

OBITUARIES

Former National Gallery curator dies

Nicolai Cikovsky Jr. showcased American artist Winslow Homer



WILLIAM R. STAIRS

CARIBOU - William R. Stairs, 58 passed away May 9, 2016 at Mars Hill following a brief illness. He was born in Caribou March 15, 1958 the son of Claude and Jeanette (Ouellette) Stairs.

Bill was a 1976 graduate of Caribou High School and was a member of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. He lived in Connecticut for a number of years before returning to Caribou several years ago where he was employed at ACME Monaco in Presque Isle.

Surviving in addition to his mother, Jeannette of Caribou are his two sons, Justin Stairs of Presque Isle and Nathan Stairs of Grand Isle; three brothers, Roderick Stairs and wife April of Wolcott, Ct., David Stairs of Caribou and Jeffrey Stairs and fiancé Diana Holdridge of Bristol, Ct.; his sister, Cheryl Bossie and husband Craig of Caribou; several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. Bill was predeceased by his father, Claude and a brother, Steven.

Friends may visit with the family 10 -11:30 am Monday May 16, 2016. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 12 noon Monday from the Parish of the Precious Blood Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Interment will be in the Evergreen Cemetery. Following the services all are invited to a time of continued fellowship and refreshments at the parish center.
www.mocklerfuneralhome.com



GARY F. PORTER

JENSEN BEACH, FLA. - Gary F. Porter, 72, of Jensen Beach, Florida passed away April 23, 2016 at Martin Memorial Medical Center, Stuart.

Gary was born in Greenville, ME., to Harold and Rose (Folsom) Porter.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and had been in sales for Heavy Equipment, before retiring.

He really enjoyed good wine and good food along with fishing and boating, spending time with his family and the company of his many friends from Florida, Maine and beyond.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife Peg (Margaret) who passed away in 2014. He is survived by his daughter, Teresa Mott and her husband Paul and their two daughters Madison and Lilly Whipple of Palm City, Florida; his two sons, Joe Porter and his wife Rachael, of Cary, NC and John Porter and his significant other Rebecca of Cedar Rapids, IA.

Gary will be truly missed by his family and all his friends.

Online condolences may be made at www.martin-funeral.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Martin Funeral Home & Crematory/ Stuart Chapel, 961 S. Kanner Highway, Stuart, FL 34994 (772)223-5550.

BY MATT SCHUDEL
THE WASHINGTON POST

Nicolai Cikovsky Jr., an art historian who became a curator at the National Gallery of Art, where he took a leading role in organizing several major exhibitions, including a 1995 retrospective of the works of painter Winslow Homer, died May 1 at his home in Washington. He was 83.

He had colon cancer and leukemia, said his wife, Sarah Greenough, the National Gallery's senior curator of photography.

Cikovsky, whose father was a painter, developed an interest in 19th-century American art as a student and became a leading authority on such painters as Homer, William Merritt Chase, George Inness and Samuel F.B. Morse — who also invented the telegraph.

After teaching at several colleges, Cikovsky joined the National Gallery of Art in 1983 as curator of American art. He was instrumental in acquiring many important paintings for the museum, including Homer's "Home Sweet Home," Albert Bierstadt's "Lake Lucerne," Georgia O'Keeffe's "Black White and Blue" and works by Asher B. Durand, Rembrandt Peale, William Harnett and Childe Hassam, among others.

As a curator, Cikovsky was credited with greatly expanding public interest in American art. He was responsible for many celebrated exhibitions at the National

Gallery, including shows devoted to Chase, Inness, James McNeill Whistler, Thomas Eakins and photographer Ansel Adams.

One of his most memorable exhibitions, curated with Franklin Kelly, was the 1995 retrospective showcasing a wide range of paintings, watercolors and drawings by Homer, a somewhat reclusive New England artist who lived from 1836 to 1910. On "CBS Sunday Morning," Cikovsky pronounced Homer "surely the greatest American artist of the 19th century."

