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BARNARD
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2012

ON THE CUTTING EDGE

Alumnae & the Business of Food
Anita Hill on The American Dream
Diane Ravitch on Public Education
Expanding Communities through Theatre & Film



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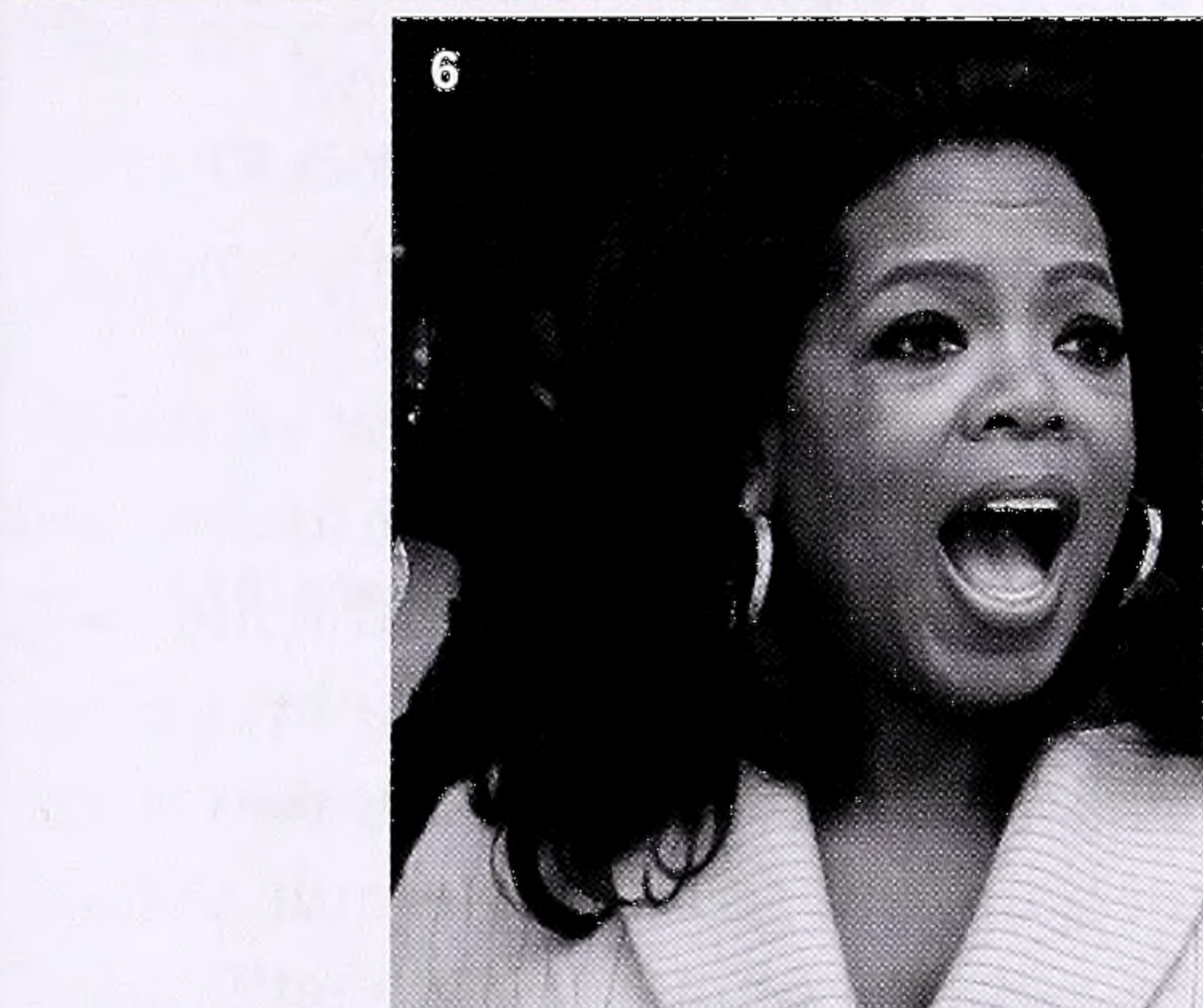
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SPRING 2012



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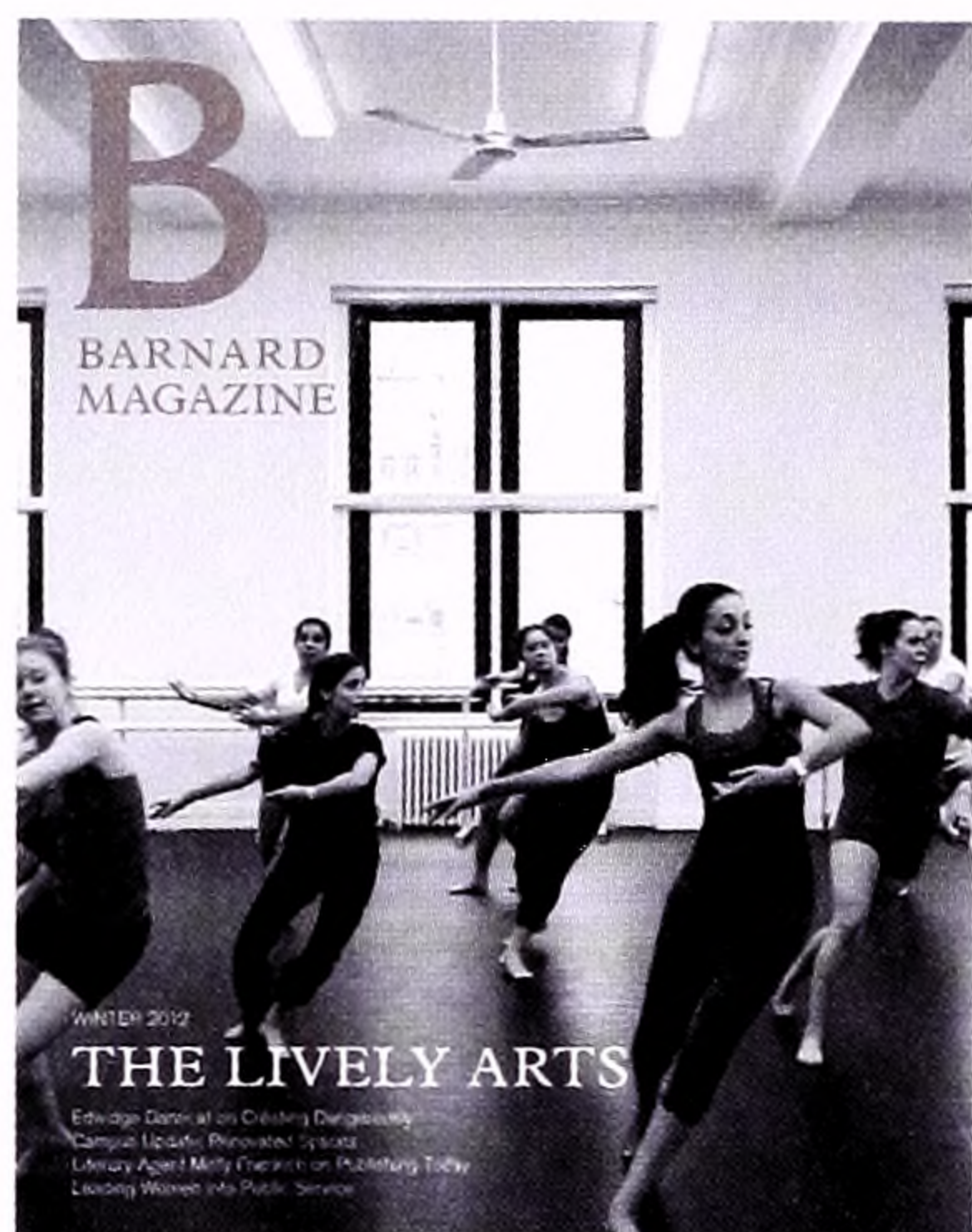
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Big Ideas

Bravo, President Spar, for your courageous and wise essay "In Search of Prophets" [Winter 2012, President's Page]. Fifty years ago I came to Barnard as a virtually penniless immigrant from Germany. As a sociology major I read Keynes in Professor Lekachman's economic history class; Locke and Rousseau with Professor Stanley Moore in social philosophy; and Marx and Engels with Professor Mirra Komarovsky in sociological theories. How awed I was with great ideas! They laid the foundation for my further study.... [And] when I participated in the civil-rights movement, the anti-war struggle, and in social justice causes, I was armed with a historical and theoretical perspective. Whatever guidance I was able to give my own students over 40 years of teaching sociology was ultimately grounded in what I first learned at Barnard College. For this I will always be grateful.

—Britta Fischer '64
Professor of Sociology Emerita
Emmanuel College
Boston, Mass.

Around the Campfire

I was delighted to see the article about Barnard Camp in the Winter 2012 edition. I was also stunned to see the (ancient) photo of myself waxing my skis. It must have been taken around 1946-47. Unfortunately I am unsure of the identity of the other person in the picture... I am however a bit bewildered by the caption, which says "Stefanie Zink Dobrin '47 and stepdaughter Susan Dobrin

Spevak '67..." My stepdaughter was indeed '67, but she was only born in April 1945 and would have been about a year old when the photo was taken! Barnard Camp was a wonderful, bucolic refuge for us urbanites. I went to the camp as often as I could.

—Stefanie Zink Dobrin '47
Altadena, Calif.

Regarding the Barnard Camp article in the Winter 2012 issue, photo 3 on page 23 was taken October 13, 1946. The girl on the far right is Pat Cecere Dumas '49. Next to her is Jean DeSanto MacLaren '49. On the far left, in the skirt, is myself, Judith Allison '49. I have several photos taken that day. It was the only time I was at the camp, and I enjoyed myself very much!

—Judith Allison Walters '49
Bothell, Wash.

Editors' reply: Thanks to our vigilant alumnae, the captions on the photos of Barnard Camp from the College Archives have been corrected and updated. Photo 2 on page 23 of the Winter 2012 should have been captioned Marian Gulton Malcolm '50 and Stefanie Zink Dobrin '47. We regret the error and thank you for the information.

The article on Holly House brought back memories of a weekend in January 1979. My friends and I arrived Friday evening. We probably should have expected that the house would be absolutely freezing inside! We got a fire going in the main room, pinned up blankets over the windows for insulation and then dragged mattresses into the main room so that we could all sleep there.

