

LETTERS

Does 2+2= 4?

As a transfer student, I read “Manhattan Transfer” (Spring 2006) in the hope of finding some analysis about the connection that transfer students have to Barnard as active alumnae and contributors to the College. If the data is available, I would also have been interested to learn if the reasons that young women have transferred to Barnard over the years have changed. Does Barnard have a different impact on their lives if they only stay at the College for two years? Another issue not even mentioned is the transfer student who is also a commuter. How many transfer students have been commuters, as well? How has this figure changed over the years? Does being a commuter and a transfer student have an impact on connection to Barnard?

I was thrilled that the alumnae magazine decided to delve into this topic. I have been thinking about it for decades. However, I think that a great opportunity to study the issue in its entirety was truly missed. Hopefully, future issues of the alumnae magazine will revisit this topic.

*Linda R. Garfunkel '68
Tarrytown, N.Y.*

Where You Stand

Regarding Jennifer Morrill’s article, “Where They Stand,” (Spring), I am sure there are Barnard students whose pro-life stance is born of religious and moral conviction and is not, as this article implies, merely a consequence of coming from homogeneous or provincial communities where these students were not exposed to a range of supposedly enlightened (does that mean pro-abortion?) viewpoints.

I would like those pro-life students to know that Feminists for Life, a pro-life organization, has a college outreach

program and they will come to the Barnard campus just as Ms. Morrill’s article described Planned Parenthood doing. I hope other pro-life Barnard alumnae will support Barnard students who believe in a culture of life.

*Amy Daiuta De Rosa '74
New York, N.Y.*

A Course Discourse

I question whether there is bias in Alma Jean Beers Rowe’s suggestion that women’s, black, and gay studies do not contribute to the College’s excellence (although American (Amurriken?) studies presumably does?) (Letters, “Brain Drain,” Spring 2006). Women’s studies has had to fight to be accepted as a legitimate discipline in the academy, even though it has a strong theoretical base. What better place for WS than at a women’s college? And Barnard’s WS program is indeed a major. I would hope our own alumnae can see the value of our wonderfully diverse offerings in WS—just look in the catalogue, downloadable from the web site—and the Center for Research on Women, as leading the field intellectually while helping our diverse students understand their world. Speaking personally, being involved with WS has been a life-changing, life-affirming event. I hope it can be so for others, especially at my college.

*Muriel Lederman Storrie '60
Little Rock, Ark.*

The writer is an associate professor emerita in biology and women’s studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

CORRECTIONS

• In the Spring 2006 Books, etc. section, we mistakenly listed Athena Masci as Class of 2000. She is in the Class of 2002.

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BARNARD

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EDITORIAL OFFICE:

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Get Smart

During the summer, most of us finally get to the books we have long been planning to read, or reread. One book that deserves a place at the top of everyone's pile is *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*, winner of the 1964 Pulitzer Prize, by the distinguished Columbia University historian Richard Hofstadter.

In this work, Hofstadter explored the varied strands of American anti-intellectualism and how they have been woven together in successive periods of our nation's history. He dissected the downside of utilitarianism, showing how practical-mindedness can degenerate into a general distrust of critical thinking and into the problematic notion that we have to choose between thinking and doing.

Hofstadter also focused on how religion, primarily Evangelicalism, has served as a carrier of anti-intellectualism in America. While he would certainly find plenty of grist for that mill these days, this would not lead him—

nor should it lead any of us—to argue that religion is inherently anti-intellectual. The point is rather that the more narrow, parochial, intolerant, anti-intellectual tendencies that can be found in most, if not all, of the world's major religions seem to be carrying the day over the voices of reason, tolerance, and respect for learning that have equally deep roots in those same religions. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—along with other major world religions—carry within their histories powerful traditions of scholarship, tolerance, and cross-cultural sophistication. It will be a struggle, however, to bring these precious traditions to the fore.

In stark terms, Hofstadter described the poisonous effects of anti-intellectualism in political life, especially when fed by religious bigotry. As we think about current discourse on such matters as terrorism, immigration, abortion, gay rights, and other hot-button issues, we find his words depressingly on target:

“There has always been in our national experience a type of mind which elevates hatred to a kind of creed; for this mind, group hatreds take a place in politics similar to the class struggle in some other modern society.”

These are times when some of the most complex problems the world has ever faced—global climate change, uncertainty about future energy sources, growing socioeconomic inequality, pervasive and highly contagious ethnic conflict, to

mention a few—are being dealt with in the most simple-minded ways, or are not being dealt with at all. These are times when we citizens of the world's most powerful nation are too easily swayed by charm and “folksiness” in our choice of leaders and too little swayed by intelligence and knowledge, with the result that our leaders continue on the disastrous paths forged by their own relative ignorance of the wide world we all must share.



THOSE OF US WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY NEED TO TAKE STOCK OF HOW INFREQUENTLY AND INADEQUATELY WE HAVE ADDRESSED OURSELVES TO THE LARGER PUBLIC.

I should note that anti-intellectualism is not a red-state/blue-state issue. My concern is not just about benighted residents of Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee asserting that evolution is “only” a theory and arguing that intelligent design (the latest incarnation of creation “science”) is equally deserving of serious scientific attention. It is also about affluent, college-educated parents from states like New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut who are overly focused on how college will set their kids on a lucrative career path, and insufficiently focused on the role of higher education in transforming young people into the civilized, informed, critical-minded adults on which a mature democracy depends.

At liberal arts colleges like Barnard, we have the mission of expanding the intellectual horizons of our students. But the academy itself can also contribute to anti-intellectualism if those of us who are members limit ourselves too narrowly to

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contributors



Anthony Kaufman is a film journalist and teacher based in Brooklyn. He has written for the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Village Voice*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Variety*. Some of his film-related interests are reflected in the articles included in this issue, from the world cinema of Spanish maverick Luis Buñuel ("Anti-Establishment," page 11) to the steadfast work of documentary filmmakers ("Reel Life," page 5).



Jessie Royce Hill '96 is a mother and freelance writer based in New Haven, Conn. Her visit to Barnard for "The Paper Chase" evoked memories of soldiering through her own Barnard thesis 10 years ago. "It's the biggest assignment most students have ever tackled, and the students I spoke with did so with poise and eloquence," she says. Hill holds a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.



Brooklyn-based photographer **Abby Moskowitz** used her skills as a specialist in black-and-white environmental portraits and documentary style photography when working with the seniors featured in "The Paper Chase" (page 18). "Each person brings something different to the photos, a part of themselves. I'd like to think the portraits I did here show a bit of each subject's personality." Moskowitz's clients include *Entertainment Weekly* and *Gear*.



Andrew Rimas, a graduate of Williams College, likes nothing better than to read books, write books (he's got a satirical novel in the works), and write about writing books, as he did in his Q&A with Kirsten Miller (page 16). A contributing editor at *Boston Magazine* and regular correspondent for the *Boston Globe*, Rimas also profiled Museum for African Art president Elsie McCabe '81 for this issue (page 31).

editor's letter

Summer is a time for pleasures unavailable to us—or ones we don't indulge in—the rest of the year: beach vacations with family and friends, reading to challenge our brain or to give it a rest, blockbuster movies, corn on the cob, berry pies, riding some waves, tubing down a river. The faculty members who have taken part in River Summer, an experimental faculty development program, traveled down the Hudson not via inner tube, but on a sea vessel ("Take Them to the River," page 22). They spent several weeks engaged in interdisciplinary seminars about the Hudson while their boat made its way from the northern reaches of the river all the way down to our Morningside Heights neighborhood. This Professors Camp, if you will, already has changed the way many are teaching.

The research, study, and writing carried out by the three students profiled in our cover story ("The Paper Chase," page 18) was a more solitary, intense kind: Dedicating anywhere from four to eight months to the senior thesis, these women capped off four years of intellectual development, and, like many Barnard students, were transformed from students into scholars along the way. That kind of work deserves a break, and we hope these recent grads are enjoying some well-deserved R&R this summer.

At Barnard, summer starts just after the annual Reunion activities come to a close. An increasing number of alumnae return to the College each June to reconnect with friends, classmates, and the city. Much as she loved and cherished her college years, Etta Greenberg Fleischman '26 hadn't come back for 80 years. Her stories about life at Barnard and after were remarkable, and we share some of these—as well as other event highlights—with you here (Reunion 2006, page 25). A gallery of Reunion photos is online at www.barnard.edu/alum.

Here's to these lazy, hazy, crazy days.

Dimitra Kessenides '89
Editor, *Barnard*

THROUGH THE GATES

Campus News and Events

beyond the gates

Reel Life

Are women better-suited to making documentary films?

By Anthony Kaufman

For many, summer at the movies means exploding cars, spandex-clad superheroes, and CGI-animated animals. But there's one group that rarely participates in Hollywood's most bombastic season: women filmmakers. Of this year's studio-made summer blockbuster hopefuls, only one had a woman at the helm: *John Tucker Must Die*, by Betty Thomas. While there are some exceptions (Nora Ephron, Angela Robinson, Penny Marshall, and Sofia Coppola), many American women filmmakers—among them many Barnard alumnae—have found a more comfortable and distinguished home away from Hollywood in documentaries.

"I think it's much more difficult for women to break into Hollywood," says New York-based filmmaker Monica Sharf '79. "But documentaries are less glamorous, it's a longer commitment, and it requires a lot of patience and persistence that I think men are less likely to have," she adds. "And you don't have people bringing you coffee."

Sheila Nevins '60, the most powerful woman in the non-fiction industry and one of the most awarded television executives (Barnard honored Nevins at the 2005 Spring Party & Auction), argues that women don't have any more of a penchant for documentaries than men do. "People who go into documentaries like to tell stories based on real people," she

says. "I don't think it is gender-specific in any way."

However, Patricia Romeu, an adjunct professor at Barnard who teaches "Women and Film," says, "Historically, there have been more opportunities for women to work in nonfiction filmmaking." When landmark American documentarians like Richard Leacock, the Maysles brothers, and D.A. Pennebaker gave birth to the "direct cinema" movement of the 1950s and '60s, many of their editors were women. "That was always a place where women could get work," she says.

Deborah Dickson '68 was one such film editor. She worked on several Maysles brothers films (including *Vladimir Horowitz: The Last Romantic* and *Christo in Paris*) before becoming a director on her own acclaimed documentaries (the Oscar-nominated *LaLee's Kin: The Legacy of Cotton* and *The Education of Gore Vidal*). "Because I had two small children," she says, "I decided that as a way of making a living, the closest thing to directing was editing." But, says Dickson, once a filmmaker has the material, documentaries are not much different from fiction films. "It's all about telling a great story, about character, story arc, and dramatic structure."

Dickson came of age professionally in the 1970s, when many women, empowered by the women's rights movement, turned to filmmaking as a way to express their position on a range of issues. "Those films had a political agenda," says Romeu. "They were showing real women, in contrast to the manufactured, glamorous images produced by Hollywood."

Director Chris Hegedus was influenced by those times, as well as the move toward a more activist filmmaking style. "I was definitely energized," says Hegedus, who later partnered with D.A. Pennebaker and co-directed the seminal,



Many women filmmakers have found a comfortable home away from Hollywood in documentaries.

Oscar-nominated campaign documentary *The War Room*. “There were many artists-turned-filmmakers, and we banded together, doing stories on more feminist issues,” she says.

But do women actually have distinct advantages over men when making documentaries and dealing with real-life subjects? Two-time Oscar-winner Barbara Kopple, whose 1976 debut, *Harlan County U.S.A.*, told the story of striking coal miners in Harlan County, Kentucky, in 1973-74, once said, “Being a woman has helped me a lot, because I don’t have to prove anything.”

Hegedus echoes Kopple’s statement. “When we did *Startup.com*”—a film about a start-up Internet company—“it was a man’s world and that helped with our access, because we didn’t seem threatening. I think that can work to your advantage.” Anne Aghion ’82, who has made two documentaries about the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, isn’t sure women make better documentarians. “There are some guys who know how to listen,” she says. Whatever the gender of a documentary filmmaker, she says, “how you relate to people is very important—that’s the main talent. It’s a mix of listening, bullying, and cajoling and then you find the right balance.”

Dickson acknowledges that most women can talk to people and can listen without feeling the need to put forth their own viewpoint in an interview. One of her influences was French filmmaker Chris Marker and his early cinema verité classic *Le Joli mai*; more than anything, she says, it taught her how to interview subjects. “I could say that women are better at all this,” she says, “but that would be too broad, even if I believe it.”

The significant role women have had in documentary film may be less a result of how women actually are than how they’re culturally positioned, according to Romeu. “Because women are socialized to be more relational, to value human interaction and connectedness, they may be perceived as more trustworthy,” she says.

Whether women have thrived in documentaries because of Hollywood prejudice or social conventions, HBO’s Nevins, who has elevated the status of the non-fiction form perhaps more than anyone else, doesn’t pay attention to it. “Maybe I tend to subconsciously root for women a little more than men, because I am one,” she says. “But I support talent and there aren’t many great talents, so whatever their gender is, I don’t really think about it.”

update

Since Our Last Issue...



Caps and gowns and things: Commencement 2006.

- 527 women received their degrees at Commencement ceremonies on May 16 (586 degrees total were conferred in the 2005-06 academic year).
- Francine du Plessix Gray ’52 delivered the Commencement address and encouraged today’s graduates to fight for justice: “*Whether it be on the issue of racial integration or gay rights or sexual equality or the pathetic state of health care in this country or one of the dumbest military excursions ever waged by an American government—the Iraq War—your motto should be ‘Give ‘em hell, give ‘em hell, give ‘em hell!’ There are never enough troublemakers fighting for justice, so go out there and give ‘em hell to create a better world for you and your children to grow into.*”
- That part of her speech was excerpted in the *New York Times* on June 11—it was one of just 17 speeches chosen for inclusion.
- Barnard admitted 998 students regular decision for this fall’s entering class—the figure represents 24 percent of those who applied; applications in 2005-06 increased 3.8 percent to an all-time high of 4,599.
- Three Barnard graduates were inducted into Columbia’s Athletics Hall of Fame: Ula Lysniak ’87 (basketball); Lisa Piazza ’85 (fencing); and Christina Steck ’80 (swimming).
- Writers Suki Kim ’92, Rebecca Goldstein ’72, and Susan Brind Morrow ’78, and historian Paula S. Fass ’67 were awarded Guggenheim Fellowships in recognition of their talent and creativity as writers and scholars. And seven Barnard women—three graduating seniors and four recent alumnae—were offered Fulbright grants to study abroad during this next academic year.
- The AABC awarded Graduate Fellowships to the following alumnae: Jennifer Pielstick Montgomery ’99, Alia Hanna Habib ’00, Rachel Furst ’00, Diana Thow ’03, and Tamara Montecute ’05.

academics

Why I Put Off Graduation

By Shanshan Qi '07 as told to Dimitra Kessenides

I'm originally from China, but I'm an American citizen, too. I came to the United States when I was 14. When I applied to Barnard, I didn't know what to major in. I thought about premed. Like all first-years, I wanted to study everything. I took all kinds of classes my first semester, including an introductory philosophy class. It was really different, because I was brought up in China, where it's all Marx and Maoist communist philosophy. But here, it was Plato, Kant. I really like what I've learned.

My first architecture class was a studio class called "Perceptions of Architecture." Once I took it, I realized architecture is a combination of many majors: there's art and art history, and also science. Through architecture, you become attached to a society, its history, and its building environment. That's why I decided I wanted this. My father is an architect. When I chose my major, I was so happy to tell him, "Oh, I'm the same major as you." He said, "You have my dream."

Last fall I took an optional studio class with Janette Kim, a visiting instructor from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). RPI has a relationship with Tongji University in Shanghai, and Janette was taking 16 RPI students there this past spring. I talked to her about going as a teaching assistant and translator. It was a very hard decision. I had my plan set: I had finished all the major requirements. I took the GRE, I was going to apply to graduate school so that I could start this September. Then I stopped that process. I thought about the opportunity, and the chance to learn about architecture in China. My Centennial Scholars project was about a very old type of Chinese residential architecture called Hui. Also, at Barnard and Columbia, we learn more about Western architecture—Greek, Roman, Gothic. But we don't really learn about Asian or Chinese traditions. It's not just because I'm from there, but I

wanted a different perspective. All these curiosities were behind my decision. I talked with my advisor Karen Fairbanks, my parents, and Dean Schneider. They all supported me.

I wound up working as an instructor with a group of six students on a 10-week architecture/urban design project. We had a site in Shanghai called the Suzhou Creek site, which includes the Si Hang warehouse. The site is bigger than Columbia's campus. We had to think about how the site relates to the city, historical preservation, transportation systems, how the

creek affects the people around it, and how to use the site for leisure—that was our theme. Some people think leisure is wandering around without doing anything. Others think leisure is spatial, a difference between inside and outside. So there was analysis, in which we interviewed people in the area, then graphic presentations, and then the designs. As a teacher, I explored how everybody thinks, and I collected that so I could step back and rethink everything else.

Before last semester, I thought I'd become a professional architect. Now I'd like

to teach and practice. I really enjoyed the teaching. Every day, I saw how the students communicated with each other, how they thought about the project. There were a lot of similarities, maybe because we were all about the same age. But there were differences, too. The language was a struggle; they thought they understood each other, but when they saw each others designs, they realized they hadn't.

The experience taught me about responsibility, not just for myself, but for others. A building has to be satisfying for whoever lives there, and fit into the whole environment. There is a lot of philosophy in architecture: about how it relates to society, how it relates to how people think. It's not just about buildings, and calculating numbers. It's really how you think about everything else around you—the world and the future of the world.



Shanshan Qi will finish up at Barnard this fall; she plans to start graduate school in September 2007.

faculty spotlight

Professor in Full

By Jennifer Greenstein Altmann

Sheri Berman wasn't exactly waiting by the phone, but she knew that soon she would be getting the call that would determine the future of her academic career. When Richard Pious, the chair of Barnard's political science department, reached her at home one day last April, he had good news. She had earned tenure as a professor at Barnard.

An expert on political development, which examines why democracy evolves and works in some places and not others, Berman published a book on the social democratic movement in 1998. Another, *The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe's Twentieth Century*, will be released later this year by Cambridge University Press. Berman spoke to Barnard about what getting tenure means for her work, how arduous a process it is to establish democracy in some countries, and why she finally is rolling out that blue rug in her office.

Barnard: What does it feel like to get tenure?

Sheri Berman: Both personally and professionally it's a great sense of relief. Your family life isn't held hostage to where you might [have to go for a job], and it means that you can focus your attention on the research you really want to do, rather than thinking about the job market. [Before you get tenure] your life is somewhat unstable, especially in two-career families. It would have been hard for my husband to move. We had made the decision a year or two ago to stay in New York, so I probably would have had to look for a nonacademic job. It would have been disappointing to move to something else.

B: What does having tenure allow you to do?

SB: It gives me the freedom to research the kinds of things I'm interested in and not something trendy. Political science is like other fields—there are fads and trends, and if you're worried about getting a job, you have to think about what the field is responding to. My work is historical and qualitative, which is not necessarily the most popular approach in the field, but it's what I think is important.

B: What are you working on now?

SB: A study of the development of democracy in Western Europe, how contentious and violent the struggle really was, even in places where democracy is seen as having been the most successful, like France. The French Revolution was in 1789 and the Fifth Republic was founded in 1958, so it took from 1789 to the second half of the twentieth century to have a stable democratic system in France. I



Now tenured, Sheri Berman can focus on the research that interests her.

argue that there are very few countries that take the British or American path—the gradual and relatively nonviolent expansion of democracy. Those are anomalous cases.

B: Does your study offer insights into the current situation in Iraq?

SB: Indirectly, yes. While it is a mess in Iraq and it probably was not a good idea to impose democracy from the outside, my study shows that it's never an easy thing.

B: You taught at New York University, George Washington University, Princeton, and Columbia before arriving at Barnard. How is it different at Barnard?

SB: It's a unique situation, teaching at a small liberal arts college affiliated with a larger university. For me it's the best of all worlds. There's a dynamism and excitement in the student body. My classes are generally small, which creates a certain camaraderie. The students are more likely to be solicitous of other's views and to engage in real discussions.

B: How did you celebrate getting tenure?

SB: I had bought a rug for my office, but it was rolled up in the corner because I didn't want to take the energy to put it down if I wasn't going to be here. So after finding out I got tenure, I finally put the rug down.

from the archives

In Unison

By Rona Wilk

"Singing...as often as may be and as tunefully as you can," wrote Dean Virginia Gildersleeve in her introduction to the 1925 edition of the *Barnard College Song Book*. Indeed, early in the College's history, Barnard students frequently raised their voices in song; singing played an integral role in Barnard's growing student culture and served to encourage camaraderie. Each class wrote songs to perform on various occasions. Cheering pieces rang out at basketball games, while teas and dances often ended with a serenade. Class loyalty always bowed to college spirit, however, and the early years of the twentieth century saw the publication of several lyric tributes to Alma Mater. In particular, "Beside the Waters of the Hudson," written by Anna May Newland 1906, became a popular and enduring song for generations of Barnard women.

(Newland, herself, was apparently an active, enthusiastic member of her class, as well as a songstress. She was elected first-year class president and served on the sophomore play committee, among other activities.)

Though the exact date of composition is unknown, the piece quickly became a standard at many College events, from the laying of the cornerstone for Brooks Hall in 1906 to Barnard's Quarter Century celebration in April 1915. It showed up at more common celebrations as well, such as the installation of new undergraduate officers in 1923. Students also often included Newland's college paean as part of the Step-Singing ceremony, a tradition marking the end of the academic year and the students' elevation to the next stage of

their college career: seniors into alumnae, juniors into seniors, and so on. Originally held in Milbank quadrangle (and later near Barnard Hall and in the gymnasium), Step-Singing remained a part of Senior Week into the early 1950s.


Still, enthusiasm for singing often waxed and waned—for the Quarter Century celebration, the college song leader published an open letter in the *barnard bulletin*, exhorting students to attend practice so they would not embarrass themselves or Barnard in front of the dignitaries. But songs have remained a traditional part of college life for many generations and continue

to celebrate Barnard, her students, and alumnae.

Rona Wilk '91 recently received her PhD in American history from New York University; she is an arts administrator and freelance scholar.

BESIDE THE WATERS OF THE HUDSON

Anna Newland Duncan Genns



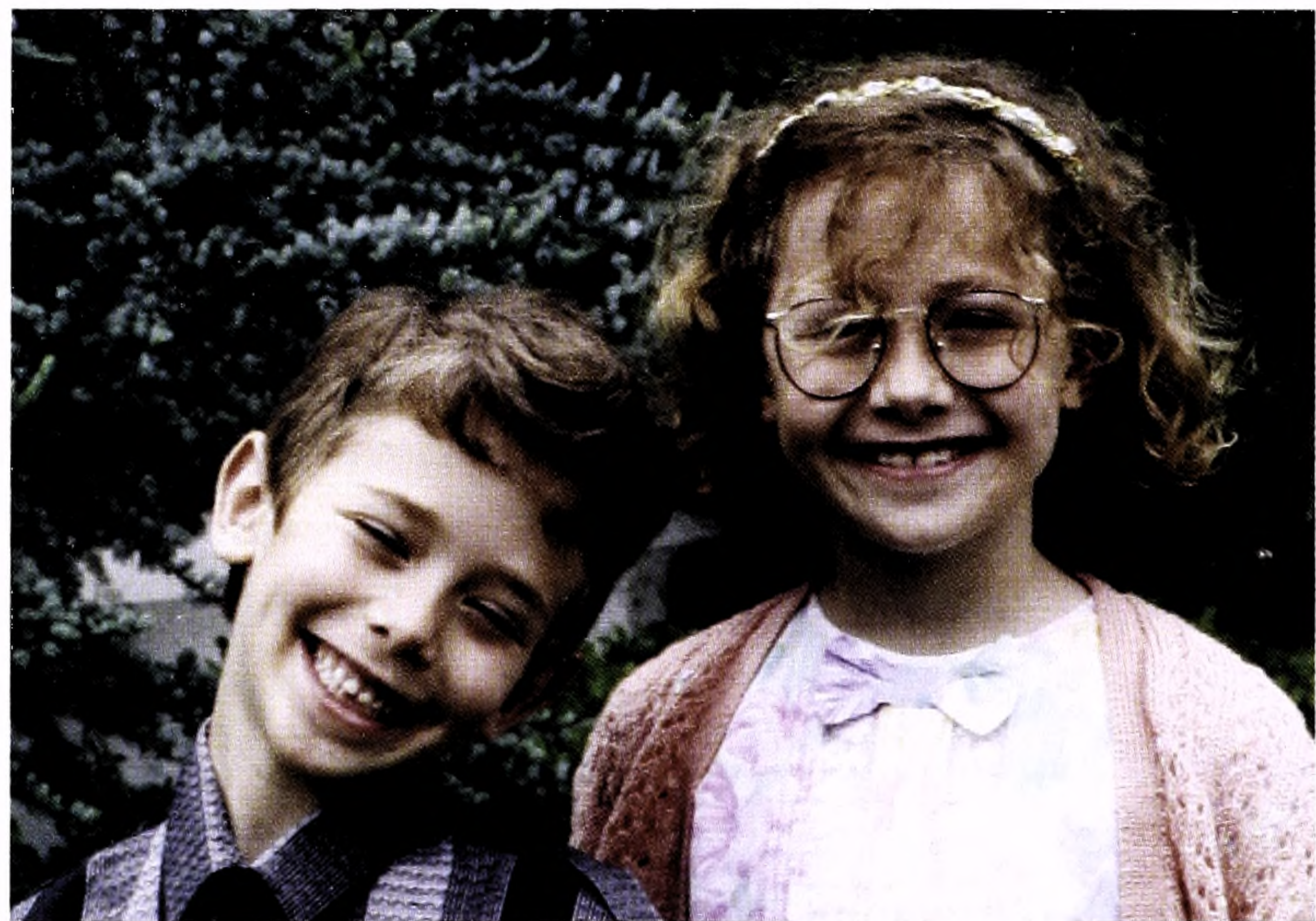
Be-side the wa-ters of the Hud-son, Our Al-ma
Ma-ter stands se-rene, Whose name we'll al-ways love and
cher-ish, And guer-dons give as to a queen. May we her
daugh-ters stand to-geth-er, With heart to heart in common
good, And tho' our friends are wide-ly scat-tered, We're
one in sis-ter-hood.

This version of Newland's song appeared in a later edition of the *Barnard College Song Book* from the 1940s or '50s.

connections

Island Of Dreams

By Maya Wainhaus



Eleven-year-old Maya and her brother in the summer of 1994.

The trip began with a turbulent flight on a tiny airplane from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. It was the summer of 1994, before I entered the sixth grade and, together with my younger brother and an aunt, I was on my way to this island off the eastern coast of Canada. My brother and aunt saw the vacation as a chance to view Canada's majestic coastline and rolling farmlands. To me, the trip meant something more: it was a pilgrimage to the place that had inspired the writer Lucy Maud Montgomery, and had served as the setting for her classic book, *Anne of Green Gables*. Many of you may know the story: Matthew and Marilla, an elderly brother and sister who live at Green Gables in the village of Avonlea, adopt Anne, an 11-year-old orphan. The book follows the plucky redheaded girl as she makes friends, gets into mischief with a kindred spirit, Diana, and eventually becomes a part of her new family and community.

Over the next week of our vacation on Prince Edward Island, my unfortunate aunt and brother endured tours of every grand green-shuttered home that claimed to be the 'real Green Gables,' as well as visits to countless gift shops, and even a performance of *Anne of Green Gables: the Musical*. For those few days that summer, I became a part of the world created by Montgomery; I even imagined, for a brief moment, that I was Anne herself, finding and engaging in adventures on the island.

Last summer, right after my graduation, I left New York and returned home to New Haven, Connecticut. As I sat in my bedroom and sorted through the books that had guided me through four years of my academic life at Barnard, I found

myself drawn to a familiar paperback on the bookshelf. The pages had yellowed and the spine was stiff, but the contents remained as entertaining and endearing as ever. I sat down and reread *Anne of Green Gables* for the first time in 11 years. I thought about why the book had such a hold on me. Much of the answer lay in the character of Anne herself. As a heroine, Anne is far from perfect; daring and romantic at times, Anne is also self-conscious and awkward, and her imagination often gets her into trouble as she adapts to her new life at Green Gables. Anne wants what every young girl, and ultimately, what every woman wants—a best friend, adventures, and a loving family.

Anne finds all these things, but not without some struggles and setbacks that make her character and story real. The book ends with the following wish for Anne, and for all young women, as they pursue their dreams and desires:

"The joys of sincere work and worthy aspiration and congenial friendship were to be hers," Montgomery wrote. "Nothing in the world could rob her of her birthright of fancy or her ideal world of dreams. And there was always the bend in the road!"

I would not have found more appropriate words to read and reflect on just after leaving Barnard, a new course before me. I thought back on my trip to Prince Edward Island as an eleven-year-old, and on how my life had unfolded since then. Like Anne, I was about to move on to the next chapter.

Maya Wainhaus '05 is a Brooklyn-based writer and jewelry-maker.

CALENDAR

September 2006

- D**
T
H
T
- 14** RETHINKING NATURE VS. NURTURE. A lecture by Brown University professor Anne Fausto Sterling on how bone development in boys and girls translates into behavioral differences. 5:30 p.m., James Room, Barnard Hall. E-mail bcrw@barnard.edu or call 212-854-2067.

October 2006

- T**
U
E
- 3** WOMEN POETS AT BARNARD. Poetry reading by Anne Waldman and John Kinsella, 7 p.m., Held Lecture Hall, Barnard Hall. E-mail shamilton@barnard.edu or call 212-854-2116.

November 2006

- F**
R
I
- 10-11** LEADERSHIP COUNCIL. Class volunteers, officers, and leaders are invited to campus to work on alumnae programming. For details, call Alumnae Affairs at 212-854-2005 or e-mail alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu.

Anti-Establishment

The satire of Luis Buñuel's films strongly opposed a bourgeois aesthetic

A man forcibly opens a woman's left eye with his thumb and forefinger and begins moving a razor blade near her eyeball. A thin sliver of a cloud crosses the moon. Then the razor slices across the flesh of an eye, letting liquid ooze from its center.

This series of images from *Un Chien Andalou* is one of the most shocking in the history of cinema. More than 75 years since filmmaker

Luis Buñuel collaborated with artist Salvador Dalí on the 17-minute surrealist short film, it continues to upset audiences with the force of a modern horror movie.

"Students are still disturbed by the cut," says Isabel Estrada, assistant professor in the department of Spanish and Latin American cultures. "But that's part of Buñuel's intention," she explains. Estrada kicks off her course "The Films of Luis Buñuel and the Spanish Literary Tradition" (SPAN 3170) with this landmark early movie, which was also Buñuel's first. "When I teach that film, I always stress that this is part of the surrealist philosophy: to disturb the audience. There is also a second and very important meaning to that act: It's a cut, literally, that symbolizes a break with the bourgeois aesthetic that the surrealists were so against."

Born in 1900 in the central-eastern Spanish province of Aragon, Luis Buñuel remains the country's most renowned and controversial filmmaker, with a career that spanned almost 50 years and several countries. An anarchist, he spent time in France, Mexico, the United States, and his native Spain,

churning out provocative cinema such as *Viridiana*, *Belle de Jour*, and *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*, which attacked the Catholic Church, Fascism, and bourgeois values and conventions.

But to comprehend Buñuel's oeuvre, Estrada says, you must first "understand the historical, cultural, and literary references" that inform his work. For the course, Estrada looks at the long-running Spanish dictatorship of Francisco Franco and points to

such literary touchstones as the work of Buñuel contemporary Federico García Lorca, the early picaresque satire *La Vida de Lazarillo de Tormes*, Benito Pérez Galdós's nineteenth-century realist novel *Tristana* (which Buñuel adapted for the screen in 1970), and Ramón del Valle Inclán's *Luces de Bohemia*, a seminal play in the grotesque (or esperpento) tradition.