It took more than five years to plan the Homer exhibition. Cikovsky and Kelly negotiated with other museums and with private owners around the world to obtain loans of Homer's art. They considered more than 1,000 works before choosing the 245 that went on view.

"We traveled intensely for two years," Cikovsky told the New York Times. "Then we took a break to see what we had. Then we traveled again."

The curators also prepared a lavishly illustrated 420-page catalogue, which Washington Post art critic Paul Richard wrote was "certain to become a standard text on Homer's life and pictures."

The blockbuster exhibition was seen by more than 345,000 people at the National Gallery before traveling to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

"We've had in-depth shows on French artists like Degas and Manet," Cikovsky told The Post in 1996. "It was time for an American artist to have that kind of treatment, and Homer is one of those who really deserve it. His work is a reflection of us as a culture and as a nation."

In a review in the New Republic, novelist John Updike said the exhibition was "one to make an American proud."

Cikovsky was born Feb. 11, 1933, in New York City. His father, who was born in Poland and studied in Russia, came to the United States in the 1920s and had a distinguished career as a painter of landscapes, portraits and still lifes.

Cikovsky was a 1955 graduate of Harvard University, where he also received master's and doctoral degrees in art history in 1958 and 1965, respectively. He taught at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, Pomona College in Claremont, California, and Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, before joining the faculty of the University of New Mexico in 1974.

Before coming to the National Gallery, he published books on Inness and Morse, as well as several exhibition catalogues. When he retired from the National Gallery in 2002, Cikovsky held the title of senior curator of American and British painting.

His first marriage, to Thelma O'Brien, ended in

divorce. Survivors include Greenough, his wife of 37 years, of Washington; a daughter from his first marriage, Emily Hilbert Cikovsky of Los Altos, California; a daughter from his second marriage, Sophia Greenough Cikovsky of San Francisco; and two grandchildren.

In addition to organizing exhibitions and writing dozens of articles, books and catalogues, Cikovsky was an early proponent of technology as a tool for solving the puzzles of art history. He used infrared film to reveal how Inness, a 19th-century artist known for his landscapes, often painted over earlier versions of his work, sometimes dramatically changing the subject matter.

While examining Homer's "Breezing Up" with infrared technology, Cikovsky discovered that the artist had significantly altered his painting of a sailboat scudding in choppy waters. Homer eliminated other boats from the painting, as well as the figure of a boy, substituting an anchor in his place.

"That he removed a boy and added on an anchor à la 19th-century symbol of hope," Cikovsky told The Post in 1986, "suggests he intended the painting to convey a sense of optimism."

"If you can see an artist doing something, you've caught him in his tracks," he added. "You can then ask why. Why did he make this change?"

Even in retirement men and women plan and live differently

BY RODNEY BROOKS
THE WASHINGTON POST

Men and women are still different. We didn't really need to read 1992's "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" to know that.

But what's discussed more these days are how those differences (and many other issues) may be even more pronounced in how we prepare for retirement.

TIAA (formerly TIAA-CREF) recently released its new Voices of Experience Survey, which measures the changing attitudes on life in retirement and how people prepare.

The 44-page report covers a lot, but you might be particularly interested in the section that focuses on women in retirement — or more specifically how men and women differ both in planning for retirement and living in retirement.

In an earlier column, "On women's paths to retirement security, there are plenty of hurdles," I wrote how women face a number of unique challenges before and during retirement. Longer life expectancies, lower average wages and more time out of the workforce due to caregiving for both children and parents can undermine their savings.

Some highlights of the TIAA report:

Men start planning for retirement earlier. Twenty-two percent of men said they began planning before age 30, versus only 12 percent of women.

Men were more likely to be very satisfied with their financial health (58 percent) than women (46 percent).

Women were more likely than men to spend time alone for personal interests (80 percent vs. 70 percent), spend time with family (80 percent vs. 67 percent) and socialize with friends (75 percent vs. 52 percent).

