

THE

CATALOG

VOL 6

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS' ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEB 2007



Dear Friends: Our 14th program year opened in September with a contemplative theme: "Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky." Each year our guiding idea evolves from listening to the thoughts and voices of our faculty artists and participants. Faculty artist Barbara Beach imagined spending a whole year of workshops exploring the color blue. The blue of the ocean, shimmering with the stars above. Upon reflection, the notion captures all we do at Community Access to the Arts.

We began by providing simple access to creative materials. Thousands of workshops later, we now offer a range of experiences that encourage both faculty and participants to grow together, deepening the connections that resonate for

them. Participant David Zahorian said, "I think I'm ready to perform a Shakespearean sonnet!" Participants develop their own artistic vision, and through it reveal to us how they see the world: the essence of art!

Please join us for "Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky," on May 12th & 13th at The Founders' Theatre, and drink in the many variations on this powerful theme. There have always been three points on CATA's compass: the artists, the participants, and the audience. We look forward to welcoming you, and seeing your reflection in, and on, these sounds, movements and colors.

Our studios are open whenever you'd like to see our process first-hand. We wel-

come your support. Our work grows as more people are introduced to it -- we'd love for you to raise your voice to help spread the word about CATA's powerful mission!!

-SANDY NEWMAN, Executive Director
-JANET REICH ELSBACH, Board President

Our Mission

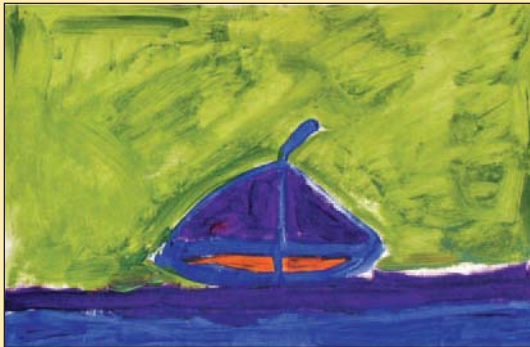
CATA seeks to lessen the stigma of difference and disability through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.



By Tina St. Amand



By Natasha Mona Lorick



By Sean Gallagher



By Ellen Gerlich



By Eric Schumann

THE CATALOG

VOL 6 COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS' ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FEB 2007

CATA Gallery/Studio:

40 Railroad Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
T: 413-528-5485
F: 413-528-3286

info@communityaccesstotheARTS.org
www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org

STAFF

Founder & Executive Director Sandra Newman
Program Director Dawn Lane
Development & Marketing Director Rebecca Tucker-Smith
Development & Program Associate Katie Clarke
Graphic Designer Chelsea DeSantis
CATAdirect Production Manager Cindy Kelly

FACULTY ARTISTS

Karen Arp-Sandel, Cynthia Atwood, Meredyth Babcock, Barbara Beach, Paula Boyajian, Barby Cardillo, Janet Reich Elsbach, Susie Hardcastle, Pat Hogan, Leslie Klein, Dawn Lane, Carol Link, Marlene Marshall, Jaye Matchett, Caitlin Nash, Robin O'Herin, Diane Prusha, Roger Reed, Senta Reis, Peter Schneider, Janice Shields, JoAnne Spies, Carol Stroll, Vikki True, Rebecca Tucker-Smith, Stefanie Weber, Michael Wolski

BOARD

President Janet Reich Elsbach
Vice President John Whalan
Secretary Ben Silberstein
Treasurer Richard Lindner

Kathryn Bos, Erik Bruun, Gussie Greer, Ira Grossman, Heather Wells Heim, Shirley Ferguson Jenks, Eve Jennings, Nancy Kalodner, Rita Kasky, Laurie Lindner, Matthew Mandel, M.D., Elissa Myers, Mitch Nash, Lee Ann Pettus, Mark Pettus, Emily Rechnitz, Stephen A. Shatz, Maria Sirois, Aline Sosne, Liana Toscanini, Suky Werman

INTERNS

Leah Greer, Caitlin Hammond, Olivia Wilber

NEWSLETTER PHOTOS

Katie Clarke, Chelsea DeSantis, Alex Kim, Marlene Marshall, Julie McCarthy, Rebecca Tucker-Smith