All the texts give some indication of the

source for Buñuel's cynicism and anti-establishment stance. "He doesn't trust human nature and there is often not a single character that is redeemed in his films," explains Estrada. "That is very Spanish. We see that in [the painter Francisco] Goya and we see that in each and every one of the works that we read in the class."

According to Estrada, students enjoy Buñuel's use of the grotesque and the way he thumbs his nose at authority. But they also find some of the films insulting. For example, *Land Without Bread*, his crass 1932 documentary about impoverished people in the Las Hurdes region of Spain, takes on a sardonic,

continued on page 64



Luis Buñuel remains one of Spain's most controversial filmmakers.

Making a Mother's Day

Two daughters honor their mother by giving to Barnard

This year, Helen Revellese Esposito '38 received the perfect Mother's Day gift from one of her daughters: a contribution to the Helen Revellese Esposito '38 Scholarship Fund at Barnard. A family friend created the fund to honor Esposito and her lifelong commitment to education. After graduating from Barnard, Esposito earned an M.A. from Columbia University's Teachers College and taught in the Yonkers public school system for more than 20 years. At one point, she worked several jobs to put her daughters through graduate school. She has been a volunteer teacher for the past 14 years. Recently, Esposito and her two daughters, Marigrace Lalli and Phylis Esposito, shared their thoughts about Barnard, Mother's Day gifts, and the value of education.

Barnard: Mrs. Esposito, how would you describe your Barnard experience?

Helen Esposito: My parents were Italian immigrants, and I was the youngest of 14 children. We had very little. None of my other siblings wanted to go to college, so my parents agreed to send me. I did all sorts of jobs to afford it, from cleaning houses to taking care of children. It took one-and-a-half hours on the train to get to Barnard every day from Rockaway, Queens, where I worked as a maid. It was hard work, but that didn't matter to me, because I knew I had to become a teacher. Few women graduated from college in those days, and a degree from Barnard was extremely special.

Marigrace Lalli: I remember that none of my grammar school friends had mothers who had college degrees or careers. And I was very, very proud of her. It still impresses me that my grandparents had the foresight to send her to Barnard.

B: Why was the Esposito Scholarship Fund established?

Phylis Esposito: When I turned 50, my friend Mary Moglia decided to establish a scholarship in Mom's name at Barnard, because, after family and friends, education has been the second most important thing in our lives.

B: Since then, you've made your own contributions to the fund. Why?

PE: Mom's scholarship is a gift that keeps on giving. To give a young woman an education is just the beginning: You're making an impact

on her life, and enabling her to make an impact on the world someday. Mom has been unwavering in her commitment to education. Neither Marigrace nor I went to Barnard, but we're both supporters because Barnard has proven to be a credit not only to Mom but also to the many wonderful students and alumnae we've met over the years.

B: Marigrace, why did you make a gift to the Esposito Fund for Mother's Day this year?

ML: It's always a challenge to think of good Mother's Day gifts, so when someone suggested I make a gift to her scholarship fund, I thought it was a wonderful idea—to honor the school that

made such a dramatic difference in her life. So many children want to honor their mother on that special day, and what better way than to support her favorite cause.

HE: I have everything I want and need, so this was the perfect Mother's Day gift. In fact, it's the best I've had in years. I've been so pleased that many friends and family have made contributions to the fund. It means a lot to me that we are helping the smart girls at Barnard, who will contribute greatly to society one day. I really believe that's what we need in our country today. I've always said that if we had more women running the government, we'd be a lot better off.

—Amy E. Hughes



Helen Esposito (left) at a recent Torchbearers Reception.

Going Once, Going Twice...

Celebrating the Arts and Funding Scholarships: The Spring Party and Auction Honoring Dasha Epstein and Joan Snitzer



President Judith Shapiro and Dasha Epstein raising their glasses in a toast.



Suzanne Vega '81 (l.) and Anna Quindlen '74



Joan Snitzer (l.) and Jenny Lauren '95



Benefit co-chairs Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald '81 (l.) and Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82

A festive crowd of alumnae, parents, and friends gathered at The Puck Building on May 8 for Barnard's annual Spring Party and Auction. The evening raised \$870,000 for scholarships for Barnard students, as guests outbid each other for items ranging from tea with Ruby Dee to a vacation in Maui. Honored that night were alumna and Tony Award-winning Broadway producer Dasha Epstein as well as Joan Snitzer, director of Barnard's visual arts program. Anna Quindlen '74, chair of the board, was master of ceremonies. The benefit was co-chaired by trustees Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald '81, Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82, and Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55.

Doing the Math

Striving to give young girls an edge

One day in early April, 100 fifth, eighth, and ninth graders and their teachers took over Barnard Hall with a singular goal: to explore math. This was no ordinary exploration. The girls—drawn from 109 New York City public schools—were participants in the first-ever Sonia Kovalevsky Math Day at Barnard. Whether the focus was Rubik's Cubes, Copernicus, or the math of knitting, these budding mathematicians reveled in the all-female math-friendly environment.

"We're opening their eyes to the possibilities in math," says Cathy O'Neil, event co-organizer and Barnard professor of math. "The whole day is built around engaging them in mathematical thinking. Also, they met a fantastic group of inspiring and successful professional women who love math."

Among those women were Barnard physics professor Janna Levin '88, who says that students asked so many excellent questions that "we never got past my first few slides, and we had a fascinating discussion about the fate of the cosmos and the search for our place in the universe." Lillian Carrasquillo, a postbaccalaureate student in geometry at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Sonja Mapes, a graduate student in mathematics at Columbia, led workshops on geometry in four dimensions and axioms of number systems.

O'Neil and co-organizer Kiri Soares are especially interested in professional development for math teachers, so the day was structured to help teachers as well. In separate workshops, educators reviewed strategies for encouraging and challenging their students—particularly girls—to succeed in math. For example, Barnard Assistant Professor of Psychology Cathy Good led a workshop on "stereotype threat," exploring new research about how negative stereotypes affect student performance in math and science.

Sonia Kovalevsky Math Days take place every year at colleges around the country and are sponsored by the Association for Women in Mathematics. They are held in honor of the nineteenth-century woman who, despite her mathematical brilliance, was not allowed to attend lectures at universities in her native Russia. Kovalevsky never matriculated, but she was awarded a PhD from Germany's University of Göttingen in 1874. Eventually, her work received worldwide recognition; nearly a hundred years after her death, a moon crater was named for her.

—Rhonda Zangwill

Anyone interested in supporting future math days at Barnard should contact Rhonda Zangwill in the Office of Development at 212-854-6147.



Victoria Baranov '07 at this year's Torchbearers reception.

Torchbearers 2006: One Student's Story

At the annual Torchbearers Reception on April 24, donors who have established scholarships, fellowships, and internship grants at the College met and mingled with their student beneficiaries. Ellen (Pucky) Violet '46 gave remarks on behalf of donors and friends, and Victoria Baranov '07 offered a student's perspective on the importance of financial aid. The following is an excerpt from Baranov's speech.

When I was seven years old, I emigrated from Tallinn, Estonia, to Philadelphia with my mother and grandmother. In Estonia, my mother had been an engineer and my grandmother a lawyer, but when we came to this country their roles changed to housekeeper and factory worker. At the time, I didn't realize what extraordinary sacrifices they made so that we could come here.

As I grew older, I was concerned that I would not be able to enroll in a top college because my parents could not afford the expense. I was overjoyed when I heard from Barnard: Not only was I accepted, but I would receive enough financial support to attend.

I am now working with Professor David Weiman in the economics department [and have chosen] to pursue a doctoral degree in economics. Without the endless support of my professors, deans, and other Barnard faculty, I would not have the courage to follow this new and exciting dream.

Your [financial] contributions also allow me to invest my time outside the classroom in meaningful activities like Peace by PEACE, an organization that teaches conflict resolution to fifth graders in Harlem. After a year of teaching, I took on the responsibility of directing the program and have led Peace by PEACE for the past two years.

Streaming video of Baranov's speech is available at <http://giving.barnard.edu/studentsupport>

Robo-Feminist

What comes to mind when you hear the word robot? Maybe an image from *Star Wars* of the faithful R2-D2 or the anxious C-3PO? How about Rosie The Robot from *The Jetsons*? Pop cultural references abound, but why not consider a dynamic Barnard alumna tinkering with scrap metal and circuitry. That's the image Cindy Jeffers '97 hopes will emerge. That, in fact, is Cindy Jeffers. An artist dedicated to exploring gender and technology, Jeffers is developing what she calls a "visual language around gender." "I am so interested in the fluidity of gender and the ability of technology to bring that into question," she says.

Building robots and putting them in unconventional contexts is another interest. To that end, together with friend and graduate school classmate Meredith Finkelstein, Jeffers cofounded The Botmatrix (www.botmatrix.com), a two-woman robot arts collective. A February production of *Heddatron*, an experimental version of Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* written by Elizabeth Merriweather and starring five of Botmatrix's humanoid robots, was the collective's first major project. Lest you think this robot theatre was just a gimmick, *Heddatron* not only sold-out, it also received a rave review from *New York Times* chief theatre critic Ben Brantley: "The robots have terrific comic timing ... what could have been merely a novelty stunt, or a facile comment on sensitive souls in a dehumanized world, becomes an exultant celebration of the cathartic powers of theater."

For Jeffers, the experience highlighted the need people have to anthropomorphize robots. "It makes people very uncomfortable not knowing the gender of everything that exists in the world, including a metal robot without genitals," she says. "Robots do not have biology!" She also was excited by the creativity that emerged from collaborating with the director, producer, and writer. "We thought we'd just make these robots and give them to the director, and that would be it, but they wanted us to operate them, so, through the robots, we became actors in the play," she says.

After graduating from Barnard, Jeffers lived in France for a year and then returned to the United States; she spent the next three years as a camera assistant, with the goal of becoming



Robots can be artists, says Cindy Jeffers.

a cinematographer. But she found the work too removed. "I couldn't touch it. I couldn't sculpt it (nor could the audience)." Instead Jeffers pursued a master's degree in interactive telecommunications at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. There she started to consider how robots are an apt metaphor for women's undervalued labor. "People mistakenly think that robots are just servants, but really they can be artists," she says.

Jeffers spends nights in her Brooklyn studio inventing new projects—one dream is to found a feminist-focused media lab at Barnard. Her days are based at the American Museum of Natural History, where she designs interactive exhibits. The Cincinnati, Ohio, native says she always knew she wanted to be an artist, but she could not have predicted the path she's taken. "I had no idea that this world of art and technology even existed." —Courtney Martin '02

BOOKS, ETC.

quick takes

Children know that every locked door hides a delicious secret. Author Kirsten Miller kept this in mind when she wrote her debut novel for young adults, *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City*. It's the story of a girl "superspy" and her cohort of talented, multiethnic sidekicks who solve mysteries in New York's hidden underbelly.

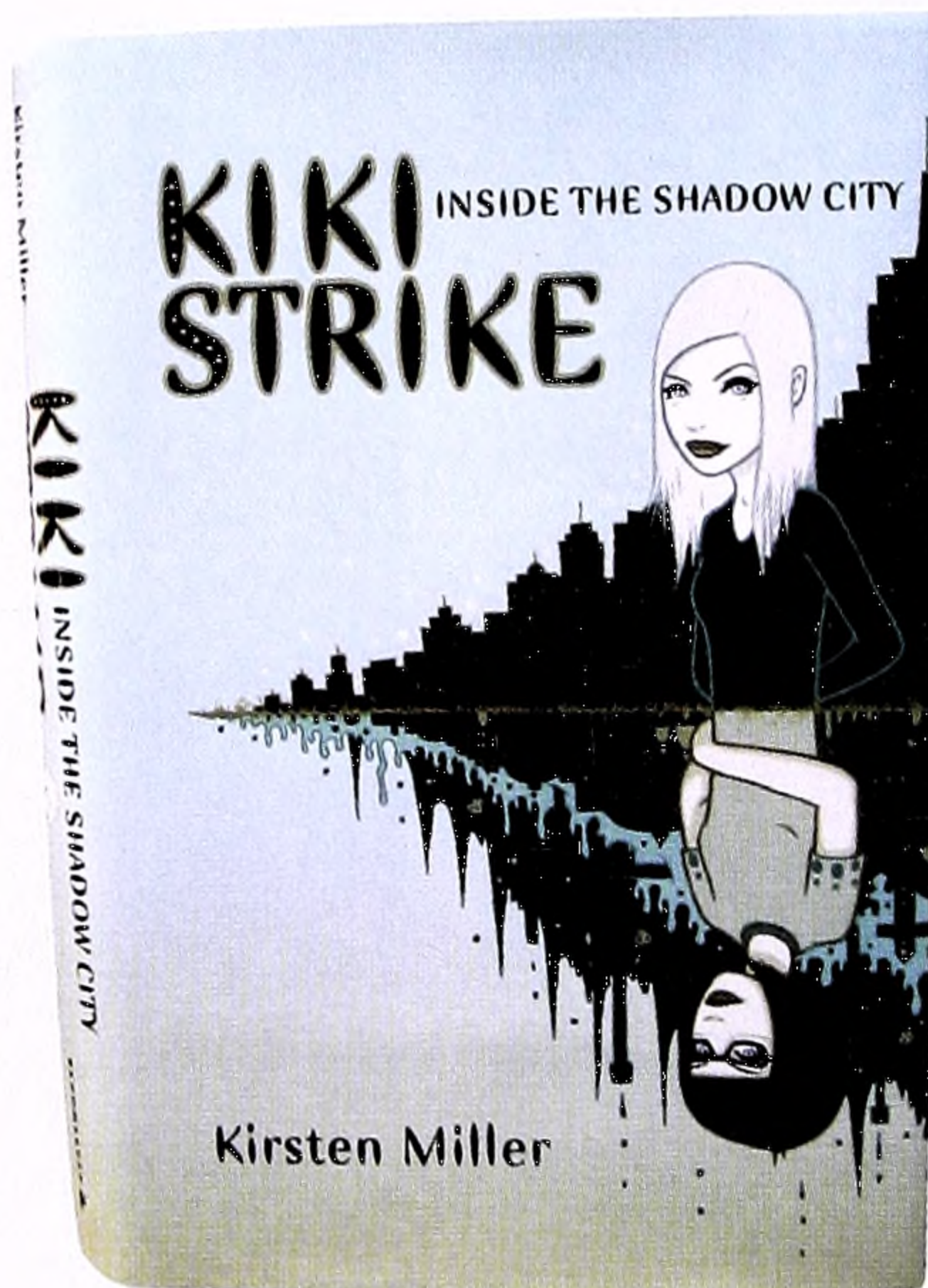
Barnard: Why did you set the book in New York?

Kirsten Miller: A lot of popular books are set in magical realms with witches, warlocks, and fairies, but I don't think there's a magical realm as wonderful as New York. I love the city. It's a character in the book.

B: Why is New York a good mystery character?

KM: New York is hollow, in many ways. My book begins when the narrator looks out of her bedroom window and sees a giant hole that's opened up in the park across from her house. Inside is a perfectly preserved underground chamber, a hundred years old. I based this on something that happened outside a nursing home on the Lower East Side, when a secret subbasement from the nineteenth century was found.

B: Are you an adventurous type?



Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City

by Kirsten Miller '94

Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, 2006, \$16.95

KM: I'd like to think so. In the forest near my house when I was growing up, in North Carolina, there were hundreds of abandoned mine craters. We used to play in them all the time. When I travel I always find underground places. I'm fascinated by them.

B: Did Barnard help you become a writer?

KM: Barnard was one of the best experiences that I've had. Having come from a small town, it was amazing to step into this other world where I was surrounded by all of these amazing people. Kiki and her friends are definitely Barnard girls.

B: Really? Which ones?

KM: I took a little bit here and there from lots of people. The only one based entirely on someone is Dylan, called "The Princess." She's inspired by someone I grew up with who shall remain nameless.

B: Why young adult fiction?

KM: I feel like I found my audience: 12-year-old smart alecks.

—Andrew Rimas

new & upcoming releases

To be considered for "Books, etc.", please e-mail us at classnotes@barnard.edu

FICTION

The Privilege of the Sword

by Ellen Kushner '77
Spectra, 2006, \$14

The Brambles

by Eliza Minot '91
Knopf, 2006, \$23.95

Special Topics in Calamity Physics

by Marisha Pessl '00
Viking, 2006, \$25.95

POETRY

After You, Dearest Language

by Marisol Limon Martinez '97
Ugly Duckling Press, 2006, \$12

NONFICTION

Child Abuse and Neglect: Definitions, Classifications, and a Framework for Research

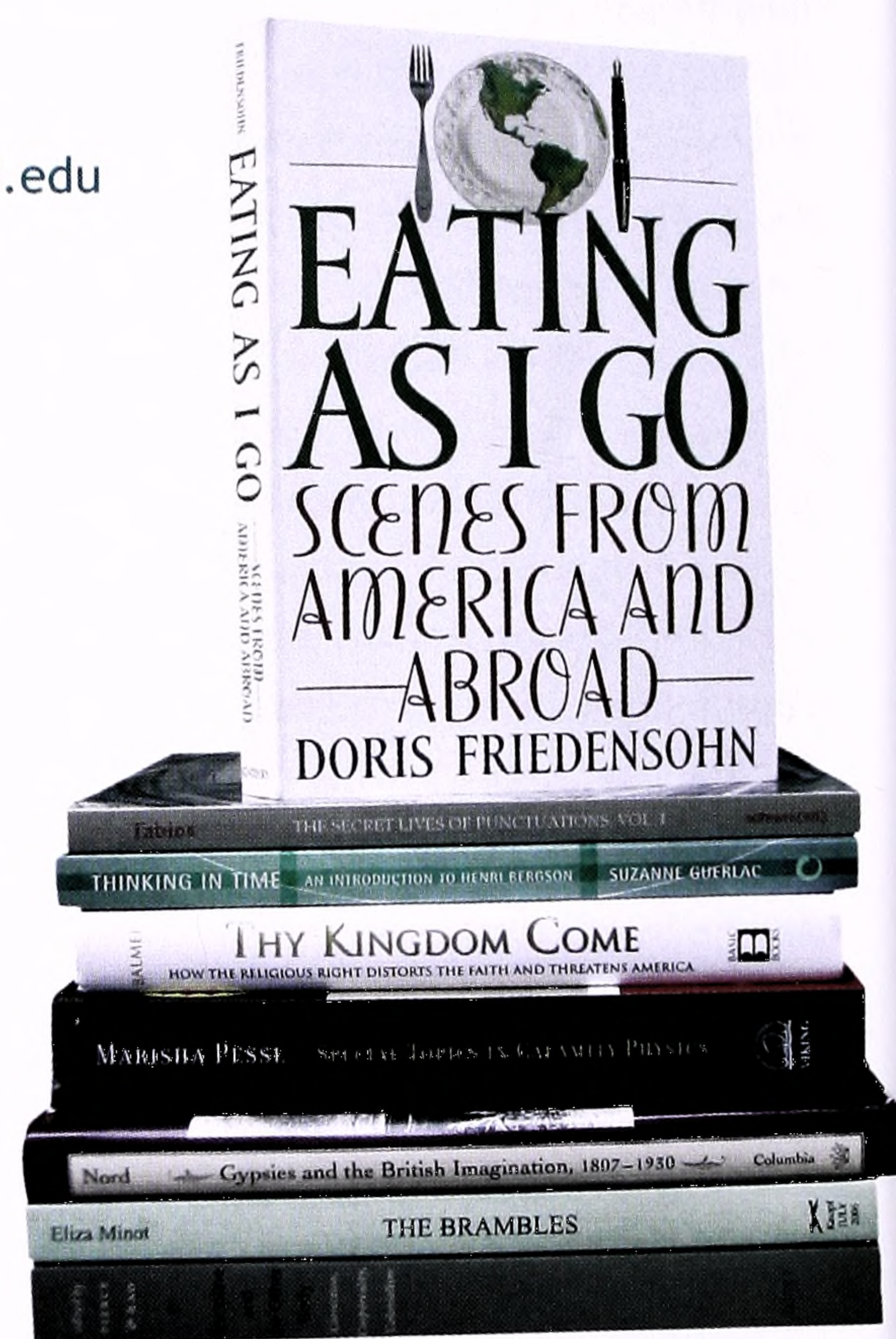
co-edited by Margaret Feerick '89 with John Knutson, Penny Trickett, and Sally Flanzer Brookes, 2006, \$44.95

Eating as I Go: Scenes from America and Abroad

by Doris (Platzker) Friedensohn '58
University Press of Kentucky, 2006, \$60

Thinking in Time: An Introduction to Henri Bergson

Suzanne Guerlac '71
Cornell University Press, 2006, \$18.95 (soft-cover) /\$49.95



: CONTEXT AND STRAWBERRIES

: when ripeness becomes "unfinished" if the matured object refuses to be eaten

: the insistence that glass shifts because of a "pretty illusion" articulated as "ancient sea"

: some poems, yes, should be silent when lifted from the page

: a zoo with non-existent cages

: the gorilla's fingerprint forms the outline of your face

: ceasing the hurtle through cold, dark Milky Way

: relax...ation

The Secret Lives of Punctuations, Vol. 1

by Eileen R. Tabios '82

xPress(ed), Espoo, 2006, \$14.95

Poem reprinted with permission.

Eileen Tabios has been exploring language since she worked on both the *barnard bulletin* and the *Columbia Spectator* as an undergraduate at the College. "My first career interest was journalism," she says. After graduation, Tabios went to work as a copy person at the *New York Times*; then came a career as a Wall Street banker. In the midst of that, at age 32, Tabios tackled *The Great American Novel*. After she finished the book—it was never published, but did its job in turning Tabios to writing full time—poetry became her next way of exploring language. It was then that she found her true love. "I realized it's the form I've been looking for my whole life, it's language in its most pure form." (Her love runs so deep that she titled her first collection of poems *I Take Thee, English, For My Beloved*.)

Over the years, Tabios has written and published 10 collections of poetry, and edited or co-edited five anthologies of poetry and fiction. Compared to her previous works, her newest collection, *The Secret Lives of Punctuations, Vol. 1*, is, as she describes it, "a very minimalist project" both in size and scope. "Punctuations are often overlooked, ignored, and never seen within language," Tabios says (the poem at left is a reprint from the book). Asked for her favorite form of punctuation, Tabios responds, "The exclamation point—I'm saying this off the top of my head—the exclamation point symbolizes passion."

—Dimitra Kessenides

Gypsies and the British Imagination, 1807–1930

by Deborah Epstein Nord '71

Columbia University Press, 2006, \$39.50

What I Know Now: Letters to My Younger Self

edited by Ellyn Spragins '77

Random House, 2006, \$17.95

What Colleges Don't Tell You (And Other Parents Don't Want You to Know): 272 Secrets for Getting Your Kid into the Top Schools

by Elizabeth Wissner-Gross '75

Hudson Street Press, 2006, \$23.95

FACULTY

Thy Kingdom Come: How the Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America: An Evangelical's Lament

by Randall Balmer, Professor of American Religion

Perseus Books Group, July 2006, \$24

A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines

by Janna Levin '88, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy

Alfred A. Knopf, 2006, \$23.95

EXHIBITIONS

New Paintings

by Tali Gai '01

Sarah Doyle Gallery,

Brown University

Providence, RI

November 2006

Patricia Highsmith

Multimedia Exhibition

Draws upon the literary estate

of Patricia Highsmith '42

Swiss National Library, Bern, Switzerland

March 10 through September 10, 2006

C D s

The No-Net World

Poetry by Larissa Shmailo '79

2006, \$14.99



Tali Gai '01



For a complete Books, Etc. listing



THE PAPER CHASE

WRITING THE SENIOR THESIS

BY JESSIE ROYCE HILL
PHOTOS BY ABBY MOSKOWITZ

R emember your senior thesis experience?

Pushing back the gathering dread and anxiety, the summer heat lingering in the crease of your neck, you took a seat in your adviser's office. You committed yourself to the task, enthusing about how fascinating it would be to recount the history of race relations in America. Actually, North and South America—over a span of, say, 300 years. Your patient adviser tempered your enthusiasm with something along the lines of, “Well, that sounds terrific, but how about we narrow it down a bit so you can actually graduate in May?” Or maybe she responded as newspaper editors often do: “That’s a topic, not a story!” So began the yearlong process of research, honing, whittling, carving, and stabbing (your notebook, not your professor) that led you, ultimately, to a bound manuscript that told the plight of three sharecroppers in southeastern Mississippi in May of 1937.

Emily Dobbins reached that point this past May, with her volume, entitled *To Do the Best They Could: The Experience of Emancipation for Black and White Women in Georgia*. Dobbins, 21, an American studies major, had a vague notion in her junior year that she wanted her thesis to cover the African-American experience from a nineteenth-century vantage point. Drawn to a classic antebellum slave narrative by Harriet Jacobs called *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Dobbins approached her adviser, Adjunct Professor Nancy Woloch.

The response was a bit of a letdown. Woloch informed Dobbins that the topic already had been covered. But the professor encouraged her student's broader pursuit and the two agreed on a narrower case study of black and white women in Georgia emerging from the Civil War. “There were all these big decisions that delayed the start of the research,” Dobbins says. What primary sources would she get? Where along the south Atlantic seaboard should she focus? Would it be possible to tease out common themes from 13 different women?

Perhaps the biggest obstacle was her fear. All Barnard seniors embark on a senior project—known in the College as the “senior capstone experience”—and students majoring in the social sciences typically must write a thesis. It's the longest sustained research project they'll tackle as undergraduates. The history department is known for a particularly rigorous senior thesis experience, as the work of the students profiled here exemplifies.

Dorothy Denburg, dean of the College, says the senior thesis is intended to give students an opportunity to develop and produce a substantial piece of work with a greater degree of independence. “They get peer input in the context of the senior seminar in most majors, and they develop a close working relationship with a mentor on the faculty,” she says. Barnard seniors wrestling with their research may find a degree of comfort knowing they're engaged in a tradition that dates back to the College's founding. “There are original theses in the archives from Barnard's charter year,” Denburg notes. It's a challenge woven into the fabric of the College.

Eliza McLaren's thesis project was an intensely personal journey.

THE HISTORY OF A TOPIC IN 40 SOME ODD PAGES

For Emily Dobbins, the challenge felt especially personal. Growing up in the college town of Oberlin, Ohio, where her parents are both academics, she felt a certain amount of pressure, if self-imposed. “I had never worked on a project for more than a month, and this is eight months,” Dobbins says. The onus hung over her from freshman year, she says, and only lightened once she submitted an outline before winter break last December. “It felt like I had to write the history of the world in three chapters. I kept thinking, ‘My parents are scholars. I’m not a scholar, I’m a student.’”

This transformation from student to scholar is precisely the point of the endeavor, says History Department Chair Deborah Valenze. Seniors participate in group tutorials on the use of libraries and digital archives, and on methodology, and then, Valenze says, “we set them loose.” “Do they relish the independence? The discovery process? We hope they find a core of primary sources to carry them into the past.”

Valenze is tall and regal but an easy empathy is apparent as soon as she speaks. She finds her role as a thesis adviser similar to that of a parent’s. “You have to sit on your hands sometimes while [the students] express their pain and suffering. Most of them come back elated and exhilarated.”

The key to a successful senior thesis, Valenze says, is passion. Barnard invests many resources in the experience—history department faculty members, as part of their duties, devise and teach a special thesis curriculum, coach students, and nurture their enthusiasm through a strenuous research project. The nature of one’s passion is always a bit mysterious, and Valenze finds this an intriguing part of her role as supervisor. “One woman is looking at medieval Jewish gender relations in Navarre, Spain. Why does this fascinate her? What leads her to dredge up these particular documents from the fifteenth century and weave them together into a mosaic?”

In one sense, the answer is necessity. You don’t graduate from Barnard unless you get busy excavating and weaving. But another deciding factor in shaping a thesis topic, particularly for historians, is access to sources, especially old documents. When Dobbins narrowed her focus to ex-slaves and former plantation mistresses in Georgia, she knew she would need primary sources to illuminate their lives. She settled on the *Works Progress Administration’s Slave Narratives*, collected during the New Deal in the 1930s. The interviews reflect the beliefs of the Depression-era Americans who transcribed them. The memories of the aging former slaves interviewed are also inconsistent.

“Some of them have fond memories of being slave children,” Dobbins points out. “They remember being clothed and fed, and playing all day before work commenced. Now they’re living in the Great Depression and things are even harder than they were on the plantations.”

Sifting through the narratives was just the kind of challenge Barnard strives to present to seniors. “I realize I own it now,” Dobbins says. It is mid-April, a week before she will hand in her thesis. “No one knows this story more than I do right now.”

After a three-week research trip to Germany last winter, Sally Franson returned to Barnard ready to tackle the writing.





Writing the thesis, says Emily Dobbins, felt like having to write a history of the world in three chapters.

UNCOVERING SOURCES

Fifteen years ago Dobbins would have had to go to Georgia and comb through archives. Now she was able to find them online. The Internet has facilitated historical research, as it has so many endeavors. History majors can access archival databases that didn't exist a few years ago. Still, the thrill of travel and discovery entices some to board a plane. Sally Franson took a semester off before her senior year and moved to Germany. She eschewed the "junior year abroad thing" and enrolled herself independently in the Goethe Institut. "I needed my world rocked," says the sunny, confident student.

It worked. Franson engaged with an international group in debates about perceptions of America, the war in Iraq, globalization, and German history. She learned to speak German fluently. She started a blog, musing on German views on Turkish immigrants and the reasons why many of the Germans she encountered weren't

happy with their nationality. She returned to Barnard and spoke with her adviser, Lisa Tiersten, about identifying a lens through which to consider German national identity in the context of a senior thesis. The best way, they decided, was for Franson to return to Germany to do research at a textbook repository in the town of Braunschweig, an hour or so from Berlin.

Securing a Lucyle Hook travel grant (one of a few funding sources for study abroad), Franson spent three weeks last winter researching the ways in which "others" are treated or have a voice in German school textbooks. "Germany is a multicultural society, but who has agency in that society?" Franson wanted to know. She poured through texts from the early 1990s, when an outbreak of extremist violence began anew in Germany, then turned to contemporary, post-2000 books used to teach German schoolchildren. "Immigrants—mostly Muslims—were left out of texts in the '90s, and now there are chapters

on 'Islam in the World,'" Franson says. "They went from omission to inclusion, but it's still an 'us versus them' mentality there, they're still constructing a new narrative, only it's for the immigrants as opposed to by the immigrants, where they're constructing it themselves."

Franson's senior thesis, *Redefining Das Volk: National Identity and Conceptions of Otherness in Germany*, won Franson the Eugene H. Byrne History Prize, which is awarded for superior work by an undergraduate majoring in history. She says she's gratified by the project's success in the eyes of the faculty, but believes a lot remains to be said on the topic. The experience of delving into issues of identity politics in Europe influenced Franson's postgraduation plans. She will spend a year in the United Kingdom, volunteering for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Barnard's requirement that seniors complete some type of intensive project

continued on page 65

TAKE THEM TO THE RIVER

THE HUDSON RIVER IS MUSE TO PARTICIPANTS
IN A FACULTY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIMENT

BY WESLEY YANG



View Towards the Hudson Valley by Asher B. Durand

Picturesque” has come to mean something like “cute” these days. “It’s almost a pejorative term,” says Elizabeth Hutchinson, assistant professor of art history, speaking in her office on the third floor of Barnard Hall. The artists and writers of the nineteenth century used the word differently. The eighteenth-century philosopher Edmund Burke wrote about the opposition of the sublime—the feeling of awe we experience in the face of the vast, terrible power of nature—and the beautiful, a sense of harmony, order, and balance that produces “the image of Edenic perfection,” as Hutchinson puts it. Nineteenth-century landscape painters would take up the idea of the picturesque as a middle term between the sublime and the beautiful. “It conveyed some sense of the power of the Creator,” Hutchinson says, “as well as some of the orderliness that man creates.”