Saturday we went skating. For some in the group, it was their first time on blades. Saturday night it started raining. One of our group was to drive us back to Barnard on Sunday, however, we found the roads were closed due to flooding! We kept moving east to find the next southbound road [until] we hit the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut, which got us home. I'm not sure what we would have done otherwise—maybe tried to float the car up Long Island Sound?

—SarahRose Werner '79
St. John, Newfoundland, Canada

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EAT, EAT, LOVE

Every year, for somewhere between two and four weeks, my 86-year-old Greek father-in-law comes to visit. During that time, my house is full of the steams and smells that only someone born in Europe before the war can truly produce. My children feast on chicken simmered for days with garlic and on crispy potatoes that melt on your tongue. And my kitchen is coated with so much olive oil that I want to cry. There is oil on the refrigerator door, in the cat's bowl, in little glimmering pools along the stove. There is oil sputtering up from beneath the beef that he swears cooks only in its own juices and in the potato pancakes that taste lighter than air. There is so much oil, and so much salt, that I swear we're all going to die before breakfast. But of course we don't, and morning finds us only licking the bowls of whatever bits are left from the previous night's feast. Because he has found, I'm sure, the secret of life: fat, in large quantities, stirred slowly with love.

When he was younger, my father-in-law fought the Nazis and the communists and survived a famine so severe that villagers took to eating the ancient staves of corn that lined the roofs of their chicken coops. He is not afraid of growing old or of falling on the ice-slicked streets of Toronto, where he spends the winter months. He is only afraid of bad food, which means, so far as I can tell, any food he hasn't cooked himself. I've tried making him toast and grilled fish and chicken, all to no avail. The toast has butter, or has been near butter or knows another piece of bread that once associated with butter, which he won't eat. The fish didn't come from the Mediterranean, and the chicken just wasn't good, like his chicken. The man regularly crosses the Canadian border laden with three full suitcases of food—olives, chocolate, taramosalata, cheese, and nowadays, bread, since apparently there is no place in New York to get good bread. He cannot believe that we live so far away from Greek groceries and still survive. When my husband took him to a fine Greek restaurant that he had reviewed well in advance, my father-in-law declared it okay, but not good. He rolled his fish in a napkin and took it home to cook it again. The right way.

It's a running joke in our household, the way that Papou (Greek for grandfather) insists on cooking for us all; the way in which he imposes his affection through precisely measured dribbles of honey and cinnamon. Yet I've also started to notice that I do it too. Not with olives or fish, perhaps, and not with the same time and attention that he brings to the task, but with something that approaches the same level of obsession. When my three kids were younger and I was struggling to get tenure at Harvard, I fell every evening into a familiar she-bat-out-of-hell routine: dashing through the grocery store, running in the door and throwing chicken, potatoes and broccoli around the stove top and into dinner. None of this was really necessary. My husband would have been happy to plunk some pork chops on the grill. My children would have been ecstatic with nonstop macaroni and cheese. It was I who needed to cook; I who needed the ancient identity that seemed to cling to sticks of melting butter and wafting smells of meat. So what, I told myself, if my boys' pants dangled occasionally around their ankles and my daughter's socks refused to match? Who cares if I had missed the last PTA meeting—and the 17 before that? I had a pot roast on the stove, goddammit. I was good.

As my children grew from babies to teenagers, food became an integral, intricate part of our lives. Other families had scrapbooks and cousins, camping trips or communal prayer. We had food. Food that eventually became its own kind of ritual,

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Thoughts of food are never far away, whether we stick to three squares or take the more contemporary approach of mini-meals throughout the day. Here at the College, Midnight Breakfast before finals draws a major crowd—no doubt brought together by general hunger, communal nervousness, and the desire for a break. The Spirit Day buffet is another well-attended celebration of eating as is the warm weather ice-cream social initiated by President Spar during her first year at Barnard. And let's not forget the night of the Big Sub. Food symbolizes family, friendship, conviviality, love, and the list goes on. Not only does food sustain our bodies, it nourishes our spirits—the idea behind the expression “comfort food.”

What we eat, how we cook it (if we do; recall the raw food movement), and how we grow and distribute it are all frequent subjects in the media. As we keep our eyes focused on the Barnard alumnae base, we too noticed that a number of Barnard women have pursued careers related to food. Our photographic feature depicting some of these women may surprise you with the diversity of their enterprises. In a companion story, New York caterer Liz Neumark explains her desire to reinvigorate her entrepreneurial spirit by establishing an upstate farm to supply fresh produce for her thriving business, Great Performances, while teaching children where their carrots really come from.

While we wouldn't exactly say this a food-themed issue, we do open with Debora Spar's warm tribute to her Greek father-in-law and his love of cooking for family *his way*, and we close with a '70s class member whose Barnard spirit to excel leads her to enjoy competing in cooking contests.

This issue also offers plenty of food for thought. This spring saw a number of distinguished scholars and experts come to the campus to explore a variety of contemporary issues. Anita Hill examined the current home mortgage crisis and what it means for the American Dream of home ownership. Diane Ravitch took on the case of the so-called benefits of privatizing our public

schools. The Consul General of Israel in New York, Ido Aharoni, outlined his thoughts on the current crises in the Middle East.

The Fourth Annual Global Symposium in Mumbai, the commercial heart of India, brought a significant number of Indian women leaders together to discuss the ways and means of leadership and their own careers. This year's symposium also expanded the role of the Barnard Global Fellows, specially selected each year to participate in this international event. Six Barnard student fellows met with Indian high schoolers to explore such topics as community activism and the importance of financial literacy. From Barnard's theatre department, Assistant Professor Shayoni Mitra brought the fellows to a special theatrical performance meant to showcase the power of theatre to implement social change. The second Athena Film Festival also focused the spotlight on women leaders—in all aspects of filmmaking, bringing together producers, directors, writers, and performers.

How was your spring season? Before you welcome the start of summer, please join us for Reunion, May 31 to June 3.

—The Editors



HOME, EQUALITY, & THE AMERICAN DREAM

ANITA HILL DELIVERS THE 2012 HELEN ROGERS REID LECTURE

Establishing or owning a home is, arguably, the single most important part of the American Dream. Yet in recent years, the housing and mortgage crises that have fed the larger financial crisis have placed Americans' struggles to maintain a home in stark relief. In today's America having a home is far from a guarantee—the opportunity is not available to everybody.

As a result of the subprime-mortgage meltdown, at the end of 2011, about 11.1 million of all U.S. residential properties with a mortgage were underwater, according to data from CoreLogic, and the total outstanding debt on those residential properties stood at \$2.8 trillion. "There is more to today's problems than just the moment that we are experiencing in time," Anita Hill has said.

On February 27, 2012, Hill visited the campus to deliver the annual Helen Rogers Reid Lecture presented by the Barnard Center for Research on Women. The theme of her hour-long address was the subject of her book, *Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home*. The lecture, inaugurated in 1975, honors women in public life who have "shown significant commitment to improving the lives of all women," noted Professor Elizabeth Castelli, acting director of the center, in her introduction. Moments later, as she stood before a crowd of nearly 200 people in The Diana Center, Hill stated, "I do believe I am a person who has paid some attention to women's issues, so I do qualify for this lecture." It was the first glimpse of Hill's humor, ease, and optimism.

It would be wrong to assume that Hill's interest in women's issues stems from the 1991 Senate confirmation hearings for then Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Her testimony at that time not only made her a household name, it also sparked a national conversation and debate about women and sexual harassment in the workplace. A long and proud family history has informed much of what Hill has done as a scholar, writer, speaker, and as an advocate for gender and racial equality.

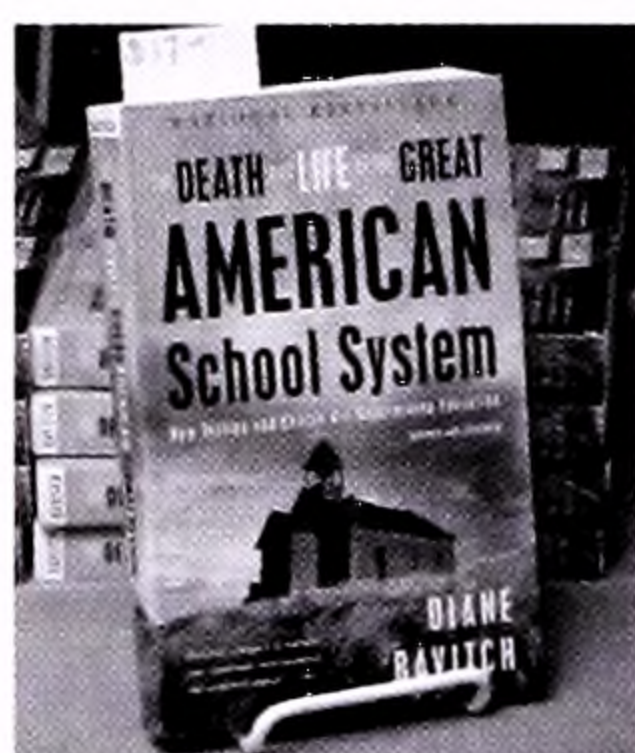
A large family (Hill is the youngest of 13) and its role in her life are central to *Reimagining Equality*. The author and Brandeis University professor frames her view of home and its role in defining equality with a look back at her own family history on her mother's side. "T.S. Eliot has said, 'Home is where one starts from,' so I began my writing *Reimagining Equality* with my own family history," she explained.

