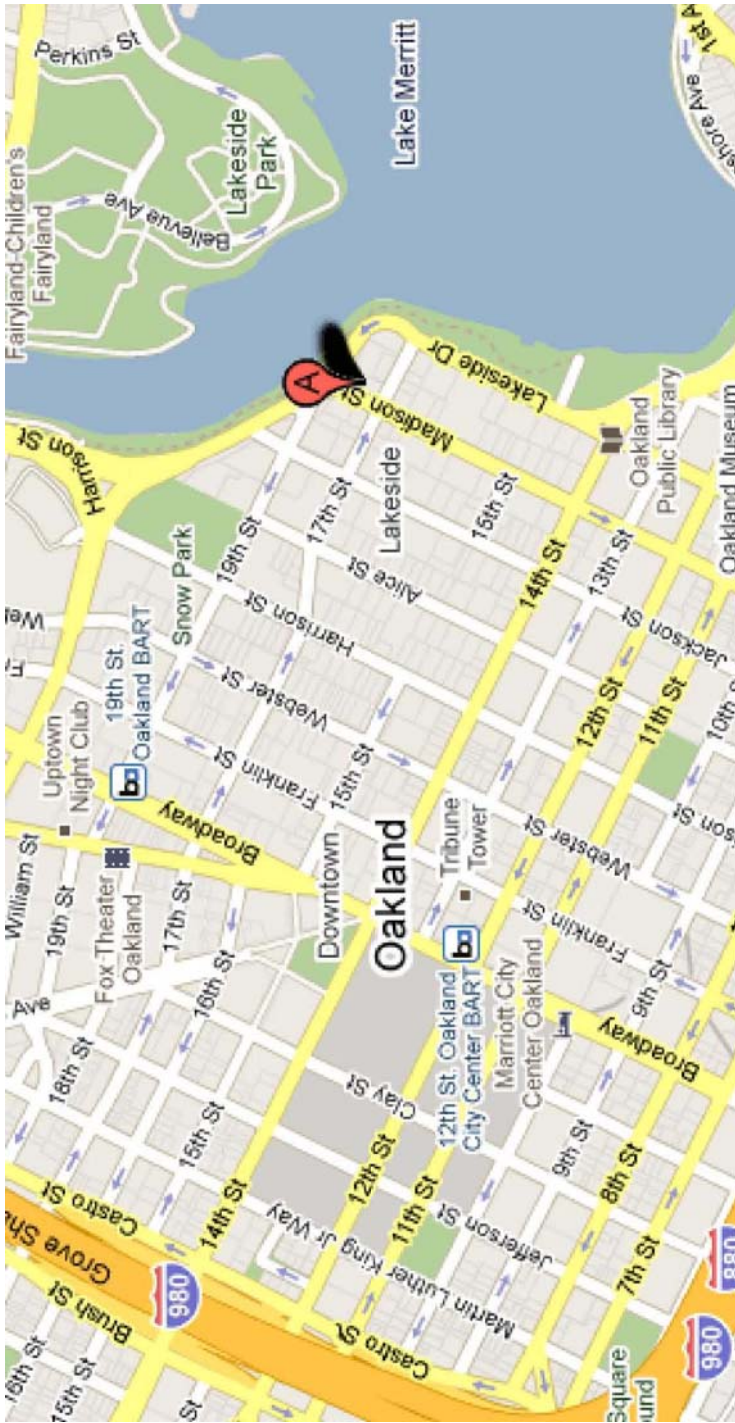
4. Jim Coy will introduce the newly elected Officers and Directors.
5. Incoming President Yin Marsh will offer some short remarks.

Members and guests will then be treated to a program by a San Francisco artist of wide acclaim, Mr. Leonard Breger who is featured in this months newsletter.

# Oakland Art Association

## Oakland Chamber Show -- March 2010

ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	PRICE	HEIGHT	WIDTH	AWARD
George Ehrenhaft	City Rain	Watercolor	\$400	20	16	1st
Michael Topliff	Strawberry Creek	Oil	\$275	23	19	2nd
Nelda Booras	The Roof Garden	Acrylic	\$750	24	32	3rd
Marie Guellid	Old Covered Bridge	Watercolor	\$300	17	21	HM
Light Ruth	Spring Blossoms	Watercolor	\$350	14	21	HM
Bobbe Anderson	Flower Market	Acrylic	\$325	20	24	
Ikuko Boyland	Pomegranates at Old Farm	Watercolor	\$200	20	16	
Stan Cohen	The Reef	Acrylic	\$525	23	33	
John Henry	The Siren	Photo	\$100	17	21	
Betty Irvine	Wanda	Acrylic	\$300	20	16	
Julia Montrond	Leaves On Display	Watercolor	\$300	18	18	
Rick Nelson	6 Bar Coverage	Photo	\$100	24	18	
Tina Nelson	Light and Shadow	Oil	\$700	36	24	
Danufe Nitecki	Big Sur - 3	Watercolor	\$600	20	28	
Shirley Schmalfuss	Spring Scene Near Stinson	Acrylic	\$400	24	30	
Carol Torre	Small Lake in Alameda	Oil	\$500	18.5	24	
Norma Yaglijian	Grown Ups	Watercolor	\$500	29.5	27	
<b>Juror: Susan Tuttle</b>						
<b>If you have an interest in purchasing art from this show</b>						
<b>Please call Stan Cohen (510) 533-3003 or</b>						
<b>email: stancohen3386@sbcgobal.net</b>						
<b>View images of this show at <a href="http://www.oaklandart.org">www.oaklandart.org</a></b>						



**OAA Luncheon  
Lake Merritt Hotel**

1800 Madison Street (where Madison  
meets Lakeside Drive)

OAA Annual Meeting  
And Luncheon Reservation Form

(Name of OAA Member)

Number of guests \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate number of each  
menu selection to accommodate  
your entire party:

\_\_\_ Grilled Shrimp Caesar Salad

\_\_\_ Angus Burger

\_\_\_ Three Sliders

\_\_\_ Grilled Brie Cheese & Tomato  
Soup

Please send completed form with a  
check made out to OAA for \$25  
times the number of people in  
your party to:

Ms. Shirley Schmalfluss

415 Sunnyslope Ave.

Oakland, California 94610



**Call for Artists:** The next **Jack London Square Show** will debut May 24th. With expanded available space, more OAA artists are needed to complete this show! Show Chairman Rita Sklar will not be available to co-ordinate or hang the May show, (she will pick up with the August show again) so please contact the editor (Rick Nelson—contact details on page 3) ASAP to have your work included at this great venue!

## Oakland Art Association