Gordon Sasaki teaches in the education department of Community and Access at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



Artist in Residence: *Gordon Sasaki*

Gordon Sasaki is coming to CATA for a residency starting on Monday, June 25, 2007. A New York based artist, his artistic and teaching methods use a multi-sensory approach to address concepts of diversity and inclusion. He is a Pollock-Krasner grantee in 2003 and a VSA arts International Fellow. The residency will include a series of inclusive hands-on workshops designed as professional development for teachers and artists, as well as for parent and student participation. The workshops will begin with basic foundational ideas and techniques and progressively build toward more complex projects and ideas. All workshops are inclusive and adaptable for diverse audiences with an emphasis on process and assessment. The workshops are studio based where all participants will develop a body of work; simultaneously the sessions will

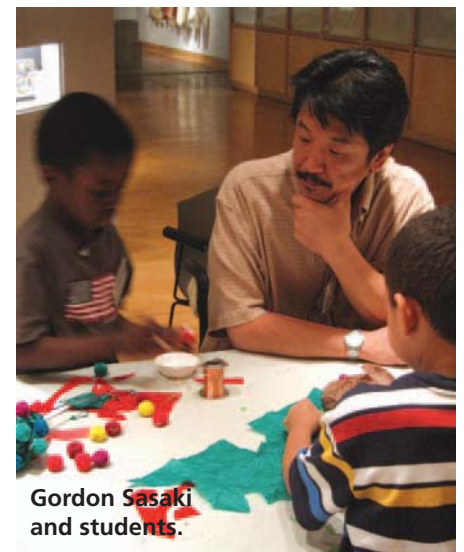
also act as a model of how to create an inclusive art classroom with adaptive techniques and approaches for populations with special needs.

The residency will consist of five days of workshops and will conclude with an exhibition and celebration of the work produced during the residency on Saturday, June 30. Each of the workshop sessions will include a mixed group of CATA participants, faculty artists, CATA staff, board members, family members, community members, caregivers, local artists, and teachers. Using this formula as many as forty people will have an opportunity to participate in the residency. In addition, the exhibition/celebration at the end of the week will be open to the public. Please contact the office if you are interested in participating.

We are delighted with the prospect

of bringing Mr. Sasaki, a renowned artist who also happens to have a physical disability, to CATA. The artist-in-residency model is a perfect compliment to our ongoing programming; an intense period of collaboration between Mr. Sasaki, our faculty artists, and the CATA participants will provide energy and inspiration that will influence the whole program year. It is an honor that an artist of Mr. Sasaki's status wants to come to CATA and this program speaks deeply and profoundly to our mission of opening doors of artistic possibility to individuals with disabilities.

This project is supported by funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and VSA arts of Massachusetts's ADA Cultural Access Initiative Grant Program. In addition, CATA has been awarded grants from the following Local Cultural Councils, local agencies that are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency: Alford Egremont Cultural Council, Lee Cultural Council, New Marlborough Cultural Council, Pittsfield Cultural Council, Sheffield Cultural Council, Stockbridge Cultural Council, and West Stockbridge Cultural Council.



Gordon Sasaki and students.



Sandy Newman and
Guest Reader Sally Jane-Heit



Guest Readers Marie-Elizabeth and Taylor Mali
with CATA Participant Cathy Horan (center)



CATA Participants Tommy Woolard
and Mary Huberman

CATA'S ANNUAL
ART EXHIBITION
& POETRY READING

I Am a Part of Art

OPENING RECEPTION: SAT, AUG 19, 5-7PM



"I Am A Part of Art" invitation; Left: Event Photos.

Grants & Foundation Highlights

- Funding from the **Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation** to support CATA's performing arts companies.
- Support for the Sasaki summer residency program from **VSA arts of Massachusetts** and from the following **Local Cultural Councils**: Alford/Egremont, Lee, New Marlborough, Pittsfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge.
- Funds from **Joseph H. and Carol F. Reich Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation** to support CATA programs in the public schools.
- Organizational support from the **Massachusetts Cultural Council**, **The John Sellon Charitable Trust** and **The Berkshire Bank Foundation**.