The search for the picturesque guided the first coherent school of painting to emerge out of the young American Republic. Beginning in the 1820s, Thomas Cole, Asher B. Durand, and their Hudson River School successors turned away from the traditional academic emphasis on biblical allegories and scenes from classical mythology to confront the American landscape. “The Hudson, for natural magnificence, is unsurpassed,” Cole opined in his 1836 “Essay on American Scenery,” an impassioned exhortation for painters to take up the artistic challenges posed by their own country. The essay both extols the restorative powers of the American landscape even as it laments a “meager utilitarianism” whose urge for improvement seems poised to crush “the tender flowers of the Imagination ... beneath its iron tramp.” He and his colleagues painted vivid oils

that portrayed the Hudson River Valley in its soft springtime bloom and in its autumnal splendor, finding in all settings natural symbols of enduring truths.

The Hudson River School painters became America’s first art celebrities. Along the way, they helped create a distinctly American cultural identity and made New York City the cultural capital of the nation. “By the 1840s, it was agreed upon that landscape painting was a very American art form,” notes Hutchinson. “It was tasteful, democratic, and nationalistic and it was a good idea to have this stuff in your house. Writers of the day said that if you were going to raise your kids, and they were going to have values, you should have some art in your house. The art helped to shape for a rising middle class an ideal of what a home was supposed to be.”

Last July, Hutchinson led a group of eight professors from colleges all along the Hudson Valley on a hike retracing Cole's steps through the woods by Kaaterskill Falls near Palenville, New York. The group included a geologist, a geochemist, a law professor, a political scientist, a cognitive psychologist, a biologist, a chemist, and a literature professor. They were engaged in an ambitious experiment in interdisciplinary teaching called "River Summer"—a development seminar in which 40 participants (predominantly faculty members and other education professionals) explored the length

shading and volume. Charcoal is good for coloring in large surfaces and is useful for shadow, but not so good at creating lines. Oil pastels are colorful but also not the best at sharp delineation. Everyone had access to the camera lucida, an optical tool that lets you see your pad and your view at the same time.

The group then went on to the nearby Albany Institute of Art to look at some of its Hudson River School paintings. Rather than lecture the professors on paintings, Hutchinson divided them into groups and let them choose a work to pres-

water—a task whose difficulty they had themselves just encountered first hand. "It went pretty much exactly as I hoped," says Hutchinson. "After 9 a.m., I barely opened my mouth. It was really them figuring it out on their own."

Immersed in Difficulty

The day's lesson illustrated a principle spelled out explicitly by one of its participants. Lisa Son, assistant professor of psychology, studies how students learn best. As it turns out, research has established that challenges are good for learn-

"FINDING THE PICTURESQUE REQUIRES A VERY ACTIVE WORK OF SELECTION. YOU DON'T JUST STAND THERE AND PAINT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU."

—ELIZABETH HUTCHINSON

of the Hudson River from the Adirondacks to Morningside Heights while living together mostly on a research ship named the *R/V Seawolf*. The group hiked around the rim of Kaaterskill Clove on a gray, rainy morning, and stopped at a spot where Cole had painted one of his scenes. Hutchinson then distributed pads and drawing implements to the hikers. "I wanted them to understand that finding the picturesque requires a very active work of selection," says Hutchinson. "You don't just stand there and paint what's in front of you. You have to make choices about what is a good view."

Hutchinson let them choose different tools to make their drawings. She wanted to show the participants that the choice of tools determines the things you perceive about the landscape. A pencil produces a crisp line but is less useful for



River Summer participants sought out the picturesque, as did the painters of the Hudson River School.

ent to the others using some of the insights they'd gleaned from their own pursuit of the picturesque. The professors talked about the choices in subject matter, the differing emphases on foreground and background, and the tools employed by the artists. They spoke with the authority of direct experience. They observed that even the masters had a hard time drawing

seeing; also to swarms of gnats. "Bugs bite you when you're outside," notes Colgate geologist Bruce Selleck, who ran a segment of the program that was spent camping in the Adirondacks. Selleck has been running outdoor programs his entire professional life. He believes that imposing physical stress on a class builds community and fosters learning. "It rains. It's

ing. "Difficult learning, when you don't know exactly what you're supposed to do, is actually beneficial," says Son. "When you're forced to say something on your own rather than just passively reading or listening, you're going to be able to retain that information much better."

For four weeks last summer, the organizers of River Summer immersed 40 participants in difficulty, exposing them to unfamiliar methods, vocabularies, habits, ways of

cold in the mountains. You have to travel long distances with heavy packs, and climb in high elevations. You have to deal with the possibility that bears might come. You are forced to communicate. It really brings people together.”

In this event, the professors and others really did come together, crossing disciplinary and institutional boundaries to forge new personal and professional ties. The four-week program was divided into five modules, each lasting several days. The professors learned about all aspects of the river by dirtying their hands with its flora, fauna, water, and sediment. They studied it with the tools of the geologist, the chemist, and the artist, on a physical scale ranging from the molecules in a water sample to the geological structure

of the land, and on a time scale ranging from the billion-year-old rocks at the river’s source upstate to the contemporary legal and political battles over PCBs. Among other activities, the groups tested the water, took core samples of the sediment, went on an archaeological dig, collected zebra mussels, and heard lectures on the history, culture, and economics of the Hudson River. The sciences and the humanities mingled freely in a way they seldom do under ordinary conditions in academia. The pursuit of knowledge, rather than hewing to disciplinary boundaries, mimicked the complexity of the world.

“I try to emphasize that it’s all of a piece,” says Selleck. “You can’t talk about water without talking about the trees that grow on the soil through which the water runs. You can’t talk about the water without talking about the rocks. And you can’t

talk about the rocks without understanding something about the deep history of time and the history of the planet as a whole without understanding the landscape as a geological and biological ecosystem.”



All aboard: the R/V Seawolf.



On one of the program’s sunnier days, participants collected samples.

Emerging Earth-Systems Science

This emphasis on the interconnectedness of the earth might sound vaguely metaphysical. In fact it neatly aligns with the main currents in geology, notes Stephanie Pfirman, the founder of River Summer and chair of the environmental science department at Barnard. The foundation of geology used to be plate tectonics; in the last

few decades the study of the atmosphere has moved from the periphery of the discipline closer to its core. Today geology is at the center of an emerging “earth systems” science, which looks at the solid earth, the atmosphere, the ocean, and life itself as a single dynamic and interconnected system. At the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York, about 200 Columbia-affiliated scientists study how the earth was formed, how the oceans flow, how the atmosphere regulates temperature, and how human intervention changes the world—perhaps to the ultimate detriment of the very climatic conditions that have made complex human civilization possible. “Most environmental scientists appreciate complexity,” says Pfirman. Many of them don’t work in laboratories, where they can

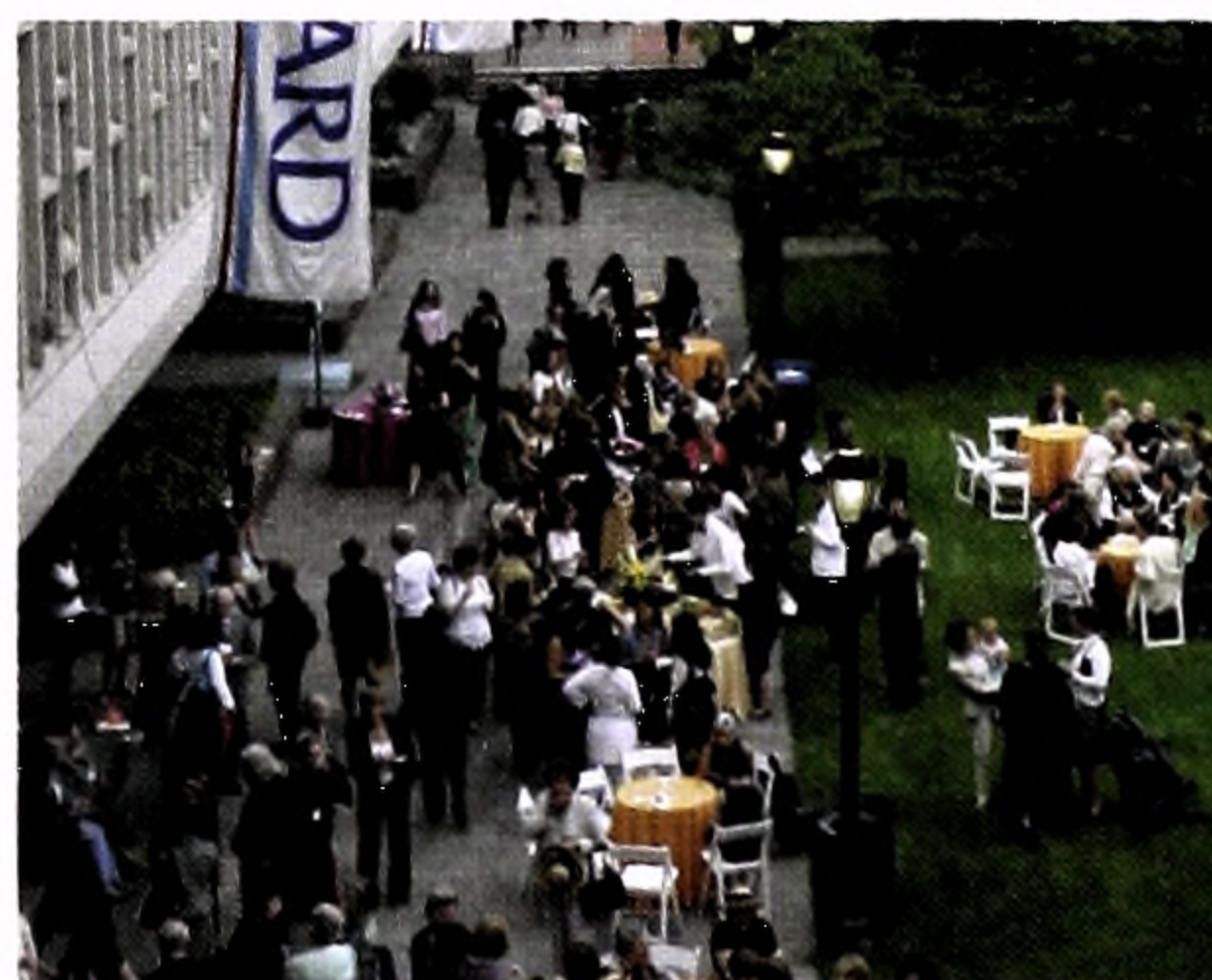
control all variables so as to test a single hypothesis. “They’re more willing not to have all the answers and not say we have to find an absolute truth in order to understand what’s happening. But we can still learn things, even if our knowledge is always going to be limited.”

For teaching complexity, there’s no substitute for getting students out into the world to encounter it. “Real science is not simply chemistry 101,

where you control everything and you get the same answers that thousands of students have gotten before you,” says Tim Kenna, speaking from the roof of the oceanography building at Lamont-Doherty, which overlooks a stunning view of the Hudson River. Kenna, an associate research scientist in geochemistry at Lamont-Doherty and an adjunct assistant

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COMING *Back*



What is today's Reunion evolved from Barnard's annual Alumnae Day, which was first observed on February 26, 1916. By 1919, the event became the Annual Alumnae Reunion. It was, we assume, a fairly simple affair. Held in Brinckerhoff Theatre on March 15 of that year, the undergraduate president at the time, Dorothy Brockway, welcomed alumnae back: "The gap between being an undergrad and an alumna often seems very wide, but today is one day in the year when we can all get together and feel that we belong, each and every one, to the same Alma Mater."

Ninety-one years after that first Alumnae Day, more than a thousand Barnard women return to the campus to reestablish friendships, relationships to the College, and ties to many memories. Some come back repeatedly; others, like one alumna this year, make their first visit back after 80 years. As that one alumna put it, it's a thrilling chance to remind yourself of the place that has played such a big part in who you are, and the life you've lived.

After 80 Years ... p. 27

Class of '71, 35 Years Later ... p. 28-29

It Happened at Reunion ... p. 67





Etta Fleischman reminisced about life at Barnard circa the mid-1920s during her Reunion visit.

“MADEMOISELLE CHANEL TOOK HER ENGLISH LESSONS IN BED”

*...AND OTHER TALES FROM
THE LIFE OF ETTA GREENBERG
FLEISCHMAN '26*

BY DIMITRA KESSENIDES

The visit began quite auspiciously, as President Judith Shapiro entered the Vagelos Dining Room on the morning of Friday, June 9, extended her hand, and greeted her visitor: “Bonjour, Madame. C’est un grand plaisir de vous voir ici à Barnard. On m’a beaucoup parlé de vous.” (Hello, Ma’am. It is a great pleasure to see you here at Barnard. I have heard a great deal about you.) Madame is Etta Greenberg Fleischman ’26, an alumna returning to campus for the first time in 80 years. Visibly delighted and thrilled, Fleischman proceeded to sit down to tea with President Shapiro. The two shared stories of Barnard, Paris, traveling across the Atlantic, anthropology, and more. Fleischman’s words and anecdotes left no doubt in anyone’s mind that hers has been a remarkable life.

She arrived at Barnard in the fall of 1922, after a school counselor in Newark, New Jersey, persuaded her father to allow his daughter to live at the College. “My father, fortunately, believed a woman should get an education, but he thought I ought to live at home,” Fleischman said. “I was 16 years old, and that was the beginning of a new world for me.” That new world included a dormitory on Claremont Avenue, where she met and befriended housemate Margaret Mead. At Barnard, Fleischman dedicated herself to studying history and government, and French classes. Graduation came in 1926, followed sometime later by a job search. Young women of her age might have wanted to marry and settle down; Fleischman wanted to work. Securing a job was tougher than she’d anticipated. “My roommate and I went to the vocational office at Barnard. We were having trouble getting jobs. We were told, ‘The suburbs do not employ Jewish teachers.’ But I also did not look for a job immediately because my father was sick,” Fleischman recalled. Her father passed away in 1926, just months after she graduated.

Fleischman decided to seek work abroad, and by 1929 she was on her way to France. “It took 10 days to cross the Atlantic by boat,” she remembered. Once there she found an opportunity to teach English at a language school for adults in Paris.

Paris, circa 1929: a café society and home to the “lost generation” of expatriate American writers like Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, and Paul Bowles and to the bohemians and artists in Montparnasse, the heart of artistic and intellectual life in the city. Mademoiselle Fleischman settled down in that neighborhood with a roommate, an art student from St. Louis. “We rented cot beds and a table and chairs. She would go to the store

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CLASS OF '71

SNAPSHOTS FROM A 35TH REUNION

The spring of their freshman year saw the Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy assassinations, Tet Offensive in Vietnam, and student strikers occupying the halls of Columbia University, followed soon after by riots at the Democratic National Convention and feminist protests at the Miss America Pageant. Inspired by the Sigrid Nunez '72 novel, *The Last of Her Kind*—which opens on the Barnard campus against that turbulent backdrop in 1968 and follows two roommates from different worlds as their lives unfold—we buttonholed a random sample of these baby boomers and asked them to smile for the camera and remember when...

Q: Who was your biggest hero during college?

A: John F. Kennedy: 6 responses; Bob Dylan: 4; Martin Luther King, Jr., Eugene McCarthy, Malcolm X: 2 each; James Baldwin, Dag Hammarskjöld, Bobby Kennedy, Jackie Kennedy, John Lennon, George McGovern, Golda Meir, Florence Nightingale, Eleanor Roosevelt, Gloria Steinem, and Virginia Woolf: 1 each.

Q: Which movement did you most identify with?

A: Antiwar/peace: 15 responses; women's movement/feminism: 12; civil rights: 5; environmental: 2.

Q: Did you join in protest? If so, where and when?

A: Yes: 21 responses "Everywhere... constantly." "Don't ask if I protested..."



Ask how many times I was tear-gassed." "At the Pentagon in '67, Columbia in '68, and the Justice Department in '70." "I was arrested and went to jail, but my son doesn't know that!"

No: 10. "But I watched the strike from the roof of my dorm and brought cookies to striking friends."

Q. What was your first job/annual salary after college?

A. Computer Programmer/\$20,000 ("Liked computers because paid women same as men."); tennis club director/ \$9,000; Senate aide on Capitol Hill/\$8,000; Wall Street/\$8,000; biology teacher/\$7,600; secretary to film producer/\$100 per week; peach-picker on kibbutz in Israel/paid in peaches.

Q. Who was your fashion icon?

A. **Janis Joplin: 8 responses;** Ali McGraw: 5; Jane Fonda: 2; Catherine Deneuve, Che Guevara, Beverly Johnson, Mary Tyler Moore, and Tina Turner: 1 each.

None of the above: 4 – "Barnard girls were not interested in fashion!"

Q. What did you fervently believe as a college student that you don't anymore?

A. "In true love; free love; happily ever after." "That what you know is more important than who you know." "In the possibility of decent government." "That equality is possible for women." "That money doesn't matter." "That life gets less complicated." "That peace will come." "I still believe in the same things."

Q. What advice would you give this year's graduates?

A. "Find your passion and pursue it." "Aim high and don't be afraid." "Be financially independent." "Don't go to law school." "You can't do it all at the same time, but you can do it in chapters." "Don't take life so seriously." "Pay attention to your health... you're going to live to be 100!"

—Story produced by Ruth Patkin, Director of Communications

Photos by Diane Bondareff '91



Class Notes

In order to accommodate as much news as possible, classes with no news will not be listed in every issue.

29 Rev. Charles E. Curtis sends us the sad news of the death of his wife, **Lucy May Matthews Curtis**, 99, on May 22. Except for her eyesight, Lucy was in good health until late April. "She was a proud alumna of Barnard and followed its life and her classmates closely through the years," he writes. He suggests that memorial contributions be made to Barnard. Lucy May is survived by her husband, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren.

31 **Virginia Samson Koblisch** writes, "It's hard to believe this year marks our 75th year since graduation. Sorry I won't be able to attend reunion but will be there in spirit. I have moved from New Jersey to Chatham, Mass., where I live with my son and daughter-in-law. Beautiful surroundings and living with an active young family keeps life interesting. I'm in reasonably good health." She notes that, although "1931 is now 'near the top of the list' in the Class Notes, we want to let our fellow alumnae know that we are alive and well and can go the distance."

Sylvia Kamion Maibaum
826 Greentree Road
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
310-454-0533

75TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

32 **Ethel Greenfield Booth**, who turned 92 in March, writes that she's been doing quite a bit of traveling. She made her fourth trip to Chautauqua, N.Y., took an Elderhostel trip to Oxford University, followed by a week

visiting relatives, and then a week in New York City to visit her son, Douglas, and his family.

33 **Lillian Tomasulo O'Brien** writes from Bath, N.H., that she's alive and well, and happy to announce the birth of her third grandchild.

36 Our 70th Reunion was great. Nine classmates made it to the luncheon and our class dinner. A good time was had by all: **Margaret (Midge) Davidson Barnett, Alice Corneille Cardozo** and her two daughters, **Marjorie Eberhardt Cook** and her daughter, **Adair Brasted Gould, Harriet Taplinger Leland, Marcy Dolgenas Shapiro, Helen (Otto) May Strauss, Sonya Turitz Schopick**, and me.

At the sherry reception, we saw Margaret Loewenstein '33—the late **Regina Loewenstein's** sister—plus a member of the Class of 1931 and one from the Class of 1926! There were many worthwhile programs at reunion. One in which I participated was on Saturday afternoon and was produced by The Moth, an organization dedicated to the art of storytelling. The program, *Barnard Women Through the Ages*, included eight alumnae, one from each decade from the 1930s through the 2000s. Each of us was given eight minutes to tell a story about our Barnard lives. It was my first experience talking through a microphone to a large audience, but I enjoyed the challenge. Many alumnae stopped me to say they enjoyed my story. As a result of The Moth program, my granddaughter Emily, who

lives in New York and with whom I stayed for a few days after reunion, took me to StoryCorps. It's a program associated with National Public Radio where people do interviews, which are recorded and added to the StoryCorps Archive at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress. Some excerpts are also played on NPR. Emily interviewed me and we'll make copies of the disc for all of my large family.

Some classmates couldn't come to reunion. **Helen Dykema Dengler** writes: "So sorry I will not be able to join you but best regards to one and all. Still able to drive my car and walk a little. I now have three great-grandsons." From **Tuvia (Florence) Ribakove Bar-Ilan**: "Sorry, I can't come. I'm coping at home but New York is beyond me. Best wishes to my sturdier classmates. My 19th great-grandchild is on the way!"

I regret to report several deaths. An obituary in the *Hartford Courant* notes the death of **Edythe Temkin Garbus** on Dec. 17, 2005. She is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, one brother, and one sister, among others. Three other alumnae passed away: **Ann Furman Feuer** on March 29; **Eleanor Southern Damrosch** on March 13; and Eleanor's sister **Eloise Southern Noehren** on April 17, 2002. Our sympathy goes to all their families.

Nora Lourie Percival
478 Greer Lane
Vilas, NC 28692
828-297-2828
noralp@alum.barnard.edu

70TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

37 Introducing the new class co-correspondents: **Ruth Harris Adams**

and **Ruth Kleiner Glantz Blohm**, who have arrived at the same senior facility in a new part of the country for both—Scottsdale, Ariz.

That's only the most recent coincidence in our lives. Several decades ago we told this column another remarkable coincidence. Practically unknown to us (and no fault of ours!) our children were about to marry each other. Roberta Adams and Andy Glantz will soon celebrate their 20th anniversary. As for other coincidences, we two Ruths are on the same page in *Mortarboard*, and we both were 90 this April. Our friendship goes back to September 1933.

Since this column has been a long time without news, let's catch up. Please tell us what you're up to. For example, we attended a Barnard in Phoenix Club get together with five other alumnae of different ages. We all talked pretty much the same language (at pretty much the same time) and had a pleasant afternoon. Please send your news.

Ruth Harris Adams
12000 N 90th Street, Unit 2037
Scottsdale, AZ 85260-8632
480-451-2344

Ruth Kleiner Blohm
12000 N 90th Street, Unit 1079
Scottsdale, AZ 85260-8632

38 Sadly **Helen Jefferson Thomas** died on March 26. A resident of Madison, N.J., she had a distinguished career as the organist at Grace Church in Madison. After her retirement in 1991, she enjoyed what she called her "second career" at First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and, in 1998, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Newark Episcopal Diocese. Our sympathy goes to her two children, her daughter-in-law, and her granddaughter.

Barbara Lake Dolgin
150 West End Ave., Apt. 18D
New York, NY 10023
212-874-3234
bldolgin@alum.barnard.edu

Unambivalent ELSIE CRUM MCCABE '81

A pathy, by its nature, attracts few defenders. In Elsie McCabe '81, it may have met its worst enemy.

"How do you combat the 'Whatevah' Syndrome?" she says. McCabe is the president of the Museum for African Art, and her own life is a model of activity, achievement, and, above all, passion. "The 'Whatevah' Syndrome is what I call a blasé ambivalence about life and learning. It's one of the great laments of parents and educators."

McCabe, who is the mother of eight-year-old twins, is in no danger of ever succumbing to blasé ambivalence. After graduating from Barnard with honors, she attended Harvard Law School before working off her student bills at a prestigious New York law firm. There she did pro bono work on civil rights cases. "That's how I slept at night," she laughs, and it was also how she stayed focused on her own passion. "The common denominator in my checkered history is that I've tried to better the state of people of color."

After a stint in politics, notably as Mayor David Dinkins' chief of staff, McCabe joined the Museum for African Art, even though at Barnard she had never taken an art history class. To prepare for the job, she visited other museums to immerse herself in the subject. "I remember seeing one piece, a human figure riddled with metal shards. I didn't like it. I didn't get it." Only later did she learn that the figure was meant to contain a spirit whose powers could be invoked by driving a nail into it—healing, for example, or to formalize a contract. "Then I realized that I had been looking at the hopes, fears, and dreams of a community of people, for generations." The piece wasn't just about aesthetics. It was about culture.

That's why the museum is McCabe's passion. She sees the art as a tool to change Americans' perceptions of Africa, which she says are mostly misinformed. "Many young people, including those of color, think it's a country, not a continent. They're just not thoughtful enough to know better." To McCabe, this lack of knowledge makes it hard for African-Americans to take pride in their background, something that she strives to change. "You can't permit people to walk away thinking of it as a continent of primitives who've just stumbled across an aesthetic."

Under McCabe's leadership, the museum is moving into a large, modern space on Fifth Avenue. She works ferociously to raise money for it, a job made all the more difficult by the fact that she's a single mom (her husband, Gene, died of breast cancer several years ago). But McCabe continues to embrace life. Her typical day starts at 5:30 in the morning, and she rushes home at night to put her children to bed before heading out on the fundraiser circuit. Until the move is completed in 2008, there's not much prospect of slowing down. Not that she would want to.

"It's very isolating being focused on yourself," she says. "You need a higher calling. You need to leave something behind that's more than just a gene pool."

—Andrew Rimas

Elsie McCabe delivered the keynote remarks at the annual Alumnae of Color Dinner on June 8.



McCabe is dedicated to expanding the museum she leads.

41 The happy occasion of our 65th Reunion found 23 classmates taking part. Student volunteers cheerfully made getting around to the interesting and entertaining programs a pleasure. It was also noted that **Betty Clifford Macomber** and **Alice Kliemand Meyer** will continue as our co-presidents, with many thanks for the excellent job they did in organizing this reunion. **Athena Capraro Warren** and **Jane Ringo Murray** also agreed to continue as co-correspondents. **Rita Roher Semel** and **Madelyn Lotz McKean** both traveled from California to attend. **Adeline Bostelmann Higgins** and **Elizabeth Harris Mersey**, as well as Jane Murray and her husband, came from Florida. Also present were **Rita Benson**, **Rosemarie Gangemi Bond**, **Bettina Boynton** and a friend, **Estelle De Vito**, **Jean Sawyer Harris**, **Jane Stewart Heckman**, **Martha Bennett Heyde**, **Eleanor Johnson**, **Marie Turbow Lampard**, **Eleanor Gans Lippman**, **Marie Walbridge McChesney**, **Alice Drury Mullins** with her husband, **Victoria Hughes Reiss**, **Phoebe Holden Washburn**, and **Marguerite Binder Zamaitis** and her niece. **Beth Bishop Trussell** was unable to attend because of a recent knee replacement. **Susan Riley Clagett** planned to attend reunion but having to handle her cane, her suitcase, and an umbrella discouraged her. She was greatly missed. There was so much pleasure in visiting with old friends that plans may be made for some mini-reunions. Those of you who didn't get to New York will receive copies of the directory, including the paragraphs that were submitted. One section indicates the states and areas where classmates might find it convenient to gather and we're sure everyone would enjoy that. If you don't receive your booklet, do

let us know. Some news will be included in future issues, as some letters arrived too late for publication.

We've found that small committees make the chores of alumnae business much lighter. The call is out for volunteers willing to help plan mini-reunions, promote our fund-raising efforts, and gather bits of news concerning classmates in your area.

We must report the loss of several classmates. **Estelle Cross** died on Nov. 13, 2005. She is survived by one niece, three nephews, and eight grandnieces and grandnephews. She was a social worker in the Lexington school system in Massachusetts. On Nov. 28, 2005, **Catherine Clark Murphy** died in Texas, leaving one son and one brother. **June Wilson Bain**, who had planned to attend reunion with her daughter, Lani Bain Stoner, passed away on March 6, in Stockton, Calif. Lani sent an obituary instead of June's paragraph for our class book, for which we thank her. June taught in various colleges until the last six years of her life.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all of their families.

—JRM

Athena Capraro Warren
21 Village Hill Road
Williamsburg, MA 01096-9706
413-268-7551

Jane Ringo Murray
8090 Highway A1A South, Apt. 503
St. Augustine, FL 32080-8365
904-471-1539
jrmurray@alum.barnard.edu

65TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

42 Save Sept. 19 for a mini-reunion at a Manhattan restaurant. We'll discuss plans for our 65th Reunion in 2007. Please contact **Doris Bayer Coster** at 860-928-4775 for details.

Lillian Rutherford Roma still teaches dancing at the Dinnes County Recreation Department. In her favorite class, she teaches newly engaged couples how to dance at their

weddings. Her granddaughter, Kelly, who came with Lillian to our last reunion and plans to accompany Lillian to our 65th, appeared in a film that will compete in the Sundance Film Festival.

Aurelia Maresca Bender no longer teaches piano but still performs professionally. She no longer drives, but her hands are still limber. She regrets that she can no longer take the annual trip to Italy that she so enjoyed. **Mabel Schubert Foust** says that the Boca Raton condo complex in which she lives hasn't recovered from Hurricane Wilma. Many repairs haven't been made and there are insurance problems. **Edith Meyer Lauro** sold her condo in West Palm Beach a few years ago and this past winter rented a house for three months on Hutchinson Island near Vero Beach. She's back on Long Island now and is busy with gardening and house repairs. She's a member of the local Great Books Club and regularly sees **Joan Brown Wettingfeld**, who writes articles for several local Long Island newspapers. **Eleanor Webb Carnie** lives in a retirement complex in Gainesville, Fla., near her daughter. She's very happy with her first-floor unit in a pleasant wooded park and reports that she and her dog won an award as the most beguiling couple. **Ruth Young-Chrekjian** and her husband, George, left their winter home in Hilton Head Island, S.C., for New Jersey where they spend the summers. Last winter they were very active in their Church Fellowship. This summer they looked after their granddaughter. Ruth plans to attend our mini-reunion in September.

Louise Woolfolk Chesnut and her husband, George, still live in Arlington, Va. Louise has been very active in the Environmental and Energy Conservation Commission, which meets in nearby Washington, D.C. Louise is also involved in many other environmental causes. **Edith**

Cannon Herbst lives in a condo on Cape Cod. She took her 19-year-old grandson to Paris last summer for 10 hectic days. She's very active in the Cape Cod chapter of the United Nations Association and was pleased that this year they were able to establish Model U.N. programs in three high schools on the Cape. **Barbara Fish Saltzman**, professor emerita of pediatric psychiatry, has finally finished writing up the reports of her extensive research. **Clytia Capraro Chambers**, who was an avid gardener and the editor of *The Fruit Gardener*, has had to curtail many activities because of arthritis; however, she still proofreads the magazine.

Glafyra Fernandez Ennis runs her own translation service but is very selective when choosing a book to translate. She's in great health and busy with her volunteer badminton coaching. She still plays and umpires at national and international badminton competitions (and still wins trophies).

—VRC

Barbara Heinzen Colby
3050 Military Road NW Box 437
Washington, DC 20015

Virginia Rogers Cushing
921 Schooner Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-6846

43 Sylvia Klion Disenhof is a volunteer teacher for immigrants whom she helps prepare for the job market or school. She's also active in Hadassah.

I enjoyed my local library's recent book club selection, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette E. Walls '84. The memoir chronicles Jeannette's homeless childhood through her time at Barnard College, where, helped by a compassionate professor and the work-study program, she was able to gain experience as a journalist.

Elfriede Thiele Kelso
13 Halick Court
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-1373
732-846-6454
ETKelso@aol.com

44 Carol Sheldon was surprised to discover that she lives in the same apartment in Chicago she's had for years but on a different street—the city renamed the street. Carol is awaiting the opening of a nearby swimming pool. Swimming, she says, “does me so much good—mind, body, and whatever.” Until the pool opens, she plays Scrabble with other seniors at every opportunity. “It seems amazing that we are all in our 80s,” she writes.

