



PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

OPENING KEYNOTE

Thursday, June 17, 9:30-10:30am

Speaker: The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter Biography

One of the most powerful women in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Louise McIntosh Slaughter has achieved a significant level of leadership as the Chairwoman of the influential House Committee on Rules, making her the first woman in history to hold this position. A member of the House Democratic Leadership, she serves on the prestigious Democratic Steering & Policy Committee. She is the Democratic Chair of two very prominent congressional caucuses: the Congressional Arts Caucus and the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus.

In November 2008, Rep. Slaughter was elected to her twelfth term in Congress as U.S. Representative for the 28th Congressional District of New York State. Her diverse district includes the cities of Rochester, Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Her constituents know her to be a strong proponent of progressive causes and a fighter for the employment concerns and the economic development of Western New York. She has earned a reputation for her dedication to constituent service.

A microbiologist with a master's degree in public health, Rep. Slaughter is intensely involved in health issues. She is the leading expert in Congress on genetics issues and her cutting-edge legislation to protect Americans from discrimination by health insurance providers and employers based on genetic makeup is now law. Rep. Slaughter's Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law by President Bush in May 2008. The bill has been called "the first civil rights legislation for the 21st century." In 1997, Rep. Slaughter was awarded the American Public Health Association Distinguished Public Health Legislator Award for her work on health and genetics issues.

A tireless promoter of economic development, Rep. Slaughter is deeply concerned about the job losses suffered in Western New York. In Congress, she has introduced legislation to study the effects of international trade agreements like NAFTA on American jobs. To help local employers, Rep. Slaughter regularly holds conferences to help businesses access capital and federal contracting opportunities. In March 2004, she and former Rep. Jack Quinn organized a major event with local manufacturers to discuss ways the federal government can support them.

Rep. Slaughter's fight to secure funding for local projects was recognized by the Rochester Institute of Technology, when it named its Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies facility, "The Louise M. Slaughter Building." Rep. Slaughter authored the Niagara Falls Heritage Act which passed in Congress by

overwhelming majorities and was signed into law by President Bush. This law will help heighten national appreciation for the region, preserve its natural and historic resources, and expand the local economy. Rep. Slaughter has secured over \$25 million for the development of the Rochester Harbor, in addition to millions of dollars for other economic development projects. In Buffalo and Niagara, she has brought in millions of dollars for community development projects at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center, Hauptman-Woodward Institute, CUBRC, Inc., the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, the Niagara Falls International Airport, Olcott Harbor, and the Village of Lyndonville in Orleans County, to name just a few.

When serving as a senior member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Slaughter fought to support first responders in Western New York and improve systems to deliver federal funding to local entities. She organized a major forum for local first responders and hosted a subcommittee hearing in Niagara Falls in 2003, where Members of Congress came to discuss border security. Rep. Slaughter has also authored legislation to put in place a Northern Border Coordinator at the Department of Homeland Security in order to coordinate federal, state and local law enforcement and first responders. In addition, she worked on the SECURE Borders legislative proposal, which would provide \$1 billion for security improvements such as enhancing border lines, doubling the number of Custom and Border Patrol agents.

A leading advocate for women's rights, Rep. Slaughter served as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues during the 108th Congress, and continues to serve as co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus. She co-authored the historic Violence Against Women Act in 1994 and wrote legislation to make permanent the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office. She is leading the fight against sexual assault in the military, and organized a hearing on the issue in March 2004 that garnered national attention. Rep. Slaughter authored an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization bill in FY05 to require the Pentagon to put in place comprehensive policies and procedures to deal with sexual assault in the military. In November 2004, she introduced landmark legislation to make further changes to end sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking in the military. She has continued to reintroduce this bill each Congress.

Rep. Slaughter has won historic increases in funding for women's health. As a member of the House Budget Committee in the early 1990s, she secured the first \$500 million earmarked by Congress for breast cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She fought for legislation guaranteeing that women and minorities are included in all federal health trials and establishing an Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at NIH and was later honored with its "Visionary for Women's Health Research" award, on the ORWH's tenth anniversary. She has also introduced a bill to direct NIH to fund up to six centers nationwide to focus on women's health and the environment, as well as a bill to increase research on the impact of hormone disruptors on women's health.

