

# hai



July  
2003

## Former Executive Director of President's Committee on Arts and Humanities Visits HAI

"HAI is unique, there's nothing like it," says Bunny Cornell Burson, former Executive Director of President Clinton's Committee on Arts and Humanities and founder of the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Arts and Humanities Program.

Of HAI, Ms. Burson continued with the following statement; "The people there have strong feelings about who they are, whom they are working with and why. There's a feeling of 'This is it.

This is what it's all about.' They are founders of the modern movement which has grown rapidly and continuously since HAI started. They are at the top of their game, but they are continuously adding to their repertoire... not resting on their laurels. They focus on their mission... they are creative and forward thinking. We were there for a terrific exhibition opening and reception on a rainy night... but it was well attended and very uplifting to see the artists, patrons, teachers and administrators all interacting and supporting one another. HAI is obviously engaged at the highest level."

Ms. Burson, who is a graduate of The Memphis College of Art, held the position of Executive Director of the President's Committee on Arts and Humanities from 2000 to 2001 under Clinton. The Committee serves an advisory purpose and was established to stimulate private sector support and public/private partnerships for the arts and to raise public awareness of the benefits of culture to society.

Ms. Burson recently visited Hospital Audiences' SoHo loft space with HAI Program Development Director Lynn Kable. Ms. Kable is Editor of the soon to be published book "Uses of Arts, Humanities and Design in Caring for Caregivers in the United States and Japan" scheduled to go into print next month through The Society for the Arts in Healthcare and with a grant from the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership.

### *This July...*

To honor her Mother's life and her great love of music, Ms. Barbara Lowenstein has made it possible for seniors who reside in ten nursing homes in Brooklyn and Queens to enjoy four different outdoor New York Philharmonic concerts this summer. Mae Lowenstein was a great believer in HAI's mission. She passed away in November 2002.

*Over...*

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**This July, HAI will provide Hope And Inspiration to an audience of more than 25,200 people at more than 940 events by offering opportunities...**

**...to enjoy dance, theater, concerts and more**

\* In July, HAI's **Community Events** will arrange for over 4,000 people to attend over 70 events including

*Harbor Lights Cruise*  
*New York Yankees*  
*New York Liberty*

*Circle Line*  
*Yankee Stadium*  
*Madison Square Garden*

\* HAI's **Summer Program** provides frail, elderly persons and wheelchair users access to front stage seats and restrooms at Metropolitan Opera performances, New York Philharmonic concerts and New York Shakespeare Festival's production of *Henry V* at Central Park's Delacorte Theater. The program will reach over 2,500 people at 30 events throughout the month.

\* HAI's **Omni\*Bus Program** will enable over 2,200 individuals to attend 78 events in July, including trips to Central Park's Delacorte Theatre, Brooklyn Cyclones & Staten Island Yankees baseball games, Astroland Amusement Park, Liberty Science Center, NY Botanical Gardens, Belmont Park, Circle Line Cruises, Westchester Broadway Theater and the Muscular Dystrophy Association Summer Camp.

\* The **On-Site Performance Program** will reach more than 5,900 people at over 118 events in July. In celebration of Independence Day on July 4th, Linda Russell will perform traditional American music at the Cabrini Center for Nursing and, on July 18th, residents of Holland House will enjoy international folk music performed by Luce Amen. On the 25th of the month, Ms. Renee McRae will present a spoken word performance to members of the Thompson Rehabilitation Program at Soundview in the Bronx.

**...to develop competence through artistic expression**

\* In July, 632 hours of participatory **Arts Workshops** will reach an audience totaling 10,250. Beginning this month are variety of new programs which include a new music workshop at the Coney Island Hospital MICA Day Program, a dance/movement workshop at the Laconia Nursing Home and a music workshop at the Queens Day Treatment Program of Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Cecilia Smith, vibraphonist/composer and senior HAI workshop artist, recently presented a jazz concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, where she also conducted a seminar on the compositions of jazz master Mary Lou Williams. Following a successful opening reception, the exhibit of paintings and 3-D objects by the late HAI teaching artist Diane Sbrano continues at the HAI loft. The exhibition is on view Tuesday through Saturday, 1pm to 6pm.

**...to acquire skills for supportive/independent living**

\* The HAI **Prevention Education Program** uses theatrical role-play to develop decision making skills with respect to HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth leadership/violence prevention and Medicaid Managed Care. In July, youth auditions for *Respect*, a music, theater and dance workshop and performance piece directed by Tony Award Winner George Faison and *Loss & Gain*, an intensive theater program with award winning playwright Elizabeth Swados, will take place at HAI. In addition, HIV prevention workshops will take place at facilities throughout Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx this month.

**...to gain access to information and to learn more about our mission**

\* Visit HAI's website, [www.hospitalaudiences.org](http://www.hospitalaudiences.org) and view *Access for All: Guide for People with Disabilities to New York City Cultural Institutions* and its update, *Addendum 2001, On the Go: A Guide to New York City Culture at a Discount for Seniors* and the monograph, *Live Arts Experiences: Their Impact on Health and Wellness*.