We're in that age bracket. On a good day, we can overlook it, but on those achy days, we don't doubt it. **Dorothy Kattenhorn Eberhart** ignored it in March when she visited her daughter and family in Argentina. “I have three granddaughters and hope one of them will go to Barnard.” The oldest managed to slip away and enroll in Vassar.

Joan Carey Zier responded to a reminder about reunion by expressing regret that she hasn't “shown up at Barnard in recent years.” Last year seven members of the Zier family showed up at the 60th Reunion of her husband, Carl, at Wesleyan. Maybe she and Carol Sheldon will make it to our 64th.

Class President **Robertina (Ina) Campbell** participated in the January Phonathon. In April, she and **Francoise Kelz** went to campus for the Torchbearers Reception. “The first to receive the Class of 1944 Memorial Scholarship is Laura Pisoni '06, a personable senior whose academic interests are environmental policy and political science, particularly European politics. She's a native New Yorker who lived at home during college, as many of us did. She plans to go to law school but will work for a year before enrolling,” Ina writes.

Stewardship Officer at Barnard, Amy DeRobertis, noted that at the close of the last fiscal year, the “market value of the Class of 1944 Memorial Scholarship Fund was \$54,970 as of

June 30, 2005. Of the total return generated for 2004-05, the Fund earned \$3,276 in student financial aid.” The class can be proud of Francoise for leading the way to establish the fund and for its members' subsequent financial support.

Martha Messler Zepp
204 N. Lewis St.
Staunton, VA 24401
540-886-1708
martha.zepp@verizon.net

45 Our class had a meeting on May 3 in the New York Public Library followed by lunch in the Bryant Park Café. **Azelle Brown Waltcher** arranged a docent tour of the updated features of the library. Those who were able to attend included **Sibyl Polke Karn**, **Eleanor Wax Mamelok**, **Avra Kessler Mark**, **Rhoda Oxenberg Miller**, and **Ruth Carson West** and her husband, Charles.

A note of regret came from **Anne Ross Fairbanks**, of Troy, N.Y., who's busy with volunteer work and enjoys good health. She travels to Colorado to visit her daughter and 8-year-old granddaughter; to Florida to visit her brother once a winter; and to Haiti to visit her church's partnership church and the Sisters of St. Margaret, an Episcopal convent. She sees Sr. **Marjorie Wysong Raphael**, who's been doing work in Haiti tending to older women without families.

Hendrika Bestebreurtje Cantwell, MD, of Driggs, Idaho, skied a lot this year, including 30 days at Breckenridge, Loveland, and Vail, Colo., and some time in Alta and Snowbird, Utah. She and her daughter, Rebecca, had a wonderful trip to Africa where they stayed in four lodges, had daily safari rides in trucks, and saw lots of animals. Like Anne Fairbanks, Hendrika takes time to visit classmates who aren't free to travel because of health or responsibilities. She visited **Joan Wright Goodman**,

who lives in the San Francisco area and is housebound. Joan would love to hear from classmates. You can get her contact information from the Alumnae Affairs office or the online directory (www.barnard.edu/alum).

Others who missed the meeting at the library and sent regrets were: **Clarice Koehler Fontaine** of Red Bank, N.J., whose husband passed away in 2001. One of her sons now lives with her. Her other son and the rest of her family live in Michigan. **Eleanor Webber Gibson**, of Bloomfield, N.J., writes, "Remember me to all." **Lillian Tassini Kyle** of Brooklyn, N.Y., says her husband is not too well. **Bernice Lindenberg Leicher**, of Rockville Centre, N.Y., had to cancel at the last minute because her husband, Seymour, had a pacemaker put in. **Aurelia Raciti Pouders**, MD, of Bedford, N.Y., announces the birth of her new grandson, Nicholas. **Marion Catalane Robinson**, of Key West, Fla., is anchored in the serene life of tropical Florida and will only leave in hurricane season.

Elaine Engelson Schlanger, of Sarasota, Fla., has been a resident of Florida for 25 years, is in good health, and enjoys playing golf.

Although I was despondent over missing our 60th Reunion, I spent five weeks this spring in the Gulf of Mexico at Pelican Bay swimming with the dolphins and dodging the pelicans, only to return home and come down with my annual pneumonia two days before our 61st Reunion.

Not all of us can travel to reunions, but we still cherish the friendships we had in college. Make a resolution to follow the example of Anne and Hendrika and contact an alumna. Last year you received a directory with addresses. If you've misplaced it, Alumnae Affairs can give you the address of the person you wish to contact. Hearing from you will make the day of a classmate.

Annette Auld Kaicher
5 Seymour Place
White Plains, NY 10605
914-948-6024
akaicher@verizon.net

46 A scholarship has been established at Barnard in the name of **Leora Dana**, who died in 1983. Anyone interested in contributing to the fund should contact the Office of Development at 212-854-2001 or development@barnard.edu. This is another fine way to mark our 60th Reunion, in addition to our gifts to The Barnard Fund.

Edna Choi Law sends the sad news that her husband passed away in March of last year. She has three sons, one daughter, five grandsons, and one granddaughter. One of Edna's grandsons attends the University of Pittsburgh and another will spend his junior year with Kenyon College in Beijing, China.

A front-page article in the February 2006 issue of the *Beverly Bee*, the news magazine of Beverly, N.J., announced the swearing in of **Jean Boeder Wetherill** as mayor of Beverly. She's the first woman in the position and the first Republican in 39 years. Some of her plans include starting a program

of after-school music lessons for children and inaugurating a department of recreation for the city.

We gathered to celebrate our 60th Reunion on June 8 with cocktails at the Colony Club at the invitation of **Gloria Callen Jones**, our class president. All enjoyed the cozy atmosphere and the pleasure of renewing friendships. On June 9, after a continental breakfast, we were treated to a student and alumnae performance of Literate Dance and a discussion led by Mary Cochran, chair of Barnard's dance department. It was so wonderful to see these dancers use their movements to tell their story. We enjoyed the annual awards luncheon and the speeches by Betsy Wade '51, McIntosh Feminism Award recipient, and Constance Hess Williams '66, Pennsylvania State Senator and recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award. Our class dinner was held in the tower of Sulzberger Hall, which provided a marvelous view of a thunderstorm over the city. A memorable evening was had by those who attended: **Joy Drew Blazey, Helen Hutchinson Burnside, Helen Doherty Clark, Audrey Middlebrook DeVoto, Juliane Heyman, Vivian Kaye Koumjian-Haig, Mary Kouri, Lillian Oswald Layton, Phyllis Baron Luxemburg, Cynthia Kosmas Matthews, Patricia Henry Mayell, Mary Brown Potter**, Award for Service to Barnard-winner **Mary Louise Stewart Reid, Jeanne Rogers Simpson, Patricia Healy Sullivan, Ruth Farrell Ways, Jeane Kolburne Weinstein, Jane Weidlund**, and **Charlotte Byer Winkler**. Greetings were sent by some who were not able to attend: **Dorothy Dieterle Adams, Ruth Margaretten Bilenker, Beatrice Bodenstein, Cecile Parker Carver, Margaret Cummiskey, Gemma Fastiggi, Patricia Fitzgerald, Judith Rudansky**

MOVING?

Send name, telephone, address, and e-mail address changes and updated employment information to

Alumnae Records
Barnard College, Box AS
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027-6598
Fax: 212-854-0044

You can also submit the updates online at www.barnard.edu/alum by clicking on "Keeping in Touch" and "Alumnae Online Records Form."

**Goldsmith, Emily O'Connor
Pernice, Doris Clark Tucher** and
Jean Boeder Wetherill.

Edna Choi Law
291 Fisk Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10314-2852

60TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

47 **Jean Connors Caldwell** updates us on her work as advocate for foreign-born children in Springfield, Mass. Jean successfully filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education, on behalf of Somali children who were being placed singly in classes where no one, including the teacher, could speak their language. It has been pronounced that children who don't speak English must be taught by a qualified teacher of English as a second language and if the teacher doesn't speak the child's language, a native language teacher must be provided. A lawyer from Multicultural Education and Training Association notes that the ruling applies throughout the country. Jean and her team must now convince the local school department that remediation for two lost years of schooling must be provided. Congratulations are still in order.

I now apologize for having mislaid news from **Nancy Harris Brach**. After noting that Google listed Nancy as having been chosen as Woman of the Year by a number of organizations, I asked her for details, which she provided. Nancy first obtained a master's in criminal justice, then supported the career of her husband, a lawyer, and raised four children. Nancy filled a number of voluntary posts, then built a career in the field of alcoholism and drug dependence, "where," she writes, "in my own puddle, I've enjoyed a bit of a splash." She retired a few years ago, then took up her volunteer work, serving on the boards of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of New Jersey, Planned Parenthood, a

halfway house for recovering female addicts in Newark, N.J., Montclair Shared Housing, Claring Chamber Players, and from her Truro home, Massachusetts Audubon at the Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary. She has lost her husband but continues her labors.

Marguerite Traeris Harris-Chinkel reports that the 2005-06 recipient of the Class of 1947 Scholarship Fund (a fund which now tops \$40,000) is Erin Bassett-Novoa '06. She's an Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures major from Clinton, N.Y. Erin was also our scholarship student for 2004-05. Marguerite and our president, **Jeanne Bergquist Flagg**, met Erin in April at Barnard's Torchbearers Reception and found her impressive. She's considering going to medical school next year. More than half of Barnard students now need some sort of financial help, and our fund is greatly appreciated, so don't forget it!

The spring issue's In Memoriam noted the death of **Beverly McGraw Hess** in January 2006. We send our condolences to her family.

Betty Warburton Rizzo
40 Earle Place
New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801
914-636-4205

48 **Nora Robell** and your correspondent met Barnard Club of South Florida members for lunch and a ballet class demonstration at the Harid Conservatory, a privately funded prep school for students wishing to pursue professional careers in dance. The demonstration was amazing.

Nancy Ackerson Kowalchuk met with **Jane Sterling Canter** in Sarasota, Fla. Both maintain their ties with their high school in Ridgewood, N.J. Jane, a retired horticulturist, is active in music.

Nancy tells us that **Marguerite St. John Salls**, now widowed, lives in Newport News, Va. Retired from teaching, Maggie keeps busy

volunteering at a local hospital and is involved with a dog training and tracking club. She has two daughters, one son, and several grandchildren.

We had a nice note from Gerald J. Maslon, widower of **Elinor Front Maslon**, calling our attention to the first page of the Winter 2006 issue of *Barnard*. A picture shows producer Dasha Amsterdam Epstein '55 holding a book, *Broadway: The American Musical*. In the lower, righthand corner can be seen the name of the coauthor, Laurence Maslon. He dedicated the book to Elinor, "my dear mother, who gave this funny world to me." We all miss Elinor.

Patricia Jones Thompson co-chaired a symposium at Lehman College. "A Dialogue on Russia and China Today" commemorated the 60th anniversary of the first meetings of the United Nations on American soil, which took place at the Lehman campus in 1946. Pat still teaches full time at Lehman and loves it. She's also enthusiastic about the Russian salons at Barnard. **Genevieve Krause LaRobardier** has an active law practice. We'd like to do a roundup of other classmates with careers at full gallop, so tell us about yours.

Also, please tell us about your special 80th birthday celebrations. If you're among those of us in denial, you might appreciate this from **Lawrie Trevor Nomer** with the theme: "80 today ... so many places I want to go, so much I want to see ... many things I may have done, but there's so much left in store ..." Space doesn't permit us to reprint it in its entirety, but you get the idea. So, happy birthday whenever the big 80 happens for you. For our part, we're taking a trip on the Amazon River. We'll report on the crocs and anacondas, but we'd rather fill this column with news about you!

Frances Jeffery Abramowitz
43 Berkshire Place, Apt. 2
Hackensack, NJ 07601

49 Thirteen classmates gathered at the home of **Ruth Musicant Feder** for lunch, then enjoyed the Charles Darwin exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History across the street. The event was so successful that there may be another mini-reunion this fall. Watch your mail for more information. In attendance were **Lucille Frackman Becker, Marilyn Heggie De Lallo, Jean Horsfall Detiere, Patricia Cecere Doumas, Anne Fessenden, Martha Gross Fink, Barbara Rouse Hatcher, Katherine Hill, Jane Gordon Kaplan, Mary Eitingon Kasindorf, Helen McLaughlin,** and **Marion Bernstein Walldorf.** Unfortunately neither Yvette nor I could be there, but Martha gathered news.

Ruth and her husband, Arthur, went on safari in Kenya with their granddaughter, Calypso, this summer.

Lucille, grandmother of seven and a French scholar, has signed a contract for a book on Élisabeth Vigée-Le Brun, the portrait painter of Marie Antoinette. Her book on the French mystery writer Georges Simenon will be translated into Portuguese and English.

Jean is secretary of the Barnard College Club of New York.

Marilyn is active in the Princeton/Columbia Club, as is Helen, with whom Marilyn travels.

Patricia's husband, John, has a new physician: Carolyn Rochester, the daughter of **Lois Boochever Rochester.** Anne, a French major originally, has been teaching English in China for the past five years and expects to return. She was a senior transfer and, like Jean, was a World War II veteran—Red Cross to Jean's Marines.

Barbara is a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Katherine visited Antarctica, inspired by the movie *March of the*

Penguins. She's a watercolorist and is planning a trip to Mexico.

Jane is maintaining her goal to stay healthy. Her son has moved to Berkeley, Calif., and her daughter is in Manhattan.

Mary, who recently attended the bat mitzvah of her granddaughter, Alana Sara, reads to babies in the Reach Out and Read Program in the Pediatric Clinic at Schneider Hospital on Long Island.

Helen alternates between her Jersey Shore condominium and her Manhattan apartment when she isn't traveling with Marilyn.

Marion escorted two of her granddaughters, Jane and Charlotte, to South Beach for their spring break.

Martha reports that she conducts a weekly class for the non-professional, non-English-speaking employees of the dental clinic at Stony Brook University and is a docent at the Long Island Museum. Her daughter and son-in-law have a retreat near Lois Rochester and her husband. The three families enjoyed a visit at the Rochester home in Charlottesville, Va.

Nicole Weil Bigar donated one of her paintings to the Barnard Spring Party & Auction.

Sadly we must report the deaths of four classmates: **Betty Rubinstein Esner** died on Sept. 17, 2005. A long-time Brooklyn resident, she is survived by her husband, David. **Marion Hausner Pauck** had happy memories of Betty as a fellow philosophy major as did **Marlies Wolf Plotnik.** She was a graphics designer. **Ruth Langdon Inglis** passed away on Dec. 15, 2005, in London, England. She is survived by one son.

Sydelle Stone Shapiro died on Dec. 15, 2005, in Berkshire, Calif., and is survived by two sons and three grandsons. **Jeanne Jahn Gansky** passed away on Dec. 27, 2005. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, and five grandchildren. She never missed a reunion. We were both active

in Newman Club affairs as students and alumnae. Our sincere condolences to their families. We'll miss them.

—RSG

Rosary Scacciaferro Gilheany
11 Glenside Trail
Califon, NJ 07830-4008
gilheany@goes.com

Yvette Delabarre DeFelice
311 Main St.
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660-1535
201-641-0668
yd311@aol.com

50 On April 28, 16 classmates (one honorary), one alumna daughter, and two friends attended a mini-reunion held in New York at Rockefeller University. We enjoyed lunch and conversation in a private wood-paneled library after a superb violin and piano concert. Response forms from the mini-reunion brought news from several attendees:

Mary Carroll Nelson reports a "flurry of venues" for her art in recent months, notably at the Museum of Fine Arts in Las Cruces, N.M., and a gallery in Albuquerque. **Miriam Scharfman Zadek**, who was originally to be in Berlin at the time of the mini-reunion, does fund-raising work for the seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth, Md., and for the Barnard Fund. **Christina Lammers Hirschhorn** is planning for a ski trip to Alta, Utah, and an Elderhostel theatre fortnight in London. **Greta Hersch Granet** lives in Longboat Key, Fla., but recently traveled to Los Altos, Calif., where she joined **Elaine Wiener Berman, Beverly Beck Fuchs,** and **Rosanne Dryfuss Leeson** for a West Coast luncheon. **Marie Noyes Murray** took winter art classes and played tennis in Bradenton, Fla., and enjoyed summer gardening and opera in Hartwick, N.Y. **Margarida Pyles West** lives in Sag Harbor, N.Y. **Yolanda Pyles Wesely** moved to Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. **Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum** writes of the death in

February of her husband, Bernard. Many paid tribute to "Bernie" in obituaries that appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Scarsdale Inquirer*, including associates from his law firm and many of his acquaintances from civic, government, and religious organizations. A scholarship at Yale College is being established in his name. Miriam tells us that Bernie was not only an unusually close and loving father to their sons, Daniel and Jonathan, but a caring father-in-law to his two daughters-in-law and a devoted grandfather to his four grandchildren.

Noreen McDonough Fuerstman manned a telephone at The Barnard Fund Phonathon in early May and spoke with **Joyce Alessandrini**, who has retired from government work in Washington, D.C., and now enjoys volunteer activities in Niskayuna, N.Y., and participates in local theatre.

We're sorry to report the death in January of **Dorothy Durfee Wurtmann**, who is survived by three sons and five grandchildren.

The news of **Marilyn Schulhof Smith's** death on May 9 was reported in the *New York Times*. After Barnard, "Chickie" went on to do graduate study at Union Theological Seminary. She taught philosophy at Quinnipiac College, Central Connecticut State College, and, for 21 years, at the University of Hartford. She is survived by her husband, John, two daughters, and one grandson.

Several classmates participated in a memorial service for **Gail Gould** held on April 29 at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, N.Y. She had so many friends who appreciated her quiet, always efficient help whenever and wherever she was needed.

—COB

Carolyn Ogden Brotherton
59 Bridge Road
Orleans, MA 02653
gjleac@aol.com

Nancy Nicholson Joline
7 Woodland Drive
Huntington, NY 11743-1539
631-423-4940
ejoline@optonline.net

51 Our 55th Reunion has come and gone and to many of us it seemed not so long ago that we had our 50th Reunion. As always, it was a wonderful weekend, filled with many events and opportunities to learn something new, while remembering the past. One of the highlights was the AABC Annual Awards Luncheon, where **Betsy Wade** won the Millicent McIntosh Feminism Award. Betsy's an editor, reporter, and activist for women's rights. She retired from the *New York Times* in 2001. She lives with her husband, James Boylan, on the West Side. They have two sons and six grandchildren. Congratulations Betsy!

Another highlight was the class dinner, which was held in the Sulzberger Hall Tower Suite on the 17th floor, featuring a beautiful view, good food, and great company. The following classmates attended our dinner: **Denise Andreu, Bernice Liberman Auslander, Diane Gould Berkeley, Miriam Nelson Brown, Jacqueline Kunitz Cappiello, Shirley Clark Feldmann, Ruth Norbury Fitting, Susan Harris Ginsberg, Olga Jargstorff Hughes, Naomi Loeb Lipman, Joan Henderson McCain, Elaine Viola Herera Morton, Barbara Fischer Moses, Virginia Kraft Payson, Lucille Gottlieb Porter, Bernice (Bunny) Greenfield Silverman, Paula Weltz Spitalny, Donna Coplin Swartz, Carol Vogel Towbin, Betsy Wade, Adrienne Colabella White, and Joan Steen Wilentz.** If you came to reunion, but didn't go to the class dinner, don't hesitate to let me know and I'll make sure your name appears in the

next issue of *Barnard*. I didn't attend the Gala Dinner on Saturday, so I welcome comments from classmates who did.

Unfortunately, there's also some sad news to report. **Arden Suk Ruttenberg** notified us that **Virginia Schleussner Heady** passed away at the end of March. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her daughter, Sarah, her two grandchildren and a niece.

Let me close this news column by thanking all of my classmates who have sent me news, happy and sad, over the past 10 years. I hope you'll continue to write to our new class correspondent: Joan Henderson McCain.

—Helena Baan Verhave
Joan Henderson McCain
38 Livingston Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

55TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

52 Class members in New York City and Boston have been rallying around **Elizabeth (Bettina) Blake**, who suffered a stroke in New York immediately upon arriving to attend a planning meeting for next year's class reunion. She returned to Boston, where she's undergoing therapy and doing well, we're told.

In the winter, Bettina spoke at Barnard's Project Continuum Tea and Talk about Transitions. **Mary Lee Fuhr Baranger** spoke at the group's spring meeting. The programs were themed to "Moving On: Lifestyles in Retirement." Bettina talked about her move from the rural Midwest to the heart of downtown Boston; Mary Lee spoke about one of a growing number of alternative residence possibilities for older adults.

Francine Du Plessix Gray addressed the graduates at Barnard's 114th Commencement on May 16. Francine compared the ancient ideal of heroic valor and the commitment and courage of such present-day figures as the Reverend William Sloan

Coffin, a peace and civil rights activist, and human rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize-winner Aung San Suukyi of Burma. Earlier this year, Francine received the 2006 National Book Critics Circle Award for her latest book, *Them: A Memoir of Parents*.

Ruth Ryskind Ohman and her cousin, Linda Stewart, attended *Of Thee I Sing*, the musical comedy Ruth's father, Morrie Ryskind, co-authored with George S. Kaufman. The play, the first musical to receive the Pulitzer Prize, enjoyed a limited run in May.

Dion Alden Holt is delighted to report that her granddaughter, Zoe, was named photographer of the year by the University of Pennsylvania.

Vera Halleman Leifman visits with family in far-flung places: two children and five grandchildren in Israel and two children and one grandchild in Washington, D.C. An accomplished violinist who pursued a professional career when she was young, Vera now plays with non-professional chamber music groups.

Penelope Mousouris Collins reports that her days are happily spent reading, traveling, and getting together with friends.

After 20 years living outside the United States, **Josephine Nelson De Giorgis** now lives in New York City near her children and grandchildren. Although she doesn't get back to Barnard, Josephine expressed her gratitude for her Barnard education when we chatted recently.

Ronnie Myers Eldridge drew on her years of political experience to speak about trends in politics at the annual meeting and dinner of the Barnard College Club of New York in May. Those who came to cheer Ronnie on included Mary Lee, **Muriel LaCroix Briand, Harriet Newman Cohen, Ruth (Bunny) Mayers Goldhaber, Millicent Lieberman Greenberg, Michela Mitchell Halpern, Claire Delage Metz, Ruth Ryskind Ohman, Ruth**

Montgomery Reeves, Inez Schapiro Reiser, Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt, Elizabeth Bache Shwal, and me. In March, on her weekly half-hour television show, *Eldridge & Co.*, Ronnie interviewed President Judith Shapiro. The show is broadcast on the City University of New York network. Alumnae in the New York area can view it Sunday mornings on channel 75.

Planning for our 55th Reunion in 2007 is underway. If you're in the New York area and would like to help, please let Marilyn Rosenblatt know. If you're not in the New York area but would like to make suggestions, please e-mail your thoughts to Marilyn at blatteda@aol.com.

Margaret (Peggy) Collins Maron
220 E. 31st St.
Brooklyn, NY 11226-5504
pegmaron@aol.com

53 Sonya Livshin Gordon, of San Francisco, happily reports the birth of her third granddaughter, Natalie Sophia, daughter of Elizabeth Gordon Jonckheer '90. Natalie joins two older sisters. Sonya finds San Francisco, where she's renting for the time being, reminiscent of New York City in the 1950s and 1960s. On good days, she can see a mountain and a bit of the bay from her apartment.

Anne Schwartz Toft, who has lived in Plantation, Fla., for the past 15 years, is now co-president of the Barnard College Club of South Florida. The club's most recent event was a well-attended brunch and panel at the Bonaventure Club in Weston. The panel, on women in politics, was moderated by Elaine Bernstein Bloom '57. Anne and her husband, Arthur, have three children and five grandchildren. My husband, Gene, and I spent a delightful afternoon with the Tofts and now have new friends through the Barnard connection.

Gene and I have been to opposite ends of the pendulum on the worlds'

rivers. In December, we cruised 1,000 miles on the Amazon where some communities were stranded because of drought conditions. In April, the opposite occurred on the Rhine and Danube; we were on a riverboat that could not get under a bridge because of the rising Rhine and finally all riverboat traffic was halted in Austria because of the flooding Danube (reportedly the worst in 100 years). You never know what adventures travel will bring.

Stephanie Lam Pollack
30214 Cartier Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-5722
StephanieBPollack@alum.barnard.edu

54 A mini-reunion on April 28 was held at Rockefeller University, where we enjoyed a wonderful piano and violin recital, followed by lunch. Attending were yours truly, **Cynthia Dortz, Ronda Shainmark Gelb** and her husband, Al, **Joan Ghiselin, Marie Chapuis Lempert** and her husband, Dick, **Jeanine Parisier Plottel** and her husband, Roland, **Renee Shakin Rakow, Doris Barker Shiller, Marietta Voglis, Arlene Kelley Winer**, and her husband, Arnold.

Mary Lou also brought a distinguished guest, Dr. Frederick Seitz, president emeritus of Rockefeller University, former president of the National Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the Smithsonian. Cynthia retired from Red Cross volunteering, but she says working out three times a week is like going to work. When Cynthia went to Machu Picchu she hiked the Inca Trail. Ronda spends five weekdays in "the city" and weekends in New Jersey. Her husband still works two days a week. He's chairman emeritus of the Beth Israel Hospital gastroenterology department. Renee, retired from work as a travel agent, now volunteers at Hackensack Hospital and teaches English culture to Russian émigrés. She's very proud

of her granddaughter, Sara, who initiated a Green Ribbon Campaign at the Fieldston School that raised quite a bit of money for Darfur. Doris has retired from law practice and spends time with her grandchildren and “doing everything I haven’t had a chance to do in 30 years.”

The class extends its condolences to Marietta who lost her husband in August. She’s working through the loss, which brought her to take a trip to South America from Buenos Aires to Santiago. Joan retired and enjoys opera and playing with her grandchildren. Jeanine has retired as executive director of the New York Conference of the American Association of University Professors and is doing “other things.”

Marcia Musicant Bernstein and her husband, Neil, drove to Louisville to continue the reunion she and **Ruth Lerman Fitzpatrick** started in Nova Scotia last summer. The occasion was a 50-year retrospective of the work of Ruth’s husband, Joe, a noted artist in his area. They were “awestruck by the enormous amount of work ... to say nothing of the talent.”

Dorothy Cohn Feldman is “recovering nicely from a fancy heart attack.” She’s doing all the puzzles she likes, seeing people, and resting a lot. She still finds the telephone the best way to visit people all over the map.

In April, **M. Jane Webb D’Arista** was in England sharing a landmark trust house with friends, a pleasure trip after giving a paper in February at The Hague “with two days of Rembrandt and Vermeer thrown in.” Last year she taught at The New School in the spring, the University of Utah in the fall, and did various writing assignments “all of which tested my denial of aging.” She’s planning to retire next March—but her children are skeptical.

Our condolences to the family of

Marian Schapierer Sneider who passed away on Dec. 7, 2005.

Marlene Ader Lerner
126 Kensington Oval
New Rochelle, NY 10805-2906
acoustico@aol.com

55 Join us on Oct. 3, at 12 p.m., for lunch in New York City. For details please contact **Jane Were-Bey Gardner** at 718-885-1803, 917-612-4421 or myblueboat@aol.com.

Two recent fund-raising events for scholarship aid for Barnard students were very successful. First, the Spring Party & Auction, co-chaired by **Diana Touliatou Vagelos** and honoring Broadway producer **Dasha Amsterdam Epstein**, attracted more than 500 donors. In attendance were **Gisela von Scheven Fort**, **Barbara Kahn Gaba**, **Duane Lloyd Patterson**, **Eva Isaak Rossman**, **Marcella Jung Rosen Sacks**, **Carol Held Scharff**, **Mirella d’Ambrosio Servodidio**, and **Renee Becker Swartz**. Dasha received the Frederick A.P. Barnard Award for her body of work as a producer, her support of young aspiring writers and directors, and her efforts to bring new audiences to theatre. The event, held at The Puck Building in Manhattan, included a silent auction, live auction, and a raffle drawing.

The Barnard Club of Monmouth County sponsored the second scholarship event on July 11 at the Ocean Beach Club in Elberon, N.J. The lunch was organized by Renee Becker Swartz, our class president, who was ably assisted by **Louise Cohen Silverman** and **Tamara Rippner Casriel**. The guest speaker was Corinne Paul, a librarian and president of the Jane Austen Society in the United States.

Dawn Lille’s secondary school publication, *Brooklyn Friends Newsletter*, profiled her, tracking her career as a teacher of dance and as a researcher, investigator, recorder, and eventually

curator of an exhibit containing the oral histories and photo images of many classically trained black dancers. Dawn is seeking to transform this exhibit into a book about the difficulties African Americans have faced in their quest to become students and performers of ballet.

Mirella, retired from teaching at Barnard, is an active member of the Project Continuum board, with responsibility for the Faculty Twilight Lecture Series. The lecture “Beauty and Self-Fashioning in the Ancient Roman Empire,” by Natalie Kampen, professor of women’s studies, was most successful. Under consideration, Mirella writes, is the possibility of holding lectures in venues off campus, such as the apartments of alumnae. Mirella is also likely to take a WQXR sponsored cruise to Athens in October.

Marcella is another busy traveler. Last spring, she took an MIT trip on the American Orient Express, which she described as “a beautifully refurbished old railroad train.” It took her from Washington, D.C., to Savannah, Ga., stopping at Chancellorville, Charleston, Fort Sumter, Fredericksberg, and Richmond. A great deal of Civil War history was discussed. Marcella writes, “I’d forgotten the South is a somewhat different culture. Some referred to the Civil War as the ‘Northern war of aggression’ or the ‘recent unpleasantness.’”

Please share some of your travel experiences with the class. This summer I visited Barcelona, returned via rail to Paris to visit with **Lenore Prostick Gouyet**, then traveled to California, where **Hessy Levinsons Taft**, **Louise Cohen Silverman**, and **Sylvia Simmons Prozan** planned to be at the same time.

Joyce Shimkin Usiskin
2 Bellflower Court
Princeton, NJ 08540
732-355-0915
cliveu@aol.com

56 Well, they called us the Silent Generation—but you should have heard us at our 50th Reunion. Ladies, we have found our voices. Words flowed like rivers at flood stage. And we've found our purses. Our class's participation in the Barnard Fund was 69 percent—a record-breaker—and funds collected totaled more than \$278,000.

Peggy Anne Gilcher Siegmund flew in from Kailua, Hawaii, to attend reunion. A music major, she's active in her field and is heading a magnet school for the performing arts in Hawaii.

Roberta Wallace Longsworth, now retired, said she's active as a volunteer at programs at Muhlenberg College. She lives in Allentown, Pa.

Louise Sadler Kiessling, professor emeritus of pediatric and family medicine at Brown, went to Brown's medical school in the 1970s and did her residency at Harvard. As chief pediatrician at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, she devoted her career to the study and care of children with behavioral, learning, and development problems.

Anita Maceo Creem, who majored in zoology, lives in Needham, Mass., and has spent her entire career in medical research.

Gloria Barry Cherry, a lawyer in Park Ridge, N.J., has put her law degree to work as a mediator.

Julia Keydel, who lives in Manhattan, teaches in the film program at NYU.

Catherine Comes Haight is retired from the board of editors at Time-Life and now splits her year between homes in Hilton Head, S.C., and Darien, Conn.

Barbara Florio Graham writes that she can't seem to retire, a condition many of our class seem to share. The 20th anniversary edition of one of her books was published last fall, and she continues to publish under the

Simon Teakettle imprint. She does a lot of her work online now, mentoring writers and self-publishers, managing writing projects, and teaching her courses as online tutorials.

