Obituaries: United States*


a week column appearing in over 500 newspapers; frequent guest on radio and T.V. Left a video obituary beginning, "Hi. I'm Art Buchwald, and I just died." Au.: Paris After Dark (1950); I Chose Caviar (1957); More Caviar (1958); A Gift From the Boss (1958); Son of the Great Society (1961); Have I Ever Lied to You? (1968); Washington Is Leaking (1976); Down the Seine and Up the Potomac (1977); While Reagan Slept (1983); Yasmine Is Very Nice and Happy (1994); Leaving Home: A Memoir (1994); I'll Always Have Paris (1996); I Think I Don't Remember (1997); Stelis in Heaven (2000); Beating Around the Bush (2005); Too Soon to Say Goodbye (2006). Rec.: Pulitzer Prize for Outstanding Commentary, 1982; Lifetime Achievement Award, Natl. Soc. of Newspaper Columnists, 2006; Commandeur, Ordre of Arts and Letters, France, 2006. Mem.: Amer. Acad. of Arts and Sciences.


MAILER, NORMAN, author; b. Long Branch, N.J., Jan. 31, 1923; d. NYC, Feb. 23, 2007; prof., engineering science and mechanics, Virginia Tech U., 1985-88; Shot to death as he protected his students by holding the door to his classroom closed as a gunman shot into it, giving students time to get out through the windows; in all, 32 were shot to death in the engineering building, only one of them a student in Librescu's class; his burial took place in Israel. Bd. mem., seven scientific journals; guest editor, special issues of five others; cochmn., International Organizing Com. of Seventh Internat'l Cong. on Thermal Stress, 2007. Au.: Elasticities and Kinetics of Anisotropic and Heterogeneous Shell-Type Structures (1976); Random Vibrations and Reliability of Composite Structures (with others, 1992); Thin-Walled Composite Beams: Theory and Application (2006); numerous scholarly articles. Rec.: Traian Vuia Prize, Romanian Acad., 1972; Dean's Award for Excellence in Research, Virginia Tech Coll. of Engineering, 1999; fellow, Acad. of Engineering of Armenia, 1999; elected mem., Acad. of Shipbuilding of Ukraine, 2000; Frank J. Maher Award for Excellence in Engineering Educ., 2005. Order of the Star of Romania, 2007 (posthumously).


MELTON, FLORENCE ZACKS, entrepreneur, philanthropist; b. Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 6, 1911; d. Boca Raton, Fla., Jan. 8, 2007. Sales clerk, department stores, 1924-29; together with husband Aaron Zacks, opened drapery and slipcover store in Hagerstown, Md., that failed, 1937; patented Shoulda Shams, shoulder pad for women's dresses made out of material used for lining helmets in WWII, 1947; patented foam rubber shoulder pads and then, with husband, created R.G. Barry Corp., Columbus, Ohio, manufacturing foam rubber slippers, 1948, which proved immensely successful under the names Angel Treads and Dearfoams, subsequently holding the position of consultant for product development and design.


OLSEN, TILLIE, author; b. near Wahoo, Neb., Jan. 14, 1912; d. Oakland, Calif., Jan. 1, 2007. After dropping out of high school she held a long series of menial, temporary jobs and was active in Young Communist League, going to jail twice for involvement in labor organizing, 1930s; while working and raising children wrote privately without publishing; opposition to "duck and cover" drills in San Francisco public schools got both her and her husband investigated by House Un-Amer. Activities Com., 1950s; her first published work, the short story "As I Stand Here Ironing," won O. Henry Award as best American short story of 1961; fellow, Radcliffe Inst., 1962–64; visiting writer, Amherst Coll., 1969–70; writer in residence, MIT, 1973–74; distinguished visiting prof., U. Mass., Boston, 1974; adviser to Feminist Press, 1970s. Au.: Tell Me a Riddle (1961, film version, 1980); Yon-


SONNABEND, ILEANA, art dealer; b. Bucharest, Romania, Oct. 28, 1914; d. NYC, Oct. 21, 2007; in U.S. since 1940. Educ.: Columbia U. With her first husband, Leo Castelli, became interested in Surrealist painters in 1935; opening a gallery in 1939; after arriving in NYC they were private art dealers, 1940-57, specializing in Abstract Expressionists, then ran a gallery in their home, 1957-59; with second husband, Michael Sonnabend, operated Galerie Ileana Sonnabend, Paris, 1962-80, and Sonnabend Gallery, NYC, 1971-97. Introduced the work of postwar American Pop and Minimal artists (Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Claes Oldenburg, and others) to Europe; introduced European Conceptual Art, Neo-Expressionism, to U.S., and brought American Post-Minimalists and Neo-Geo artists, some using unconventional media (photography, performance art) to public attention; beside dealing in their artworks, "queen of the SoHo art world" helped support fledgling artists, and her personal collection, never inventoried in her lifetime, was assumed to be worth a huge sum.


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