

THE CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN

BY LEOŠ JANÁČEK

AT THE GRANADA THEATRE

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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito ten years ago.

Affair of the Art

Former TV talk-show titan Oprah Winfrey knows the art of the deal!

Montecito's most famous resident has just sold a Gustav Klimt painting to a private buyer in China for a staggering \$150 million – earning herself a \$63 million profit in a decade, I learn.

Oprah, who marked her 63rd birthday last month, bought the Austrian painter's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer II* for \$87.9 million back in 2006 at Christie's in New York.

She was approached last year by Manhattan art dealer Larry Gagosian who had a Chinese buyer interested in purchasing the 100-year-old work.

The painting was originally found as part of a collection of art works stolen by the Nazis in World War II. It was given back to the surviving members of the Bloch-Bauer family in 2006.

Oprah, who now runs her own eponymous cable channel in Hollywood, had anonymously loaned the 1912 painting to New York's Museum of Modern Art for five years in 2014 where it was included in the gallery's fifth-floor collection.

Before she agreed to the sale, she also loaned the portrait to the Neue Galerie New York for 'Klimt and the Women of Vienna's Golden Age 1900-1918' exhibition, which ended last month.

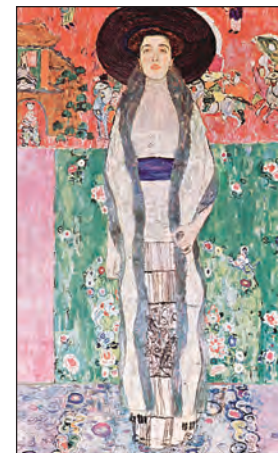
Oprah's painting is one of two formal portraits that Klimt made of Adele Bloch-Bauer – a wealthy Jewish society women from the 20th century.

Billionaire Ronald Lauder, son of the late cosmetics empress Estee Lauder, purchased the first Adele portrait for \$135 million in 2006 to hang in his own museum.

It became the subject of a wonderful 2015 Hollywood film directed by Simon Curtis, *The Woman in Gold*, starring British actress Helen Mirren as Adele's niece.

She fought for decades to regain the portrait from the Nazis who had renamed it because they didn't want people to know the subject was Jewish, even going to the Supreme Court.

Another of Klimt's paintings – *Water Serpents II* – was sold privately by Russian billionaire Dmitry Rybolovlev to an Asian buyer for \$170 million in 2015.



Oprah pockets \$63 million from the sale of Gustav Klimt's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer II*

Hail to Hale!

Santa Barbara Magazine publisher, Jennifer Smith Hale, daughter of Montecito philanthropist Anne Towbes, was lauded at a celebrity-packed gala in Beverly Hills by the Philanthropic Society Los Angeles.

The bustling bash, thrown at the magnificent home of Alec Gores, honored Jennifer with the Philanthropic Visionary Award and Amanda and Catherina Gores with the Next Gen trophy.

The nonprofit, founded in 2011 by Rochelle Gores Fredston, aims to make a meaningful impact on thousands of children annually through support of community initiatives in underserved urban cities. Since its inception, it has touched the lives of 150,000 children and raised more than \$14 million.

The awards were presented by New York fashion designer Carolina Herrera, with other guests including Sylvester Stallone, Rob Reiner, Tobey Maguire, Mira Sorvino, Jennifer Meyer, Monique Lhuillier, Rossetta and Jacqui Getty, Olivier and Zoe de Givenchy, Michael and Anne Towbes, Bui Simon, Belle Cohen, and Michael Smith.

CADA Have It!

The Amazons ruled when the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA) hosted its sixth annual Gratitude lunch with 250 guests at the Biltmore, which raised around \$80,000 for the mentor program.

The charity's director of corporate development, Catherine Remak, emceed the bash, while the ubiquitous Geoff Green, CEO of the City College

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CADA mentor/founder Anne Towbes with contributors and prospective mentors Mark Danielson of KEYT; and Jane Orfalea, Nina Phillips, Jelinda DeVorzon, and Shandra Campbell (photo by Priscilla)



CADA supporters Gerd Jordano, Haley Firestone-Jessup, Penny Jenkins, former CEO/president CADA; with guest speaker Pat Mitchell (photo by Priscilla)



Guests Ginni Dreier, Dana Mazzetti, Nina Terzian, with mentored children Valerie, Rodrigo and Itzy (photo by Priscilla)

Foundation, conducted the auction. Former Santa Barbara resident **Pat Mitchell**, the first women CEO of PBS and a longtime friend of founder **Anne Towbes**, flew in from Atlanta to give a moving keynote speech, while **Arno Jaffe** received the Penny Jenkins Mentor Champion Award from **John Daly**, founder of the Key Class program.