CATA Volunteer
Owen Tucker-Smith
modeling CATAdirect
products at the Great
Barrington Farmer's
Market.



The Moving Company performing a samba at Cirque Oh So CATA, CATA's Annual Gala & Performance.



New Partnerships & Collaborations

- CATAdirect products are currently for sale at the **Pine Cone Hill Home Store** in Lenox and at the **Institute for Contemporary Art** store in Boston. Customized CATAdirect products were sold at the gift shop at **Shakespeare and Company** during their season, and CATAdirect had a table at the Berkshire Country Day "Wear to Be" sale and at the **Great Barrington Farmer's Market**.
- CATA collaborated with **Pine Cone Hill** to decorate a tree at the **Berkshire Museum's Festival of Trees**.
- CATA programs offered at **Camp VISION**, a summer camp for the visually impaired.
- CATA collaborates with **Berkshire Family and Children Services** to offer its first workshop series at the **Northern Berkshire Creative Arts School** in North Adams.

Honors

- Nominated by State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, CATA received the **Outstanding Community Arts Collaborative Award** from the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts Education.
- CATA and Black Ice Entertainment screened "Too Much to Stop" a film documenting the collaboration between Dawn Lane and Marisa Yudkin at the **National Brain Injury Association Conference** in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. John Whalan, Dawn Lane and Sandra Newman served on a panel to discuss the project.
- Dawn Lane was honored at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center annual gala as a **2006 Unsung Hero**.



Left: Dawn Lane receiving 2006 Unsung Hero Award. Below: Sandy Newman accepting the Outstanding Community Arts Collaborative Award.

DONORS

We thank the following individuals, corporations & foundations for their generous support! Please let us know of any omissions or misspellings. This list reflects gifts received from January 1, 2006 to January 1, 2007.

CATAmounts (\$10,000+)

Anonymous (2)
Iris & James Marden
Pumpkin Trust
John A. Sellon Charitable Residual
Trust

CATApults (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Berkshire Bank Foundation, Inc.
Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation
Gussie & Peter Greer
Nancy Kalodner
Estate of Ruth Krauss
Massachusetts Cultural Council
Joan & Robert Rechnitz
Joseph H. & Carol F. Reich Fund of
the Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation
Elaine & Bernie Roberts

CATApillars (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Janet Reich Elsbach & Bart Elsbach
Heather Wells Heim & Matthew
Heim
Caitlin & Mitch Nash
Helice & Steve Picheny
Anne & Ernest Schnesel
Leslie & Stephen Shatz
Maria Sirois & Jonathan Kramer
The Tavitian Foundation, Inc.
Marcia Walsh

CATALysts (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Anonymous (2)
Aquidneck Foundation
Erik and Lelia Bruun
Everest Reinsurance Company
Jane & Jack Fitzpatrick
Nancy Fitzpatrick
Vicki Fremont
Mary Jo & Fred Friedman
Laurie & Richard Lindner
Catherine & Matt Mandel
Julie & David McCarthy
Kate & Joel Millonzi
Mary & Seth Nash
Charles Schulze & Lucy Holland
Elaine & Ben Silberstein
Philip Bennett Smerling
Aline & Jeffrey Sosne
June Thomas
VSA arts of Massachusetts
Suky & Tom Werman
E. J. Wexler Gift Fund of The
Minneapolis Foundation
Alexandra Zahorian

CATAfriends (\$1 - \$999)

Anonymous (2)
Catha Abrahams
Ed & Shelley Abrahams
Andrea Abramowitz
Bonnie & Lou Altshuler
Gail & Joel Appelbaum
ARC Investment Planning &
Management, Inc.
Karen & Jeffery Arp-Sandel
Elisabeth Atkin
Cynthia Atwood
Adriana R. Avila De Araujo
Elizabeth Azar
Elinor Baker
Steven Balicer & Janice Page
Stephen D. Ball