Naomi Stone Cohen teaches full-time and has no interest in retiring.

Ellen Rae Batt, who teaches anatomy and physiology at LaGuardia Community College, writes, "I had only myself to worry about when I was a Barnard student. Some of these students work full-time and have children to care for. Their needs are so great."

Sarah Barr Snook gets my vote as wonder of the class. She majored in English and worked at IBM for 30 years. She says dryly, "Well, all companies have to learn how to communicate."

Irma Kurtz, a writer living in London, flew to New York for reunion.

Diane Woolfe Camber traveled from Miami, where she's executive director and chief curator of the Bass Museum of Art.

There were a lot of touching moments as I caught up with friends as well as classmates I didn't know awfully well. What I'll remember as one of the most touching events is the beautiful Barnard memorial service for those students, beginning with the class of 1926, who have died. Thirty-eight of those listed were members of our class. Among those singled out in personal tributes were **Ann Sperber** and **Elizabeth Cater**.

Deceased members of the faculty who made a difference in our young lives also were among those remembered.

—*Kathryn Finegan Clark*

Toby Stein
45 Church Street, Apt. C7
Montclair, NJ 07042-2734
973-744-0475
tobyfstein@aol.com

50TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

57 **Miriam Herman Hoffberg** writes: "In the late 1970s, my husband, Ted,

relocated his business and we moved to Connecticut. Soon afterward, my mother became ill and lived with us for more than 20 years. During that time, the kids grew up, became professionals, and started families of their own. Actually, we've become more of a dynasty, since our five children have given us 16 grandchildren, from infants to adults. Our eldest child will be 50 and his eldest daughter will be 25 this month. All of our children became engineers.

Two are graduates of Columbia; the others attended MIT, Yale, and Tufts as undergraduates. Howard studied chemical engineering and is now a physiatrist (do NOT read 'psychiatrist') specializing in lower back pain. Robert and Steven studied electrical engineering and then used this background to become patent attorneys. Rob is an examiner for the U.S. Patent Office, and Steve is in private practice in Westchester, N.Y. Mike also studied electrical engineering and now concentrates on satellite imaging. Linda, our only daughter, is a human factors engineer who specializes in making electronic equipment user-friendly. Each of the grandchildren, however, has followed his own inclinations. Ted and I are retired. I was a special education teacher, and, until three years ago, Ted owned a factory, which made spare parts for the military. Recently, we both went back to school to take courses of interest, but we weren't able to continue—it was too hard to make the time commitment and keep up with our children and grandchildren. I look forward to our 50th Reunion and renewing old acquaintances. The only classmate whom I see regularly is **Deborah Riback Zwang**, who also lives in West Hartford, Conn."

Sylvia Schneider Martin's husband, Bill, writes, "Sylvia has been in a skilled nursing facility for many years and has had Alzheimer's for many more years. I wish there were some-

thing good to report about that most wonderful person.”

We were saddened to learn that **Gisele Melman Melnick** died on May 2. Our sympathies go to her family. We also learned of the death of **Lois Frank Grinker** on May 18, 2006. Lois' husband, Charles Grinker, writes that she died “after a two-year struggle with cancer. I do recall Lois reminiscing about her many pleasant experiences at Barnard. She used her education wisely and well. She was a remarkable person, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, and we all miss her very much.” Our sympathies to both families.

Millicent Alter
172 W. 79th St., Apt. 7-E
New York, NY 10024-6402
walkietalkie@alum.barnard.edu

Judith Jaffe Baum
150 W. 96th Street
New York, NY 10025-6469
jbauminfo@aol.com

58 In early March, I braved the wintry cold of Washington, D.C., to spend some quality time with my former roommate **Mary Ann (Map) Pollack Dubner**. We saw a ballet at the Kennedy Center, visited the National Museum of the American Indian, and hiked the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail in Great Falls, Md. Map is a practicing psychologist but is talking about retirement. Her husband, Ron, is chair of the department of oral, cranial, and behavioral sciences at the University of Maryland Dental School.

Map and I also went to a mini-reunion wine and cheese event held at the home of **Diana Rosenberg Engel** in Washington, D.C. Co-presidents **Carol Schott Sterling** and **Doris Platzker Friedensohn** drove down from New York to attend. **Carol Feldman Newman**, **Patricia Portnoy Palombo**, and **Sara Rubinow Simon** were also there. We talked about aging (most of

us are 69), shared stories, and reminisced about our perceptions of the college experience. Coincidentally, we found out that four of the women present had graduated together from Music & Art High School, and two of them also went to P.S. 9 in New York. Doris read an excerpt from her delicious new book: *Eating as I Go: Scenes from America and Abroad* (University Press of Kentucky, 2006).

The class executive committee is planning more mini-reunions as a preliminary to our 50-year “biggie” in 2008. One, slated for Oct. 22, will be at co-correspondent **Hannah Razdow Simon**'s home in Arlington, Mass. Look for further announcements, or e-mail Hannah if you'll be in the Boston area in October.

Carol Newman still enjoys being a psychologist, doing individual, couple, and group psychotherapy along with clinical hypnosis. She has returned to cello lessons and is in the National Institute of Health Philharmonia Orchestra, performing four concerts this year. She plays chamber music regularly and also plays the cello at some services in her synagogue. Her husband, Stan Newman (C Law '58), retired from government service and now is a consultant. Carol admits she's lucky to have her two children and five grandkids living nearby.

Maida Zuparn Maxham and her husband, David, bought, “on impulse,” a 25-foot RV and dubbed it Lambchop. She keeps in touch with friends via a “Letter from Lambchop” with accompanying digital images. “I guess I have come kicking and screaming into the 21st century after having lived the life of a Luddite,” she muses. Maida e-mails her regards and sends this travelogue: “We are buzzing through Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, hiking and photographing as we go, everything from the sublime to the ridiculous. Leaving from Sanibel, we found towns in

western Florida named Eridu and Iddo, places where Andy Kaufman's character Latka Gravis may have settled. Also Niceville, no doubt a suburb of Gotham City. Amarillo had the famous Cadillac Ranch, upended 1950s and 1960s Cadillacs set at a rakish angle, a latter day Stonehenge. Nearby was a sign for the Bates Motel: “Hot showers and taxidermy.”

We're sorry to report the death of **Jill Brennan Lee** in February. She is survived by her husband, Richard, two children, and several grandchildren.

Marcia Spelman De Fren
7744 Spring Creek Drive, Riverwalk
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
marciadefren@msn.com

Hannah Razdow Simon
34 Webcowet Road
Arlington, MA 02474
Hannah.Simon@comcast.net

59 **Lynn Fieldman Miller** was installed as the president elect of the Middlesex County (N.J.) Bar Association on May 24.

Iris Nelson-Schwartz and Dr. Alfred Schwartz, after being life partners for many years, were married in December 2005. Iris, a retired school and rehabilitation counselor, works part-time with the New York City department of education in special education at P.S. 186, Bronx. Alfred is a retired associate professor of oral surgery at the College of Dentistry of New York University.

60 **Erna Olafson** writes that her daughter, Elizabeth Marshall, and her son-in-law, Chad, have two daughters, Kyla Jean, almost 2, and Iliana Faith, 4-months-old. Elizabeth and Chad graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Jean Friedberg Nordhaus is the winner of the 2006 Ohio State University Press/The Journal Award in Poetry for her collection, *Innocence*, which will be published by the OSU

Press in the autumn. The award also carries a monetary prize. Her other books include *The Porcelain Apes of Moses Mendelssohn*, *A Bracelet of Lies*, *A Language of Hands*, and *My Life in Hiding*, which won a Colladay Award in 1991. Jean's poetry has appeared in *The New Republic*, *Tikkun*, *Hudson Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*, among others. She lives in Washington, D.C.

Joy Hochstadt would like to organize "small group travel to specialized venues among classmates, now that many of us have more flexible time to do so. For example, any South Seas experts in the group?"

Susan Goldhor traveled abroad for the summer.

I, **Muriel Lederman Storrie**, am trying to figure out what to do after retirement, but academia still follows me; invitations stemming from my last research award on feminist science teaching keep coming my way. And I have at least two papers yet to write while the possibility of a book manuscript percolates.

—MLS

Muriel Lederman Storrie
1422 So. Arch St.
Little Rock, AR 72202
501-690-4804 lederman@vt.edu

Joy Hochstadt
300 Central Park West, Suite 2E
New York, NY 10024
joie@stanfordalumni.org

Susan Goldhor
45B Museum Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-1921
susangoldhor@comcast.net

45TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

62 The class dinner for our 45th Reunion is on June 1, 2007. Please check www.alum.barnard.edu/1962 for updates. The following 48 classmates plan to attend: **Alice Finkelstein Alekman, Nancy Davis-Imhof, Angela Carracino DiDomenico, Carolyn Brown Disco, Vivian Levy Ebersman, Eleanor Edelstein, Roxanne Cohen Fischer, Linda Roth Futterman, Rhea Gaisner, Ellen Shertzer Goldberg, Rosalind Marshack Gordon, Karen Charal Gross, Sally Hess, Linda Benjamin Hirschson, Harriet Schwarz Holtzman, Harriet Kaye Inselbuch, Ann Sue Kober-Werner, Joan Lewis Kretschmer, Marsha Wittenberg Lewin Latiner, Barbara Fogel Levine, Marsha Corn Levine, Rosalie**

Sacks Levine, Linda Fayne Levinson, Barbara Lovenheim, Sara Ginsberg Marks, Ruth Nemzoff, Carol Ratner Ofstein, Vivian Himmelweit Palmer, Joy Felsher Perla, Linda Rosenblum Persily, Joyce Ragen Prenner, Susan Levenson Pringle, Rita Gabler Rover, Deborah Bersin Rubin, Elinor Yudin Sachse, Nancy Brown Schmiderer, Susan Taube Schwelling, Roslyn Leventhal Siegel, Judith Terry Smith, Ruth Klein Stein, Laura Sucher, Ellen Torrance, Marcia Stecker Weller, Patricia Berko Wild, Annabelle Winograd Melzer, Ruth Wilson Witten, Nancy Kung Wong, and Roberta Roth Yared.

Please let me know if you plan to attend reunion so I can add you to the list. Also let me know if you'd like to work on the reunion committee. It's a lot of fun and really helps to make you a part of the event.

Fifteen classmates enjoyed a gathering on April 23 at **Linda Benjamin Hirschson's** apartment on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. In attendance were Vivian Levy Ebersman, Linda Roth Futterman, Ellen Shertzer Goldberg, Rosalind Marshack Gordon, Karen Charal Gross, Joan Lewis Kretschmer, Barbara Fogel Levine (who traveled from Maryland), Sara Ginsberg Marks, Linda Rosenblum Persily, Rita Gabler Rover, Deborah Bersin Rubin, Nancy Brown Schmiderer, Roslyn Leventhal Siegel, and Nancy Kung Wong. There was a lively discussion of ideas for our 45th Reunion. Half of the group volunteered to work on reunion.

There are 28 alumnae we haven't been able to get in touch with. Please let me know if you have information on any of the following: **Linda Cross, Sheila Nathanson Duncan, Nancy Fisher, Ellen Frye, Martha Adams Galli, Carla Gilbert, Lisa Volow**

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Golombek, Sandra Clough Gorry, M. Abigail Harris, Carol Gray Hosenfeld, Patricia Brooks Hughes, Barbara Louise Kann, Anja Kaarnasalo Kauppinen, Sara Bush Miles, Rose Rehm Morehead, Amelia Merian Moseley, Christina Latkiewicz Muir, Henryka Buyniski Maslowski, Leslie Sherover Newman, Vera Orlic, E. Ann Porch, Zakiya Jung Powell, Elaine Seiler, Kathy Sloane Solomon, Mary Turley, Ruth Craven Waters, Mary Masson Weinberger, and **Danielle Zierer.**

Since this column space is practically exhausted by names, I promise to share the details of the New York gathering and other class news in my next e-mail newsletter. Please send me your latest e-mail address. Thanks.

Susan Levenson Pringle
25619 Cordova Place
Rio Verde, AZ 85263
480-471-7339
susique@aol.com

63 Two of our classmates passed away this year. **Dorothy Shustin Shatzky** died on Sept. 8, 2004. She was the author of *Facing Multiple Sclerosis*, a condition she suffered from for over 20 years. Her widower, Joel, writes, "She was a courageous and good-humored woman. Our children, Judith and Benjamin, and I miss her very much."

Ethel Joseph BarNoon, MD, MPH, died on May 10 at Baystate Medical Center. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and School of Public Health, she practiced medicine in Amherst, Israel, New York City, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Shlomo, her four children, and her three grandchildren. Ethel was a remarkably good-natured traveler.

When I was experimenting with being a hippy in San Francisco, I found her in a clinic; she cured my flu and then sent me home to New Jersey.

Bette Steinberg Tiago's daughter, Dr. Janine Tiago, married Eckart Beuttenmuller on May 14 at the Tribeca Rooftop. Janine is a PhD and clinical psychologist, and Eckart is a PhD and Fulbright scholar who works as a chemist for Bayer. The interfaith ceremony was beautiful and the food wonderful. Good luck to the couple.

Joan Epstein Sher, who holds a degree in arts management from Carnegie Mellon, is managing director of the Riverside Symphony, which has its concerts in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. Joan had a similar position in Pittsburgh but moved to New York seven years ago. She and her husband have four kids, all of whom have moved within the last few years to New York City. Her daughter, Susanne Arbitman, graduated from Barnard in 1988.

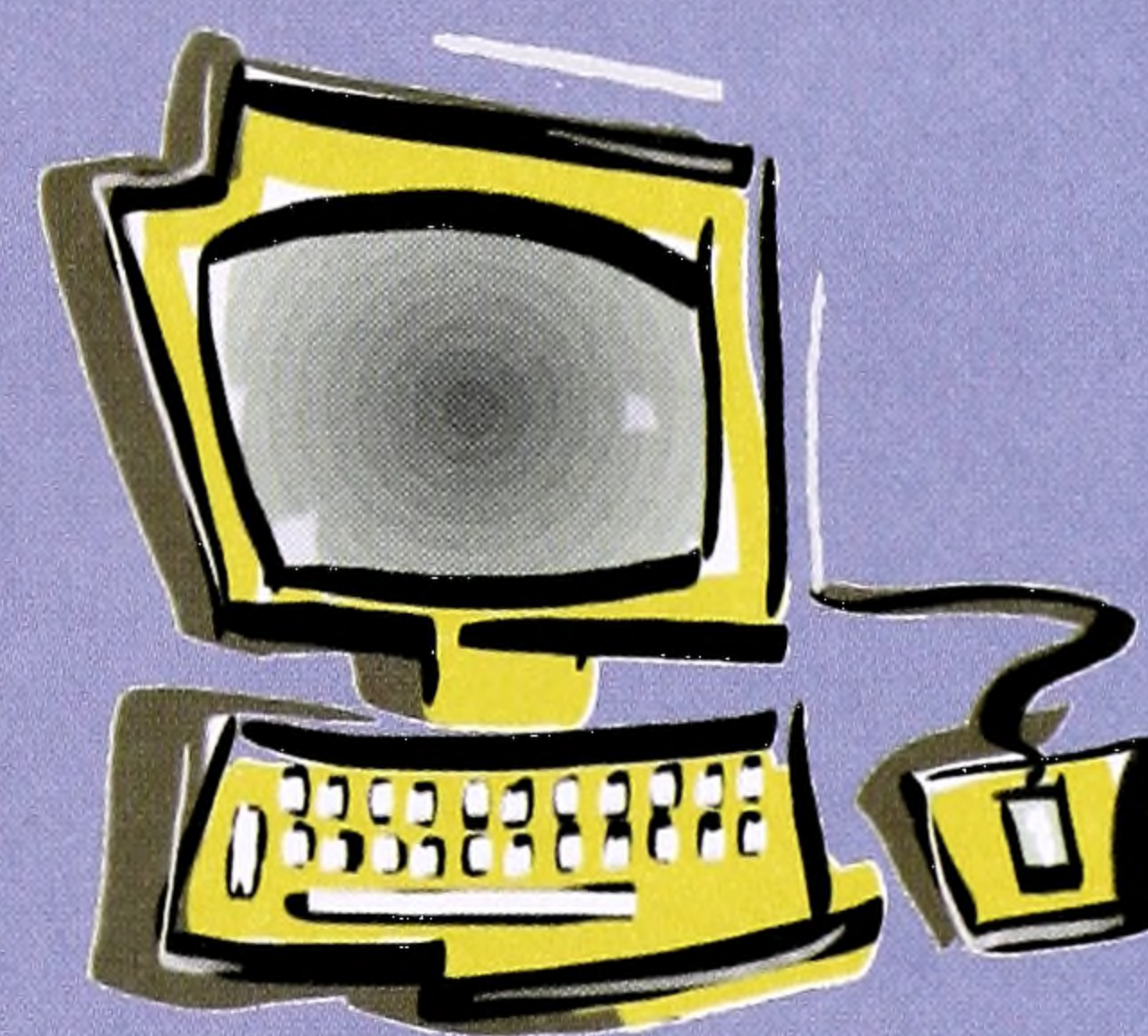
Linda Rolnitzky Namrow writes, "It was a pleasure to speak with **Alice Miller Jacobs Weiss,** who requested a brief description of my last 40 years. My husband, Jim, and I live a stone's throw from Barnard. In fact, with the exception of a year in Florence, Italy, in 1969, Morningside Heights has been my home. I am a biostatistician, currently working in the division of biostatistics (headed by Judith Goldberg '65) at the NYU School of Medicine. Jim is a distinguished historian, working on a massive biography (when will he ever finish it?). We are hooked on the city. At the moment, we cannot envision living elsewhere."

Wendy Supovitz Reilly was awarded the Columbia University Distinguished Service Alumnae Medal at commencement. A tea was given in Sulzberger Parlor on May 17 to honor her leadership of Project Continuum: Barnard Women in Transition, which addresses the needs

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of alumnae 50 years of age and older. Wendy expanded the program to include midlife issues.

Vera Wagner Frances
1710 Avenida del Mundo, Apt. 608
Coronado, CA 92118-3047
619-437-1980

Alice Miller Jacobs Weiss
172 Tubman Road
Brewster, MA 02631-2500
amjweiss@alum.barnard.edu

64 Long-lost classmate **Margery Ellen Sorock** was briefly in the United States but writes that she has returned to her home in Cartagena, Colombia, with her family in tow. "The family consists of my 93-year-old mother and my handicapped brother. We made the big move at the end of December

and we are not looking back. Adjusting has had its challenges but I think we will all survive. I am in the final stages of a doctorate in Spanish language and literature and my thesis topic is the fiction of Eligio García Márquez, the youngest of the García Márquez family (and the first to die). His writing style is very different from that of his oldest brother, the Nobel Prize-winning Gabriel, but, in my humble opinion, worthy of attention and accolades.”

Alice Lippman, who delighted and surprised us by attending reunion, is now **Marya Lippman Wolfman**. She lives in the Boston area, where she works in software quality assurance and has published an illustrated e-book about global warming inspired by the Native American creation myth of the Fifth World. For more information see www.wolfclan.com.

Renee Cherow-O’Leary is a professor of English education at Teachers College. Her daughter works for a nonprofit in New York; her son is with a film studio in Hollywood. Renee’s husband is a psychoanalyst.

Judith Cushman Quick announces that her firm, Judith Cushman & Associates, a retained search and consulting firm specializing for more than 20 years in communications recruiting, has launched a blog for senior public relations, investor relations, and communications professionals. The blog’s purpose is to get people discussing important issues in the field, especially the problem of pay inequalities between men and women and the fact that 70 percent of top jobs are held by men. She’s hoping to have input on these issues from classmates and leaders in PR. The blog is www.jc-a.com/Blog/JCABlog.htm.

Rae Temkin Edelson, director of Gateway Arts, a comprehensive art center in Brookline, Mass., for adults with disabilities, was recently elected public citizen of the year by that state’s chapter of the National Association of

Social Workers. She still writes plays. Her current project is a play about love and relationships with fathers. Rae would like to hear from classmates for an upcoming project at Boston’s Arsenal Center for the Arts, where she serves on the board. The project involves a proposed exhibition of art by people who are or have been incarcerated. You can contact Rae through the online alumnae directory, www.barnard.edu/alum. Rae’s son Jay lives in Chicago, and her son Chris lives in Washington, D.C. Both are attorneys. Rae’s two grandchildren, Leah and Jonah, live in Chicago.

Andrea Machlin Rosenthal
202 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02116
andrearosenthal@comcast.net

66 With sadness, I report the death of **Teresa Staff** in January of 2003.

Diane Raphael has been honored as Greeter of the Year by Big Apple Greeter, an organization whose mission is “to enhance New York City’s image while enriching the City experience for its visitors.” Diane enjoys the opportunity “to welcome people from around the world and share with them my appreciation of unique and culturally diverse New York.”

Rhea Jacobs has received a paralegal certificate and is “happily working for an attorney in St. Louis.”

Our 40th Reunion was fabulous. Many classmates attended for the first time. The festivities began Thursday evening with a cocktail party hosted by **Susan Weis Mindel** and her husband, Joel, in their townhouse. We’re indebted to the Mindels for opening their home to us while it’s still undergoing renovation (they haven’t yet moved in). Joining us was President Judith Shapiro, who entertained us with a song. **Carrie L. Wilson** and **Janet Sullivan**, both professional singers, contributed their musical talents as well. On Friday, Pennsylvania State Senator **Constance Hess**

Williams received the Distinguished Alumna Award at the AABC Annual Luncheon. Singled out for applause at the luncheon was **Susan Kornzweig Fleischman**’s mother-in-law, 100-year-old Etta Greenberg Fleischman ’26.

The results of our class survey, edited and compiled by **Cheryl Shaffer Greene** and her committee, were announced at our class dinner on Friday evening. We also received our class reunion booklets, edited by **Louise Sobin Hersh**. Saturday’s program included award-winning screenwriter and professor of screenwriting **Janet Roach** on the Women and Film panel. The final class event of the weekend was brunch and a tour of the museum at the New-York Historical Society. **Linda Rappaport Ferber**, the Society’s vice president and museum director, led the tour of, as she calls it, “New York City’s attic.” The group enjoyed this so much that we’re considering another visit next spring. Our reunion committee included Linda Ferber, Cheryl Shaffer Greene, **Phyllis Shapiro Hantman**, **Nanci Weisz Healy**, Louise Hersh, **Linda Lovas Hoeschler**, **Lynne Moriarty Langlois**, **Susan Weis Mindel**, **Nancy Tally Polevoy**, **Diane Raphael**, **Marcia Weinstein Stern**, **Andrea Gray Stillman**, **Leah Seltzer Tarlow**, **Carrie Wilson**, and **Janet Levitt Zalkin**. Among the other attendees were **Ruth Hachenburg Adelman**, **Kate Bagley**, **Maira Brouman Barnette**, **Paula Bassoff**, **Jane Reckford Biba**, **Mary Siegel Bleiberg**, **Dorothy Chen-Courtin**, **Susan Cohn**, **Stephani Cook**, **Barbara Rubin Cooper**, **Joy Markman Davis**, **Susan Morris De Jong**, **Barbara Grado Devir**, **Sara Dulaney**, **Karen Wessel Edelstein**, **Adaeze O. Ezekoye**, **Susan Fleischman**, **Iris Chuyen Freeman**, **Celia**

Genishi, Alice Rubinstein Gochman, Norma Green, Susan Halper, Katherine Hoffman, Dana Jacobi, Barbara Jorrisch, Augusta Souza Kappner, Marsha Kayser, Anne Davidson Kidder, Suzette Ashby Larrabee, Sheila Curnen Lennon, Margaret Poss Levy, Denise Jackson Lewis, Karin Prager Lipson, Linda Lloyd-Jones, Marjorie Feiman Magid, Amy Richman Mayer, Nancy Cowles McClelland, Judith Pinsof Meyer, Jill Menes Miller, Susan Applebaum Milstein, Sheila Helfenbein Mondshein, Toby Nathan, Jane Necol, Annette Niemtow, Susan Panny, Margaret Brauner Pearson, Patricia Savoie, Judith Schatz Schaeffer-Young, Susan Eisner Schiff, Karin Perloff Shields, Anna Spiro, Anne Sawyer Straus, Emmy Suhl, Benna Brodsky Thompson, Natalia Udovik, Lillian Feigenblatt Warshaver, Cheryl Montgomery Weisberg, and Ellen Youngelson.

This is my final column. Please send your notes to Louise Hersh, who'll be happy to receive all of your news.

—Marcia Weinstein Stern

Louise Sobin Hersh

92 Club Drive

Roslyn Heights, NY 11577

516-621-3289

louisesobin@alum.barnard.edu

40TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

67 Our mini-reunion took place on March 12 at the home of **Terry Kleiman** in Boston. Present were **Suzanne Crowell, Ellen Kaplovitz, Barbara Mann, Dorene Goldberg Nemeth, Katherine Frome Paget, Janet Sand, Janet Carlson Taylor, Carol Wool, Liz Field Zucker, Arleen Hurwitz Zuckerman**, and the featured speaker **Nancy Gertner**, who spoke on the complex-

For the People

CONSTANCE HESS WILLIAMS '66



Health, child care, and education issues top Williams's agenda.

My goal is to get more people who think that political service is important, and to change the perception of politics," says Constance Hess Williams '66 of serving in and encouraging others to run for office.

Williams—a Pennsylvania state senator and the recipient of this year's Distinguished Alumna Award—entered politics as a result of her own grandfather's mentorship. "He cared about people and he took care of people," she says. Her grandfather, David T. Wilentz, was the Democratic leader in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, Williams' hometown.

Her own service to a constituency of about 265,000 in Pennsylvania's 17th District has been marked by a dedication to women's health, child care, and education initiatives in a largely conservative and male-dominated legislature.

Williams' political awareness started at home, with her exposure to both her grandfather's and an uncle's political careers; it heightened when she transferred to Barnard in the fall of 1964. At that time, the campus roiled with Civil Rights and anti-war protests. "I remember looking out the window at 116th and Broadway and seeing [demonstrators holding up] pictures of babies who had been napalmed [in Vietnam]," Williams says. "I was sort of overwhelmed." The experience later would factor into her pursuit of political office.

Guided by a philosophy of helping others, she approached her destiny cautiously and methodically. Following her graduation in 1966 (she majored in English), Williams volunteered on an uncle's unsuccessful bid for a U.S. Senate seat in New Jersey. "It was a lot of envelope-stuffing," she admits. But the work contributed to the political activism that had been building in her for years. Her next job: poll-watching in the Bronx for John Lindsay's successful mayoral campaign. Then came marriage, and children, and a move to Pennsylvania (her husband, Dr. Sankey Williams, got a job at the University of Pennsylvania, where today he is a professor and the chief of the division of general internal medicine). Williams returned to school, earning an MBA at Penn's Wharton School of Business in 1980.

As she entered a consulting career, advising small businesses, Williams continued her volunteer campaign work while raising her daughters, Betsy and Jenny. "I was always in politics no matter what else I was doing," she says. After her youngest daughter left for college, Williams says, "it was time to look at the next part of my life. I went to a job coach—which I recommend—and all the signs pointed to running for office." In addition to her campaign work, there was a term as the local Democratic Party chairman from 1982 to 1987, and consulting for U.S. Representative Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky.

In 1997, Williams launched her campaign to unseat the Republican incumbent state assemblywoman in her district. She prevailed, winning the election by more than 500 votes. In 2001, she ran for and won a seat in the state Senate, becoming the only woman and first Democrat to hold the Senate seat since it became the Seventeenth Senatorial District in 1967. Beyond encouraging young people to run for office and changing Americans' perceptions of politics, she says, "I'd like to work to see more women and more Democrats in the Penn legislature." By her own example, it's possible.

—Julia Cosgrove '02

Constance Hess Williams received the AABC's Distinguished Alumna Award on June 9.

ities of the U.S. Supreme Court. The attendees shared the following news:

For Terry, her 20s were involved in lifestyle experimentation. Her 30s brought business school, a first marriage and divorce, and a career in health-care policy. Her 40s were very career driven. At 50 she met Glenn Rupp, her second husband, on a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Sadly, in 2002, Glenn, a nonsmoker, was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer and died 14 months later. Terry decided to retire soon after, with the focus on rebuilding her life. Through Glenn, she married into a new, wonderful family, has reconnected with old friends while making new friendships, and developed new interests. So far, she loves retirement.

Suzanne lives in Pownal, Maine. She took a buy-out from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and now telecommutes to Washington, D.C., as a part-time writer on public policy issues for the National Council of Jewish Women. In Maine she cares for her two horses, two cats, and one dog, and she welcomes visitors.

Ellen has been the coordinator of a pilot program at Brookline High School for 28 years and lives in Newton, Mass. She's been married for 25 years and has two children, Juliana, 21, a student at Lesley University, and Mark, 18, who's studying audio engineering.

Barbara's a librarian for Suffolk University and lives in Beacon Hill, N.Y.

Katherine is a research psychologist, targeting cognitive dimensions of science learning, and works as a research scientist at two educational consulting firms, TERC in Cambridge and EDC in Newton. Her son, Nicholas, is in the Class of 2009 at Columbia College.

Janet Sand retired from Harvard University Health Services and is now a clinical psychologist in private practice. She's also on the faculty of the

Stanley King Counseling Institute, which runs residential workshops that teach counseling and listening skills to independent school teachers. Her husband is a psychoanalyst. Her son will be a junior at Northwestern University.

Since graduating from Barnard, Carol has taught high school chemistry in Baltimore, Md., gone to Ghana with the Peace Corps, taught in a school for disenfranchised youth in East Orange, N.J., attended medical school, and moved to Boston, where she's now a senior psychiatrist in ambulatory care at Massachusetts General Hospital, with a private practice in Newton. She has two adult children.

Liz moved back to Cambridge three years ago after living and working in Arlington, Va., for 25 years. She has a consulting practice in college placement. For several years, she enjoyed having both of her sons living within a mile of her home.

Arleen traveled from New York for the event. She works part-time as an executive recruiter for a boutique human resources firm that specializes in the automotive industry. She's on the board of her synagogue's Sisterhood and on the advisory board of the Lukas Community, a small residential facility in southern New Hampshire devoted to working with developmentally disabled adults. Her husband, Herb, is officially retired but works several days a week in his old school district as a guidance counselor. Their son Michael is a high school sophomore.

Susan Shih Riehl became chief financial officer for the Colorado Historical Society in 2004. In 2005, the society hired a new operator for its historic mining and railroad park in Georgetown, Colo., and Susan learned everything about running a narrow gauge steam railroad. She's also responsible for information technology and has been challenged with updating the technology infrastructure with limited funding. Her husband,

Hank, retired two years ago. Her older son, Matthew, graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in English. Her son Peter will graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in business.

Cathy Feola Weisbrod
203 Allston St.
Cambridge, MA 02139-3917
617-565-6512
cweisbro@opm.gov

68 I've been running back and forth between New York and Boston, and other folks have been busy having mini-reunions and organizing outings. Thanks to all who sent news.

Jane Wallison Stein couldn't attend one of the organized get-togethers because she was singing with the Pro Arte Chorale that night, but she sends greetings to everyone.

Karla Berlin Jay received the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in Writing. She also received the Dyson Distinguished Faculty Award from Pace University.

Ellen Pressman is at home recuperating from a medically intense year, which included several surgical procedures. All of them seem to have been successful, thank goodness. We wish her a full recovery.

Alice Friedman Appel and her husband, Jerry (CC, P&S), became the proud grandparents of a "beautiful, smart" baby boy in March. Jerry is a professor at the Columbia School of Medicine and lectures all over the world about nephrology.