Women were also more likely to volunteer (58 percent vs. 42 percent), care for family members (43 percent vs. 26 percent) and

participate in religious activity (36 percent vs. 25 percent).

Although women and men were equally concerned about being a burden to others, women were twice as likely to say that their biggest concern in retirement was running out of money (29 percent vs. 15 percent of men). They were also more concerned about being lonely (19 percent vs. 11 percent).

The report said it is the responsibility of employers and the financial services industry to create new and innovative programs that will give women new confidence in their ability to save for a secure retirement.

Roger W. Ferguson, TIAA CEO, says the full survey looked at how feelings about retirement have evolved over the past 30 years, and a lot has changed. "But nearly all of the retirees we surveyed said they feel satisfied with their life in retirement," he said. "They are planning better, retiring earlier and able to approach their retirement with excitement and optimism."

As my Washington Post colleague Jonnelle Marte wrote, one Social Security strategy disappeared last week. As Marte wrote:

"The filing strategy, known as file-and-suspend, could increase lifetime retirement benefits for some high-earning couples by as much as \$60,000. The approach allows one spouse — typically the higher earner — to file for benefits and then suspend the payments. That makes it possible for their husband or wife to begin receiving spousal benefits while waiting for their own Social Security benefits to grow as much as possible."

To learn more, you might look at a New York Times bestselling book on Social Security, "Get What's Yours: The secrets to maximizing out your Social Security." An updated edition to reflect the changes came out on May 3.

BY EMILY LANGER
THE WASHINGTON POST

John Bradshaw, an author, television personality and public speaker who built a self-help empire exhorting his followers to conquer their emotional ills by "reclaiming" their "inner child," died May 8 at a hospital in Houston, Texas. He was 82.

The cause was cardiac arrest, said his wife, Karen Bradshaw.

For decades, Bradshaw and his Texas drawl were a familiar presence on public television and talk-show programs such as those hosted by Oprah Winfrey and Sally Jessy Raphael. He was once described as a "psycho-tel-evangelist," an orator who combined developmental psychology, touches of philosophy and theology, and a flair for the dramatic to produce revival-like encounters for audiences who turned to him for help.

As a writer, he was a mainstay of bestseller lists, selling millions of copies of books that included "Healing the Shame That Binds You" (1988), "Homecoming: Reclaiming and Championing Your Inner Child" (1990) and, more recently, "Post-Romantic Stress Disorder: What to Do When the Hon-eymoon Is Over."

Thousands turned out for motivational workshops in which he coached participants through mental exercises. Often holding a stuffed animal, and with a soundtrack of new-age music, they returned to their childhood to con-

front their wounded younger selves.

Bradshaw defined the "inner child" as "the part of you that got repressed."

"When you laughed too loud, Mama said, 'That isn't ladylike,'" he explained, "or you had anger and they said, 'That's not permitted here.' You had to repress those parts of yourself and adapt with a smiling face or a ha-ha-ha or whatever. The part that didn't get expressed is the inner child."

Through his writings and speaking engagements, Bradshaw sought to help people quell their rage or resentment, defeat addiction or otherwise improve their lives. He was credited with helping popularize concepts such as the "dysfunctional family" and "toxic shame" but was most associated with the term "inner child," which became a catchphrase of the latter 20th century.

It did not escape parody. In one episode of "The Simpsons," a self-help guru bearing striking resemblance to Bradshaw encouraged the residents of fictional Springfield to indulge their desires as the petulant child Bart does, an experiment that devolves into disaster at the "Do What You Feel" festival.

Bradshaw's appeal seemed to stem in part from his account of his life. He, too, had known addiction — to sex, to alcohol — and had risen above it.

"The most profound spiritual moment of my life," he said, according to Newsday, "came when I

was wearing size forty-eight pants, drying out at a state mental hospital, babbling in front of ten psychiatrists and their stenographer. Suddenly, I knew what I didn't want to be any more."