Robin & Dai Ban
Sandra Baron
Dennis & Tracy Barquinero
Elaine & Robert Baum
Susanna & Jonathan Baum
Phyllis Belkin & Joshua Sessler
Ellen & Richard Bellicchi
Shirley Benson
Berkshire Art Assosiation
Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation
Rosalind Berman
Karen & Michael Bernstein
Richard Birdsall
Dana Bixby
Eva & J.P. Blachere
Paula & Noel Blagg
Shirley & Steve Blanchard
Renee & Bob Blank
Dana Bledsoe
Barbara Blumenfeld
Charles Blyth
Barbara Bockbrader
Demarest & Sion Boney
Barbara Bonner
Nan Bookless
Barbara Boughton Interiors
Molly & Lou Boxer
Ellen Braude
Nancy Brenner & John Fosnot
Arthur & Marilyn Brimberg
Susan Bronson & John Sellwe
Joan & Richard Brooks
Maggie & Don Buchwald
Esther & Jack Budnick
Joan & Daniel Burkhard
Helen Burton
Amy & Brian Butterworth
Cadmus Lifesharing Association
Deborah Caiola
William Caligari
Canyon Ranch
Sara Chaganti
Marge Champion
Ulana & Danny Chapman
Roselle & Alan Chartock
Lillian Chasnoff
Kathy & Neil Chrisman
Church Street Art Gallery
Nancy Ciaschini & Joseph Bert
Blanche Cirker
Barbara & Neil Clarke
Maria & Eugene Cleary
Joyce & Don Coffman
Cohen & White Associates
Baukje & Noel Cohen
Nadine & Edward Cohen
Sue & Arnold Cohen
William Cohn
Lee & James Conlon
Karen Conrad
Michael & Shawn Considine
Sandra Constantine & Stanley Schair
Judith & C. Jeffrey Cook
Ranny Cooper
Elizabeth & John Costa
Eliza & Marco Crescentini
Susan Crofut & Ben Luxon
Beth & Patrick Crossman
Molly Curletti
Steve D'Alessio/D'Alessio Builders
Eric Dahl
Susan & Ned Dana
Hilary & Philip Deely
J. A. Derita
Alberta & Frank DeSantis
The Dobbins Foundation
Wayne Dolby/E. B. Dolby, Inc.
Domaney's Liquor

Susanne Doremus & Harvey Smith
Anne & Kerry Douglas
Jennifer Dowley
Jeanne DuVall/Thursday Morning
Club
Eagle Shoe & Boot Co.
Margo Egan
Marianne & Gray Ellrodt
Patricia & Peter Elsbach
Laurily Epstein
Sally Evans
Val & Ted Evans
Kathleen Favaloro
Diana Felber & Stephen Glick
Susan & Lawrence Feldman
Sharon & Richard Feldstein
Maureen Ferguson Steiner
Helen Ferguson
Shirley Ferguson Jenks & Bill Jenks
Catherine & Robert Ferris
Marcia & Jonathan Feuer
Pamela Fink
Elaine & Daniel Fischer
FIT Inc.
Rachel Fletcher
Anne & Thomas Flynn
Robin Flynn
Thomas Flynn
Allan Forman, Linda Forman &
Clayton Hambrick
John Forrest
Belle Fox-Martin & Cherly Hutto
Anne Fredericks
Virginia Freudenberger
Roberta & Stanley Friedman
John Fulop
Benedetto & Raffaele Fusco
Tamera Gebo-Wilber
Robert Gelleson
Gendler Family Foundation
Donald Gerlich
Sylvia Ginsburg
Glad Rags
Robin Glassman
Claire & Morton Goetz
Liesel Goetze Taylor
Jane Goodrich & Jim Youngerman
Doug & Sara Goudey
Karen & Paul Graubard
Barbara & Gerry Green
Barbara Greenberg
Estelle Greer
Charlotte & Sheldon Gross
Florence Gross
Joan & Charles Gross
Peter & Elizabeth Gross
Guardian Life Insurance Co.
Dora & Peter Hage
Sandralee & Kevin Hamel
Deborah & James Harris
Mary Hart
Susan Hartung
Louann & Edward Harvey
Richard O. Heck, M.D.
Sally-Jane Heit
Eliza Hewat
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth R. Heyman
Stephanie Hoadley
Debbie & Chris Hodgkins
Pat & Dennis Hogan
Sarah Horne & Alan Wilken
Joann & Martin Horowitz
Marcia Huberman
Joan & James Hunter
Karen (KC) Hyland
Malcolm & Elizabeth Ingram
Carol & Solomon Israel
Malinka & Kenneth Jackson
Katherine & Kenneth Jacobsen

