

GAIL RICH AWARDS

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

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Art + Artists - 2000

California, only more so

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Wallace Stegner's famous quote describing California as "America, only more so," can be applied in microcosm as well. Of course, it would only make sense to those who live here to say that Santa Cruz is "California, only more so." Each year, at this time, we stop and take stock of the creative individuals who give Santa Cruz its distinctive West Coast nature. Named after the late Gail Rich who embodied the spirit of appreciation for the arts, the Gail Rich Awards are our way of singling out the faces that enhance our community with their commitment, talent and vision.

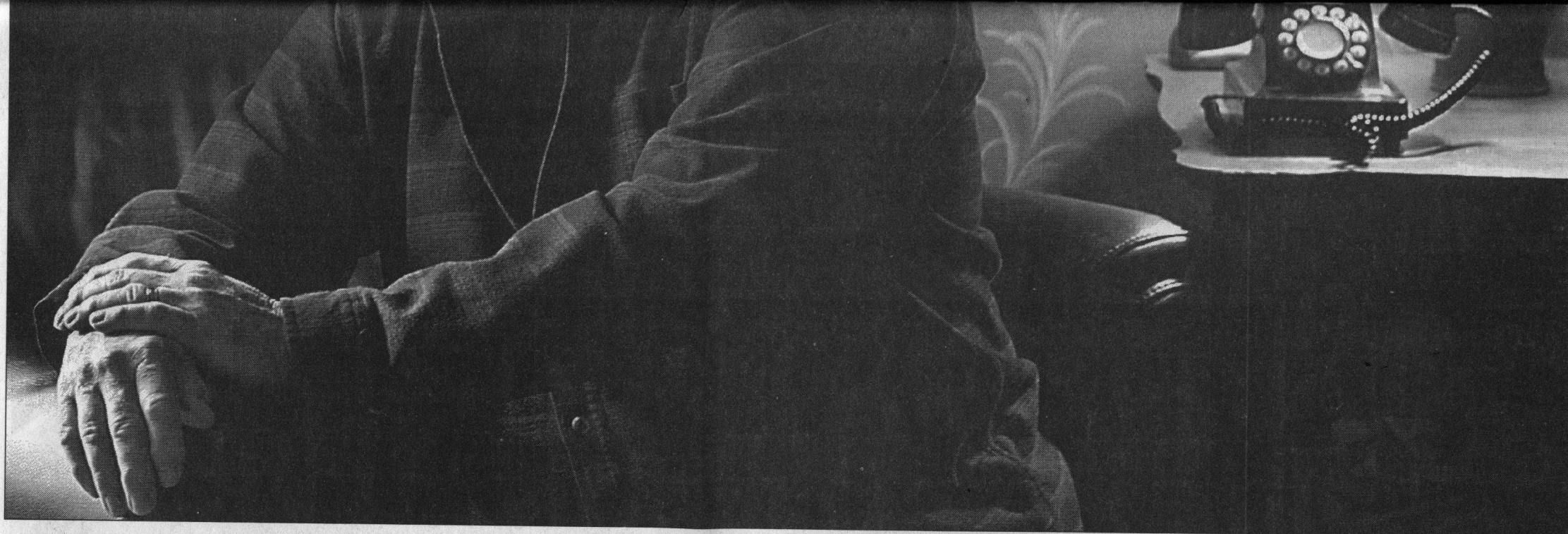
So here's to all those who entail the creative life in the arts: musicians, visual artists, actors, directors, filmmakers, writers, poets, performance artists and dancers, as well as philanthropists, merchants, cultural figures, arts volunteers and all those who work to support the creative life of Santa Cruz County.

Thank you for giving this community its unique cultural personality.