John Elliot Bradshaw was born June 29, 1933, in Houston. He said that he grew up in "dire poverty" as the son of an alcoholic father. He recalled that his mother, who he said was the victim of incest, once shamed her husband for his drinking by nailing his dirtied underwear to the wall.

Years later, Bradshaw's mother told a People magazine reporter that it had been painful to hear "all our family secrets . . . aired in public to make a point" and that some of her son's claims were "exaggerated."

Bradshaw planned to become a Roman Catholic priest, studying at a Basilian seminary in Canada for nearly a decade before leaving days before his ordination.

By his account, he descended into crippling alcohol addiction. One day in 1965, he awoke under a car and decided then to check himself into a treatment center. He said that he had been sober ever since.

After his recovery, he began working with addicts and lecturing at a church in Houston, where a local TV producer saw his presentation and recruited Bradshaw for television work. As his profile grew, his programming became a centerpiece of pub-

lic-television fundraising drives.

Some critics regarded Bradshaw's brand of psychology as overly simplistic. Others criticized him for conflating minor complaints, the equivalent of psychological bruises and bumps, with true childhood trauma.

"Some think I'm on the cutting edge," he told the Boston Globe. "Others say what I do is junk food, pop psychology, dangerous. And I'll admit it, some of those guys scare me. They scare the part of me that didn't get my PhD, as if somehow that piece of paper would make everything I do legitimate."

He said that he regarded his role as similar to that of a priest.

"If the priestly work is to bring hope and comfort to people, then in that sense I believe I am one," he told the Irish Times. "Everywhere I go people walk up to me and say, 'You changed my life.'"

Bradshaw's marriage to Nancy Isaacs ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife of 12 years, the former Karen Buntzel Mabray of Houston; a son from his first marriage, John Bradshaw Jr. of Houston; a daughter from his second marriage, Ariel Bradshaw of Houston; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

"Everything I write about I struggle with myself," Bradshaw once told the Observer of London. "Therapists are like the Wizard of Oz. Pull back the curtain and you find we are frightened and scared, too."

Former US ambassador Robert Sayre dies at 91

BY BART BARNES
THE WASHINGTON POST

Robert M. Sayre, who served as U.S. ambassador to Uruguay, Panama and Brazil, as well as the State Department's inspector general and its counterterrorism director, died March 31 at a hospital in Fairfax County, Virginia. He was 91.

The cause was congestive heart failure, said a grandson, Matthew Oreska.

From 1949 until he retired in 1985, Sayre specialized in Latin American is-

sues and policy for the State Department. He was in Cuba when the U.S. Embassy closed in the aftermath of Fidel Castro's revolution-

ary takeover, and he worked in subsequent years to limit Cuba's influence in the hemisphere. He worked on U.S.-Mexican border issues and matters involving the Panama Canal.

As counterterrorism director from 1982 to 1984, he advised U.S. embassies around the world to develop contingency plans. In a 1984 speech to the Foreign Policy Association in New York, he described dealing

with terrorism as a "long twilight struggle."

Robert Marion Sayre Sr. was born in Hillsboro, Oregon, on Aug. 18, 1924. He served in the Army in Europe during World War II and graduated in 1949 from Willamette University in Oregon. In 1956, he received a law degree from George Washington University.

He was ambassador to Uruguay from 1968 to 1969, to Panama from 1969 to 1974, and to Brazil from 1978 to 1981. He was State's inspector general from 1974 to 1978.

In retirement, Sayre was

undersecretary for management at the Organization of American States.

He was a resident of Falls Church, Virginia. His memberships included Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired, the Cosmos Club and the Falls Church Episcopal.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Elora Moynihan Sayre of Falls Church; three children, Marian Sayre-Oreska of Richmond, Robert M. Sayre Jr. of Appomattox, Virginia, and Daniel Sayre of London; and nine grandchildren.