Kathleen Ann McQuown lives in the Bronx, but as retirement approaches, she and her family are looking at moving to their house on Cape Cod. She says she's been learning "too much" about removing wisteria that has run amok in preparation for the move. All seven of Kathleen's children are doing well "at the same time," she writes. The whole family gathered at a surprise party for her husband's 60th birthday.

In attendance at a wine and cheese party hosted by **Susan Kristal Wine** were **Alice Appel, Penelope Parkhurst Boehm, Rebecca Schwartz Greene, Linda Rosen Garfunkel**, our class president and substitute reporter for this event, **Karen Kaplowitz, Leslie Morioka, Istar Schwager**, and **Rosalie Siegel. Margaret Rosenblum Hammerschlag** had

planned to attend but broke her ankle. She had to have surgery and was laid up for six weeks recuperating. Maggie, we hope you recover quickly and fully.

Penelope looks great after a recent, considerable weight loss and has a bookkeeping business in her (properly zoned) apartment near Columbia.

Rebecca is a practicing attorney in N.J.

Istar is busy with her Web site, as described in a previous column.

Leslie, a partner at Wine and Case, went back to work after the party. She lives in Mt. Vernon but would love to move back into New York City within walking distance of her office.

Rosalie works at the Port Authority in Union Square and still lives at 107th and Riverside. She told stories of how the neighborhood was changing—both for better and worse—as new “yuppies” move in.

Karen is looking at colleges with her daughter, a junior in high school.

Susan, the gracious and generous hostess, says she'll have some exciting news for the next issue. Linda hopes to do another such event in the fall and that more of us will be able to attend.

I hope I can. Our son, Sam, graduated from Boston University and is moving to Chicago to audition for Second City Improv. Not bad for a physics, psychology, poly-sci major (don't ask). He says he'll give it a couple of years. If things don't work out, there's always graduate school. Oh, to be young and full of energy and hope.

—ASK

Jerilyn Seife Famighetti
425 E. 79th St., Apt. 2-G
New York, NY 10021
jeri68@alum.barnard.edu
jsf68@aol.com

Abby Sommer Kurnit
85 Stratford Ave.
White Plains, NY 10605-2403
akurnit@alum.barnard.edu

69 Elinor Knodel reports that she has worked for the Dupont Co. for 25 years, starting as a biochemist. Thanks to a recent promotion, she works as a software user advocate on a supply chain management project. Her daughter, also named Elinor, has applied to several colleges and awaits responses. Her son, Steven, is a first-year student at a math/science charter school, where he also plays soccer.

Ronnie Williams has lived in western Massachusetts for the past 25 years, working as a physician's assistant. She married her partner, Suzanne Arnopolin, in a ceremony at their synagogue in June 2002.

Margarita Rosa Sleeper volunteers at her church and works as a coordinator with the local school's reading tutorial program. Much of her time is devoted to visiting family throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, plus business trips with her husband, Bill.

Maria Teresa Vitagliano's older daughter, Katrina Pape, will follow in her mother's footsteps when she attends Pace Law School in September.

Victoria Morgan lives in Santa Cruz, Calif. She's a lawyer but made use of her Barnard chemistry degree as a supplement buyer for a natural products store. She and her husband plan to move to Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii. Her daughter, Jasmin, is a senior in high school and has applied for admission to Barnard, where she hopes to major in theatre arts.

For 20 years **Aigli Papantonopoulou-Burgess** has

been a professor of mathematics at The College of New Jersey, where she's also the department chair. One of her sons is a graduate student of philosophy at Princeton, and her youngest is a junior at Brown.

Jorganne Hazel Pierce
225-12 137th Avenue
Laurelton, NY 11413-2409
jorgannep@aol.com
718-527-3131

70 For the past six years **Ada Zarn Cutler** has been dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Her sons, Adam and David, were both married in 2004. In February 2005, Ada and her husband, Chuck, became grandparents when Lior Gilad was born to their son Adam and daughter-in-law Nova. Ada writes, “Happily, he lives in New York City and we see him every week. Just as everyone says, being a grandparent is one of life's greatest joys.”

Elizabeth Slattery Spahr has one son, Nicholas, and one daughter, Emily, who graduated from Barnard in 2002 and loved it. Elizabeth sells residential real estate.

Alice Gosfield has been named chair of Prometheus Payment Inc., a not-for-profit effort to implement a new payment model for health-care providers that would improve quality for patients, lower the hassle factor for doctors, and pay the right amount for what science tells us is what patients need for their condition.

Kathleen Severin Parker's daughter finished her junior year at Phillips Exeter Academy and spent the summer learning Tibetan. Kathleen is trying to arrange a meeting with the Dalai Lama while her daughter is in India working with Tibetan refugees. She's applying to Barnard next year. Kathleen has been an active stock trader since selling her broadcast business in 1992. She also works with women on entrepreneurship and has

held two roundtable discussions at Barnard for interested students.

Bonnie Fox Sirower writes that she spent two weeks in China with the People to People International Program, her fourth trip with this group. She's also been to Brazil, Cuba, and Egypt. Bonnie is executive director of the Community Blood Services Foundation in northern New Jersey.

Cheryl Leggon's son, Robert R. Leggon Gray, graduated from Brown University Medical School in May 2005 and was the student speaker at his commencement. He's doing his residency in orthopedic surgery at Rush Medical Center in Chicago. Cheryl is most proud of him.

Laura H. Foster is president of the Association of Children's Museums, an international organization with 300 museum members.

In Oregon **Rosemary Phillips Didear** is headmistress of the Delphian School, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. At the time she wrote in, she planned to fly down to Los Angeles the night after the school's commencement for the birth of her first grandson, her second grandchild.

Barnard Student Agencies

Babysitting Agency
212-854-2035

Barnard Bartending Agency
212-854-4650

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212-854-7871

Access Web sites via
www.barnard.edu; click
on "Site Index"; scroll
down to click listings.

Susan Dach Terman sends the tragic news that her husband, Bruce Israel Terman, PhD, died in May after being hit by a car while jogging. Bruce had been associate professor of medicine and pathology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. An internationally recognized investigator, his findings regarding the molecular regulation of angiogenesis held great significance for the advancement of research in cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Edna Rubin Sussman is back in active law practice after a stint doing environmental not-for-profit work while she was raising her four boys. She is a litigator at Hoguet Newman & Regal LLP. Edna's also active as a neutral and sits as both a mediator and as an arbitrator on many mediation and arbitration panels, both domestic and international. She keeps up with her environmental interests and is chair of both the American Bar Association's Renewable Energy Resources Committee and the New York City Bar Association's Energy Committee.

Rosalind Wu took time off from the National Academy for Educational Research in Taiwan to work at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, hoping to set up a center for research in Chinese teaching and learning. Her daughter, Christina Hsieh, is a junior at Barnard. Her son, Andrew, attends classes at the City College of San Francisco. Her husband, Edward, is professor of physics at Soochow University in Taipei. Four people in four cities—they try to get together in Taipei for the summer.

Norma Garfen Pressman writes that her daughter, Emily, lives in Cambridge, Mass. Her son, Michael, just graduated from Boston University.

Ana C. Degens took part in Brazil's São Paulo Art Fair in May.

Abby Glazer Robinson received a New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship for 2006 for photography. Her Web site

(www.abbyrobinson.com) was designated an official honoree in the Webby Awards. In April, she showed images from her series *AutoWorks* in the group show "Bearings: The Female Figure" at P.S. 122. Some of her prints have been acquired by the Museum of Fine Art in Houston, the Portland Art Museum, and The William Benton Museum at the University of Connecticut.

Evelyn Langlieb Greer's daughter, Rachel Greer '03, was married in March and graduated from Columbia Law School in May 2006. Rachel's husband graduated from Columbia with a JD/MBA in 2003. The couple will live in Miami after a year of traveling around the world.

Audrey Gale Prager
43 Winchester Road
Newton, MA 02458-1909
617-965-4081
aprager@hotmail.com

Eileen McCorry
35 West 81st St., Apt. 2E
New York, NY 10024-6045
212-580-3146
pinekill31@verizon.net

71 Debbie Schwartz Rapaport, who has been married to David Rapaport (CC '69) for 35 years writes, "I transferred to Barnard, so I never quite felt part of Barnard life. However, as we reach a more mellow age, raising a family, participating in a community, and staying upright become more a cause for celebration. I have four children, ages 18-26, two in medical school, two in college. We have survived the little bumps and a few huge ones as well. I have become a professional volunteer ... currently president of a brand new group, a Katrina relief project called SOS4EDUCATION to help support the Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District. I have attended some programs at Barnard in recent years, and hope to continue to do so."

Elyse Von Egloffstein reports that her son Michael graduated this

spring from Quinnipiac University with a major in electronic journalism and a minor in German. Her daughter, Lauren, will start at the University of Vermont in the fall.

Sarah White is finishing three years of committee work helping her local high school return to financial stability. She's also finishing a novel, which she calls "a delightful learning experience."

We had a great turnout at reunion, though most of us registered at the last possible moment. To the best of my knowledge, the following classmates attended: **Sherry Amanpour, Patricia Auspos, Sherrie Baver, Joan Bennett, Katherine Brewster, Constance Brown, Lee Canossa, Melinda Sherer Chau, Harriet Levine Copel, Catherine Bilzor Cretu, Christine Mee Emery, Rose Spitz Fife, Heidi Sigal Fink, Mary Gorayeb Friberg, Ellen Futter, Ellen Geiger, Miriam Vogel Gold, Joan Heer Granda, Loren Wissner Greene, Lynne Haims, Sandra Willner Horowitz, Christine Jaronski, Linda Parnes Kahn, Elizabeth Keefer, Amelia Anzalone Kittredge, Carin Horowitz Lamm, Phyllis Lefton, Barbara Gottfried Leukart, Tamar Lewin, Jocelyn Linnekin, Lily Soohoo Louie, Marjorie Weiner Marciano, Christine McDonnell, Patricia McGovern, Patricia McGrath, Laura Siegel Nagler, Caroline Quigley, Melissa Riley, Renee Rinaldi, Victoria Taylor Robertson, Joyce Pollack Rocklin, Julia Hong Sabella, Barbara Shear, Linda Graves Stewart, Karen Tucker, Margaret Fahey Wallace, Elizabeth Westcott, and Ina Wool.** If I missed anyone, please let me know. Thursday night's private tour of the Darwin Exhibit at the American Museum of Natural

History was well attended. The exhibit focuses on Darwin's personal life as well as the legacy of his work. Ellen Futter greeted us at the wine and hors d'oeuvres reception afterwards. At the same time on campus, **Dona Carter** (donacarter.com) was performing with her jazz quartet at the Alumnae of Color Dinner.

Friday night's class dinner featured the election of new class officers and Julia Hong Sabella's slide presentation of our 2001 and 2006 survey results, which will also appear in our class book. Singer/songwriter Ina Wool (inamaywool.com) led us in two rounds of the "Senior Song," unearthed by Julia. Even while some joked that this group should have been singing "La Marseillaise" or "Battle Hymn of the Republic," all joined in boisterous praise of "the dear old white and blue." Several people shared their news during and after dinner, but space is short, so there will be more reunion news in the next issue. Contact me if you'd like to order a reunion book or want to sign on to the e-mail list we started at the Friday night dinner.

Catherine Bilzor Cretu
11489 Chew's Branch Rd.
Owings, MD 20736
301-855-7291
ccretu@anacondapress.com

73 Martieneke (Martine) Faber-Spruytenburg is from the Netherlands. After graduation she got her master's in French language and literature from the University of Leiden and has since become a world traveler, following her husband to his various posts and teaching French in such places as Bolivia, Costa Rica, the isle of Crete, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Uganda. Now, at the International School of Tanganyika in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, she's teaching Dutch for the first time, something she sees as a great feat after living her life mostly abroad. She admits her

children are much more Dutch than she. Her son is getting his master's in economics at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Martine founded the Dutch Barnard Alumnae Group in 1996, when she was teaching at home for a short time. She was amazed to find there were 10 alumnae from The Netherlands. They have met over the years in a café called De Jaren in Amsterdam. Martine sends warm regards to classmates in the States.

Please send me your stories and news for Class Notes.

Anne Russell Sullivan
3331 Bennett Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90068-1703
323-697-9733
anners@alum.barnard.edu

75 Elizabeth Wissner-Gross' book *What Colleges Don't Tell You (And Other Parents Don't Want You to Know): 272 Secrets for Getting Your Kid into the Top Schools* is out in time to help the class of 2011. Check out her blog, WhatCollegesDontTellYou.com. Liz tells us, "I attended Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, then married Sig." They celebrated their 30th anniversary on June 13. "We lived in Los Angeles for a while, where I attended UCLA (to study screenwriting) and worked full-time at the *Daily News of Los Angeles*. Then we moved back east and I worked as an editor and writer at the Associated Press and then *Newsday* for 13 years. I left *Newsday* when my own kids' careers started taking off and required my attention. Both sang professionally with the New York City Opera, and then both delved seriously into the sciences in high school. My older son won Intel. My younger son won the First Step to the Nobel Prize in Physics and also the American Academy of Neurology Prize. Both kids were named top 20 students in America by *USA Today*. I taught at Hofstra and Iona. I published my first book, *UnBiased: Editing in a Diverse*

Society. Then, about 10 years ago, I became a private media and education strategist. As such, I have been advising students, families, schools, school districts, and academic competitions on educational strategies. I'll be doing a national speaking tour with my book this fall. I particularly enjoy speaking to parent groups and high school students." Liz's husband, Sigmund (CC '75), recently joined the law firm Brown Rudnick as a partner. Their older son, Alex, just completed a semester of teaching physics at Harvard while working toward his PhD. Their younger son, Zach, is majoring in physics and biology at MIT and working this summer at Lawrence-Livermore as part of his Department of Homeland Security scholarship.

Diana Appelbaum
39 Claremont Ave., Apt 24
New York, NY 10027
DianaMuir@aol.com

30TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

77 Ellen Kushner, host of the public radio series *Sound & Spirit*, premiered her new performance piece, "Voices of Inspiration," in Boston in May at the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Jewish Women's Archive. The 15-minute one-woman narrative told the story of American Jewish women in the last 150 years. Ellen is scheduled to perform the piece again in November 2006 in New York at another JWA celebration. In addition, Ellen's latest novel, *The Privilege of the Sword*—described by one reviewer as a "swashbuckler for women"—was released in July. For details, go to Ellen's Web site, www.ellenkushner.com.

Celia Weisman Chance—one of my favorite floor-mates at John Jay—writes from Seattle that she's "rapidly approaching my 50th birthday as a toddler mom. Thank goodness Barnard prepared me for this extraordinary challenge." Never one to sit around doing nothing, Celia

notes that she's "busy writing my memoirs and possibly training to become a body builder. It's never too late to go for your dreams."

Sadly we have two deaths to report. **Janice Kurth** passed away at her home in Claremont, Calif., in November 2005. Janice was a family practice physician known for her commitment and dedication to her patients. She was a former competitive horseback rider and an avid gardener. Janice is survived by one son, siblings, and other relatives. Leukemia claimed the life of **Lucy Hsu Chang** in January 2006. Lucy had an MBA from New York University. She and her husband, Charles, owned a cosmetics import and packaging business in Wayne, N.J. She is survived by Charles, one son, and one daughter. Janice and Lucy will be missed.

Jacqueline Laks Gorman
111 Regal Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115
jgorman7@juno.com

79 Victoria Wullert MacDonald, of Munich, Germany, was invited by the European Union Network of Excellence Forum to participate in a two-day program in Athens entitled "High Level European Experts' Symposium on Future and Emerging Issues in Technology Enhanced Professional Learning." The symposium focused on the role of e-learning in secondary and industry education throughout Europe, encompassing economic, socio-cultural, and political trends. Victoria works for BMW and is responsible for its global learning management system and for defining BMW aftersales learning strategy. Her husband, Liam, is a musician.

Amy Cogan Ramson published a 15-page article, "Sexual Harassment Education on Campus: Communication Using Media," in the *Community College Review*. The article discusses sexual harassment laws and the educational program her college

uses, which blends multimedia with discussion. Amy is chair of Education of the Sexual Harassment Awareness and Intake Committee at Hostos Community College, where she's an assistant professor.

Cynthia Ladopoulos attended the release party for **Larissa Shmailo's** CD of poetry, *The No-Net World*, and reports that it was a fabulous event. Some poets and musicians who appeared with Larissa were actor/editor/poet George Dickerson, award-winning poet Chocolate Waters, guitarist Bobby Perfect, Michael Graves, and Mallie Boman. *The No-Net World* is available from cdbaby.com. Larissa has been published in *Newsweek*, *Rattapallax*, *Lungfull!*, *Street News*, and other publications. She has done readings at bookstores, schools, benefits, and radio stations. Her appearances have received critic's pick notices from the *New York Times*, the *Village Voice*, and *Time Out*. Larissa is curator of the Sliding Scale Poetry series. She translated A. Kruchenych's Russian Futurist opera, *Victory Over the Sun*, which was performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival, and she has exhibited videos at the Los Angeles County Museum and the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.

Margo Amgott writes, "After 15 years at Columbia University, the last six as assistant vice president for health services, I have returned to local government. I now serve as assistant commissioner for early intervention in the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a very exciting program and agency with which to be associated. We provide services annually to the approximately 37,000 children in New York City, ages 0 to 3, with developmental delays or diagnosed disabilities.

"It's especially meaningful to me as the geriatric parent of a 4-year-old, awed by her daily strides. Last week Molly told me that after nursery

school came kindergarten, then first grade and then law school. Her father and I have created a monster. We live on the Upper West Side and have a weekend 'project': a decrepit beach house on the shore in Connecticut. As newcomers to that area, we'd love to hear from alumnae in the vicinity."

My DVD, *OSHA 35 Still Alive!* for Digital 2000 productions, premiered at a symposium held by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. The DVD discusses the legislative history and world events that resulted in the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The DVD was also shown at the commencement conference saluting the occupational health and occupational medicine graduates at the University of Texas, Tyler.

Ilise Levy Feitshans
120 Warwick Road
Haddonfield, NJ 08033-3707
856-428-0605; cell: 609 440 5563
fax: 856-428-4198
ilise@prodigy.net

80 Professor **Paula Franzese** was honored for her service as special ethics counsel to former New Jersey Governor Richard Codey and as a member of the Ethics and Policy Management Task Force for Governor Jon Corzine, at the Fifth Annual Alain Daniels Civic Responsibility Awards Dinner in New Brunswick, N.J.

Taking civic responsibility to the global level, here's something impressive from **Sharon Cromer**. She lives in Ghana, West Africa, she writes, "serving as the director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's mission to Ghana. The USAID/Ghana program is \$57 million per annum. It strives to improve primary education, health-care delivery, and economic growth, and to strengthen democracy and governance."

I hold my head a little bit higher just knowing I went to school with these women. Don't you?

The Ultimate People Person

MARTHA NELSON '76

Back in the mid-1970s, a young art history major named Martha Nelson walked up to the third floor of Barnard Hall to begin a job at a new academic journal. Edited by English Professor Catharine Stimpson, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* needed an assistant editor and typist for its very first issue. Though it was not her intended career, Nelson continued to work on *Signs* after graduation and eventually became managing editor.

"I felt that going to work on *Signs* meant really working with some of the smartest people who were writing in women's studies at that time," recalls Nelson. "But then I just became hooked on print in general: the excitement of putting together a story or article, getting it out there, and seeing the influence and the effect on people."

Thirty years since her days in Morningside Heights, Nelson is now editor of Time Inc.'s People Group, one of journalism's most successful brands. The flagship magazine, *People*, has more than 40 million adult readers each week. Between January/February 2005 and January/February 2006, People.com's page views increased fivefold, reaching 512 million. Add *Teen People* and *People en Español*, and Nelson gets stories out to a wide swath of the United States.

"At *People*, it's been a fantastic experience," says Nelson, "but it's also been a challenge to grow and edit a magazine that has had such history and such success and then try to continue to make it grow in the presence of such competition.... Not only are there more outlets in celebrity journalism, more of them offer speculation and misinformation, which makes *People*'s role as a magazine that's journalistically sound even more critical." Such quality control helps both the bankbook and the image: In 2006 *Adweek* named Nelson Editor of the Year, while MIN (Media Industry Newsletter) gave the People.com a Best of the Web award for editorial excellence.

Though Nelson has a diverse résumé—*Ms.*, *Women's Sports & Fitness*, the launch of *People's* Australian counterpart, *Who Weekly*—her most famous position was as founding editor of *In Style*, one of the most successful magazine start-ups since, well, *People*. "*In Style* broke the mold in every single way," she says. "It merged celebrity and fashion, but with the emphasis that this style information was not just for women to look at but for them to be able to incorporate into their lives with very little effort. It's hard to remember now, but that was a completely wacky thing to be doing at that time." In 1994, *In Style's* rate base promised advertisers a circulation of 500,000; by 2002, that number hit 1.5 million.

Today Nelson is always thinking, whether about how to integrate print and Web content or conceiving new special issues. But her enthusiasm dates back to her first print job. "It's that buzz of communication and shaping a publication," she says. "That's something that's never gone away for me."

—Matthew Reed Baker

This year's Woman of Achievement award was presented to Martha Nelson on June 10.



Nelson—keeping *People* journalistically sound.

Amber Spence Zeidler
4601 Vista de Oro Ave.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364-5604
818-704-7457
misatindol@aol.com

Diane Goldner
Dianegoldner@msn.com
807 18th Street #3
Santa Monica, CA 90403

25TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

81 Our 25th Reunion was wonderful. At the class dinner, we honored **Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald** with a silver necklace from Tiffany's. Jolyne, a managing director at Lehman Brothers and a Barnard trustee, generously matched every new or increased gift to Barnard from our class that was \$250 or more. We broke the 25th Reunion record by contributing almost \$250,000 in unrestricted gifts this fiscal year. In addition, our class broke a five-year cumulative record for restricted and unrestricted donations raising \$3.9 million. **Marcia Sells, Marcy Goldstein, and Wendy White** all spoke and President Judith Shapiro sang for us—she has a fantastic voice.

Class dinner was a whirl. I spoke with Wendy White, who's now directly involved in the rebuilding of the World Trade Center, as special assistant to the president of the Alliance of Downtown New York, where she interacts with Mayor Michael Bloomberg and U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, among others. Wendy will be living in New York, but also in Florida, where she and her husband, Roland, have a place on the ocean.

Angela Ingrao, whom I hadn't seen since college, has two beautiful daughters and a handsome son. Her oldest girl will be working as an editorial assistant. A culinary school graduate, Angela has opened up her own chocolate shop, Cocoa. Everything she sells looks mouthwatering, from the Blue Willow Bark to "sinfully" good brownies. The shop is in Larchmont, where Angela lives, but you can also check out her treats at www.cocoachocolateshop.com.

Ann Koschel Van Buren brought me up to date on her travels to China and other exotic locales while we dipped pretzels and strawberries into the hot chocolate fountain after our class dinner. Ann is raising two lovely children and is happily married to Tom Van Buren (CC '81). Back in college, we all lived in apartments off campus on 121st St.

Then I visited **Maria Deutscher's** new house in Brooklyn. It's an incredible Victorian. She and her husband, Joel Siegal, are renovating it, step-by-step and floor by floor. One of the great things about it is the lovely garden, where I'm sure their newly adopted son (expected to arrive in July) will spend many happy hours.

At the Gala Dinner I chatted with **Anna Mather** and her husband, Chris Maloney, who works with hedge-funds. Anna is back in school getting a degree as a landscape architect and is working on some very exciting projects. Their daughter, Wynn, 6, keeps them busy.

I chatted with lots of others but, alas, was so busy having fun I didn't take notes. So I'm counting on you all to write in with your news and your reunion experiences.

The grande finale of the weekend for me was the Dancing Under the Stars event with Columbia. I ran into friends, including **Laura Whitman**, a psychiatrist, and got twirled around on the dance floor until time disappeared. When I looked at a friend's watch it was after midnight, and I had to dash out, leaving a handsome prince almost in mid-song, before I turned into a pumpkin. It was just like being back in college. After about five hours of sleep, I had to get up not to take a class, but to teach a class.

On a more somber note, **Victorine Dent** passed away on Dec. 30, 2005, due to AIDS. She is survived by her husband, Sean Harvey, one brother, and one sister. We will miss her.

82 Lisa Wyatt-Diaz Ganson was appointed vice president of academic affairs at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, Mass. Lisa earned a PhD in higher education administration from New York University. She and her husband, Dr. John Ganson, relocated from New York City to Massachusetts four years ago.

Rosa Alonso will join Edelman, the global marketing communications and PR firm, as senior vice president of Edelman Multicultural, their segment and lifestyle practice, located at their office in Times Square. Rosa is a trustee of the College.

Thomas Skyler Wrench (formerly Sarah Wrench) has finished training as a medical assistant and now works in a community health center. Skyler also edits the newsletter of the New England Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

Two degrees from Columbia University and one from New York University were apparently not enough for **Angela Macropoulos**, who graduated from Columbia's Journalism School in May. Angela is practicing law part-time while freelancing for several publications, including the *New York Times*.

Wedding bells rang this year for two classmates. **Eileen McManus** married Noel F. Boyle in a small ceremony in Letterkenny, Ireland, in February. And **Emily Shapiro** married Bill Mosca, a project manager with Metlife, in March. Emily has a master's from Bank Street College and "loves her job" as director of the Columbus Park West Nursery School on the Upper West Side, where she has been for the past 11 years. Emily's daughter, Rakhel, is a high school junior.

Planning has begun for our 25th Reunion. Stay tuned for details.

Maria Pignataro Nielsen
9 East Rogues Path
Huntington Station, NY 11746-1909
212-216-1240
mariapnielsen@alum.barnard.edu

83 Kaaren Hirschowitz Engel has transitioned from attorney to working artist. Her paintings and sculptures are shown nationally and internationally. She had a solo show at the Nashville International Airport last fall.

Erika Pardes Schon teaches music at the Kneger Schechter Day School in Baltimore, Md., and is the development chair for Baltimore Hebrew University. She and her husband, Lew, have five teenage boys.

Karen Polcer Bdera and her husband celebrated their 15th anniversary last year. She works in customer services at Frederick Goldman. She continues to do marathons and raise money for breast cancer.

Yanick Dejean Dugue married Gabriel Dugue (CC '82) 18 years ago. They're in private practice on Long Island and have three daughters and one son.

Adina Simone relocated her dental practice to Lake Success, N.Y.

Elizabeth McNally, associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago, has been named director of the Institute for Cardiovascular Research at the University, where she'll work toward building a world-class interdisciplinary team of scientists focused on key questions in cardiovascular research.

Jamie Miller Nathan
P.O. Box 2337
47 Reuven St.
Beit Shemesh, Israel 99544

84 Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker has joined the editorial board of the *JOFA Journal*, a publication of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance. The organization promotes the status and

participation of women in the Jewish religious context with a focus on the Orthodox community. A recent issue of the journal dealt with the issue of Agunot, women whose husbands refuse to give them a Jewish divorce. Carolyn enjoys her participation in JOFA and truly hopes that it will yield good results for women. She's also active in the Women's Tefillah (Prayer) Group that she helped to found in Cherry Hill, N.J. in 1999. The group conducts bat mitzvahs, celebrates holidays, and periodically meets for Saturday morning services.

Jennifer Kaplan writes to say that she and her husband, Alex, had a baby girl, Gabriella, on Oct. 3, 2005. The baby joins siblings Alex, 15, Helena, 5, and Natasha, 2. "We're loving Washington, D.C., where we moved six years ago and have developed a nice community of friends." After having Gabriella, Jennifer left the corporate world and now helps manage national fund raising for her mother-in-law, Phyllis Busansky, who is running for Congress in the 9th district of Florida. **Jennifer Goodale** works at Altria Group in New York City as the vice president of their contributions program. Altria funds programs in the arts, hunger relief, and domestic violence prevention. "It's an amazing job, and I work with some of the most incredible people, including Diane Bennett Eidman '80," says Jennifer. She's married to Mark Russell, a theatre/dance/performance art producer. Mark is curating a festival at The Portland Institute for Contemporary Art in Portland, Ore., and one at the Public Theatre in New York City. They have "a wonderful 3-year-old son, who gives us great joy every day but keeps us on our toes. Raising a son is the toughest job I've ever had. But I wouldn't exchange it for the world. I recently saw Christine Crowther '83, one of the heads of the Children's Advocacy Center of Manhattan, and **Pamela Jeffrey**, a partner in a law

firm. Both are doing great."

Beatrice Krain Drechsler just celebrated her son's bar mitzvah. Services were held at Temple KTI and the celebration was at Glen Island Harbour Club. Bea's good friend, Sylvia Toyos '85 attended. Bea is a partner in the Real Estate Group of Kaye Scholer. She's also co-chair of the firm's recruiting committee. She lives in Rye Brook, N.Y., with her husband, Rob, and their children, Alex, 13, and Laura, 7.

Maria Hinojosa became the first Latina correspondent for PBS when she joined *NOW* as the senior correspondent for the show in August. After eight years at CNN in New York as

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their urban affairs correspondent, Maria says, "I am happy to report that I am the happiest television journalist in the business! *NOW*, which was created by Bill Moyers, who left the show a year ago, focuses on investigative reporting on issues that have a direct impact on our lives in America today. My most recent report looked at the ban on abortions in South Dakota and how the new antiabortion movement is using that state as a test case to pair an abortion ban with one on sex education and instead teaching 'abstinence-only' programs." Maria has also been named the managing editor for the NPR program that she hosts, NPR's *Latino USA*, heard nationwide. She wrote an essay for the new book *Why I Stay Married*. Her kids are ages 8 and 10. Her husband, German Perez, had a solo art show in Panama City in July.

Julie Smerling Kerem writes, "We've just had our fourth child, a girl, Achva Chen, who joins her rambunctious brothers: Sh'ai, 6, Eliad, 1, and Erez, 1."

Sue Seferian reports the birth of Clara and Jack Dean to Charlotte Kratt Dean '85 and her husband, Peter, on St. Patrick's Day 2005. They join their big brother Julian, 3. The Deans reside in Maryland.

Ari Brose reports that **Mary Reiner Barnes** and her husband, John, welcomed their new son, John Paul, on April 4. His big sister, Mimi, is quite excited. Ari also tells us that **Christine Valenza Shin** works in the Alumnae Office on the Financial Fluency program. Ari keeps in touch with **Cynthia Bishop**, who lives in her hometown of St. Louis, Mo., and plans to visit the East Coast soon. Ari writes, "With a tinge of sadness, I complete[d] my term on the board of trustees in June but look forward to staying involved with the College, especially to working with Philippa Feldman Portnoy '86 and our alumnae of the Athletic Consortium to build support for current varsity athletes at Barnard."

Our class was well represented at the Great Writers at Barnard conference last winter. **Roberta Caploe**, executive editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*, was on a panel titled "Magazine and Newspaper Writing - Content and Culture"; Maria Hinojosa moderated a panel on "What Makes a Great Interview"; and **Jeannette Walls**, a gossip correspondent for E! and MSNBC, participated in Maria's panel as well as a panel on "The Art of the Memoir." **Enid Lewin** was also in attendance.

Suzanne Seferian
5 Columbia Ave.
Hopewell, NJ 08525-2002
suzamuse@alum.barnard.edu

Lynn Kestin Sessler
43 Dale Drive
Edison, NJ 08820-2225
lkestin@optonline.net

85 Charlotte Kratt Dean and her husband, Peter, celebrated the birth of their twins, Clara and Jack, on March 17. Their son Julian is 3. Charlotte will continue working part-time with Kaiser Permanente in September.