In the book and the lecture, Hill introduced her grandfather, William Henry Elliott, and his life post-slavery, when he went from being property to owning property. Born in 1864, William Henry, as a free man, came to homestead 80 acres of land in Little Rock County, Arkansas; the property became the foundation of his life and livelihood. As such, Hill explained, the law worked for William Henry Elliott. His name was on the title to the land, which contained no reference to his wife, Ida Elliott. Ida raised seven children with William Henry in a two-room cabin while working on their farm. Yet she was denied the right to put her name on the

Continued on Page 71

SPRING FORWARD WITH ISSUES & IDEAS

A GALAXY OF EXPERTS IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS—
FROM EDUCATION TO ACTIVISM, FROM ECONOMICS TO ACTING—
BRING MEANINGFUL DIALOGUES TO THE CAMPUS



Photographs by Asiya Khaki '09

DIANE RAVITCH

Former assistant secretary of education, now research professor of education at NYU, Ravitch lectured to an enthusiastic crowd in The Diana Center's Event Oval about contentious issues in contemporary education: privatizing low test-scoring public schools, and the need to keep public schools public. Lee Anne Bell, director of the education program (right in photo at left), introduced Ravitch and later joined her as she signed copies of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, Ravitch's newest book. Sponsored by For the Public Good Project. *Story on page 10.*



Photograph by Asiya Khaki

ANITA HILL

How viable is the American Dream of home ownership in the wake of the current economic crisis that has seen home foreclosures soar? Anita Hill, professor of social policy, law, and women's studies at Brandeis University and the 2012 Helen Rogers Reid Lecturer explored the notion of home

as a site of social and economic security and shared ideas from her latest book, *Reimagining Equality: Gender, Race, and the American Dream*. Sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women. *Story on page 5.*

TORCHBEARERS

An annual event, the Torchbearers reception brings together Barnard's student achievers with the generous alumnae who help support their studies. The event thanks our donors and congratulates and encourages the

students in their pursuit of excellence. Clockwise from the top are: Marigrace Lalli, Helen Revellse Esposito '38, Angelica Cusma '14, and Phyllis Esposito; Krista Mar '12 and Barnard trustee Judith Daynard Boies '59; Janet Carlson Taylor '67 and Gloria Noel '14; and Mashkura Chowdhury '12 and Jane von der Heide Lindley '71.



Photographs by Asiya Khaki and Stephen Yang

OPRAH WINFREY & GLORIA STEINEM

Oprah Winfrey visited feminist, author, and activist Gloria Steinem on campus for an in-depth interview as a part of Oprah's new series *Oprah's Next Chapter*, which airs Sunday nights on OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network. Oprah and Steinem along with 60 young women from Barnard had an open and frank discussion about everything from the current state of feminism to politics to women's leadership.

Clockwise from top left: Dean of the College Avis Hinkson '84, Oprah Winfrey, Barnard President Debora Spar; Winfrey with students; President Spar and Steinem; Winfrey with Elizabeth Castelli, acting director of BCRW, and Steinem.

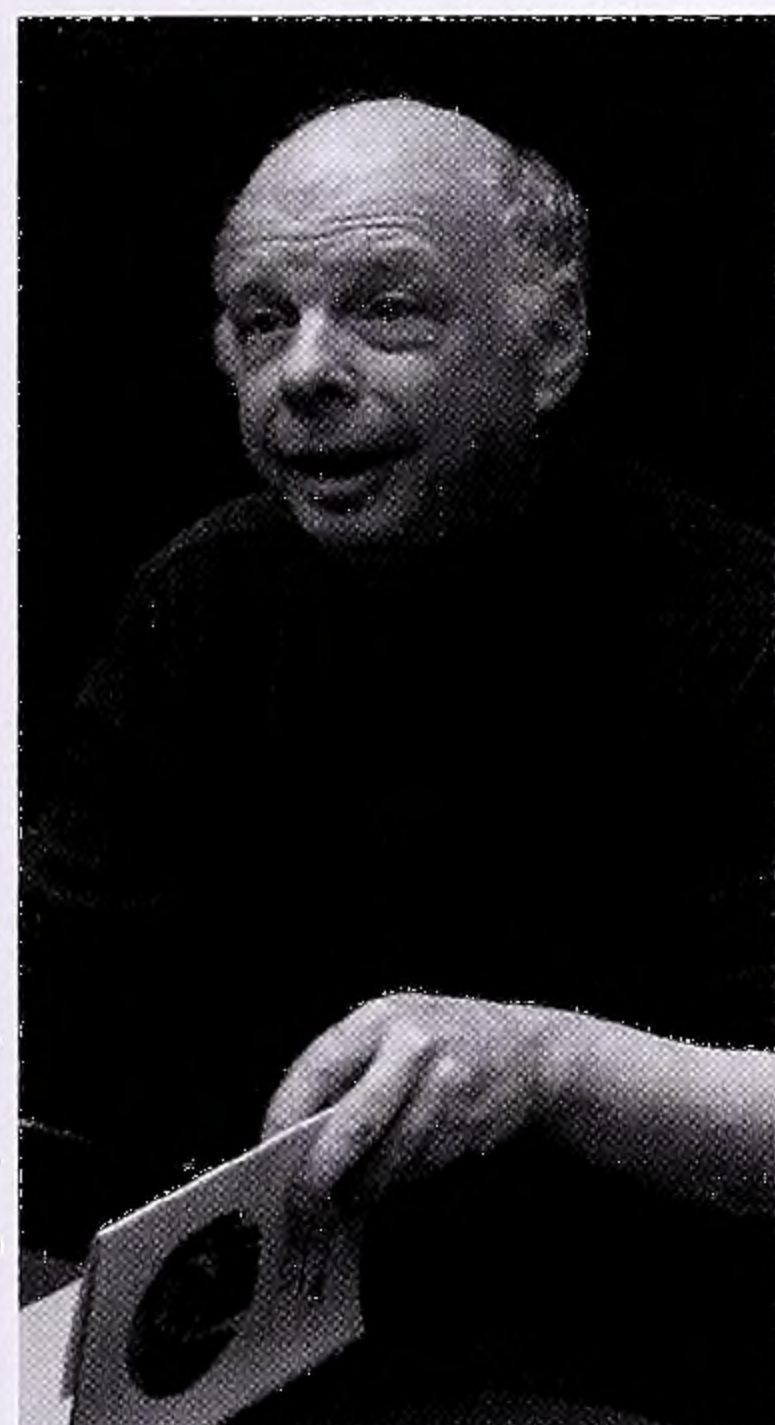


Photographs by Asiya Khaki

WALLACE SHAWN

Also at the Event Oval, actor, Obie award-winning playwright, and essayist Wallace Shawn read from an expanded version of "Why I Call Myself a Socialist," taken from his 2009 collection *Essays*. Shawn urged his listeners to challenge given roles within a society, and stressed that communities should not

believe in "fantasies" that "pigeonhole people into roles that can easily be considered [their] destiny." The Barnard Forum on Emancipation and Politics and the Office of the President sponsored the event.



Photograph by Samuel Stuart

KAKENYA NTAIYA

Barnard welcomed Kenyan activist and educator Dr. Kakenya Ntaiya for the premier event in the Women in the World on Campus Speaker Series, a new initiative of Newsweek/Daily Beast and the Women in the World Foundation. Ntaiya, the president and founder of the Kakenya Center for Excellence, spoke about her personal experience obtaining an education and achieving independence against great odds.



Photograph by Aaron Kisner

WHITE HOUSE ECONOMICS FORUM

The White House Business Council, the White House Council on Women and Girls, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and Barnard College's Athena Center for Leadership Studies hosted an Urban Economic Forum on campus to discuss the Administration's commitment to supporting policies that create private-sector jobs and support the next generation of entrepreneurs who will not only strengthen our economy but compete globally. Barnard hosted

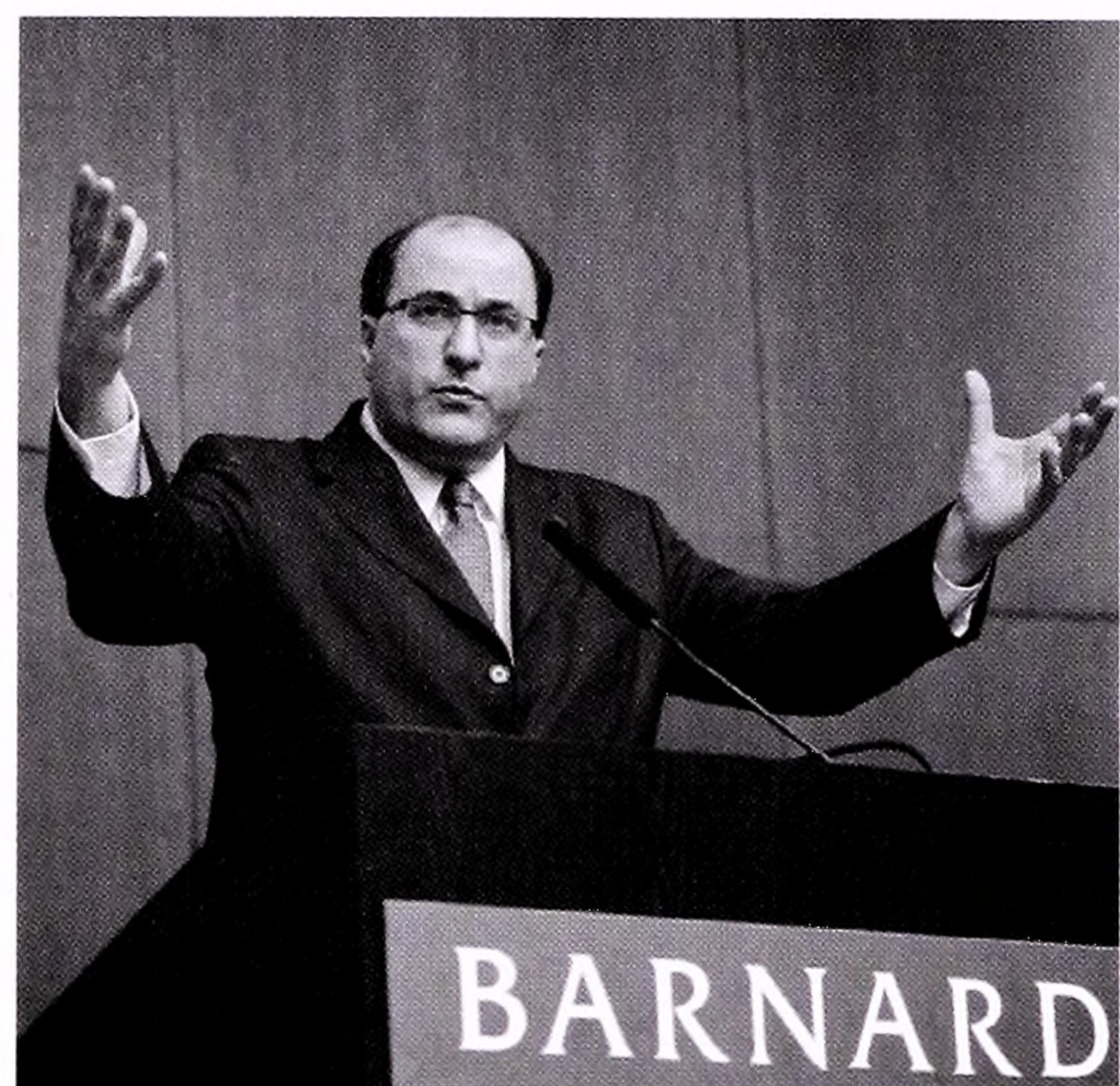
the first of what will be a multi-city series. Photos clockwise from the top left: Featured speakers Maria Bartiromo, CNBC anchor; Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to the president and chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls; Arianna Huffington, president and editor in chief of The Huffington Post; and the panelists.