Marjorie & Jerry Jaffe
David Jaicks
Melissa Johnston
Ann Jones & Gary Monserud
Emma-Kate & Erik Kallevik
Susan Kane
Lisa & Herb Kantor
Kathy & Barry Karson
Rita Kasky
Len Kates
Barbara Kaufer
Elaine & Howard Kaufman
Bernice Keeler
Cynthia Kelly
Frances Kelly
Madelon Kesselman
Carol Kiendl
Kathleen King & Ned Macksoud
Susanne King & Richard Berlin
Susan Klebl
Phyllis & Harvey Klein
Judy Knight
Sue Knoll
Pamela Knowles
Sean Kolodny
Joan & Paul Kopperl
Joyce & Stanley Krainin
Dawn Kramer & Stephen Buck
Petra Krauledat
J. Sylvia Krugman
Kwik Print
Marissa Labozzetta & Martin Wohl
Gregg Lane
Joan & David Lane
Evelyn Laragione
Sharon Laserson
Beth Laster-Nathan & Michael
Nathan
Lauren Clark Fine Art
Janice Lawry & David Laberge
Leander House
Lee Bank
Sophie Lee
Alice Leep
Donna Leep
Legacy Banks
Alexander Lelchook
Gloria & Louis Lempke
Marvin Lender Family Foundation
Marilyn Lenkowsky
Lenox Cultural Council
Helaine & Sidney Lerner
J.C. Leuchtenberger
Gloria Levine
Ellen & Bob Lieberman
Joyce & Edward Linde
Carol Link
Robert Logsdon
Clara & David Londoner
Eleanor Lord
Catherine Lowe & Jerome
Yavarkovsky
Elizabeth A. Maher
Carol & Shawn Mahoney
Marie-Elizabeth & Taylor Mali
Sharon & Nick Mangiardi
Barbara & Roger Manning
Peg & Bob Marcus
Victoria & Paul Margulies
Doone & Steve Marshall
Jonathan Marshall
Timothy Martin
Jennifer Mattern & David Lane
Bernice Matty
James H. Maxymillian
Maureen & James McCaffrey
Chris McHugh
Marie-Louise McHugh
Betsey & David McKearan



Paula & Skip Meade
 Anne Merritt
 Heather Meyer
 Julie Michaels & Pad Spence
 Leslie Milton & David Rosenthal
 Mary Minehan
 Bettina Montano & John Louw
 Morning Glory Charitable Trust
 Patty Morris
 Beth & William Moser
 Gail & Joel Moskowitz
 Judy Moss
 Renee Moss & Eric Bachrach
 Heather Murphy
 Ray Murray, Inc.
 Suzanne & Ken Nash
 Chloe & Paul Nassau
 Claire Naylor Pollart & John Pollart
 Barbara & Doug Newman
 Sarah Nicholson & Roger Reed
 Susan & Leonard Nimoy
 Nancy Nirenberg
 Robert & Linda Norris
 Laurie Norton Moffatt & Craig
 Moffatt
 Oakdale Foundation, Inc.
 Kathleen Osbourne & David Idzik
 Palumbo & French, Inc.
 Alex Papachristou
 Judith Papachristou
 Christine Parker Wilkerson
 Barbara Pastie
 Barbara & Stephen Pearlman
 Diane Pearlman & Jeffrey Diamond
 Susan & Arthur Peisner
 Joseph Pelkey
 Maurie Perl & Arnold Huberman
 Albert Pignatelli
 Carol Pogash
 Molly Polk & Peter Low
 Miriam Pope
 Trina Porte & Kristine Cottom
 Christopher Porter/Christopher R.
 Porter Builders, Inc.
 Barbara & Tom Quinn
 Mary Ann & Bruno Quinson
 Wendy Rabinowitz
 Ruth Ray
 Pamela Read Hardcastle
 Carolee Reiber
 Rosalind Reis
 Megan Reisel
 Valeri & John Reynolds
 Gina & Michael Ricciardi
 Riverbrook
 Karen & Tom Robards
 Joan & Scott Robinson
 David & Deborah Rothschild
 Rouge, Inc.
 Vlada Rouseff/Vlada Boutique
 Ann & Joseph Roy/The Floor Store
 Susan & David Rudd
 Marie Rudden
 Amy Rudnick & Ben Hillman
 Hunter Runnette & Mark
 VanDenbosch
 Beth Sacks & Stephan Green
 Richard Salazar
 Patricia & Marty Salvadore
 Eva & Harvey Samo
 Pamela Sandler
 Martha Sauer
 Doreen Sawicky & Cynthia Wassell
 Cory Schifano
 Marlene Schiff
 Abby & Aaron Schroeder
 Barbara Schulman
 Neal Schultz
 Charlotte & Mischa Schwartz