Marina Metalios has worked at the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board for 12 years and has started a special project at UHAB to convert New York City Housing Authority developments into low-income cooperatives. She's a board member of TenantPAC and works with the New York State Tenants and Neighbors Coalition to help protect rent-regulated tenants. Marina enjoys her regular Thursday evening "date" with her 5-year-old niece, Michela, and 2-year-old nephew, Dimitri (the children of her sister, Eva Metalios '86).

Karen Estilo Owczarski and **Katherine Sinsabaugh** are in the nascent stages of planning a class cocktail-and-dessert get-together for alumnae in the Washington, D.C., area. If you're interested in attending, please let me know and I'll put you in touch with Karen.

Sharon D. Johnson
4911 Enfield Avenue
Encino, CA 91316
818/345-1458
FiveFifteen@juno.com

86 Greetings to all who attended our class dinner on June 9. What a pleasure to see so many familiar faces and catch up with such interesting lives.

Rose Arce and Maria Rueda announce the birth of their daughter, Luna Maria, on July 2, 2005. Rose went back to work as a senior producer at CNN in October after a three-month maternity leave. She says, "Luna's two mommies are just thrilled. She's such a cutie."

Melanie McDaniel Bodie announces the birth of her first child, Rose Grace Bodie, on April 27 (5.25 pounds, 18.25 inches).

Yasmin Khakoo is a pediatric neuro-oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She recently became the director of the pediatric neuro-oncology fellowship program and will be actively involved in mentoring budding neuro-oncologists. She and her husband, Robert Fisher, have two children, Alex, 8, and Aliya, 2.

Catherine C. MacDougall gave birth to her sixth child, Max, on April 7. He weighed 10 pounds and was born at home. Her other children—David, Julia, Dylan, Samuel, and Ben—range in age from 15 to 4. Catherine, her husband, Nicholas, who's a journalist, and the children have lived in Washington, D.C., for a year and a half. Before that they spent five years in the Middle East (where Ben was born), and prior to that they lived in France for nine years. Catherine is busy with home schooling/unschooling, camping, and Codepink: Women for Peace. She says she's really planning to make it to the 25th Reunion with **Caroline Emmet**.

In attendance at our 20th Reunion were **Shirley Aldebol**, **Rachel**

Bermudez, Liza Chianelli Bove, Mindy Braunstein-Weinblatt, Lisa Campisi, Joy Clark, Dawn Cohen, Judith Radler Cohen, Catherine Cook, Deborah Davis, Colby Devitt, Salome Freud, Esther Gelber, Cynthia Groomes Katz, Claire Kedeshian, Naomi Koltun-Fromm, Anne Kornhauser, Shari Kopp, Ellen Levitt, Amira Samuel Littman, Suzanne Lovett, Bella Mikhailova Malits, Melissa Micol Porter, Philippa Portnoy, Marianne Pugatch, Alison Rabil, Nina Rothschild, Fran Seegull, Beth Goldstein Shanker, Naomi Shapiro, Suzanne Kay Shupe, Rachel Leventman Shwalb, Sarah Gribetz Stern, Allison Stewart, Jennifer Nail Suri, Carolyn Lewin Weiss, Allison Breidbart White, and our new class correspondent **Ruth Yodaiken.**

The class photo is on the Barnard Web site, www.barnard.edu/alum. Look under Reunion 2006 and then Class of 1986.

—Allison Stewart
Ruth Yodaiken

3896 Porter Street Northwest, Apt. D340
Washington, DC 20016-2959
ruthyodaiken@alum.barnard.edu

88 Amy Leonard writes, “After a perfectly hellish process and much trauma, I have gotten tenure and a promotion, to associate professor, at Georgetown.” Amy’s book, *Nails in the Wall: Catholic Nuns in Reformation Germany*, came out last summer. She recently met with **Rita Fournier Barnett, Hope Kirschner Casey, Enid Newman Melville, Glorianna Valls Neiman,** and **Miriam Tuchman.**

Glorianna welcomed her baby, Drew Maddox, on Feb. 17. Hope writes that Drew is adorable and that Glorianna, her son, Jesse, 5, and her husband, Dan, are all doing great.

In January, **Shelagh Lafferty Moskow** moved to Paris, France, with her husband, Ken, whose job with the U.S. Department of State required the move. Shelagh is busy at home with their two daughters, Samantha, 5, and Michaela, 3, and their little boy, Jack, 1. Shelagh says, “Life is great, and I feel very lucky.”

Francesca Giordano Ferrara
315 Birch Parkway
Wyckoff, NJ 07481-2830
201-560-1174
francescaferrara@msn.com

90 Susan Lane Schnell and her husband, Stephen, are stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, where Stephen is a pilot. Stephen spent much of the first half of 2005 flying casualties out of Iraq and back to the United States. After spending 10 weeks on total bed rest, Susan gave birth to William Murray in October 2005. William joins his big sister, Lane, 2. Susan reports that one challenging aspect of bed rest was moving to a new house right in the middle of it.

Don’t forget to e-mail me your news. Please indicate “class notes” or “Barnard news” in the subject line so it doesn’t go to the spam folder.

Mich Nelson
8531 N Edison St
Portland, OR 97203
503-233-1554
Barnard90@yahoo.com

15TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

92 Rana Foroohar is a foreign correspondent for *Newsweek* in London. She is enjoying her daughter, Darya, 3, who speaks with a British accent and corrects Rana’s American grammar.

Laura Cane married Adi Mahalel of Haifa, Israel, on March 24.

Michele Kofman writes that Oliver Leo Chessler was born on Jan. 13, and that everyone, including his dad, Mark Chessler, is doing great.

Robyn Bass Lavender and her family moved to Chappaqua, N.Y., last

year. She had her second son, Michael Zachary, who joins Jason, now 2 1/2. She says, “I’m enjoying life in suburbia and very happy to be out of the city. The only negative of having moved is Brad’s commute.”

Audrey Marrinan Kelly announces the arrival of Nina Dwyer Kelly. “She was born at 7:11 a.m. PDT, on May 5, at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. She joins her big sister, Gabriella.”

Suki Kim received a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction.

Jenny Milchman Frank writes that she and her husband, Josh Frank (CC ’92), welcomed their son, Caleb Thomas, on March 9. He joins his sister, Sophia Grace, 2.

Over the past few years, **Elizabeth (Betsy) Walker Williamson** and her partner, Shane, have been working on merging their careers into a joint architecture and design practice. Shane is a professor of architectural design and computing at the University of Toronto, and Betsy is a practicing architect. They recently won a Young Architect’s Award from the Architectural League of New York.

Ellen Senker Muss
12 Stanton Circle
New Rochelle, NY 10804
914-636-6492
musspark@aol.com

Nazneen Rahman
30 W. 87th St., Apt. 3-B
New York, NY 10024-3533
nazrahman@alum.barnard.edu

93 Mikki Meadows-Oliver successfully defended her dissertation on homeless adolescent mothers at the University of Connecticut in April. She’s now teaching in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program at Yale University School of Nursing.

Sarah Sheffield started a new job as the director of policy and strategic initiatives for the division of health promotion and disease prevention at the New York City Department of

Health and Mental Hygiene.

Dina Greene Simon, her husband, Ilan, and children, Daniel and Avigayil, live in Livingston, N.J. Dina works for IBM Business Consulting as a management consultant in the pharmaceutical industry.

Sherlet Kurian has changed pediatric practices in Branford, Conn., and is excited about her daughter, Maya, entering kindergarten this fall.

Dawn Falato returned from touring the United States with the Dell'Arte Company's play *Shadow of Giants*, an eco-drama based upon the unique treetop struggle of a forest defender in Northern California.

Laura Vecchione is a singer/songwriter in Boston who has worked with musicians in Boston, Los Angeles, and Nashville on her debut CD, *Deeper Waters*, which soon will be available for purchase at www.lauravec.com.

I've decided to stop teaching for now to focus on finally finishing my doctorate at Teachers College. While I'm looking forward to not grading for a while, I'll definitely miss hanging out with high school students every day.

Marci Levy
30 Woodhull St., Apt. 1-F
Brooklyn, NY 11231
917-626-1917
marcilevy@lycos.com

94 Susannah Madan and her family are temporarily living in Istanbul. Susannah is home full-time, taking care of her 9-month-old daughter, Talya, and slowly learning Turkish. Her husband, who received family leave from Brandeis University where he's a professor of economics, is doing research. They decided to take advantage of the time off and try living abroad. Talya loves spending time with her grandparents and her parents love the occasional nights off. **Sarah Garfinkel**, who moved to Tel Aviv in November, visited Susannah.

Shira Roffman Weinstein and her husband, Matthew (CC '95),

welcomed their baby girl, Eliana Aliza, on Nov. 1, 2005. Her big sisters Shuli, 6, and Aviva, 4, are delighted with the arrival of their new sister.

Maria Lourenco writes from Frankfurt, Germany, that she works at a sales desk at Barclays Capital and **Aelisa Kim Cipriani** works with her at the Collateralised Debt Obligations desk. She reports that **Ayaka Suzuki** has spent the past year in Haiti with the United Nations. **Crystal Cook** is back in California after one year working and teaching as a Fullbright Scholar in Armenia. **Ginger Wade** has relocated to Hamburg, Germany, where she's editing her latest film.

Saima Zaidi Jafri and Askari H. Jafri, MD, were married in 1996 and celebrated their 10th anniversary this August. They have one daughter, Danya, 5, and one son, Hyder, 18 months. They moved from Darien to Glastonbury, Conn., in November 2005 and are in the process of building their new home. Saima and Askari are both in private practice with Grove Hill Medical Center, he's an internist and she's a pediatrician.

Michele Deniken has lived in London since she moved there in 1995 to earn her master's at University of London. She's now an employment, training, and education advisor to offenders at two London probation offices. She and her husband plan to move back to the United States within the year.

Amy Zabb Amiel has lived in the Washington, D.C., area for the past six years, telecommuting for a national Jewish education agency. She never imagined that so many hours of her career would be spent in her home office, but the flexibility and independence allow her to spend time with her three kids Sam, 7, Ori, 4, and Aliza, 2. Her husband, Simon, works for National Hillel. She remains in touch with a number of classmates including **Lisa Khodadadian**, who lives in

Great Neck, N.Y., and has three children under the age of 3; and **Ronda Angel Arking**, who has two sons and recently bought a new home in Baltimore, Md. Amy is also in close touch with **Karen Turitz Wasserstein** who had her fourth baby.

Emily Gaines Demsky was elected president of the board of Art With a Heart in Baltimore.

Regina Angeles
206 E. 32nd St., 1FW
New York, NY 10016
917-371-6321
rangeles@alum.barnard.edu

95 Pei-Ling Lue is the managing editor of *One Story* magazine. She happily reports that several of their stories have been honored with the following awards: Best American Short Stories for 2006, O. Henry Prize, and New Stories from the South.

Jennifer Warner reports that since graduation she has worked in TV production with PBS, A&E, and VH1. After four years as a staff producer at VH1, she left to produce her own documentary on bisexuality. At the same time, she started a baked-goods company for people with dairy and gluten intolerance. Her Web site is www.moonfaceandwally.com.

Lareina Yee writes that she and her husband, Bert Galleno (CC '96), live in San Francisco and have a 3-year-old son, Nicholas. They recently visited New York and caught up with **Dana Ostrow** and met Dana's newborn daughter, Zoe. Lareina also reported that she saw Sophia Kim '94 and Julie Scelfo '96.

Carmencita San Miguel
24 Bluebell Street
O'Connor, Canberra ACT 2602
Australia
61-2-6161-7922
csanmiguel@alum.barnard.edu

Gail-Ann Bradshaw Krieger
3064 Manning Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90064
310-839-9982
gailann@alum.barnard.edu

96 Leah Friedman married Zev Frankel in February 2006. Many alumnae attended including **Amy Stampler Birman, Rachel Feinerman, Adena Gelb Goldman, Rebecca Goldberg, Sema Bank Goldstein,** Rosesara Feinerman Greenspun '95, **Adina Jeselsohn Kahn, Elana Gerson Kaplan,** Aliza Levine '95, Rachel Levine '08, **Anne Lieber, Beth Lewis, Lisa Budman Schopf,** Wendi Shafran '94, **Jennifer Bielory Slifkin, Diana Sredni, Lisa Statman,** and **Deborah Ulreich-Waltuch.** "It was like a 10th year mini-reunion!" she writes. Leah is practicing orthodontics in Hewlett, N.Y., and Zev will be starting a cardiology fellowship at New York University in July.

Roseanne Benjamin writes that she and her husband, Daniel Modell, welcomed their first child, Asher Isaiah, on May 31, 2005. They live in Manhattan and Roseanne stays home with Asher, though she still sometimes manages to act. She shot an Internet promo for the American Zionist Movement in November.

This spring, my husband and I helped out with Columbia's cycling team. It was a great season despite some rain and cold weather at the races. Three of the riders qualified for nationals and the rest did really well too. You can check out their results and see some pictures at www.columbiabikeracing.com.

Samantha Nicosia Rowan
312 East 23rd Street Apt. 4D
New York, NY 10010
646-602-1727
sam_nicosia@hotmail.com

Sarah Feinberg
36 Bellvista Road, Apartment 36
Brighton, MA 02135
617-501-9510
sarahdfeinberg@alum.barnard.edu

97 First, I'd like to catch up on some older news: On April 18, 2004, **Rebecca Epstein Tolkoff** and her husband welcomed their second child, Margit, whose brother, Abe, is now 4. The Tolkoffs live in Brookline, Mass., and own a minivan and a double stroller. Rebecca admits her life has changed a great deal since Barnard. **Dahlia Rosen Noy** had a baby girl, Rachel, on Feb. 4, 2004. As of early 2004, **Kathryne Alfred** was pursuing a master of fine arts in creative writing at the New School. **Dana Klein Byrne** and her husband, James, had a baby boy, Max, on Dec. 25, 2003. Also, as of last year, **Kamael Sugrim** was in her second year at Stanford Business School in California, where she's pursuing a master of business arts with a concentration in global management and corporate social responsibility. **Nicole Crisci** married Christopher Waring Harris (CC '97) on Nov. 6, 2004, in Paris, France. Nicole and Chris spent their honeymoon in the Maldives and Italy. They met in 1996 at Columbia and have been together ever since. The couple resides in New York.

Amanda Li Hope Friedman lives and works as an architect in London, England. She married Simon C. Norris in October 2005 at the Royal Society of Arts.

Melissa Edmands Marsh writes that she and her husband, Roger, have moved from New York to Santa Fe, N.M. She's a distributed worker for DEAW, an interior design and business consulting firm out of New York.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has awarded a research fellowship to **Naomi R. Fraenkel**, who has been in New York for almost three years working as a planner and economist in the New York offices of the Army Corps of Engineers, where most of her work focuses on ships and the New York Harbor. She married James Sloan

Altschul (CL '88), an investment banker with serious interests in aviation. It's sort of a union of air and water. They're happily situated on the Upper East Side. Alumnae in attendance included her aunt Alice Messeloff Fraenkel '57, first-year roommate **Joey Kaiser**, and bridesmaid Gail Leong '98.

In early May, I graduated from Rice University with my PhD in English literature. I'm still in Houston, Texas, for the time being and not sure what my future holds, but I'm relieved to have finally completed the dissertation on divorce in early modern England.

We have a correction to our spring column, **Michelle Katz's** daughter's name was wrong. It is Isabel Sage Frei. She'll be closing in on her first birthday when you read this.

Ronit Siegel Berger
5511 Ettrick Drive
Houston, TX 77035-4341
713-283-5321
rberger@alum.barnard.edu

98 Jessica Ross O'Neill has been quite busy. Shortly after receiving her master's from John Jay College of Criminal Justice (where her thesis was on a new risk assessment model for emerging terrorist organizations), she entered the University of Chicago's master of arts program in the social sciences. She graduated last August after completing her thesis on international relief organizations and policy dilemmas surrounding mass casualty disaster conditions. She recently started work at Citigroup's Office of Business Continuity, where she's a policy analyst with its Global Pandemic Preparedness Taskforce. She notes, "This job is amazing; it's great to be able to combine real-world, practical disaster problem-solving with a corporate environment."

I'm working full time at Teachers College, taking classes in art education, and interning in the education departments at the Dahesh Museum of Art

and the Rubin Museum of Art.

Please send me your news.

—SS

Stephanie Shestakow
310 S. New Prospect Road, Apt. 11-J
Jackson, NJ 08527-1906
slshestakow@hotmail.com

Abby Dye
1633 Bedford Lane, Apt. 7
Newport Beach, CA 92660

00 In May, **Jenny Olivia Johnson's** short opera, *Leaving Santa Monica*, was performed by the New York City Opera at its festival, VOX: Showcasing American Composers. Her second chamber opera, *The Endings*, premiered at Merkin Hall in April with the International Contemporary Ensemble and the Arditti String Quartet. **Sherri Kronfeld** notes, "I attended Jenny's concert at Merkin Hall and was incredibly impressed!" This July, Jenny wrote a new piece for the Bang on a Can Summer Festival of Music. For more information or to get in touch, go to www.jennyoliviajohnson.net.

Alia Winters announces that the Metropolitanones, New York City's all-women a cappella group made up of Seven Sisters graduates, has released its first CD, *Mouthing Off*. Alia is a member of the group and says that the album includes an eclectic array of songs both old and new. To order a copy, go to www.metropolitones.com. The 'Tones are available to sing at parties and events and, of course, Barnard alumnae get a discount.

Miriam Elder finished a year in Bologna, Italy, in May 2005 and spent a summer studying Arabic in Cairo, Egypt, and traveling around Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. She recently finished her second year at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and graduated with a master's in international relations and international economics. She works in journalism.

Rachel Grundfast Lappen

married Justin Lappen (CC '02) in Akron, Ohio. In attendance were **Annie Bergen**, Shira Miller-Jacobs Fishman '99, **Miriam Kalnicki**, Kelly McCreary '03, and Dodi Vogel Samuel '02. There was an impromptu performance by Reza Jacobs (CC '00), Jenny Moussa (CC '02), Jon Spring (CC '03), and Shira Silberg '04, who comprise the group the Clefhangers. After the wedding, Rachel and Justin traveled around Southeast Asia and Europe for six weeks, then settled in Chicago, where Justin started his residency at Northwestern.

Astrid Tsang is back in Massachusetts after three years of working in branding on Wall Street and a year of traveling in Asia and Central America. She finished her first year at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and is doing a summer internship with the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. She'd love to hear from alumnae in New England.

Sarah Bookbinder graduated from Michigan Law School in May and is moving to Nashville, Tenn., to begin a one-year clerkship with a federal judge. Sarah would love to hear from alumnae in Tennessee.

Jennifer Barchfield-Zouari earned a master's in Spanish and Portuguese literature at Columbia. She then taught bilingual fourth-grade students at a school in the south Bronx for a year before moving to Paris with her husband, Sami Zouari (a Columbia graduate she met in her senior year). After that, Jenny moved to Madrid to earn a master's of journalism at *El Pais*, Spain's leading newspaper. She completed the master's this January and is now back in Paris working as a journalist at the Associated Press.

Jessica Pagan returned to New York from studying in London about a year ago. She lives in Brooklyn and sings, acts, and dances.

Bianca Jordan
83 Washington Place, Apt. 4R
New York, NY 10011-9140
bianca_jordan@hotmail.com

Sherri Kronfeld
47 Saint Nicholas Ave. #5D
New York, NY 10026
646642-9139
shkronfeld@hotmail.com

01 I had so much good news to share last issue that much of it had to be held over. Please join me in congratulating **Karla Repple**, who married her high school sweetheart, David Zisook, this summer. Many Barnard friends attended the wedding in Atlanta, where the happy couple now live.

In November, **Pepper Stetler** moved from Philadelphia to Berlin, Germany, to do research on her PhD dissertation. She's a graduate student in the department of art history at the University of Delaware. "My good friend and old suite-mate, **Julia Moses**, was also in Berlin for the end of 2005. I really enjoyed seeing her again on a regular basis."

Rachel Ocken Zylberman reports that she enjoys teaching English at Manhattan High School for Girls in New York and lives in Washington Heights with her husband, Michael, and her sons, Eliezer, 2, and Akiva, 8 months.

Katherine Wood traveled across the country as a dancer in the North American tour of 42nd Street and writes, "It's a dream job."

Sky Spiegel has almost completed a master's degree in English at Teachers College. She plans to teach high school English literature in New Jersey, where she lives with her fiancé, Bill Meakem. Sky pursued theatre for a while after graduation, but it wasn't the lifestyle for her. She misses it but still finds opportunities to sing and act, for example, she recorded a demo for a musical that a friend of a friend is trying to get on Broadway. Sky also has been teaching yoga for three years.

After graduating from Duke Law last year, **Ingrid Yang** began her legal career as an attorney at Mintz Levin

and now lives in the West Village. She recently hiked the Inca Trail in Peru, visited the Greek Islands, and went to New Zealand while studying abroad for a semester in Melbourne, Australia, during law school.

Seventy of our classmates attended our 5th Reunion, June 8 through 11. Many thanks to the reunion committee for planning our tri-College happy hour at The Park on Thursday night and our Class Dinner featuring entertainment by **Natalie Hoyer's** Blue Martini Trio. We expect to hear more from Natalie as her career progresses and we wish her good luck.

I've greatly enjoyed writing this column for the past five years and thank you for sending in news. We started out searching for jobs and changing careers; now many of us have announced major life changes and shared amazing travel stories through this column. We've changed so much in just five years, and I look forward to hearing how our stories continue in the upcoming columns by **Erinn Smart**, our new class correspondent.

—*Erin Fredrick*

Erinn Smart

415 Argyle Road, Apt. 6-B

Brooklyn, NY 11218

erinnsmart@alum.barnard.edu

5TH REUNION: MAY 31-JUNE 3, 2007

02 **Natalia Korobov** writes, "I am currently in my fourth year of my PhD program in organismic and evolutionary biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), and I am receiving my master's on May 27, 2006. I have about a year and a half to go before finishing the PhD. I met my future husband, Benjamin Taft, at UMass during orientation week. He was a Cornell graduate. We were married on Oct. 30 in Amherst, Mass. My former roommate at Barnard, **Allison Diperte**, was there to celebrate with us. I am now using my legal first name, Natalia, and I've taken my husband's name, so I am

now Natalia K. Taft."

I've been living a nomadic existence these past few months and am currently in England. I plan on spending this fall in Florida and Argentina. My permanent mailing address has changed, however, so please send your notes to the address below and keep those updates coming.

Nadine Haobsh

432 Park Avenue South, 2nd Fl.,

New York, NY 10016

nadinehaobsh@gmail.com

03 **Sarah Housman** has published several research articles on SIDS and is now doing postbaccalaureate premed at Columbia. She still travels to Chile.

Elizabeth Housman finished her postbaccalaureate premed at Columbia in August and will begin medical school this fall. She's also a research assistant, a pediatric oncology storybook reader, and the founder of a new pediatric art therapy program.

Piyali Basak is completing her second year of law school in Boston and provides legal advocacy support to survivors of domestic violence.

Mamta Dadlani is studying the psychotherapy process and getting her PhD in clinical psychology at University of Massachusetts. She spent the past two years working at various clinics and hospitals, doing clinical work, and conducting research. Before starting graduate school, Mamta traveled to Australia for a month and then to Dublin, Ireland, to visit **Krina Despota**.

Ilana Garon finished the New York City Teaching Fellows program in Spring 2005. She continues to teach 11th grade English and one class of ninth grade math at a public school in the Bronx. Ilana also is a member of a U.S. Masters swim team, and has been competing in regional and national swim meets in her spare time.

Rosemary Sitler teaches biology and earth science at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula, a Catholic all-

female educational facility in the Bronx, where she lives.

Amy Kong is a junior portfolio manager at U.S. Trust Company of New York. She's a CFA Level 3 Candidate and resides in Brooklyn.

Kara-Lee Pool attends Boston University School of Medicine and does infectious disease research. She's an International Health Organization officer, and she's on a mission to help the world with **Sarah Lemkin** of Los Angeles; **Adrienne Jerud**, who's at Einstein Medical School; **Whitney Hintz** of London; and **Laetitia S. Lemaistre**, who works at World Bank, Indonesia.

Abby Clay graduated from the University of Oregon with a master's in education in 2004 and then moved to Portland where she's been teaching math at Centennial High School. Last summer she competed in her first triathlon. Next year Abby will move back east to begin work on her PhD in public policy and economics.

Kate Treitman spent last fall teaching at a school in Southern India for an organization called The Kings World Trust for Children.

Alison Gavrell decided to attend graduate school for a master's in political science and public policy and has been granted a fellowship at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Jieh Greeney left IBM's consulting group and joined McKinsey & Co. She's in London, consulting for a chocolate company there; she got a chance to catch up with **Assia Grazioli-Venier**, who's been living in London since graduation. Jieh has enjoyed trips to Megeve (in the French Alps) and Vail, Colo., and is finally learning how to ski.

Right after graduation, **Anastasia Bakoulis** started working as a research assistant at a lab at NYU Medical Center, where she's also a volunteer in the emergency room. This summer she attended the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Elisabeth Bayer is the business manager for The Splinter Group, currently producing *Christine Jorgensen Reveals* and managing *Confessions of a Mormon Boy*, both off-Broadway. She shares an apartment in Washington Heights with **Shelby Peak**, who works in publishing.

Iana Mann lives in Washington Heights. In June, she graduated from Hunter College with a dual master's degree in special education and general education. She also works at S/A/R High School in Riverdale.

Hyon Ju Park is pursuing an MD and is in her third year at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She lives on the Upper East Side and has three nieces.

Shabnam Ahamed works for *P.O.V.*, a documentary series on PBS, and lives on the Upper East Side with her boyfriend, Michael Greenfield (CC '02). She recently went on a weekend trip to Cancun with **Meredith Schwarz Hegseth**, who works at JP Morgan and married her high school sweetheart, Peter, in 2004. The two often talk to **Molly Schned**, who's back home in Minneapolis after a year teaching English in Spain and travel-

ing through Eastern Europe.

Lisa March teaches second grade in the Clarkstown central school district in New York. She has a master's in literacy from Long Island University and is pursuing a second master's in special education at City College.

Celeste Jochim-Johansson was in Uppsala, Sweden, for a month-long intensive language course. In June, she went to Malaga and then to Salamanca, Spain, to participate in another month-long intensive language course. She plans to attend law school in August in the California Bay area.

Patricia Chin-Sweeney left her job at The Environmental Financial Consulting Group, a boutique investment banking firm, to study Spanish and travel through Spain for three months. She lives in Manhattan and wants to explore opportunities in the nonprofit and environmental sectors.

Nita Mickley has moved around from Boulder, Colo., to San Francisco to Santa Monica, Calif., where she's settling in. She performs on violin with the Santa Monica Symphony and has signed a record deal with her rock band, Simple6.

She keeps up her acting chops with the occasional play, TV show, or film.

Tina Lidogoster moved to Hong Kong for a year and has been traveling through Asia: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam.

After spending a semester at the University of Oslo, Norway, **Liisa Past** is finishing her master's in political communication at the University of Tartu, Estonia. She's also the media director for Open Estonia Foundation and is a volunteer debate and public speaking trainer.

Walter Neumann, professor of mathematics at Barnard, reports that an article started as a senior thesis by **Natalie Arkus** in 2003 is in the Top 25 articles within the subject of agricultural and biological sciences in 2005. "A mathematical model of cellular apoptosis and senescence through the dynamics of telomere loss, *Journal of Theoretical Biology* Volume 235, Issue 1, 7 July 2005, Pages 13-32."

Keren Simon recently spent time with Stephanie Daddi '02 in Italy and with **Aurelia Crouhy** in Paris. She has a new job at Yeshiva University.

I N M E M O R I A M

1926 Ann Weil Dick, Dec. 7, 2002

1929 Lucy Matthews Curtis, May 26, 2006

1933 Dorothea Deimel Vann, April 3, 2006

1934 Bernice Shrifte Woll, April 23, 2006

1935 Jean Preston Tilt, March 2, 2006

1936 Eleanor Southern Damrosch, March 13, 2006

Ann Furman Feuer, March 29, 2006

Eloise Southern Noehren, April 17, 2002

1937 Virginia LeCount, March 12, 2006

1938 Jean Goldstein Gottlieb, Jan. 8, 2006

Helen Jefferson Thomas, March 26, 2006

1939 Dorothy Bramson Hammond, April 23, 2006

Marguerite VerKruzen, March 17, 2006

1941 June Wilson Bain, March 6, 2006

Lois Wilson Corcoran, June 19, 2006

Jean Goodwin Ross, March 18, 2006

Frances Wish Vogel, July 18, 2003

1942 Elizabeth Krane Covitt, Feb. 19, 2006

Helen Kandel Hyman, March 6, 2006

1944 Elizabeth Murray, April 4, 2006

1946 Joan Emmerich Adams, Oct. 22, 1999

Nena Dross O'Neill, March 9, 2006

1948 Joan Taylor Dawson, Oct. 29, 2005

Mary Georgi Kaelber, Sept. 27, 2005

1949 Patricia Plummer Cornell, April 14, 2006

Ann Day Wallick, May 15, 2006

1950 Marilyn Schulhof Smith, May 9, 2006

1951 Virginia Schleussner Heady, March 22, 2006

1952 Diana Lowe Friedman, April 26, 2006

Luellanora Johnson Mackie, Jan. 19, 2006

1954 Brigid Snow Flanigan, March 16, 2006

1956 Roberta Isaacs Mathews, March 29, 2006

Joan Stevens Pollack, March 5, 2006

1957 Lois Frank Grinker, May 18, 2006

Gisele Melman Melnick, May 2, 2006

1958 Edythe Greissman Fass, Dec. 25, 2005

1959 Madeleine Pelner Cosman, March 2, 2006

1960 Eleanor Stokes Roberts, Feb. 26, 2006

1961 Helen Pollack Moren, Jan. 1, 2005

Rosalind Poss Rosen, April 13, 2006

1962 Norma Safir Steinberg, Jan. 1, 1975

1963 Ethel Joseph BarNoon, May 10, 2006

1966 Tamara Lowe Dworsky, Nov. 24, 2005

1968 Ruta Valters Shuart, March 5, 2006

1969 Madeline Nesse, May 18, 2006

1980 Megan Van Peebles, March 13, 2006

2006 Alexis McNaughton Knox, April 17, 2006

From August 2003 to July 2005, **Rachel Harris** worked in Washington, D.C., at the Environmental Law Institute as a research associate. Then she attended the one-year climate and society master's program at Columbia University and, over the past summer, attended an internship to complete the requirements for the program. She hopes to be an advocate for environmental justice and have a career that allows her to focus on climate change and the impact of climate variability on vulnerable societies.

On Dec. 3, 2005, **Pauline Alfred** married Jordan Hirsch (CC '01). In attendance were **Christina Coiro, Julianna Goldman, Elizabeth Housman, Sara Housman, and Lisa Kessler.**

Alex Otto
526 N. Orlando Ave. #103
West Hollywood, CA 90048
310-351-8816
alexotto1@pacbell.net

the fashion department of *Cosmopolitan* and lives in the financial district of Manhattan. She's close friends with **Karen Balonze**, who works at Columbia University Medical Center in the neurobiology and behavior department and lives in the Morningside Heights area; and with **Danika Pramik-Holdaway**, who recently moved to San Diego, Calif., where she dances with a small ballet company and teaches dance to children of all ages. She lives with her boyfriend and their cat.

I have been working in the rackets bureau of the Manhattan district attorney's office since graduation. I'm leaving New York in August to pursue a master's degree in public policy at Georgetown.