To watch a video of the White House Economic Forum, please visit barnard.edu/magazine



Photograph by Asiya Khaki





CHANGE THEY CAN BELIEVE IN?

ISRAELI DIPLOMAT DISCUSSES REGIONAL SHIFTS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

"If you google the phrase, 'Israel at crossroads,'" Aharoni said, "you'll find multiple references from the 1940s through today. Yet, here we are again with Israel at a crossroads. I can't tell you how many challenges Israel is facing today."

Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York, an imposing figure in a serious gray suit, sauntered onto the stage of the Event Oval at The Diana Center and smiled. Before he began his far-ranging lecture, "Israel & Its Neighbors," about Israel's quest for peace amid raging regional changes, he asked a question. "Hands up if you know who Ido was?" he demanded, with a discernible twinkle in his eye. "Ido of the Bible was a seer, not a prophet. A seer is an unsuccessful prophet, so take everything I say today with a grain of salt." The audience chuckled. The crowd included a sprinkling of alumnae of every age group and a sizeable contingent of students who participate in one of the four Israel groups at Barnard-Columbia and who came despite the crush of midterms.

The consul called this a pivotal moment in Israel's history, but stressed that it's not the first. "If you google the phrase, 'Israel at crossroads,'" he said, "you'll find multiple references from the 1940s through today. Yet, here we are again with Israel at a crossroads. I can't tell you how many challenges Israel is facing today."

Israeli views toward negotiations with the Palestinians shifted sharply 12 years ago, according to Aharoni. At the time, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak failed to agree on a two-state plan proposed at Camp David by then President Bill Clinton. "It was an ambitious, far-reaching plan for both sides to consider," said Aharoni. "And despite the fact that he was taking a considerable risk, Prime Minister Ehud Barak said yes to 97 percent of the territorial concessions. The Palestinians, headed by Arafat said, no."

"Shortly thereafter," he continued, "the Palestinians waged war ... known as the Second Intifada.... [and] made a strategic decision to target Israeli citizens." Aharoni explained that in reaction to the sharp increase in suicide attacks against civilians earlier in this century, the Israeli government developed several strategies. The tactics included building the controversial security fence between Israel and the West Bank, and disengaging from Gaza. Aharoni said that Israel told the Palestinians: "Your dream is a reality. Here's Gaza. Turn it into an oasis." Instead, Gaza served as a launching pad for attacks on Israel.

This response, coupled with the Palestinian rejection of Clinton's proposal in 2000 and the rejection of another peace proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in 2008, "had a profound psychological effect on Israel," according to Aharoni. "Israelis care deeply about peace, but with the current Palestinian leadership, there is no deal," he said. "It would be accurate to say that the majority of Israelis believe that the unfinished business between Israelis and Palestinians is not the Six-Day War. The unfinished business is the 1948 war. It's not a war about land; it's a war about the right to exist."

Aharoni dived into the second subject of the evening: the sweeping political transformations of many Arab neighbors. "The media has defined it as an Arab Spring," said Aharoni. "I feel very uncomfortable with that term. It implies that it's seasonal, and I'm not so sure. I'm fairly confident that we're looking at a major

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ON TOP OF THE WORLD

A YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST RETURNS TO TIBET



For Tsechu Dolma '14, the simple question of “where are you from” would elicit a complicated answer. She came from Tibet, which has had a tumultuous political relationship with China ever since its annexation by the Chinese Communist Party in the early '50s. Dolma's mother, who has been a Tibetan community leader and activist, and her family were eventually exiled for political dissent when Dolma was 5. They spent the next 10 years in Nepal and India before finally moving to the United States. Influenced by her unusual past and education, Dolma has been an active leader in the fight to give the deprived and ignored local residents of environmentally delicate areas power and control over their own environments.

Before coming to Barnard, Dolma attended a progressive high school with a curriculum centered on environmental stewardship, sustainability, nonviolence, and advocacy. She soon realized, “When you connect with your environment, you begin to feel responsible toward it, then this sense of responsibility gets broadened to your community members and that inspires you to become an advocate for your community.”

Shortly after Dolma came to the Morningside campus, she went to Ecuador to work on digital education related to environmental issues. Last summer, as an East Asian studies and environmental policy double major, she interned as a research assistant at the Office of the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India, and studied the social aspects of environmental degradation on the indigenous people of Himalayan communities. “My interest is expanding community rights over natural resources, a problem mostly

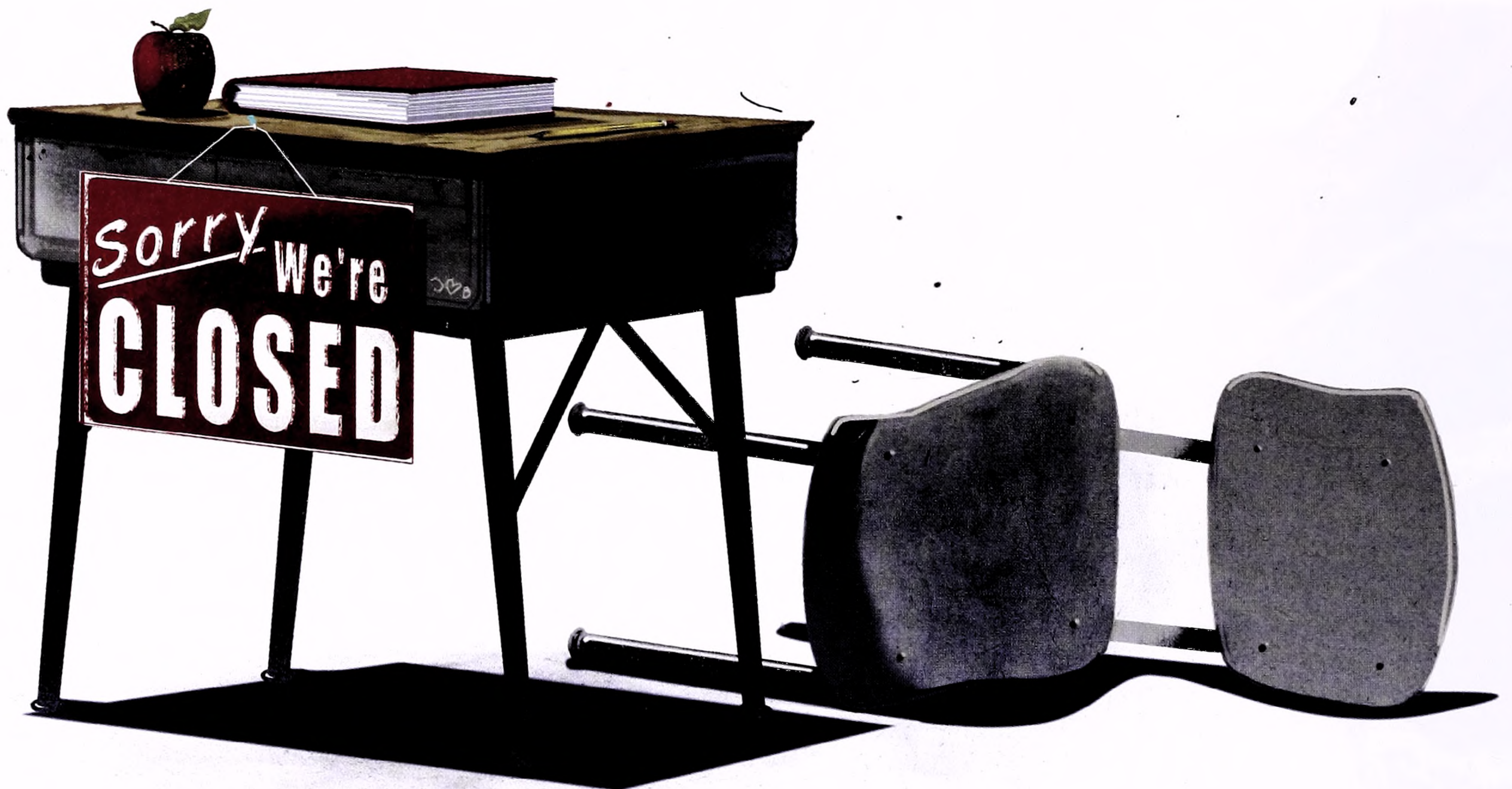
encountered by the indigenous people, whether in Tibet or Ecuador or anywhere else,” says Dolma. Last spring, she and a dozen Tibetan graduate students started a new club on campus called Plateau Engage, whose goal is to foster deeper understandings and directly support initiatives “in and of Tibet.” “Most of the policies are made by central governments very far removed from the local situation,” she notes. “I believe the local people, who know their community, should have agency and rights over [what decisions are being made about] their region.” Plateau Engage will run a waste-management project this summer in Tibet where modernization efforts and increasing tourism have resulted in a massive amount of garbage that Tibetans do not yet have the knowledge or equipment to process.

“It's the first time Tibetans are dealing with things like TVs and batteries, and they don't know that there are things that should not enter the water supply,” Dolma says. The Tibetan plateau's environment is the source of water for several major

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KEEP PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC

DIANE RAVITCH AFFIRMS THE COMPELLING NEED
FOR GOOD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



On February 24, the New York City Department of Education released data pertaining to public-school teacher evaluations. News outlets such as the *New York Post* and NY1 published this performance data for 12,170 fourth- through eighth-grade English and math teachers.