Over the past 22 years, more than 100 mentor relationships have been fostered

helping low-income children. It is one of 23 programs offered by CADA.

Turning out for the cause were **Michael Towbes**, **Jennifer Smith Hale**, **Merryl Brown**, **Ed Stonefelt**, **Hayley Firestone Jessup**, **Anne Gersh**, **Gerd Jordano**, **Diana MacFarlane**, **Ginni Dreier**, **Teresa McWilliams**, **Maria Long**, **Barbara Tellefson**, **Ricardo** and **Dinah Calderon**, **George Leis**, **Janet Garufis**, **Terry Ryken**, **Celesta Billeci**, **Beverlye Fead**, **Perri Harcourt**,



Jaffe Mentee and friend "Big" Anthony Hartley, honoree Arno Jaffe, receiving the "Penny Jenkins Mentor Champion Award" with mentee "Little" Anthony, and Ed Stonefelt, CADA president/CEO (photo by Priscilla)

Hazel Blankenship, **Judi Weisbart**, **Rona Barrett**, **Jelinda DeVorzon**, **Jane Orfalea**, **Mara Abboud**, **Marni Margerum**, **Nina Terzian**, and **Mary Dorra**.

Bow Strings Attached

New York-based Grammy nominated violinist **Robert McDuffie** was undoubtedly the star of the show when he poignantly performed Samuel Barber's American classic 1939 concerto as part of CAMA's 200-year-old Bruckner Orchestra Linz concert, with veteran conductor **Dennis Russell Davies** in his final season, at the Granada.

It was the orchestra's third visit to the U.S., but its debut in our Eden by the Beach, with a stirring program that included Schumann's Symphony No. 1 in B-flat Major, and Richard Strauss's Der Rosenkavalier Suite.

But McDuffie, founder of the Rome Chamber Music Festival, playing a 1735 Guarneri del Gesu instrument, was quite sublime, well earning his standing ovation.

From Page to Screen

Tecolote, the lively literary lair in the upper village was positively heaving when **Mary Conrad**, who co-founded the the Santa Barbara Writers Conference in 1973, joined a tony triumvirate of authors launching the Britannica-sized 600 page-plus *Santa Barbara Writers Conference Scrapbook: Thirty Year of Literary Excellence*.

The hefty telephone book-sized tome, written with fellow authors **Matt Pallamary** and Oakland resident **Y. Armando Nieto**, took two years to put together.

"Over the years, I kept everything in albums and have about ten, which referenced everything over the years from 1973 to 2004," says Mary, whose author husband, Barnaby, who was a good friend, died at age 90 four years ago.

Monte Schulz, son of *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz, bought the conference in 2010, which initially launched at the Cate School before establishing itself at the Miramar Hotel, with the likes of Ray Bradbury, Jonathan Winters, Robert Mitchum, Julia Child, Maya Angelou, Jose Ferrer, Elmore Leonard, James Michener, Alex Haley, Gore Vidal, William F. Buckley, and William Styron participating.

The book has also inspired the authors to produce a documentary, also called *Santa Barbara Writers Conference Scrapbook*, which will premiere in June at the Hyatt Santa Barbara during this year's conference.

Among the tony throng attending the book bash were **Jeff and Hollye Jacobs**, **Ginny Vanocur**, **Penny Bianchi**, **Gina Tolleson**, **Beverly Jackson**, **Dolly Granatelli**, **Dennis and Carolyn Miller**, **Ronnie Mellen**, **Jennifer Smith Hale**, **Fannie Flagg**, **Dean and Melinda Mars**, **Missy DeYoung**, **Daphne Ireland**, and **Kendall Conrad** with her daughters, **Luisa and Fernanda Cameron**.

At Their Feet

State Street Ballet was doing some sole searching when it had a VIP sneak-peek at its forthcoming Igor Stravinsky Rite of Spring show at the

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