

Arts for the Aging 2014 Lolo Sarnoff Award



The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, accepted the 6th Annual Lolo Sarnoff Award at the 26th Annual Arts for the Aging (AFTA) Gala on October 22, 2014 at Society of the Cincinnati at Anderson House in Washington D.C. This award recognizes individuals for Distinguished Service, Humanitarianism, Creativity and Lifelong Engagement in the Arts. The spark behind the award is the Swiss-German artist, scientist, entrepreneur,

philanthropist and AFTA Founder and Chair Emerita, Lolo Sarnoff. Since graduating from Germany's Reimann Art School in 1930's Berlin, Lolo has been a pioneer across continents. Her legacy-works abound: she was a driver in the Swiss Red Cross Motor Corps during World War II, co-inventor of the replacement for the iron lung (the Electro-Phrenic Respirator), ground breaking sculptor of fiber-optics and plexi-glass (The Flame, her favorite, has been on permanent exhibition in the Kennedy Center Opera House since its opening in 1971), and she has been a devotee of countless artistic and community endeavors. Among them, Lolo helped establish The Foreign Students Service Council and has held philanthropic and volunteer positions to landmark institutions such as the Washington National Opera, the Washington Performing Arts Society, the Washington Ballet, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Corcoran School of Art. With the grace, wisdom and energy of a modern Olympian, in 1988 at the age of 72, Lolo founded AFTA, realizing her personal dream "Do today as much as possible. Tomorrow may never come." Because of the vision and creativity of Lolo Sarnoff, and that of outstanding recipients of the Lolo Sarnoff Award, our world is a better place for the arts and for humanity.

Justice Ginsburg's landmark career, defense of free expression, advocacy for gender equality and the less advantaged, and lifelong support of the arts are remarkable. She has cited Lolo for her "intelligence and bravery...her love of music and art, and her caring about the right things"—we know these things to be true of the Justice Ginsburg too. Among many milestones, she pioneered as the first female member of the Harvard Law Review, the first female tenured professor at Columbia, and early in her career won a series of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court that established a constitutional principle against gender-based discrimination. Her creative spirit presides throughout, just as she has in the moot courts sponsored by Shakespeare Theatre, through her devotion to theatre and opera, to so many well-known arts institutions, and of course to Arts for the Aging. Every day AFTA seeks to continue its good works with the same resolve that is quintessentially "Lolo"—with uprightness, resolve and generosity; just as Justice Ginsburg has throughout her lifetime.



Previous award winners: Irving Fields, pianist, composer and arranger; Carmel Quinn, singer, storyteller and comedienne; Jerome Barry, performance artist, master teacher, founder of Embassy Series; Dorothy Kosinski, director of The Phillips Collection; Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (ret.), author, humanitarian and philanthropist.

Photographs by Gene Carl Feldman. Bottom (AFTA Trustee and Gala Chair Shahin Mafi welcomes Justice Ginsburg to the gala, October 2014)