Intense debate quickly arose—with parents calling for the termination of low-scoring teachers, teachers asserting that the data was inaccurate, and even presidential candidates weighing in with their views. Similar debates have arisen around the country as increased emphasis has been placed on standardized testing and blame for this country's diminished position as an international leader in education has largely been placed on teachers.

Three days prior to the release of the New York data, Diane Ravitch, former assistant secretary of education under President George H.W. Bush and now a research professor of education at New York University, provided insight into the issues. The lecture "Is Public School a Public Good or a Shoestore?" was an event in the Public Good series, a multi-year, interdisciplinary project at the College.

Ravitch is the author of several books about education, the most recent being her 2010 work *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Are Undermining Education*. Once a staunch advocate of programs

"They're treating public schools like shoe stores. They're treating test scores in public schools like profits and losses," Ravitch told the capacity audience at The Diana Center's Event Oval. "If they don't make a profit, their employees are no good," she continued. "But public schools are not shoe stores. They are essential public services."

like No Child Left Behind, she now speaks out against the trend of turning underperforming public schools over to private management, which she said is supported by major foundations, the U.S. Department of Education, a significant number of hedge-fund managers on Wall Street, and various billionaires.

"They're treating public schools like shoe stores. They're treating test scores in public schools like profits and losses," Ravitch told the capacity audience at The Diana Center's Event Oval. "If they don't make a profit, their employees are no good," she continued. "But public schools are not shoe stores. They are essential public services. The obligations of the officials—especially those that are in charge of the schools—are to give the [public schools] the help they need to improve. But we're in this weird period where the people who are in charge take no responsibility to improve the schools they're responsible for. Accountability only holds at the bottom and never migrates to the top."

Ravitch noted that this is the first time in history that schools have been closed because of low test scores. Leaders are promoting charter schools but, on average, charter schools do not outperform regular public schools. She also asserted that charter schools don't want the lowest performing students, such as those with disabilities or those who don't speak English, because these youngsters will bring test scores down. "Why don't [officials] find out why the [public] schools are struggling and provide the help and resources they need to help their children?" she asked.

Ravitch discussed the Parent Trigger Law passed in the California legislature in 2010 with other states following. The idea is if 51 percent of the parents in a school choose to privatize the school, the school will leave the district and become a charter school. "The problem is the school doesn't really belong to the parents," she said. "It belongs to the public. The public paid for it. The public built it. These are public schools."

"One of the most important reasons I changed my mind about so many of these ideas was I realized how every community needs basic public services." Ravitch said privatization is linked with the movement for high-stakes accountability, noting that high-stakes testing produces pressure to narrow the curriculum and teach to the test.

"Teachers have lost their professional autonomy," she asserted. "All teachers are expected to teach the same content with the same method with the same outcome." She called teacher evaluations a "quagmire" and said merit pay initiatives have never been shown to be effective. "The main effect of judging teachers by the test scores of their students will be to demoralize teachers who realize they are being judged by factors most of which are out of their control," added Ravitch.

Twenty-first century education should value creativity, divergent thinking, innovation, and idealism for students and teachers. "We must insist that every neighborhood has good community schools and that every public official who is put in charge of public education has an obligation to support that development," she concluded. Teachers in the audience—many of them Barnard alumnae—agreed with Ravitch's assessments, particularly about high-stakes testing and pay incentives.

"High-stakes testing is taking away a teacher's ability to be creative, to be spontaneous, to engage students in authentic learning," said Vanessa D'Egidio '08. "It's pretty much been boiled down to teaching to the test, a very formulaic approach to education."

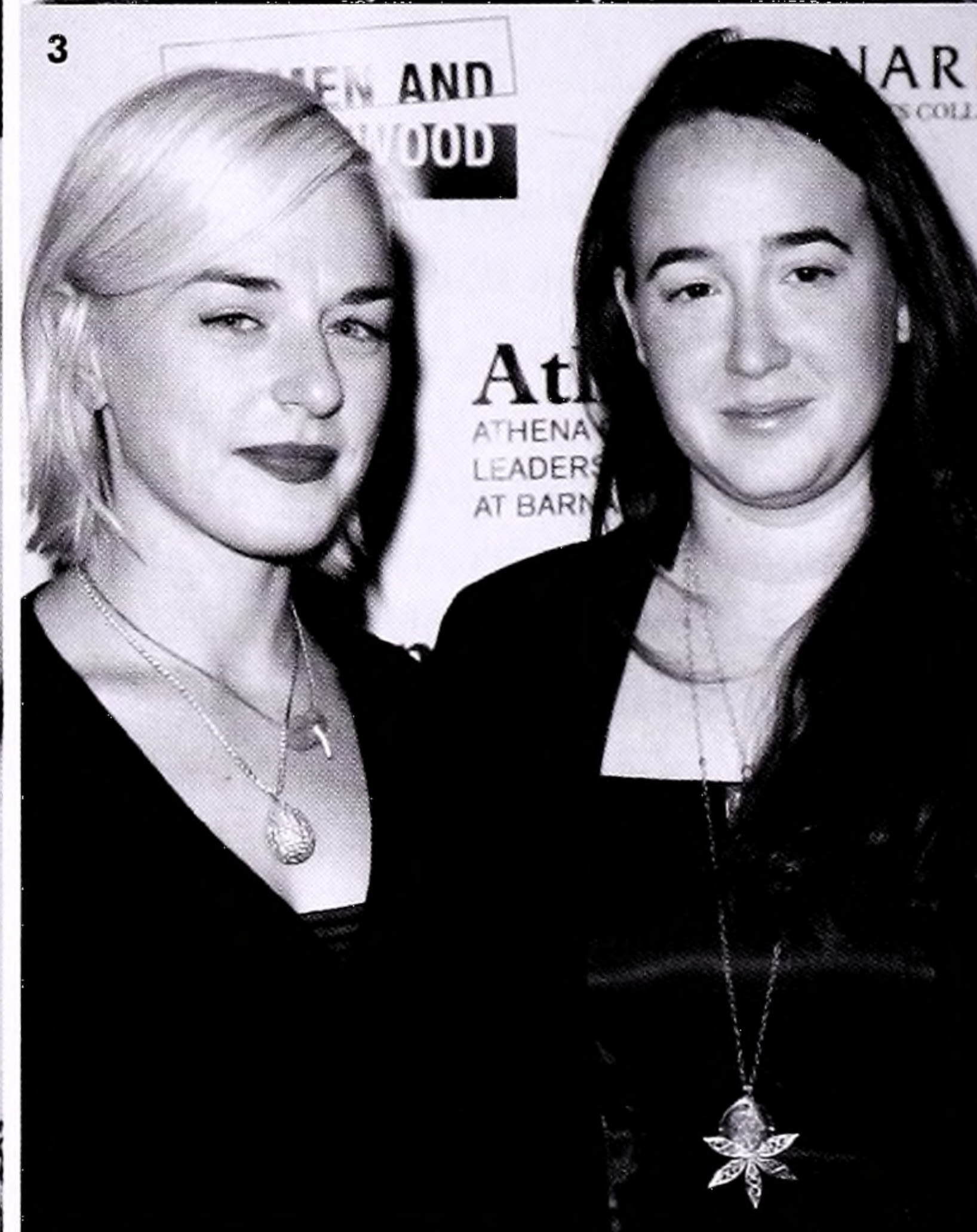
Brett Murphy '07 said the first public school at which she taught was a pilot school for pay incentives. They won the award, but no one really paid attention to it. "It made no difference in the way that anyone was working," said Murphy, who teaches 11th-grade U.S. history. "It's not what you're thinking about when you're day-to-day working with kids."

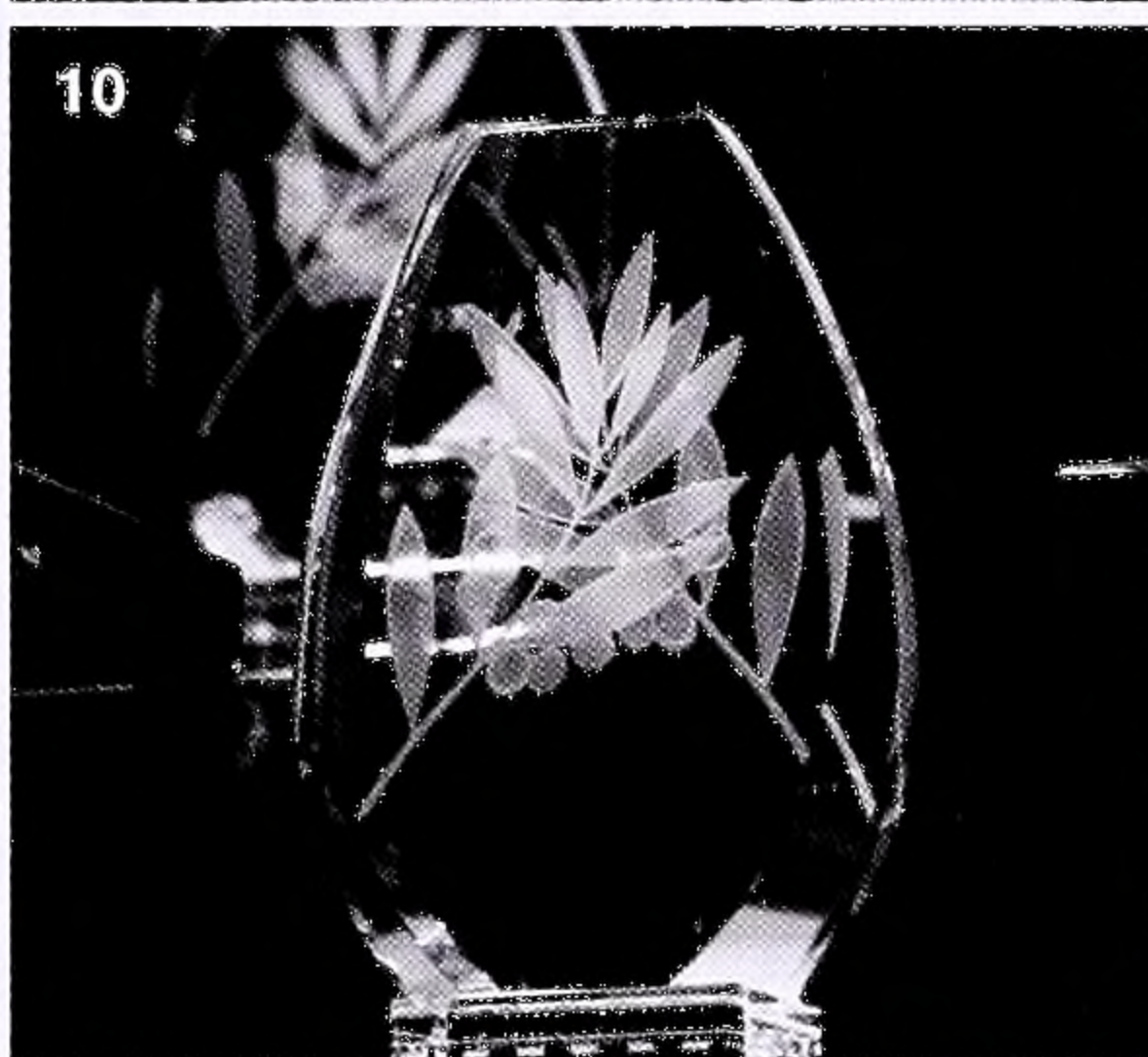
Please visit barnard.edu/magazine to watch a video of the lecture