As longtime co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, Rep. Slaughter leads the annual fight to increase budgets for the arts and humanities. In 2007, she successfully led the fight to increase funding for the National Endowments for the Arts from \$124 million in FY07 to \$144.7 million in FY08, a \$20 million increase. Her efforts to generate congressional support for the arts have been recognized by a variety of arts organizations over the years. She has received awards for her commitment to the arts by Alliance of New York State Arts Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Americans for the Arts, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester, among others.

During her tenure in Congress, Rep. Slaughter has won numerous awards for her leadership and

dedication to public service. She was the first Member of Congress to receive the Sidney R. Yates National Arts Advocacy Award, presented by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. In 2003 she was awarded the Humane Legislator of the Year by the American Humane Association. In January 1999, she was named "Lay Educator of the Year" by the Rochester Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa International, the professional fraternity for men and women in education. In 2004, Women in Film and Vision honored her with its Woman of Vision award for her work on women's and arts issues.

Elected in 1986, Rep. Slaughter holds a Bachelor of Science degree (1951) in Microbiology and a Master of Science degree (1953) in Public Health from the University of Kentucky. Prior to entering Congress, she served in the New York State Assembly (1982-86) and the Monroe County (N.Y.) Legislature (1976-79); and as regional coordinator to then-Secretary of State Mario Cuomo (1976-78) and to then-Lt. Gov. Mario Cuomo (1979-82).

A native of Harlan County, Kentucky, Congresswoman Slaughter has lived most of her life in Rochester's suburb of Fairport. She is married to Robert Slaughter and has three daughters and seven grandchildren.

PLENARY I

Thursday, June 17, 5:30-7pm

Speaker: George Stevens, Jr.

Moderator: Robert Lynch, President & CEO, Americans for the Arts

GEORGE STEVENS, JR.

George Stevens, Jr. has achieved an extraordinary creative legacy over a career spanning almost 50 years. He is a writer, director, producer, playwright and author. He has enriched the film and television arts as a distinguished filmmaker and is widely credited with bringing style and taste to the national television events he has conceived, including The Kennedy Center Honors, which took place for the 32nd time in 2009. As a writer, director and producer, Stevens has earned many accolades, including twelve Emmys, two Peabody Awards for Meritorious Service to Broadcasting and eight awards from the Writers Guild of America. As writer, director and co-producer of 1990's *Separate But Equal*, starring Sidney Poitier, he earned an Emmy for Outstanding Mini-Series, the Christopher Award and The Writers Guild of America's Paul Selvin Award for writing that embodies civil rights and liberties. In October 2009 President Obama named Stevens to be Co-chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. In 2008 Stevens made his debut as a playwright with *Thurgood*, which opened at the historic Booth Theater on Broadway in April 2008. The play had an extended run starring Laurence Fishburne as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Mr. Fishburne returns to the role in the summer of 2010 with runs at the Kennedy Center and the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles. Stevens was executive producer of *The Thin Red Line*, which was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture. He co-wrote and produced *The Murder of Mary Phagan*, starring Jack Lemmon, which also received the Emmy for Outstanding Mini-Series. Stevens won two Emmys for the 1994 documentary, *George Stevens: D-Day to Berlin*, which depicted the wartime experiences of his father – one of the most highly regarded directors of all time. He produced an acclaimed feature length film about his father, *George Stevens: A Filmmaker's Journey*. Stevens is the founder of the American Film Institute and during his tenure, more than 10,000 irreplaceable American films were preserved and catalogued to be enjoyed by future generations. In addition, he established the AFI's Center for Advanced Film Studies, which gained a reputation as the finest learning opportunity for young filmmakers. In 2006, Alfred A. Knopf published Stevens' *Conversations with the Great Moviemakers of Hollywood's Golden Age* – the

first book to bring together the interviews of master moviemakers from the American Film Institute's renowned Harold Lloyd Master Seminar Series. He is currently at work on volume two for Knopf. Stevens is in pre-production on a feature length documentary on the famed political cartoonist Herb Block.

