

Passages: Earl Kage



Earl Kage

“A one-man cultural institution.” That’s how a reporter once characterized Earl Kage, long time MAG friend, volunteer and Board member who died June 12, 2008 at the age of 89.

A Rochester native, Kage attended Franklin High and the University of Rochester and went to work at Eastman Kodak. His 44-year career at Kodak was interrupted when

he enlisted in the armed forces during World War II. Deployed to England, he worked as a photographer for the Stars and Stripes newspaper, then returned to Rochester, where he rose to head of the Kodak Research Studios.

Kage’s association with MAG began when he met Isabel Herdle, then assistant director, during a high school tour. Years later, Isabel and her sister, director Gertrude Moore, would become close friends of Kage and his longtime partner, Hamilton Driggs.

Kage served on MAG’s Board of Managers for more than 25 years, chaired its membership and marketing subcommittees, and lent his expertise

to organizing countless fundraisers. He was also a long-time trustee of Garth Fagan Dance, the Aesthetic Education Institute and numerous other area cultural institutions.

In 1987 he received the Culture and Arts Civic Award from the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and in 1989 a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts and Cultural Council.

LEFT: Earl Kage regales Glorja Mueller (in hat) and Isabel Herdle at “A Night at the Moulin Rouge,” 1984.