CELEBRATING WOMEN

THE ATHENA FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

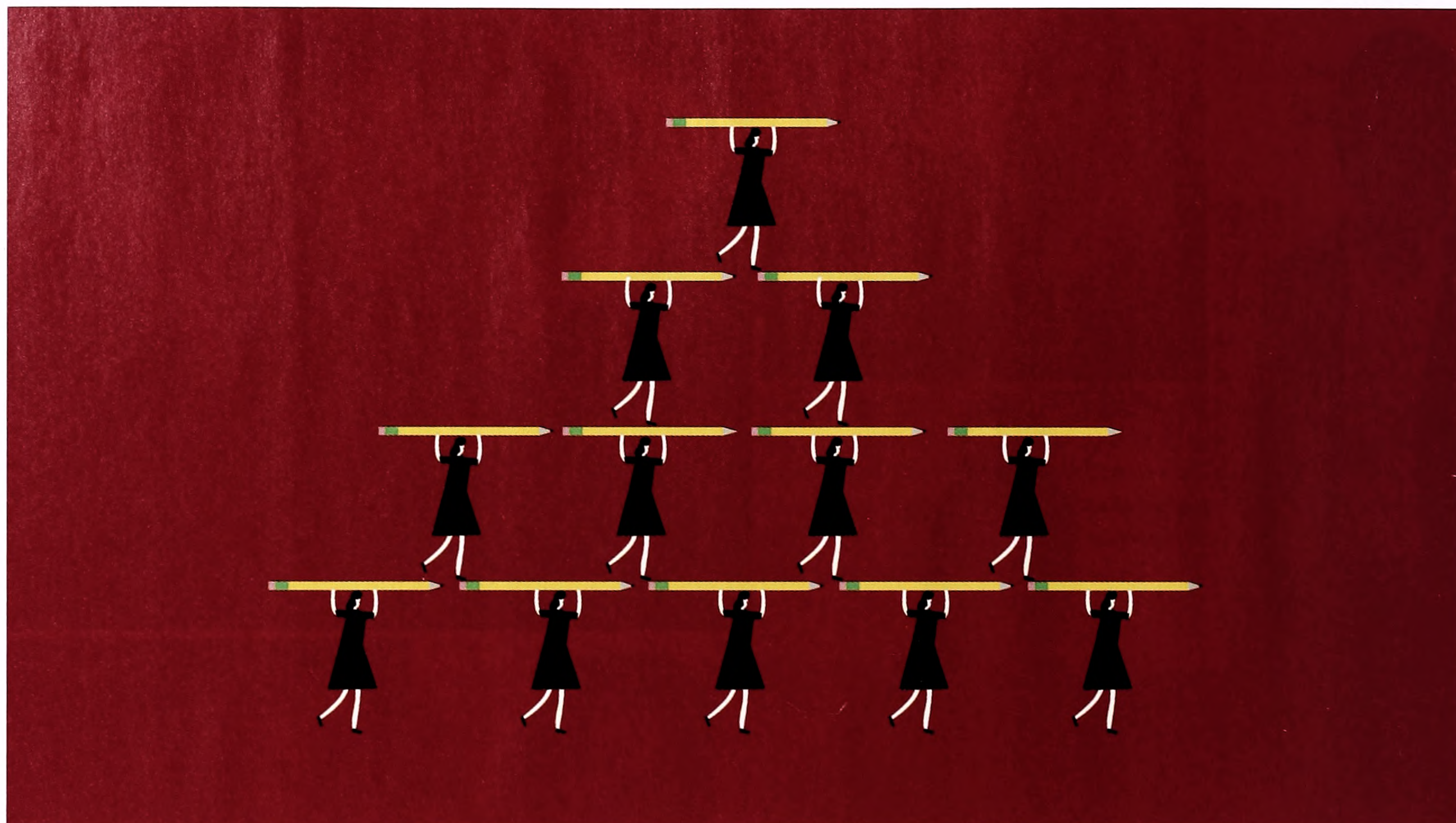
Opening night of the second Athena Film Festival sparkled with an array of film lovers and professionals whose contributions to the medium have helped to illuminate the stories of courageous women across the world. The Athena Center for Leadership Studies and Women in Hollywood jointly produced the festival, which this year was marked by the inception of the Laura Ziskin Lifetime Achievement Award named for a noted Hollywood producer and founder of Stand Up to Cancer. Ziskin died in 2011; her daughter, Julia Barry, accepted the award on her mother's behalf. Another festival highlight was a screening of *Gloria: In Her Own Words*, a documentary about activist Gloria Steinem who appeared afterward in a Q&A session conducted by writer-activist Amy Richards '92.





In the photos (from left): 1 Athena Film Festival Award-winning director Julie Taymor; Gloria Steinem, who presented the award to Taymor; journalist, TV personality, and presenter of the Ziskin Award Katie Couric; and Barnard President Debora Spar 2 Awards emcee Lizz Winstead, co-creator and former head writer of *The Daily Show* 3 Tasha Green and Julia Barry 4 Producer Nekisa Cooper, an award-winner 5 Festival co-producers: Women in Hollywood founder Melissa Silverstein and Constance Hess Williams Director of the Athena Center Kathryn Kolbert 6 Rachael Horowitz, a producer of the Oscar®-nominated *Moneyball*, holds her award aloft. 7 President and CEO of Martin Chase Productions, Debra Martin Chase, was a festival cochair 8 Theresa Rebeck received an award as a playwright (her comedy *Seminar* is on Broadway) and author of films, books, and TV shows. 9 Opening night attendees: activist Peggy Kerry, sister of Sen. John Kerry, with Amy Richards '92, president of Soapbox, Inc. 10 The Athena Film Festival Award

For more about the festival, go to barnard.edu/magazine



THE WRITING FELLOWS

MAKING IT CRYSTAL CLEAR...OUR WORDS DEFINE US

The goal of Barnard's writing fellows program is simple: It's meant to help every student write better, no matter what her major. An invaluable resource for the college community since 1991, the program is staffed by undergraduates who receive a semester's worth of training from Pam Cobrin, director of writing and speaking programs at Barnard. Once trained, these students help their peers strengthen their writing skills, serving as "educated readers" and emphasizing the process of writing. The program also incorporates the Erica Mann Jong '63 Writing Center, which was established in 1996. Jong '63, the world-famous writer for whom the Center is named, continues to support the program, and agrees that the sooner students learn to develop their writing, the better. "In college we are open to new ideas. It's the ideal time to craft these skills," she says.

Women who write well across many topics will fare well beyond the classroom in today's age of the Internet, where nonfiction writing has become increasingly important. As

Jong observes, "On the Internet, we are our words. Whether we are scientists, lawyers, political theorists, or artists we are defined by the way we use language. More than ever we need language to be vivid; it may be all people know of us."

In a very selective process, Cobrin seeks students to become fellows who are flexible in their thinking and excellent communicators, and who possess knowledge of writing structures and rules. Since the program is dedicated to writing across the curriculum, fellows represent a full range of majors. They are then committed to working a minimum of three semesters; in any given term there will be 45 fellows. Coordinating all this activity of the writing and speaking programs as well as day-to-day operations is Cecelia Lie '11.

Students who wish to enlist the help of a writing fellow can seek appointments on an individual, as-needed basis. They may also come in contact with them through a course connected with the Center. Barnard faculty can request
Continued on Page 72