Julie Scott & James Hall
 Gillian Seidl
 Rosemary & David Seigel
 Annie & Whit Selke
 Betsey & Mark Selkowitz
 Sanjiban Sellew
 John A. Sellon 1994 Charitable Lead
 Trust
 Jennifer Sewall
 Shear Design
 Roberta & Kenneth Shearn
 Helen Sierles
 Marion & Leonard Simon
 Deborah Sims
 Turbi & Paul Smilow
 Beth & Ben Smith
 Colborn Smith
 Laura Smith
 Lindy Smith & Verlyn Klinkenborg
 Sam & Elizabeth Smith/Caretaker
 Farm
 Florence Sokoloff
 Stephanie & Richard Solar
 Carol & Larry Solomon
 Judy & Jack Spencer
 Carl Sprague
 Marilyn Stamberg
 Richard Stanley/Thirty Eight
 Railroad, LLC
 Rabbi Jack Stern
 Bonnie & Jeffrey Stevens
 Renee Stimpson
 Lorna & David Strassler
 Toni & Robert Strassler
 Joanna & Peter Strauss
 Carol Stroll
 Marjorie Sumner
 Lenore & Paul Sundberg
 Janice Sunderland
 Eileen Taft
 Ingrid & Richard Taylor
 Joan Taylor
 Susan Tenbroeck
 Elizabeth Thompson
 Shelia & Randy Thunfors
 Carl Tiernan/Lenox Glass & Door
 Eleanor Tillinghast & Morgan
 Bulkeley
 Lillian Tobin
 Liana Toscanini & Richard Migot
 Linda & Robert Tucker
 Judith Uman & I. Michael Goodman
 Valleyhead School
 Edith & Loet Velmans
 Jamie & Chris Vlcek
 Anne & Alan Wallach
 Ann Wassell
 Cecille Wasserman
 Barbara & Robert Watkins
 Raina Weber
 Gigi & Jerry Weil
 Tyler & Christopher Weld
 John Whalan
 Joey Wheaton & Dick Lipez
 Wheeler & Taylor
 Carol & Carter White
 Eric Williams
 Evelyn & Eric Wilska
 Windy Hill Farm
 Terry & Raymond Wise
 Jackie Wong
 Rene Wood
 Elaine Yudkin
 Marjorie Yudkin & Randy Tiffany
 Judith & Manuel Yvars
 Michael Zeller
 Rena Zurofsky/Rena Zurofsky
 Consulting

Natasha Mona Lorick

by Evelyn Wilska



On a cold and overcast winter afternoon, a group of life-size, brilliantly adorned paper figures is gathered in one of the CATA classroom's tall, ceiling-high windows. These colorful self-portraits of CATA

participants hover like benevolent muses, inspiring the five people hard at work at the tables below. The students are writing poetry.

On this day, guest poet Belle Fox-Martin is guiding the participants in exercises of imagination that will take them, each in his/her own unique way, for the depths of the sea to the infinite reaches of space. She's asked them to begin with the line *If I were a star...* It's not long before CATA newcomer Natasha Mona Lorick has filled her star-shaped piece of paper with glorious poetic imagery. When it's her turn to read her work, she recites with great expression, with joy and enthusiasm. There is indeed the light of stars in her eyes.