GAIL RICH





morton MARCUS ▲

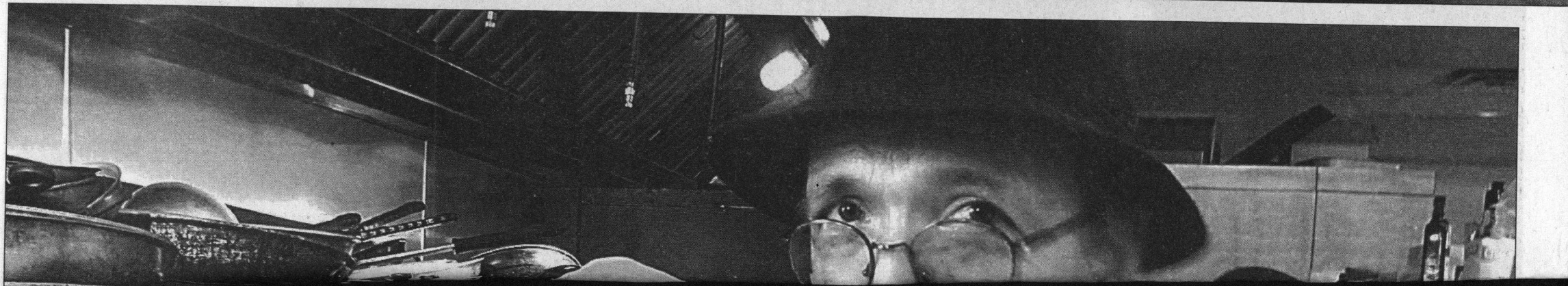
Some time in the next few months, poet and critic Morton Marcus will unveil his just-finished memoirs to the world. And no matter what the page count of the book (and he's promised it will be prodigious), it can hardly contain the energy of the man. The author of eight books of poetry (with a ninth scheduled for 2007) who has been published in literary journals and anthologies all over the world, Mort was selected as the 1999 Santa Cruz County Artist of the Year not only for his poetry, but for his long involvement in the promotion of poetry. He's also the area's most prominent film critic, having taught film and English at Cabrillo College for more than 30 years. He now co-hosts the popular "CinemaScene" show on Community TV, leads a weekly film discussion at the Nickelodeon and is an integral part of the annual Pacific Rim Film Festival, all the legacy of one of Santa Cruz's most vigorous man of letters.

