

Michael Lahr  
Editor  
Herausgeber

THE ERWIN PISCATOR AWARD  
DER ERWIN PISCATOR PREIS





# Barbara Goldsmith

Honorary Piscator Award, American Writer, Historian, and Philanthropist  
Piscator Ehrenpreis, Amerikanische Schriftstellerin, Historikerin und Mäzenin

Barbara Goldsmith – whose books have been praised as “thoroughly researched and beautifully written ... a brilliant synthesis and masterful biographical writing” (Joan Hendrick) – was born in New York City.

Her latest book *Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie* has been translated into twenty-one languages. It is based on the workbooks, letters and diaries of Polish physicist and chemist Marie Curie.

Barbara Goldsmith spearheaded a campaign to preserve our written heritage by convincing US publishers to use only permanent paper that lasts 300 years instead of disintegrating in 30.

She founded and funds the *Barbara Goldsmith / PEN Freedom to Write Awards* that consistently turn the media spotlight on writers imprisoned for expressing their views and has invariably seen them released. Of the 37 writers imprisoned, missing or tortured at the time of her award, 34 were set free.

The *Barbara Goldsmith / PEN Freedom to Write Award* was instrumental in starting the campaign that led to the Chinese writer Liu Xiaobo winning the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize.

Barbara Goldsmith, deren Bücher gepriesen werden als “gründlich recherchiert und wunderbar geschrieben... eine brillante Synthese und meisterhafte biographische Schreibkunst” (Joan Hendrick), ist gebürtige New Yorkerin.

Ihr jüngstes Buch *Marie Curie: Die erste Frau der Wissenschaft* wurde in 21 Sprachen übersetzt. Es basiert auf den Notizen, Briefen und Tagebüchern der polnischen Physikerin und Chemikerin Marie Curie.

Barbara Goldsmith führte eine Kampagne an zur Erhaltung unseres schriftlichen Erbes: Sie überzeugte US-Verleger, nur dauerhaftes Papier zu benutzen, das 300 Jahre hält, statt nach 30 Jahren zu zerfallen.

Sie gründete und finanziert den *Barbara Goldsmith / PEN Freedom To Write Preis*. Durch ihn wird regelmäßig die Aufmerksamkeit der Medien auf Schriftsteller gelenkt, die eingesperrt wurden, weil sie ihre Sicht der Dinge äußerten. Von den 37 Schriftstellern, die den Preis erhielten, während sie im Gefängnis saßen, als vermisst galten, oder gefoltert wurden, wurden 34 freigelassen.

Der *Barbara Goldsmith / PEN Freedom to Write Award* trug maßgeblich dazu bei, dass der chinesische Schriftsteller Liu Xiaobo 2010 den Friedensnobelpreis gewann.

» Barbara is a cultural icon in New York. Even though few of us were given the status of "living landmark", in her case I prefer the selection of an icon. Because landmarks often are neglected, they are subject to depletion, they are forgotten, but icons always have to be revisited. [...] Barbara has moral and intellectual integrity and honesty. She is one of the most decent human beings, I have known. Barbara is dedicated to her family, her friends and her causes. Causes include ... freedom, intellectual integrity, knowledge but most importantly social justice and to do the right thing. Throughout her life she has done the right thing. That's why she is an icon for me and for many others. «

*Dr. Vartan Gregorian*

*Excerpts from his remarks on Barbara Goldsmith*

» I'd like to say a little bit about why human rights and PEN / Barbara Goldsmith Awards tie in with the theater and with everything. It's because of word of mouth, it's because theatrical people the world over are the first to be persecuted when terrible regimes come to power. They don't want ideas, they want someone who will quietly follow. [...] Freedom to write is about helping these people get out of jail, to not be tortured, not disappear. [...] You have to have the willingness to wake up at two in the morning when someone calls with an emergency and says "You know who. Get on your computer and write him a letter." There are so many things you have to do to be a real part of PEN. «

*Barbara Goldsmith*

*Excerpts from her acceptance speech*





STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2013

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Erwin Piscator Award Ceremony hosted by Elysium - Between Two Continents.

The Empire State is fortunate to be home to organizations that build bridges of international friendship through the shared exchange of art, culture and academia. Since 1983, Elysium has been committed to preserving the music, drama, and literature produced by European artists, including many who suffered during World War II. This rare art reflects the unique perspective of those who lived through a difficult era and, today, is treasured by all the world for its profound historical and social significance.

Tonight, you celebrate the creative spirit of noted theatrical pioneer Erwin Piscator, and honor two individuals who reflect his passion for all forms of artistic expression. I join in congratulating André Bishop and Barbara Goldsmith for their significant contributions to the world of music and literature.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Cuomo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW M. CUOMO



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