A HARROWING CHOICE

I COULDN'T LOVE YOU MORE

BY JILLIAN MEDOFF '85

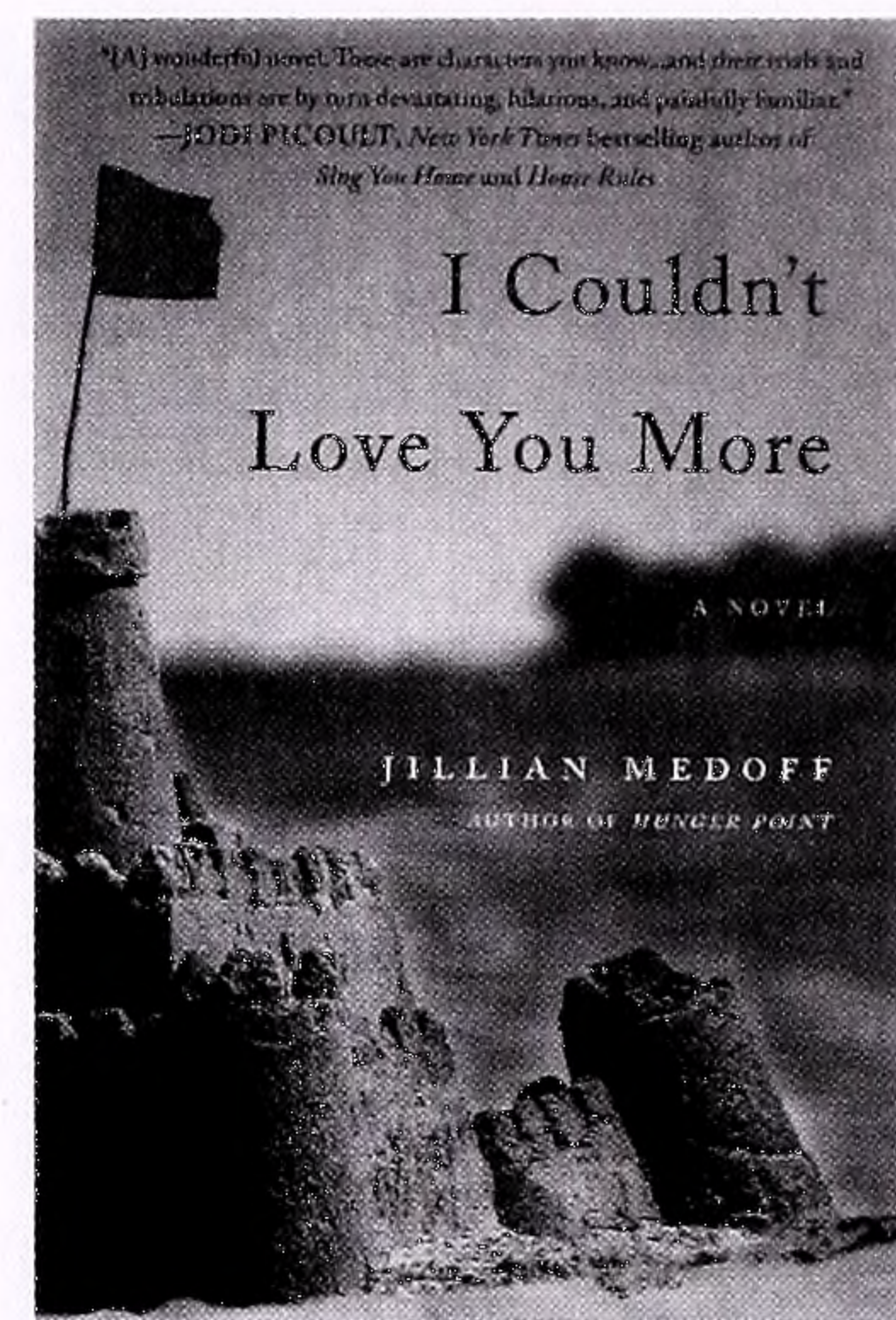
Grand Central Publishing, 2012, \$13.99

Even as a little girl, Jillian Medoff knew she wanted to be a writer, but she also knew early on that she didn't want to have to rely on her art to make a living. And so for nearly three decades, Medoff has carefully constructed a life—and a career—that contains time to write, revise, and eventually publish her novels.

“For the past 15 years, I’ve worked four days a week,” says Medoff, who works in corporate communications in Manhattan. “In theory, at this stage in my career I should be a partner or a practice leader. But I intentionally stay at a level that isn’t as visible, that doesn’t take on responsibility for too many other people. I keep my work life at a level that allows me to maintain my artistic focus.”

Those decisions have borne fruit: In May, Medoff’s third novel, *I Couldn’t Love You More*, was published by Grand Central Publishing. It’s an absorbing tale narrated by Eliot Harmon, a 30-something working mother who juggles her career and her relationships with her partner, Grant, and their three daughters, two of whom are Grant’s children from a previous relationship with an eccentric sculptor. Eliot’s life is a chaotic, happy jumble until her long-lost first boyfriend reappears and knocks her off kilter, ultimately forcing her to make a split-second decision about whether she’ll save her own daughter or her stepdaughter from very real danger.

The novel turns on the type of situation no parent—no human being—



wants to imagine, let alone dwell upon at length. But frankly facing the question of which child you would save was critically important to Medoff, who herself has one daughter and two stepdaughters. “As a stepmother and a mother, you always go there in your head—and as a writer you have to go there,” she says. “If you haven’t, you’ve risked nothing for your book.”

Medoff transferred to Barnard from Brandeis University as a junior, looking for a vibrant community that would also give her time to write. She found both at the College, where she wrote her first novel in an independent study with the novelist B.J. Chute. “Novelists seemed like they existed in some kind of esoteric, closed society before that,” Medoff says. “Studying with B.J. was a phenomenal experience for me as a young person who’d never before felt like this was something I could do.”

Medoff also found inspiration in the works of novelists like Mona Simpson who construct stories that center around ordinary happenings in everyday life. “I realized you don’t have to write about [a world tragedy] to tell a compelling

story,” she says. However, women who write about domestic lives from the perspective of female narrators are virtually ensured that their work will be relegated to what Medoff describes as “the women’s fiction ghetto.”

That’s a problem to which Medoff says she simply can’t devote much time. “You have to write what you want to write,” she asserts. “I want to be thought of as a serious artist but sales dictate how authors are categorized, and there’s not a lot I can do about that.”

As the new novel makes its way to readers, Medoff is already halfway through her next work, which is about relationships in a corporate human resources department. The story is told by multiple narrators, several of whom are male. As she’s done with many of the other key decisions in her life, Medoff took this approach purposefully—in this case, to stretch herself technically.

With *I Couldn’t Love You More*, she set herself the challenge of raising the stakes in the somewhat traditional narrative arc of a woman choosing between two men. Though her readers may lose some sleep
Continued on Page 72

QUICK TAKE

STRINGS THAT SWING

ELANA JAMES '92

Fearless fiddler breathes fresh life into classic American music

Rigorously trained in classical violin, Elana Fremerman James could have become a symphony musician like her mother. Instead, she fell under the spell of swing jazz and toe-tapping, twangy Western swing. Today, James, 41, is one of the world's top-selling Western-swing artists. Performing with a bass player and guitarist as the Hot Club of Cowtown, she fiddles audaciously through "Cherokee Shuffle" and sings too, crooning her own composition "Reunion" and the standard "Someone to Watch Over Me."

"What we do is very special, it's unique and it's incredibly American, and we haven't watered it down or made it cheesy," says James, who drew her stage name from her middle name, Jaime. "A lot of times when people revisit old standards, there's this idea that they have to be done in this coy, ironic way. By avoiding clichés, we've been able to sustain ourselves over years when other bands have flared up and blown out."

James has been touring for about 15 years, making regular appearances at folk festivals and venues across the country. She's been a guest on *A Prairie Home Companion* and toured and recorded with Willie Nelson and Bob Dylan. An avid global traveler, she has shared her love of Western swing and swing jazz with audiences from London to Japan. This summer she'll perform with the band at the Montana Folk Festival and in September at the Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion festival in Tennessee and Virginia.

Her next album, scheduled for a fall release, features 1930s French jazz



standards inspired by jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli, who formed the Quintette du Hot Club de France with Django Reinhardt. "The music they made together," she says, "was just unprecedented, incredibly exciting, beautiful, sublime, romantic."

It's the kind of music you might hear on a Woody Allen movie soundtrack. Small wonder, then, that Allen's acoustic tribute to his beloved Manhattan was one inspiration for James, a native of Prairie Village, Kansas, to attend Barnard. While at Barnard, James balanced violin and viola study at the Manhattan School of Music with her classwork in comparative religion. She became fascinated by religion during her travels through India and Nepal, but music, particularly folk fiddling, proved irresistible. The style that best suited her, she discovered, is a direct descendant of European jazz and folk, an amalgam of "Gypsy jazz" and Hungarian and Romanian peasant tunes. "It's like people remember it even though they've never heard it," she says.

James' virtuosity and her connection with audiences made her ideal for a gig in Azerbaijan in 2006. The U.S. Department of State hired the Hot Club of Cowtown to perform more than a dozen concerts over the course of a week and introduce elementary school students to Western swing. The first American band to tour outside Azerbaijan's capital, the trio even

received a last-minute invitation to a wedding, where they jammed with local musicians.

"They just about got mobbed loading their instruments into the back of the van," says Liz Murphy, cultural outreach officer for the state department's cultural programs division. "They were wonderful representatives, and Elana couldn't have been nicer to work with."

The state department hired James again in 2011, sending the Hot Club of Cowtown to Oman to showcase traditional fiddle tunes at a cultural arts and music festival near Yemen. Playing "I Can't Believe That You're in Love With Me" for an audience of women, some in burkas, was a slightly surreal experience, notes James.

Despite her fondness for international travel, she does plan to scale back her touring from 150 shows a year to cocoon for a little while in her Austin home. She's eager to focus on composing, honing her technique, and staying musically honest, a trait she admires in Bob Dylan. "I still think of him all the time when I perform," James says. "I like his attitude. To me, what he's bringing forth from himself is something very deep and very honest. When the song comes out of him, it's very true. That is my favorite thing in any performer. My favorite players and my favorite vocalists have the same quality: They're telling the truth."

