

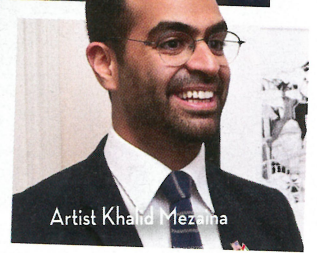
Stuart Holliday and U.A.E. Amb. Yousef Al-Otaiba



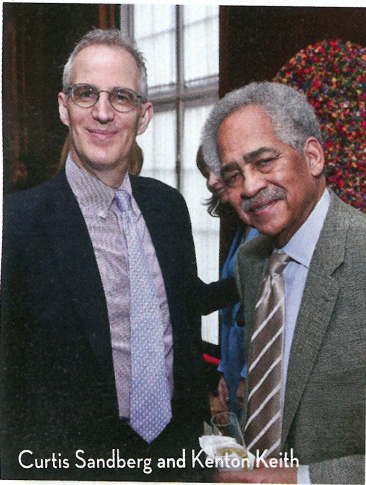
Marie Royce and Nilufar Choudry



Jim and Janet Blanchard with
Sonya Horsford and Rep. Steven Horsford



Artist Khalid Mezaina



Curtis Sandberg and Kenton Keith



Rep. Mark Meadows and Debbie Meadows



'PAST, FORWARD' EXHIBIT OPENING

Meridian International Center | **PHOTOS BY TONY POWELL**

ARTFUL DIPLOMACY: An international crowd admired paintings and sculptures by 25 artists from all seven states comprising the United Arab Emirates — works that chronicled that nation's recent and rapid development. Sponsored by the U.A.E. Embassy and Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy, the first such exhibit to tour internationally aims to foster stronger cultural understanding between the U.A.E. and the United States.

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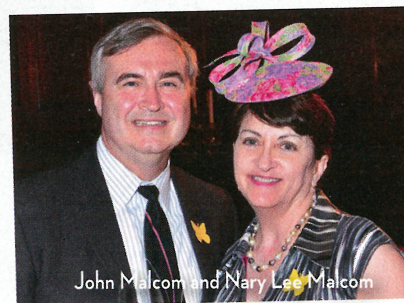
Heidi Debevoise and
Eli Whitney Debevoise



Colombian Amb. Luis Carlos Villegas,
Carmela de Villegas,
Isabel Ernst and Bill Nitze



Patrick O'Halloran, Shantelle Przybylo,
Francesca Zambello and Norman Garrett



John Malcom and Nary Lee Malcom



Paula Herrera,
Alfonso Guzman and Chafi Kappaz

COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR 'FLORENCIA IN THE AMAZON'

Residence of the Columbian Ambassador | **PHOTOS BY VITHAYA PHONGSAVAN**

ENCHANTING JOURNEY: Colombian Ambassador **Luis Carlos Villegas** and his wife **Carmela** invited guests to share an intimate evening highlighting the coming production (September 20-28) of "Florenxia in the Amazon" by the Washington National Opera. To celebrate the fact that the production will be the first Spanish-language opera performed at the Kennedy Center, three members of the WNO's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, **Shantelle Przybylo**, **Patrick O'Halloran** and **Norman Garrett**, performed arias from the opera in Spanish. "Florenxia in the Amazon" was inspired by Colombia's esteemed Nobel Peace Prize-winning writer Gabriel García Márquez, who Amb. Villegas called "not just one of the most symbolic representatives of Colombian culture abroad, but also one of the strongest advocates of Latin American culture worldwide."

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Finlay Lewis, Lucky Roosevelt and Willee Lewis