ROBERT LYNCH

Robert Lynch is the president and CEO of Americans for the Arts, the national organization dedicated to advancing the arts and arts education in people's lives, schools and communities. In 2005, he created the Americans for the Arts Action Fund and its connected political action committee to engage citizens in advocating for the arts and arts education. Under his 25 years of leadership, the services and membership of Americans for the Arts has grown to over 50 times its original size in 1985. Bob currently serves on the board of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, the Arts Extension Institute, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst College of Humanities and Fine Arts Board. He is a member of the Executive Committee for United Voices for Education and is on the Advisory Council of the National Museum for Children in the Arts.

PLENARY II

Friday, June 18, 12:45-2:00pm

Speakers: Jonathan Lowe, Senior Director of Marketing and Promotions for the Los Angeles Kings;
Karen Riordan, President, Arnold Worldwide, Washington DC

Moderator: Paul Organisak, Executive Director, Pittsburgh Dance Council

JONATHAN LOWE

Jonathan Lowe is the Senior Director of Marketing and Promotions for the Los Angeles Kings. He is a strategic marketing and promotions professional with over a decade of experience in creating dynamic and innovative campaigns for sports teams, live events, music artists and consumer products. In his 7th year with sports and live event leader, AEG (Anschutz Entertainment Group), Jonathan has created and executed marketing campaigns for its most prized assets in Los Angeles: STAPLES Center, The Los Angeles Kings and The Home Depot Center, (a \$150M venue launched in 2003 that is home to the LA Galaxy). In 2007, Jonathan shifted his role within AEG to focus solely on the Kings and currently serves as the Senior Director of Marketing and Promotions for the hockey club. Jonathan's marketing campaigns and promotions have received regional and national recognition in media outlets including the LA Times, Daily News, Los Angeles Business Journal, Entertainment Tonight, E!News, ABC (Los Angeles), ESPN TV, FoxSports.com and SI.com. In addition, Jonathan has created marketing and promotions campaigns for The Los Angeles Lakers, Ten World Championship Boxing Events, Celine Dion's Las Vegas Show A NEW DAY, The King Tut Exhibit at LACMA as well as national concert tours with Prince and Rod Stewart, just to name a few.

KAREN RIORDAN

Karen Riordan serves as President for Arnold Worldwide, Washington DC and when she says she loves working at Arnold Worldwide, you believe her. After all, she's been at the firm for 14 years and counting. In her role as President of Arnold's Washington, DC office, she oversees client relations and operations on all agency accounts. Arnold DC is the Washington office of Arnold Worldwide, a top 20 U.S. advertising and marketing agency known for its creativity and results-oriented approach. Arnold's client roster is an impressive list of iconic, household names like McDonald's, Titleist, Amtrak, Hershey's, Carnival Cruise Lines, The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Volvo, Jack Daniels, and Fidelity Investments.

Over the course of her 25-year career in advertising, Karen has led such brands as Staples, Royal Caribbean International, The Hartford Financial Services, Volkswagen, John Hancock, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Celebrity Cruises. She is President of the DC Ad Club, and Chair of the DC ADDYs creative awards show, as well as a member of the American Advertising Federation (AAF). Karen is also on the Steering Committee of Advertising Week DC, the AAAA Board of Governors for Mid-Atlantic, and the Ad Council. She also belongs to the United States Travel Association (USTA) and Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMIAI).

PAUL ORGANISAK

Paul Organisak has spent over twenty years in the dance administration field. He currently serves as executive director of the Pittsburgh Dance Council and as vice president of programming for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust responsible for the multi-disciplinary programming of all Trust-owned theatres. For Dance/USA, he serves as chair of the presenters council, on the conference program committee, executive committee and board.

PLENARY III

Saturday, June 19, 10:30am-12:00pm

Speakers: **Reuben Margolin**; Artist and Sculptor; **Gideon Obarzanek**, Artistic Director, Chunky Move; **Paata Tsikurishvili**, Artistic Director, Founder, Synetic Theater; **Irina Tsikurishvili**, Resident Choreographer, Founder, Synetic Theater

Moderator: Caitlin Strokosch, Executive Director of the Alliance of Artists Communities;

REUBEN MARGOLIN

Reuben Margolin was raised in Berkeley, California. A love of math and physics propelled him to Harvard, where he changed paths and got a degree in English. He then went on to study traditional painting in Italy and Russia. In 1999 Reuben became obsessed with the movement of a little green caterpillar, and set out to make wave-like sculptures. In 2004 he moved to his current studio in Emeryville and began making a series of large-scale undulating installations that attempt to combine the logic of mathematics with the sensuousness of nature. He has since made about 10 of these mechanical mobiles and shown them internationally. Reuben also makes pedal-powered rickshaws and has collaborated on a couple large-scale pedal-powered vehicles.