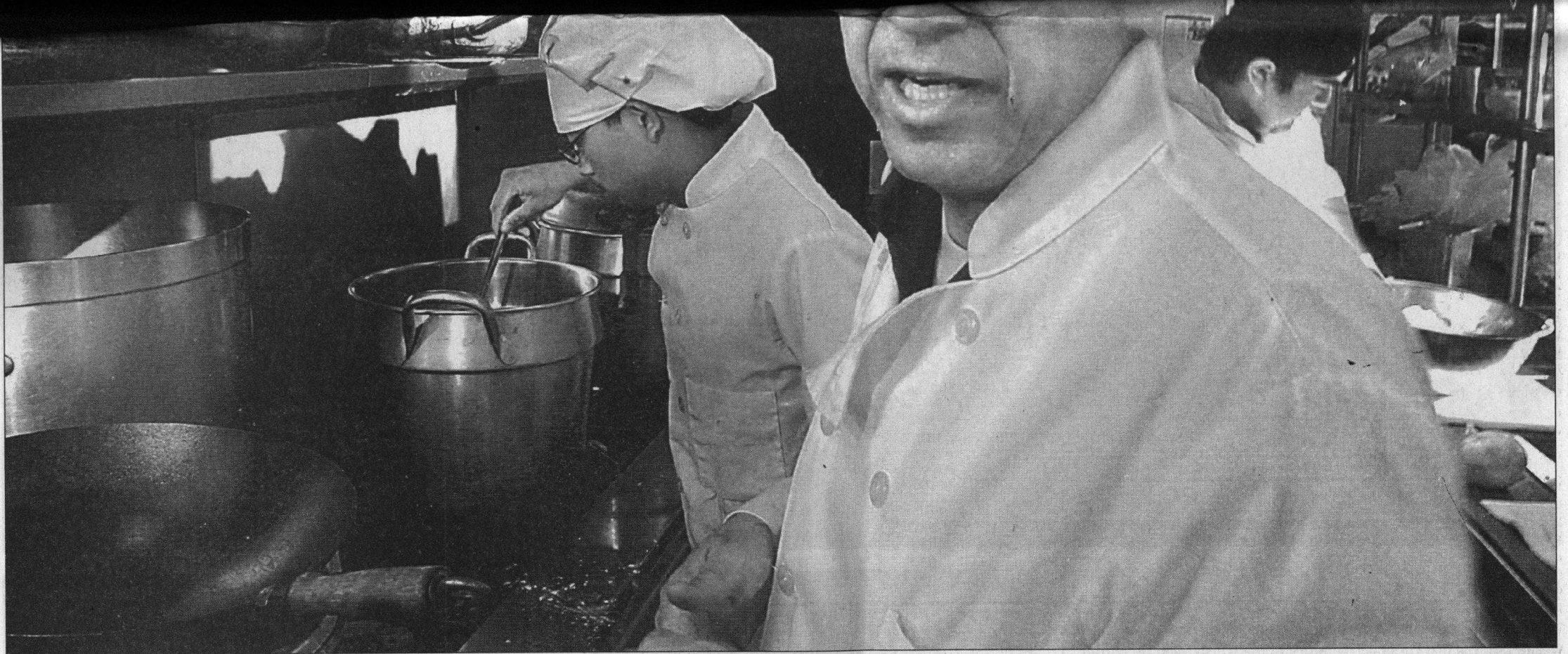
jimmy NORRIS ►

Anyone hoping to write a chronicle of the Santa Cruz music scene would do well to pay a visit to Jimmy Norris. Since moving to the area more than 30 years ago, the veteran drummer has rarely stopped keeping the beat. He's led the rhythm section in a number of well-known Santa Cruz bands over the years from Fly By Night to Snail to the Humans. But his real legacy is his support for a wide variety of local musicians, most notably as bandleader for country star (and former Santa Cruzan) Lacy J. Dalton. He's also been the go-to drummer for name acts such as Ginny Mitchell, Keith Greeninger, Larry Hosford, Mary McCaslin, Ariel Thiermann and more, and is today as in-demand as he's ever been. From straight rock 'n' roll to mystical African rhythmic tradition, Jim has been the different drummer to which Santa Cruz marches.



GAIL RICH AWARDS





ellen PRIMACK tom FREDERICKS ▶

In the early 1990s, the Cabrillo Music Festival faced a reckoning. At one point, the festival was without a home venue, an artistic director or any kind of stability in leadership. Into this situation stepped Tom Fredericks and Ellen Primack, who this year will mark their 17th season running the acclaimed festival. Under the stewardship of Ellen and Tom, the festival has experienced a remarkable renaissance, bringing in the talented and charismatic Marin Alsop as artistic director as well as a stable of exciting new composers, and establishing the Santa Cruz Civic as the festival's home base. With new ideas and innovations, from free family concerts to training programs for young conductors, the festival has not only deepened its connection to Santa Cruz, but has become an internationally recognized laboratory for new music, one example of which will be a new work to debut at the festival in 2008, a commission honoring Ellen and Tom.





MAYIM ▲

Jemila Alldis, Natalie Bridgeman and Ariel Thiermann first began singing together as ninth-graders at Santa Cruz High School, coming together for a freshman-year event to sing the Indigo Girls' "Galileo." Audiences were so impressed by the girls' crystalline harmonies, the three were being asked to sing at weddings and parties. Thus was born the beloved a cappella trio Mayim — from the Hebrew word for water. Fifteen years and three CDs later, those girls are now 30-year-old women, and Mayim is still flowing, singing a wide assortment of pop, choral and sacred songs, many of them originals, for rapt local audiences as a holiday-season tradition. Once gangly teens who sang for their meals at local restaurants, the women of Mayim have gone their separate paths — Natalie is an international law attorney, Ariel a solo singer/songwriter, Jemila a massage therapist. But they've remained close friends and collaborators, who together are ready to take their musical partnership to new levels of creativity.