Magdalena (Maggie) Mello
182 E. 95th St., Apt. 20C
New York, NY 10128
401-245-4364
Maggie.Mello@gmail.com

04 Jody Mullen lives in Hoboken, N.J., with her boyfriend. She's been a publicist for The Juilliard School at Lincoln Center since 2004. Jody performed in the light opera *The Merry Widow* in Manhattan and attended the New York Opera Studio's summer opera intensive, performing in public master classes and scenes.

Rosa Sanchez will start her PhD in Spanish literature at the University of Virginia this fall. She's very excited about moving to Charlottesville.

Adrian Hill completed her master's of public administration in environmental science and policy at SIPA last May. Since then, she put her new skills to use at the Earth Institute at Columbia and looks forward to at least a few more years in New York.

Allison Manus started the master's program for social-organizational psychology at Teachers College this summer.

Christina Saratsis still works in

05 Jennifer Viola was due to earn her master's from Teachers College in May. **Pascale Lespinasse** was offered and accepted an invitation to be among the incoming class of first-year medical students this fall at The George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. She spent the past year volunteering in the neurology unit at New York Presbyterian - Columbia University Medical Center and working full-time. **London Thomson-Thurm** works in hedge fund marketing at Merrill Lynch. She lives in midtown Manhattan and is going on safari in Africa at the end of the summer.

Erica Di Marco has been working at a law firm in New Jersey. She has entered Rutgers School of Law - Camden, Class of 2009. **Mary Bruch** is back at Barnard working for The Barnard Fund, she sent this news: **Patricia Lee** is contributing to Hurricane Katrina rebuilding efforts by working with Habitat for

Humanity in New Orleans. **Danielle Love** is starting her second year as a Teach for America Corps member in the South Bronx. In June, **Kate McGinnis** received a master's degree from NYU in Madrid.

Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky is returning to St. Louis, Mo., to teach in an all-girls high school. **Iris Goldstein** is interning with the General Council to the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C., and is about to enter her second year of law school at George Washington University. **Miriam Edelman** was elected to the board of the Barnard-in-Washington club in Washington, D.C., where she works in Senator Ron Wyden's office. **April Suwalsky** is coordinator of the Center for Community Planning and Development at Hunter College, CUNY. She recently held a great barbeque in Queens with her roommate (and former R.A.) Lauren Goddard '04. Alumnae in attendance were **Bandana Malik, Lillian Seu, and Yun (Stella) Xu. Adeena Gabriel** is a research assistant at the NYU Child Study Center, where she works with children and their families doing research on Tourette's syndrome, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and depressed and suicidal adolescents. She plans to apply to graduate school in the fall. She's also doing a little work on the side for the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. She lives on the Upper East Side with **Elizabeth Stone. Jessica (Rowe) Duffield** got married last July. She teaches first grade at the Indian Mills school in Shamong, N.J., and is entering a master's in education program in the fall at Fairleigh Dickinson University, so she can be certified as a reading and literacy specialist.

Tracey Abner
267 North Wilton Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139-1417
215-747-7016
tabner1@gmail.com

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College was established in 1895 to support the College and to connect more than 29,000 Barnard graduates around the world.

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE

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LISA PHILLIPS DAVIS '76

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Young Alumnae

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Project Continuum Coordinator

ANNETTE STRAMESI KAHN '67

Financial Fluency Planning Coordinator

CHRISTINE SHIN '84

Annual Report of the President of the AABC 2005-06

Throughout the past year the AABC Board has worked with Alumnae Affairs to create programs that connect Barnard alumnae to each other and to the College. Our underlying vision has been to build a culture of coming back—and giving back—to Barnard.

To that end, the board has focused on some key goals: providing our volunteers with the tools they need to serve as ambassadors for Barnard, strengthening the AABC's communications efforts, and creating more opportunities for alumnae to connect with the College.

These are wonderful times for the College. Record numbers of high school women are applying to Barnard. We continue to set records in contributions to The Barnard Fund, to capital fund-raising for the Nexus, and to named scholarships and internships for current students, which directly support the next generation of Barnard women. Participation is especially important—this year, 65 percent of the graduating Class of 2006 contributed to The Barnard Fund, setting a new record.

We want to thank everyone at the College, particularly the Alumnae Affairs and Development staff. We are especially grateful to Roberta Waterstone Albert '92—director of Alumnae Affairs for the past six years—who has accepted a newly created position in strategic planning, reporting to Cameran Mason, vice president for advancement. It is a tribute to Roberta's vision, diligence, and advocacy that we have accomplished so much in such a short period of time. We welcome Marilyn Chin '74 as the new director of Alumnae Affairs and look forward to our partnership with her.

Warm thanks to those who have served on the AABC board, and especially to those whose terms end as of Reunion 2006: Margarita Brose '84 (former AABC president,

completing her term as an alumnae trustee); Wendy Supovitz Reilly '63 (director at large and chair of Project Continuum); Eileen Lee Moy '73 (chair, Careers Committee); Lynn Rothstein '78 (chair, Leadership Council); Katherine Sinsabaugh '85 (chair, Nominating Committee); and Patricia Tinto '76 (chair, Regional Networks Committee).

It is a pleasure to welcome our new slate of officers to the AABC board: Eileen Moy '73 (alumnae trustee); Rebecca Amitai '79 (chair, Careers Committee); Frances Sadler '72 (chair, Nominating Committee); Myra Greenspoon Kovey '65 (chair, Regional Networks Committee); Pola Auerbach Rosen '63 (director at large, Project Continuum); and Linda Sweet '63 (chair, Leadership Council).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

REUNION

The Reunion Committee, led by Deborah Newman Shapiro '79, developed a rich program, which included a performance by Paul Taylor's Taylor2; an alumnae storytelling event; and the Saturday night gala dinner. Class officers organized events for classmates, including cocktail parties, panel presentations, and mini-reunions throughout the year.

AWARDS

At the annual awards luncheon on Friday, June 9, Pennsylvania State Senator Constance Hess Williams '66 received the AABC's Distinguished Alumna Award, and *New York Times* reporter Betsy Wade '51 received the Millicent McIntosh Feminism Award. The Class of 1936 also was honored. At the gala reunion dinner on Saturday, June 10, Martha Nelson '76, editor of Time Inc.'s People Group, received the College's annual Woman of Achievement Award; and Mary Louise Reid '46 and Toni Crowley Coffee '56 were honored for their service and commitment to Barnard. Barnard alumna Wendy Supovitz Reilly '63 was honored

by Columbia University during the commencement festivities for spearheading the creation of Project Continuum.

THE BARNARD FUND

The AABC's Barnard Fund Committee (formerly the Alumnae Committee for Annual Giving), chaired by Susan Ladner '73, advised the Barnard Fund throughout the year. This year's fund initiatives included increased use of electronic communications for fund-raising efforts and different types of mailings to varied alumnae audiences. The total raised for fiscal year 2005-06 was \$5.3 million.

CLUBS AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Through the hard work of regional clubs, Barnard women throughout the world enjoy dinners, lectures, picnics, museum tours, and networking meetings. President Judith Shapiro spoke to groups in Washington, D.C., Florida, Connecticut, and Massachusetts about key College initiatives. In San Francisco, Professor Randall Balmer spoke about his new book, *Thy Kingdom Come: How the Religious Right Distorts the Faith and Threatens America, An Evangelical's Lament*. Associate dean Marjorie Silverman traveled to Paris and London to meet alumnae and students.

CAREERS

The AABC Careers Committee, led by Eileen Moy '73, created several events, including a panel featuring entrepreneurs in the food industry and a behind-the-scenes presentation on Google.

FINANCIAL FLUENCY

In January, 2006, the Alumnae Association launched its "Smart Women, Smart Money Financial Mastery Series," with an inaugural lecture on asset allocation by David Darst, managing director at Morgan Stanley. A mini-course followed covering the basics of financial planning and investment. More such sessions are planned for the fall.

LIFE STAGES

The Alma Maters ("Sweet Mothers") kicked off its 2005-06 events season

in the fall with the discussion "Rewriting Motherhood" (co-sponsored by the Center for Research on Women). Panelists included authors Cecelie Berry, Miriam Peskowitz, and Judith Warner; *New York Times* journalist Lisa Belkin served as moderator.

Under Wendy Reilly's leadership, Project Continuum expanded its activities this past year to include seminars on memory training, health and fitness, and reentering the job market after the age of 50. Cultural programs included guided tours of Gracie Mansion, and the Jewish Museum's Sarah Bernhardt exhibit. Support groups remain an integral part of Project Continuum's programming.

STUDENT/ALUMNAE EVENTS

The ever-popular "Tables for Ten" series returned this year, bringing together alumnae and students for dinner and conversation. Also well received were the "Home for the Holidays" events for students and alumnae in cities throughout the country during winter break.

FELLOWSHIPS

The AABC Fellowship Fund recognizes the academic performance and potential accomplishments of alumnae and graduating seniors with grants for graduate study. Funds for these awards come from the AABC and the Edith and Frances Mulhall Achilles Memorial Fund. The Fellowship Committee, chaired by Judith Daynard Boies '59, chose five alumnae recipients, out of 75 total applicants: Tamara Montacute '05 (global public health); Diana Thow '03 (translation studies); Alia Hanna Habib '00 (English literature); Rachel Furst '00 (medieval Jewish history); and Jennifer Pielstick Montgomery '99 (MD/PhD in biology).

METRO AREA PROGRAMMING

Barnard departments offer special programs, open to all alumnae, throughout the year. A highlight was the "Great Writers at Barnard" conference in November, as well as popular book readings and events featuring prominent

authors, and dance department performances presented in conjunction with arts institutions throughout the city.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The annual conference for volunteer leaders was held in November. The Council focused on the tools needed by volunteers to serve as ambassadors for Barnard. Nearly 200 alumnae came to campus for training in fund-raising, club management, events planning, and Web communications. "Fall 2006 Leadership Council" is scheduled for November 10-11.

ALUMNAE OF COLOR

The Alumnae Association is strengthening its commitment to alumnae of diverse backgrounds. In December, Dorothy Ko, professor of history, spoke about her book, *Cinderella's Sisters: A Revisionist History of Footbinding*. On Thursday, June 8, at the annual Alumnae of Color dinner, alumnae and guests enjoyed dinner and remarks by Elsie Crum McCabe '81, president of New York City's Museum for African Art.

YOUNG ALUMNAE

The AABC's Young Alumnae Committee, under the leadership of Jyoti Menon '01, continued to serve the needs of Barnard's younger alumnae through new programming. One event of note was a gourmet lunch at Butter, a popular New York City restaurant where Alexandra Guarnaschelli '91 is the executive chef; Guarnaschelli also spoke about her culinary career.

We encourage every alumna to reconnect with a group of engaged, interesting, independent-minded women by attending at least one Alumnae Association club, class, or student event in the coming year. It will prove to be time well spent. Please remember to invest in Barnard's future by giving to the College.

Sincerely,

Lisa Phillips Davis '76

*President, Alumnae Association of
Barnard College*

PRESIDENT'S PAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the confines of our own campuses and disciplinary pursuits. We need to take stock of how infrequently and inadequately we have addressed ourselves to the larger public. We need to acknowledge how much of our published work has been gratuitously hermetic, or—to put it more bluntly—downright unreadable. More of us need to take inspiration from anthropologist and Barnard alumna Margaret Mead '23, whose research, teaching, and curatorial work were accompanied by best-selling books, public lectures, testimony at Congressional hearings, and appearances on popular television shows.

The early 1960s, when Hofstadter's book appeared, were years when social scientists could assume that their intellectually sophisticated, substantively rich, and elegantly written books would reach a relatively wide public of readers sufficiently educated and literate to appreciate what they had to say. While we are not, generally speaking, living in such times now, I take pride in the fact that a number of Barnard faculty members are making their views known and their influence felt to audiences beyond academia.

To mention just a few examples: Randall Balmer, Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Religion and an expert on the history of Evangelicalism in the United States, is, in addition to being the author of several widely read books, a dynamic public lecturer, a syndicated newspaper columnist, a scriptwriter and performer for television documentaries, and a recent candidate for Connecticut state representative. James Basker, Richard Gilder Professor of Literary History, has contributed to public understanding of the Atlantic slave trade, among other subjects, through his publications as well as his contributions to major museum

exhibits. Esther Fuchs, long a member of Barnard's department of political science and now a professor at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, spent several years at City Hall as special advisor to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who was impressed by a CV that included an influential book on big-city mayors.

The struggle against anti-intellectualism is steady work, and there are periods in history when it becomes especially urgent work. It is work to which we are all called, and for which the Barnard experience well prepares us. It is work to be done in venues ranging from classrooms to boardrooms to PTA meetings to television studios to the political campaign trail. Let us undertake this work together, embracing our vocation as intellectuals with—as we say during commencement season—all of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereto attached.

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- The photo credit for "My Funny Valentine" (Through The Gates, Spring 2006) was incorrect; it should have noted the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

- Words were inadvertently added to Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald's challenge to the Class of '81 (Sources, "Challenging Times," Spring 2006). The last sentence should have read "I will match every dollar above \$250 donated by members of '81, up to \$125,000."

- In the feature "Where They Stand" (Spring 2006), we inaccurately reported that Diana Price '06 once received a question about abortion from a roommate. The question came not from a roommate, but from a floor mate.

We regret the errors.

SYLLABUS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

condescending narration that "can be funny, shocking, and offensive," says Estrada.

Buñuel's view of a deformed and corrupt humanity resonates with ideas put forth by Valle Inclán in the 1920s, explains Estrada. "He said it was the only way one could look at Spanish reality at the time, because Spain had become a distortion, a caricature of a country."

Belle de Jour, Buñuel's 1967 French production starring Catherine Deneuve as a housewife who prostitutes herself, is another controversial favorite. But female students feel strongly that Buñuel's representation of women is reductive, according to Estrada, embodying the traditional mother/whore dichotomy. "I think it's true," admits Estrada, "but he doesn't look at men in a positive light, either, so his views of gender fit his very negative perception of human nature, overall," she explains.

Buñuel's frequent use of repetition—for example, dinner-party guests entering a house twice in *The Exterminating Angel* or endlessly walking on a deserted street in *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*—is another frequent topic of discussion. Estrada explains the tactic is "a formal way to express his dissatisfaction with the bourgeois philosophy that believes in constant improvement, because this idea of progress leaves the 'forgotten' behind," she explains, invoking the title of Buñuel's 1950 Mexican street-kids drama *Los Olvidados* ("The Forgotten Ones").

With Buñuel's surrealism, cynicism, perversity, and repetition, Estrada admits, "he liked to shock, he was a bad boy, and he enjoyed it." But above all, adds Estrada, "He was a satirist, and satire is a tradition that goes back to the very beginning of Spanish literary history."

THE PAPER CHASE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

sets the College apart from many other selective liberal arts colleges, many of which offer a thesis as an option to an honors degree. This also differentiates Barnard from Columbia; the requirement of the senior thesis is something Barnard's history department is fully aware of in terms of its impact on students and faculty, says Robert McCaughey, a senior faculty member in the history department (he arrived in 1969).

"Barnard is at the more prescriptive end of the continuum within the major," McCaughey says. "Columbia has traditionally prided itself on a broader education with more general exposure, while Barnard has prided itself on taking undergraduates a long way into their field." He thinks there may be a gender interpretation of the thesis requirement: "There was an old view that women ought to be educated broadly to be wives and mothers of specialists, a view Barnard found constitutionally unattractive."

McCaughey also sees the "hardiness" of the senior seminar in which history students write the thesis "as a way to ensure that faculty members have intense one-on-one contact with students alongside their larger lecture classes."

The teamwork between faculty and seniors on a large project is a tenet of a Barnard education, says College President Judith Shapiro. "Students need the right kind of mentoring to know how to embark on a project of a much larger scale and not get lost," she says. "They develop confidence and independence."

Shapiro acknowledges that the program is labor-intensive for students and faculty alike, but sees it as the signature of the senior year because it pushes students beyond what they know they are capable of and allows them to leave Barnard with a newfound self-reliance.

A strong proponent of the senior project, Shapiro says her own unhappy thesis experience as an undergraduate at Brandeis convinced her it could be done better. "I embarked on a senior thesis I was very excited about," she remembers. "I was going to compare international volunteers who went to fight in the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s with those who went to fight in the Greek War of Independence in the 1820s. I was ambitious, but I got no support from my adviser, no seminar, I was just thrown out on my own." She never completed her thesis (fortunately for her it was not a degree requirement) and sees it as a major gap in an otherwise excellent education.

A PERSONAL JOURNEY

Eliza McLaren, an American history major, found herself drawn to education as a subject: she chose to focus her thesis on the woman who founded the elementary school McLaren attended. A native New Yorker, McLaren, 21, was a student at the Little Red School House in Greenwich Village from 1988 to 1993. The school's emphasis on experiential learning—milk-ing cows, woodworking—and social responsibility influenced her greatly, she says, even into adulthood. Studying the school's history was "like looking into a house I lived in long before I lived in it," says McLaren.

McLaren researched the school's founder, Elisabeth Irwin, and was surprised to learn how little had been written about her, despite Irwin's expertise as an educator and psychologist. In McLaren's essay, *Elisabeth Antoinette Irwin's Contributions to Progressive Education*, she looks at the woman who rejected the Victorian notion that children should be seen and not heard, and instead aimed to bring the world into the classroom, connecting childhood and democracy in ways that were radical in the early 1900s.

The research journey was intensely personal for McLaren. Her father, Andrew McLaren, was director of the Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School for 16 years and is himself a powerhouse in the independent school movement. Here was Eliza, delving headlong into the biggest academic project of her life and she'd chosen to do it in her father's field. "There was so much stress going in," McLaren says, acknowledging that the family connection gave her pause. "I had to remind myself that it's just forty pages."

While unsure about a future in education—"I'm thinking marketing or a desk job"—McLaren's voyage back in time to the ancestry of her beloved school left her with greater security in her own adulthood. "I thought my dad knew everything," McLaren says, her formal features spreading into a gentle smile. "I know more about Irwin now."

The process of letting go—of an intellectual pursuit, and of a senior's time at Barnard—begins as students start handing in their projects in April. You might remember the relief and a sense of accomplishment that accompanied uncertain feelings about life after graduation—a transition that means you can no longer linger in the office of a Deborah Valenze or a Nancy Woloch, detailing your litany of concerns.

For a couple of days after turning in her thesis, Emily Dobbins had moments of doubt. "I wished I had read it at least one more time, or had changed this, or explained that better," she says. "But eventually, I just had to let it go. I realized that the thesis would never be completely finished in my eyes as long as I held onto it." About three weeks later, her spirits lifted considerably. "I feel much prouder of my work and accomplishment. I'm not going to return to it for at least a few months, but I'm hoping that when I do, I find a project that reflects the tears, sweat, and reading and writing that went into it." ☒

RIVER SUMMER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

professor of environmental science at Barnard, was hired by Pfirman to administer the program. He was present on all five legs of last year's program. "Science also involves the excitement of the unknown, where I don't know what the data are going to tell me."

River Summer originally was conceived as an undergraduate program, but the logistical challenges of mixing faculty from different schools and disciplines convinced Pfirman to try it out on faculty first. Last summer's inaugural session was funded by the Teagle Foundation as a curriculum-development program. "We decided that we'd do more than just teach each other the content of what we knew," says Pfirman. "We said to ourselves, 'Let's see how we can teach this material in the most effective way using innovative pedagogy and interdisciplinary content.'"

The program proved to be so revelatory to its participants that they've decided to keep it going for themselves. Pfirman applied for and won a grant from the Mellon Foundation to fund River Summer as a faculty-development program for the next two years. (This year's River Summer will once again gather roughly 40 faculty members drawn from the 42 institutions of higher education who are members of the Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities for five one-week segments exploring different sections of the Hudson River.) "We learned so much from each other," says Pfirman. "It was just cool, we made connections we couldn't have otherwise made, and picked up so many things to incorporate into our classes, that we felt we could do it again for faculty." The ties that faculty have made over the summer are the germ for an informal "College of the Hudson Valley," says Pfirman. A whole new kind of intellectual sociability emerged on the *Seawolf's*

deck, says Kenna. "At a professional conference, you do not want to be the person to ask that dumb question," he says. "You either know what you're talking about or you keep your mouth shut." On the boat, however, all such competitive anxiety dissipated in the camaraderie of shared work. Faculty from research universities mixed with faculty from community colleges on a footing of unfeigned equality. "Some of the best units were taught by people from tiny colleges or community colleges."

Taking It Back to the Classroom

The new colleagues have lectured in one another's classes and have even begun exploring research projects they might collaborate on in the future. Pfirman hopes eventually to deliver the fruits of three more years of faculty development directly to undergraduates in the form of a River Summer or a semester-long "River Fall" that would introduce students to a hands-on, community-building, interdisciplinary approach to education. Many of the faculty touched by last year's pilot run report having their eyes opened about their teaching and research in surprising ways. Elizabeth Hutchinson never thought that her work as a professional art historian had any direct crossover with her personal environmentalist beliefs. But Thomas Cole was protesting the unfettered industrialization of nineteenth-century America. His aesthetic complaint against the ravaging of wilderness by untrammelled improvement anticipated the feeling and tone of the later preservationist movement. Cole's intuitions about the spiritual costs of improvement anticipate our later scientific understanding of the threat that overdevelopment poses to a complexly interdependent ecosystem.

From the late 1960s through the 1970s, environmentalists sprang up in defense of the Hudson. They have managed, over the past 30 years, to effect

dramatic improvement in the river's overall health. Some of this political, legal, and economic history also was told on the *Seawolf* as it made its way down the Hudson. The political struggle has influenced the water, the fish, and the plant life of the river's ecosystem. In 1966, the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, a coalition of commercial and recreational fisherman, founded the organization that would later become the consortium; John Cronin, an environmental scholar at Pace University and a former fisherman, was part of the coalition. In 1983, Cronin became the first full-time Riverkeeper. In 1984, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., became Riverkeeper's chief prosecuting attorney. The group has successfully challenged hundreds of polluters and secured hundreds of millions of dollars from those polluters to remediate the Hudson.

This struggle has itself been influenced by ideas that stretch back to Thomas Cole and the patrons who were his first audience, and some of the first people to lament the loss of the wilderness and a nostalgia for it. "My unit on the Hudson River School wasn't particularly about the here and now," Hutchinson says. "But when there's a town-planning session in Rye, New York, and they're talking about tourism and designing their riverfront and preserving the character of the Hudson, they're building on the same ideas I've dealt with," she says. "They're dealing with real-life problems that we have right now."

Hutchinson's is only one of the many epiphanies that faculty went through last summer, of the kind that Pfirman hopes she can someday bring to a generation of students. "We send our students abroad for a semester, and they are transformed by those experiences," says Pfirman. "The same kinds of experiences can happen here." ☒

REUNION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

every morning and buy one egg, one cup of milk, and a piece of bread. I would return from work and our studio would be filled with artists and nude models.”

The roster of students enrolled at the language school was impressive—government officials, diplomats, bank employees, the wife of a pasha, fashion designers. Among Fleischman’s students, one in particular stands out in her mind: Coco Chanel. “She had just signed a contract with MGM to dress Gloria Swanson, and she needed to learn English.” Chanel was not interested in grammar, Fleischman said, and “took her English lessons in bed.” Chanel shared her own tales about her humble origins (she was one of three girls in a family and was sent to a convent to work, near a French army base; the officers’ wives went to the base to have their sewing done, which is how Chanel learned to make clothes). “She wasn’t hesitant at all about her private affairs. At that time, her lover was the Duke of Westminster.”

In 1932 Fleischman was summoned back home. “I came back with great regret—I wanted to stay. But my mother was worried and sent a telegram saying they were hearing of trouble in Germany.”

A bit more French was uttered during the visit with President Shapiro. Fleischman was accompanied by her sons, Paul and Mark, and their wives, Susan ’66, and Judith, respectively, as well as a niece, Ruth Rabbani, and a grand-niece, Dorit Rabbani Shames ’97. It was Susan’s suggestion that Fleischman return to campus for Reunion, knowing how much Barnard has meant to her mother-in-law. “Barnard,” said Fleischman, “made me the person I am. It gave me the fortitude to do so many things, and opened up my horizons. It showed me that a woman can do so much.” ☒

IT HAPPENED AT REUNION

SO MUCH TO SEE, HEAR, AND DO OVER FOUR DAYS OF EVENTS. HERE, A FEW HIGHLIGHTS.

★ Sixes and ones ruled at this year’s reunion, celebrating anniversaries of five, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30...you get the idea. The oldest class represented was 1926 (see Etta Fleischman profile, page 27); **the class of ’56 had the highest turnout**, with about 135 in attendance.

★ **Recognition and awards** went to several alumnae who have dedicated time and energy to the College, their careers, and to helping women succeed: Pennsylvania State Senator **Constance Hess Williams ’66** was presented with the **Distinguished Alumna Award** and former *New York Times* reporter **Betsy Wade ’51** received the **Millicent McIntosh Feminism Award** at the AABC’s annual awards luncheon on Friday, June 9.

The Gala dinner on June 10 also was a time for recognizing professional alumnae. **Martha Nelson ’76**, Editor of Time Inc.’s People Group, was this year’s Woman of Achievement (see profile, page 51). For their tireless dedication to the College, **Toni Coffee ’56** and **Mary Louise Reid ’46** each received an **Award for Service**.

★ President Judith Shapiro presented the **“State of the College”** address at the Friday awards luncheon, touching on recent accomplishments, and updating the audience on the new building planned for the campus: “We chose to make the new building the true heart of our community, a building that would bring together faculty and students for formal instruction and for socializing, and that would welcome alumnae and members of the public to Barnard’s

signature artistic and cultural events. The Nexus will be a home for our showcase programs: art, architecture, and performance.

★ President Shapiro also paid **tribute to the Class of 1936**: “You have lived through wars both hot and cold, economic booms and busts, and sexual and technological revolutions. You have seen your share of the sorrows and joys that life metes out, and forged on with grace and courage. We applaud you and your indomitable Barnard spirit.”

★ Eight alumnae—Nora Percival ’36, Dorothy D. Storck ’51, Dr. Myra Shayevitz ’56, Louise Bernikow ’61, Ellen Handler Spitz ’61, Linda Elovitz Marshall ’71, Colby Devitt ’86, and Jamie L. Rubin ’01—shared funny, moving, and deeply personal stories as part of **“Barnard Women Through The Ages,”** produced with the New York City-based **storytelling** group The Moth.

★ **Colby Devitt ’86 wrapped up her story, *The Trojan Women***, about her decision to pursue classics and theatre studies, and the experience of mounting a production of that play in ancient Greek, with these words:

“The Internet as we know it now did not exist when I graduated in 1986. There was no utilitarian degree that could have prepared me for being the software entrepreneur I am today. In the fast-paced world of technology, specific knowledge that is useful today may be useless tomorrow. The important ingredient for success is having the passion and skills to keep learning new things. This is what Barnard taught me. It provided a nurturing environment in which I could pursue my passions, however quirky they might have been, and it taught me the skills and gave me the confidence to keep learning new things.” ☒

Summer Reading

I live in a word economy. Every day my husband and I manipulate words, stringing them together to convey some kind of story—and perhaps, in the end, some kind of meaning. He spends more time at it than I; nonetheless, since we were married in 1987, words have paid for the groceries, the mortgage, the dentist, and the Gap.

In fact, words have been our sustenance, nurturing our three children as much as mashed bananas and milk did when they were babies. Since before they can remember, we spun words around their lives. We read, talked, and sang to them. As they started to grow, we handed them books, magazines, and story tapes to fill their minds.

The first long book I read to my daughter was Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*. Paige was 5 at the time. It was summer and we were in Provence, France, in a rented stone cottage in the middle of a vineyard—the perfect place to slow down and dip into a book. Wherever my husband and I have traveled, especially in summer, we have taken as much care with the books we bring as the shoes we pack.

And so it was 11 years ago, as Paige and I sat under a large oak tree overlooking rows of ripening French grapes, that we were introduced to the lives of Mary and Dickon. My daughter couldn't put the book down. We snuggled in her bed and read deep into the night, or for a good part of the day while her younger brother slept on a blanket in the shade. The book brought us closer together. And I marveled at Paige's ability to hear the rhyming words as she recited some passages.

A few years later, when the pace of my reading became too slow for her, Paige grabbed the book from me to finish it herself. I had introduced her to the stories I loved as a child: *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Across Five Aprils*, and *Harriet the Spy*. She began to introduce me to modern classics by Lois Lowry, Jerry Spinelli, and Katherine Paterson. This was the beginning of a conversation about books, ideas, and words that continues to this day.

Now that she is a teenager I have passed along works that provided the storylines for my coming of age—*The Catcher in the Rye*, *Women in Love*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and others by Faulkner, Anaïs Nin, and Henry James. My daughter mostly has found the books to be slogs, where nothing much happens. “They are like what you eat,” she has said. “Good, but a bit bland.”

I collected these beloved books around me in disbelief. Has the noise of this modern age increased so much that even my daughter, whose ears I thought I had carefully tuned, doesn't hear the melody in these past classics? I decided to

revisit my loves, to see if they still spoke to me. The result has been mixed. *A Farewell to Arms*: There are pages and pages of dialogue and only bits and pieces of action. *Lord of the Flies*: dense. *Under Western Eyes*: enjoyable, but most of

the action plays out in the minds of the characters.

Perhaps that's the difference today, the pace of life. As relationships speedily unfold in an instant message on a computer or phone screen, there isn't much time between interactions to brood about “What if...” and “If so...”. Life and its storylines move too fast.

My daughter has sought out different texts to narrate her reality. She and her friends recently passed around Anna Quindlen's *Black and Blue*. The nakedness of the story took my breath away, not so for these girls.

I realize, at this juncture, my role has changed. Where I was once a trailblazer for my children, I look to them now, especially to my daughter, to show me the way. This is an appealing path: I can still play cultural historian, but I'm also like a child being led into a world of literature that is a concord of fresh voices. I can hardly wait to crack open a new book.

Laura Hambleton '81 is a freelance writer in Pretoria, South Africa. We welcome Last Word personal essays (600 words maximum) for consideration. Submit copy to magazine@barnard.edu, or to Barnard magazine, Vagelos Alumnae Center, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

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MARILYN CHIN '74
NEW BARNARD COLLEGE
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

President Judith Shapiro and the board of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College are delighted to announce the appointment of Marilyn Chin as director of Alumnae Affairs. Marilyn joined the College as of June 19, 2006, succeeding Roberta Waterstone Albert '92.

A senior executive with management experience in a broad range of industries, Marilyn was most recently president of Indigo, LLC, a marketing and strategy consulting firm. Her prior work experience also includes investment banking, financial consulting, and retailing.

Additionally, Marilyn has served on several boards of directors and advisory boards in the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. She's applied her extensive experience in leading numerous nonprofit organizations. Marilyn is deeply committed to education causes, and has created endowments to help students pursue their academic goals at Barnard and at Rutgers University.

Marilyn received her MBA in marketing from Stanford University; her undergraduate degree was in urban studies.

Please join us in welcoming Marilyn Chin.





BARNARD

DEPARTMENT OF DANCE

FALL SEMESTER 2006 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FALL FOR DANCE
September 29
City Center

Panel discussion with Bill T. Jones, Elizabeth Streb, and Nancy Dalva, moderated by department chair Mary Cochran, on gender and sexuality in dance.

ON DANCE...
October 30
Barnard Hall/Held

Talk with Jawole Willa Jo Zollar (founder/artistic director, Urban Bush Women); Blondell Cummings (choreographer); and Jennifer Dunning (*New York Times* dance critic) on art and politics.

SUGAR SALON
October 10
Symphony Space

Artistic director Susan Marshall joins choreographers and their companies in performances of new pieces created at Barnard.

THE BARNARD
PROJECT AT DANCE
THEATRE WORKSHOP
December 7-9
DTW

Works from choreographic residencies of artists with Barnard dance students.