GIDEON OBZARZANEK

Gideon Obarzanek became interested in dance towards the end of high school and after graduating deferred science at university to study at the Australian Ballet School. He later danced with the Queensland Ballet and the Sydney Dance Company before working as an independent performer and choreographer with various dance companies and independent projects within Australia and abroad. Gideon founded Chunky Move in 1995 and has been its Artistic Director to date. While the company mostly features his work it also commissions various other Australian choreographers and invites international choreographers to give workshops in its home city of Melbourne, Australia. Obarzanek's works for Chunky Move have been diverse in form and content and include stage productions, installations, site-specific works and film. His works have been performed in many festivals and theatres around the world in the U.K, Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Gideon's film, *Dance Like Your Old Man*, co-directed with Edwina Throsby won Best Short Documentary at the 2007 Melbourne International Film Festival, 2008 Flickerfest International Short Film Festival and Best Film at the Cinedans Festival in Amsterdam. In collaboration with Lucy Guerin and Michael Kantor, Gideon has also received a New York Bessie award for outstanding choreography and creation for

Chunky Move's production of Tense Dave. In 2008 he received two Australian Helpmann Awards for Glow and Mortal Engine. In 2009, Mortal Engine received an Honorary Mention in the Prix Ars Electronica awards in the Hybrid Arts category.

PAATA TSIKURISHVILI

Paata Tsikurishvili, a native of the Republic of Georgia, is an innovative, award-winning international Artistic Director, director, and educator with over 20 years of experience fusing the classical elements of drama, movement, dance, mime, and music. Since 2001, Mr. Tsikurishvili's work has drawn critical acclaim and garnered 65 Helen Hayes Award Nominations and 15 Helen Hayes Awards, including three Awards for Outstanding Resident Play. Personally, Mr. Tsikurishvili has earned 22 individual Helen Hayes Award Nominations and eight individual Helen Hayes Awards, receiving the Award for Outstanding Director in 2003, 2008 and 2009. As an educator, Mr. Tsikurishvili has trained hundreds of actors in mime and movement technique through Synetic Theater and through teaching at leading universities, such as American University, Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University. He holds an MFA in Film Directing from Tbilisi State University and a BFA in Acting from State Institute of Theater and Film, Tbilisi, Georgia.

IRINA TSIKURISHVILI

Irina Tsikurishvili graduated from the Tbilisi Chabukiani Ballet School and performed as a principal dancer and mime in numerous productions at the Georgian State Pantomime Theater. From 1993-95, she served as choreographer for the Mimodrama Theater in Saarbrücken, Germany. Ms. Tsikurishvili is a 27-time Helen Hayes Award Nominee and has won the Award seven times for her choreography on The Idiot, Faust, Hamlet...the rest is silence, The Master and Margarita, Frankenstein, Macbeth, and Carmen, and has won the Award twice for her acting in Hamlet...the rest is silence and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Ms. Tsikurishvili has taught at the Catholic University of America, American University, and Georgetown University, where she recently choreographed Lysistrata (co-production with Georgetown). She continues to run intensive movement workshops to train Synetic cast members.

CAITLIN STROKOSCH

Caitlin Strokosch is Executive Director of the Alliance of Artists Communities, the association of artists' colonies and residency programs. The Alliance represents a field of more than 1,000 artists' residency programs worldwide, supporting artists in visual arts, writing, dance, music, film, design, and other disciplines by providing dedicated time and space for the development of new work. Caitlin has served the Alliance since 2002 and was appointed Executive Director in 2008. Prior to joining the Alliance, she managed several nonprofit music ensembles in Chicago, and worked for PR firm specializing in nonprofit performing arts organizations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in music performance Columbia College in Chicago and a Master's in musicology from Roosevelt University, where her research focused on music as a tool for building communities of resistance and social dissent.