maria CRUSH ▲

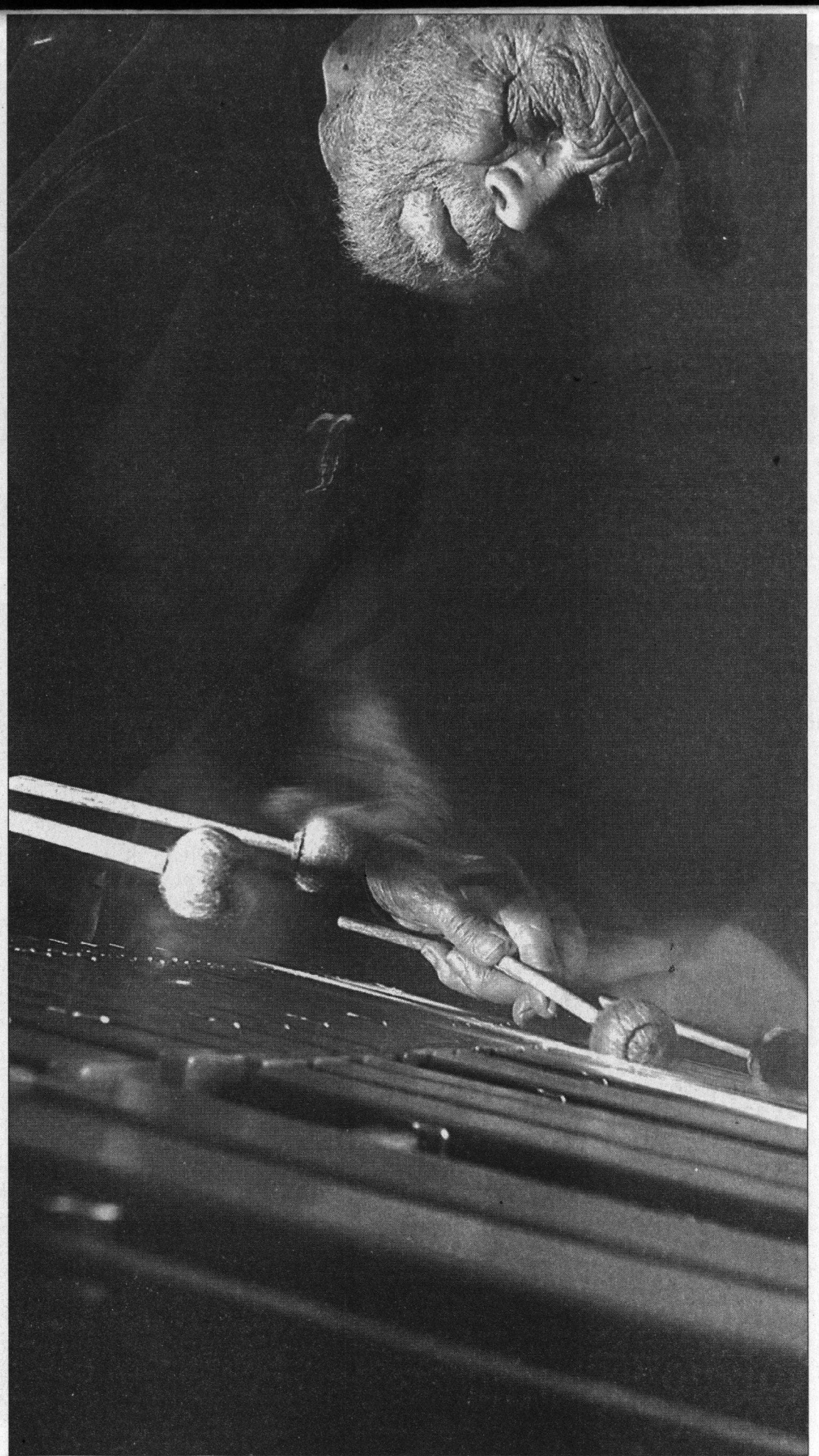
Veteran costume designer Maria Crush remembers vividly her mother regularly taking her to the opera in New York at the age of 5. Thus began a lifelong love of both theater and clothing, which she has blended as the longtime costume design maven of Cabrillo College. Maria has spent time directing theater as well, and working as a costumer all over the San Francisco Bay Area. But she's really made her name at Cabrillo Stage, the professional summer theater company, the annual musicals of which have become a beloved local institution. Maria has dressed everything from aliens to cave dwellers for the stage, and has gained a reputation from local theater fans for her resourcefulness and her fine eye for detail. Whether it's "Sweeney Todd" or "West Side Story," Cabrillo Stage actors know half their work of characterization is done for them, just by donning Maria's costumes.

jozseph SCHULTZ ◀

For more than 20 years, India Joze was a downtown Santa Cruz landmark, a beloved and eccentric restaurant that reflected the town's restless eclecticism. The embodiment of the India Joze spirit and the restaurant's owner was Jozseph Schultz, who even now, 10 years after India Joze closed its doors, approaches food with the big-picture curiosity of the culinary anthropologist. Determined to create a versatile cuisine that was both affordable and adventurous, Jozseph and his staff served more than a million meals over the years. He had only the scantest experience in restaurants before opening his own; in fact, he was a theater arts major in college. But he eventually became a leading figure in Santa Cruz food circles. Since the restaurant's closure, he's been busy as a caterer and has given to many nonprofits and arts organizations his creations of food, which he calls "love made manifest."