Natasha, who turns 27 this year, was born in Philadelphia, one of ten children. She graduated from Camp Hill Tri Form Community and was introduced to CATA in September 2006. Her creative gifts are not restricted to poetry -- she is an accomplished weaver, studies visual arts at IS183 (where she'll help with set design for the annual CATA spring performance), acts with Shakespeare & Co., sings with Vikki True, dances with Dawn Lane, and juggles with Roger Reed.

CATA, Natasha says, has not only provided her with exciting and diverse opportunities for creative expression, but also with something that's ever more important to her: a family.

**If I was a star...
 by Natasha Mona Lorick**

**I would be a beautiful shooting star and wear
 a white gown with an angel crown, standing
 tall like a very bright queen with the king, for
 a king I would ask my Sasha to be the king and
 live in a castle in the heaven's.**

2007 CATA CALENDAR

ART SHOW

15183 Art School of the Berkshires
Opening Reception April 7
Through April 27



ANNUAL GALA & PERFORMANCE

"Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky"
The Founder's Theatre
May 12, 7pm
May 13, 1pm

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Gordon Sasaki
Residency June 25-29
Exhibition June 30

ANNUAL ART SHOW

"I Am A Part of Art"
CATA Gallery
August 11

For info: call 413-528-5485 or visit
www.communityaccesstotheARTS.org



40 Railroad Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Community Access to the Arts seeks to lessen the stigma of difference and disability through shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.

Meet the Interns

Our 2006-07 program year is off and running with over 1,000 workshops! We have been very fortunate to have three generous and talented young women assisting in our workshops. Their contributions to CATA reflect our mission to transcend disability and to connect as human beings!



LEAH GREER

Senior, Monument Mountain High

"As an assistant to an artist once a week in a program called Community Access to the Arts, I work with four incredible women. In the comfort of their home at the Riverbrook Residence in Stockbridge, MA, we cut shapes of colored paper, paint landscapes, and glue shells, tissue paper and buttons to surfaces. One young woman, Tracy, has difficulty speaking, and so we communicate through smile and action as we work one-on-one. We are a team. I hold a cut out piece of paper down while she paints; I get her materials and sometimes even give her color suggestions when she is not sure

what to use; we need each other to complete the art project. Marlene, the artist in charge, told me that Tracy used not to enjoy coming to the art class but now looks forward to each week's class. I felt flattered, but more than flattery, I felt a similar anticipation. I, too, look forward to seeing Tracy, and all of the other women, for one hour every Tuesday evening because in that hour we not only create "art", but, together, we let ourselves be in a space of comfort, warmth and acceptance. It is in this place that I feel that I have grown as an individual and made a difference in the lives of these women -- I know for sure they have made a difference in mine."



CAITLIN HAMMOND

Senior, Lenox Memorial High

"CATA is my first internship and I think it's safe to say that I couldn't have a better place to intern at. This is a fun place; it's easy going and no one judges you. Rarely is anyone in a bad mood. Everyday is different: everyday there is someone to look forward to seeing. I really like to be on my feet and running around and I get to do that A LOT! The workshops are really fun because

they are a mix of stuff I love like art and new things that are a challenge for me like dancing and juggling. CATA is important; it gives people with disabilities a chance to do things they love, have fun, make friends and not be judged harshly for who they are."



OLIVIA WILBER

Freshman, Monument Mountain High

"I volunteer at CATA because my heart tells me to. I love being with the people there. At CATA I'm always learning something new, I see the world through a different point of view. This year when The Moving Company started, Dawn said we were going to work on solos for this year's theme, 'Stars in the Ocean, Sand in the Sky.' It's been amazing to see what everyone comes up with; there is so much emotion in everyone's work! I adore working at CATA. I get to explore new ideas and dig a little deeper into old ones. CATA is not something I do in my spare time, CATA is a way for me to learn. It's a way for me to be myself around people that care about each other. Thank you for letting me be with people I love."