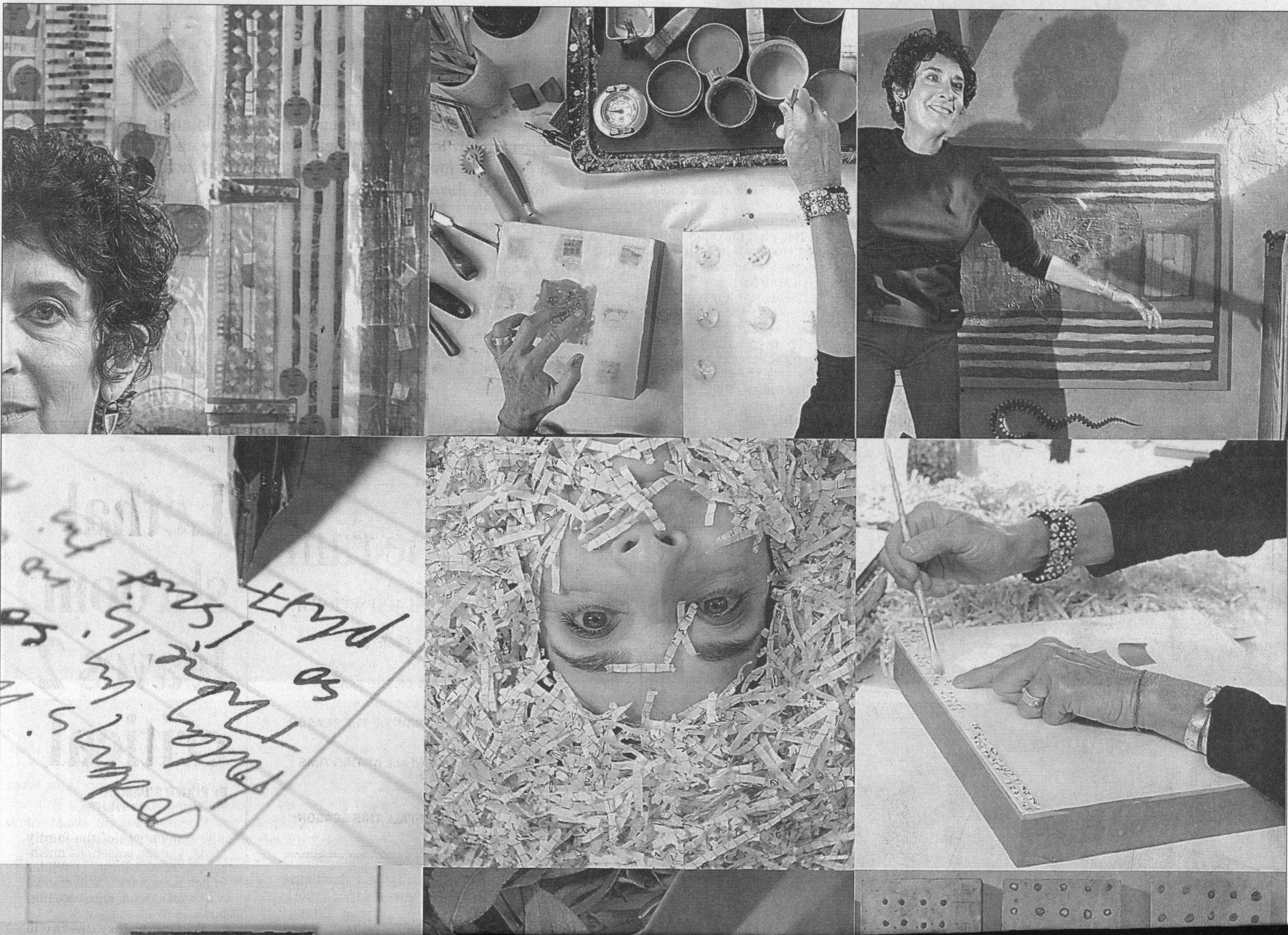
don McCASLIN ▶

With his big beard, black-rimmed glasses and trademark white driving cap, Don McCaslin was the symbol of the old Pacific Garden Mall in downtown Santa Cruz for much of the 1970s and '80s. The jazz vibraphonist was the front man for the ensemble Warmth, which played seven days a week for many of those years at the sidewalk cafe outside the fabled Cooper House, destroyed after the 1989 earthquake. Don, who celebrated his 80th birthday in '06, first came to Santa Cruz in the late 1940s playing jazz piano in long-extinct nightclubs along Beach Street. Under his leadership, Warmth was not just a jazz band, but a floating jam session, and spawned several fine jazz players including Kenny Wolleson, Paul Contos and Don's own son, Donny McCaslin, a high-demand sax player now living in New York. Don himself is still playing live jazz, at Severino's and the Wharf House, evoking memories of Santa Cruz's downtown heyday.



daniella WOOLF ▼

The life of Santa Cruz artist Daniella Woolf changed five years ago when she happened upon a Day of the Dead memorial display in which the artist had embedded her late father's clarinet reed in layers of bee's wax. From that moment on, Daniella has been captivated by the "encaustic" process of using wax as a medium, not only creating works of art, but leading workshops for other artists beguiled by the ancient medium. Before that, she earned a master's degree from UCLA in textiles and became an accomplished artist in a variety of media, from fiber arts to jewelry. The discovery of encaustic painting, however, transformed Daniella — a longtime favorite on the Open Studios tour — into a fervent student and teacher, a hot-wax true believer and creative innovator seduced by its surface luster and inspired by its possibilities.





Past Gail Rich Award winners

1997

Rick Walker, musician
 The Troxell family, theater
 Holt Murray, sculptor
 Bob Lowery, blues musician
 Laura Ellen Hopper, radio programmer
 Sara Wilbourne, dancer
 Eric Schoeck, talk-show host
 Joe Ferrara, bookstore merchant
 Philip Collins, composer
 Guillermo Aranda, muralist
 Tracye Lea Lawson, music programmer
 Bud Kretschmer, benefactor

1998

Bruce Lee, performance artist
 Kate Hawley, playwright
 Nikki Silva & Charles Prentiss, artists
 Sean Seman, musician
 Mary McCaslin, musician
 Thom Zajac, publisher
 John Orlando, musician
 Laurie R. King, novelist

1999

Linda Arnold, children's musician
 George and Gail Ow, benefactor
 Ann Morhauser, glass artist
 Manuel Santana, painter
 Claudia Villela, singer
 Wilma Marcus Chandler, stage director
 William Coulter, musician
 Salvatore D'Aura, opera director

2000

Kathleen Bartlett Abood, artist
 Sista Monica Parker, singer
 Ralph Peduto, actor
 Larry Hosford, musician
 Patrice Vecchione, poet
 Josh Gitomer, choir director
 Vern & Carol Bowie, artists
 Bill Welch & Phil Lewis, music promoters

2001

The Smith Dobson family, musicians
 Jim Phillips, illustrator
 John Sandidge, concert promoter
 Sister Barbara Long, church organist
 R.R. Jones, photographer
 Suzanne St. John, musician
 Ikuyo Conant, taiko drummer
 Richard Hoover, guitar maker

2002

Helene, bellydancer
 Geoffrey Dunn, writer/filmmaker
 Audrey Stanley, stage director
 Suzanne Schrag, actor
 Susie Bright, writer
 Jim Urban, illustrator/painter
 Dror Sinai, drummer/merchant
 Albert Kent, Mary Ann Kent, Tom Miller, event promoters

2003

Tim Jackson, jazz director
 Rock Lerum, clown/performance artist
 Janet Johns & Esperanza Del Valle, dance
 B. Modern, costume designer
 Lile Cruse, music director
 Michael Eckerman, sculptor
 Keith Greeninger, singer/songwriter
 Billie Harris, radio personality

2004

Ken Kraft, musician
 Roger Heitzman, furniture maker
 Lawrence Bedford, event promoter
 Nancy Le Van, singer
 Art & Revolution, activist group
 Gerry Mandel & William Rubel, publishers
 Arthur Hull, percussionist
 Eleazor Cortes, musician

2005

Um ... Gee ... Um, comedy troupe
 Maya Barsacq, concert promoter
 Janet Allinger, artist/illustrator
 Eric Thiermann, filmmaker
 Patrick Trefz, photographer
 Lisa Jensen & James Aschbacher, writers/artists
 The Banana Slug String Band, musicians
 Ginny Mitchell, singer

2006

Bob Brozman, musician
 Chip, event promoter
 Great Morgani, musician
 Carol Trengrove, artist/gallery director
 Dina Scoppettone, photographer
 Harmony Grits, music
 Neal Coonerty, bookstore owner
 Jim Houston, writer

2007 Gail Rich Award winners honored Jan. 31

The program and reception honoring the eight winners of this year's Gail Rich Awards takes place Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320-2 Cedar St., Santa Cruz. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.