QUICK TAKE

THE KEYS TO INCLUSION

*MOVING DIVERSITY FORWARD:
HOW TO GO FROM WELL-
MEANING TO WELL-DOING*

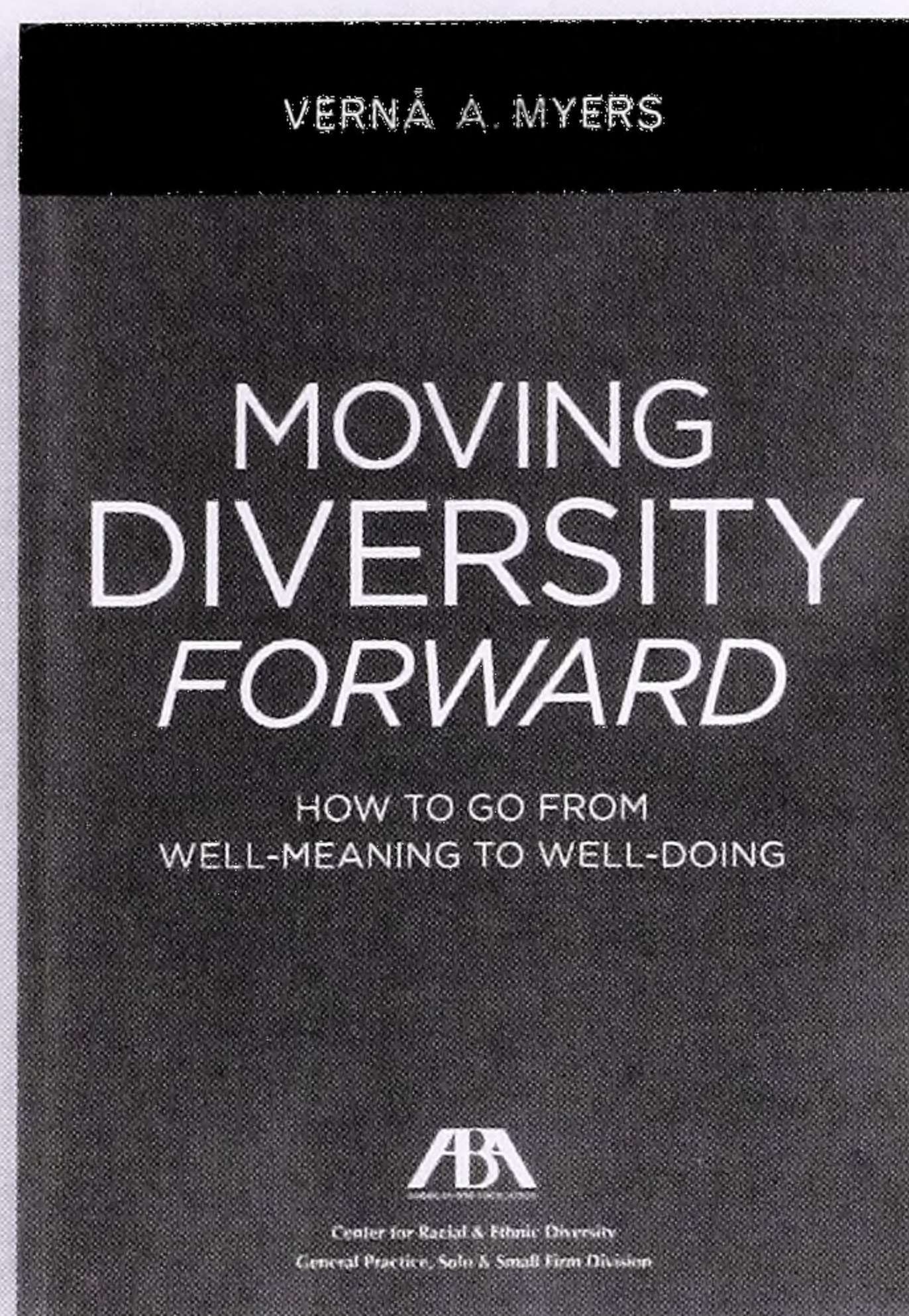
BY VERNĀ A. MYERS '82

American Bar Association, 2011, \$49.95

For more than 20 years, lawyer Vernā Bigger Myers has helped law firms and other institutions achieve a diverse workforce. But that alone isn't enough, she says. Her book, *Moving Diversity Forward*, makes the case that efforts to encourage diversity are typically fruitless unless they're paired with inclusion.

What is the difference between diversity and inclusion? I like to say that it's the difference between being invited to the party and being asked to dance once you're there. For a long time, many institutions and businesses have been trying to create diversity. But they haven't really been successful because they've simply counted how many minorities they've issued a uniform, instead of looking at how many minorities have actually gotten into the game. We need to move from counting people to cultivating people—that's what inclusion means.

Your book is specifically aimed at white readers. What led you to focus on this audience? First, I had to come to grips with my true feelings. I kept hearing white people say, "We want to help, but we don't know what to do," and I couldn't believe that was true. Then I noticed how I felt when I was in a dominant group. For example, we live in a predominantly Judeo-Christian culture. As someone who is part of that



dominant group, I might not know how to talk meaningfully to someone from another religion. Suddenly, I could see the parallels. There are some very well meaning people who are white and who have a commitment to diversity, but who do not have the awareness, skills, confidence, or comfort to go from well-meaning to well-doing. I wanted to write a book for them.

What's an example of a well-intentioned but ineffective attempt to embrace inclusion? I'll take one from the legal profession. Lots of women are invited into law, but the percentage of women who are partners is low. People say this is because women have children and take time off. True, but what the profession hasn't been willing to do is change how it defines commitment. Right now, commitment is defined by the number of hours spent at work instead of the quality of the contributions made. If you are there physically, you count more.

It's not that people are consciously saying, "Keep women out." The norm was defined on a male model during a time when it was an intentional policy that only men would become partners. That policy has changed, but the path to success has not. This hurts the historically excluded groups that people say they want to include.

As a young person, how did Barnard
Continued on Page 72

RELEASES

NEW & UPCOMING

FICTION

HEFT

by Liz Moore '05

W. W. Norton & Company, 2012, \$24.95

FINDING CLARITY: A MOM, A DWARF & A POSH PRIVATE SCHOOL IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BERKELEY

by Laura (Ammann) Novak '82

Amazon Kindle, 2011, \$2.99

POETRY

HEAVEN JUMPING WOMAN

by Pam Burr Smith '72

Moon Pie Press, 2011, \$11

YOUNG READERS

WRECKED

by Anna Davies '05

Simon & Schuster, 2012, \$16.99

NONFICTION

MY AFGHANISTAN: BEFORE THE TALIBAN

by Jean Boyce-Smith '48

Aeronaut Press, 2011, \$16.95

THE REMARKABLES: ENDOCRINE ABNORMALITIES IN ART

by Carol Zeller Clark '65 and Orlo H. Clark, MD

University of California Press, 2011, \$59.95

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF SYRACUSE

by Barbara Sheklin Davis '65 and Susan Rabin

Arcadia, 2011, \$21.99

HEALING PAINFUL SEX: A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO CONFRONTING, DIAGNOSING, & TREATING SEXUAL PAIN

by Nancy Fish '81 and Deborah Coady, MD

Seal Press, 2011, \$18

SPEAK MILK. DRINK WINE: BECOMING A GLOBAL CITIZEN

by Denise Pirrotti Hummel '83

CreateSpace, 2011, \$24.95

NEW YORK: A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CITY

edited by Marla Kennedy '83

Rizzoli, 2011, \$45

NIGHT'S DANCER: THE LIFE OF JANET COLLINS

by Yael Tamar Lewin '91

Wesleyan, 2011, \$37

THE MEN'S SECTION: ORTHODOX JEWISH MEN IN AN EGALITARIAN WORLD

by Elana Maryles Sztokman '91

Brandeis University Press, 2011, \$29.95

FACULTY

IMAGE MATTERS: ARCHIVE, PHOTOGRAPHY, & THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN EUROPE

by Tina M. Campt, Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Director of the Africana Studies Program

Duke University Press, 2012, \$24.95

Complete listings at barnard.edu/magazine



THE NEXT PICTURE SHOW

At a restored theater, Jennifer Christman engages a community of interests

The old Art Deco-style movie theater in downtown Pelham, New York, could easily have met the same fate as countless other classic movie houses across the United States. That was the plan anyway a decade ago when the financially ailing theater in southern Westchester County was slated to be demolished to make way for a new bank.

But a local citizens' group in Pelham banded together to raise the necessary funds to buy the historically significant building. Thanks to that effort, along with the hard work of Jennifer Christman '84, Pelham's Picture House is newly restored. The 91-year-old theater has been reborn as a nonprofit community film center featuring high-quality independent, international, documentary, and classic cinema as well as innovative film-education programming. It has become an acclaimed destination for movie lovers throughout Westchester County and Northern New York City.

As the Picture House's executive director for the past five years, Christman played a leading role in bringing about that transformation. Along the way, there have been major challenges, including the 2008 financial crisis, which took a heavy toll on fundraising efforts and forced the theater to scale back some of its more ambitious plans. Under Christman's leadership, it managed to weather those challenges. After a painstaking renovation effort, in April 2011 the Picture House celebrated its reopening in a ribbon-

cutting ceremony that coincided with the theater's 90th anniversary. It has also had its programming and course offerings bolstered to further its mission of providing a rich array of cultural fare to the local community.

"I'm very proud of what we've done so far. It's been a fun journey," says Christman, who recalls that during the restoration workers uncovered the old silent-movie screen as well as the theater's original organ pit.

The path Christman took to the Picture House has been a whole other journey. Growing up in Port Washington on Long Island, Christman says she was always a big fan of the movies. Her father made sure she was exposed to more than just the standard commercial blockbusters by bringing her and her siblings to the Quad Cinema and other independent movie houses in Manhattan, many of them now defunct.

As much as Christman, a linguistics major, loved movies she hadn't entertained the idea of a career related to film or the visual arts until she took a pair of art-history courses. "I realized how interested I was in visual media and different ways of seeing," she recalls.

After graduation, she tested a legal career. But after a brief stint at a law firm Christman concluded that it wasn't for her. She found work assisting with the production of two independent films, then enrolled at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she obtained a master's degree in cinema studies. From there she landed a job

with Cinecom Entertainment Group, a small producer, distributor, and marketer of independent films. When the company went bankrupt a few years later, Christman began a freelance writing career and spent nearly a decade writing theatrical scripts and had two plays produced off off-Broadway. During that time she and her husband—Jay Cohen, an attorney—started a family, and now have three daughters; their middle, Charlotte Christman-Cohen, is a first-year at Barnard.

Christman returned to school—this time for an MBA at Columbia Business School—and wound up being hired as an internal consultant for IBM. Though she enjoyed the work, she missed working in the arts. In 2006, she was invited to attend an early fund-raising event for Pelham's Picture House. "I was really excited about what they were trying to do," she recalls, and wanted to be part of the effort. Christman soon accepted an offer to be the Picture House's deputy director. About a year later, she became the executive director.

In that role, she has worked hard to hone and refine the theater's mission, helping establish it as a cultural and educational center for the community. The Picture House now offers a diverse mix of films, hosts an annual Italian film festival, and frequent events with leading filmmakers and actors. Guests have included directors Stephen Frears and Ron Howard, and actors Susan Sarandon, Frank Langella, and George Clooney.

Continued on Page 73

AFRICANA STUDIES

Dedicated Teachers and Scholars Join an Expanded Program

Barnard's Africana studies program, the multidisciplinary study of Africa and the Black Diaspora, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and recently joined the American studies program and women's, gender and sexuality studies department to make up the Consortium for Critical Interdisciplinary Studies (CCIS), a collaborative exploration of race and ethnicity, along with gender, class, and nation.

After Kim F. Hall, professor of English, who holds the Lucyle Hook Chair, and professor of Africana studies, came to Barnard in 2006 with a mandate to strengthen the multifaceted program, she worked with former provost and dean of faculty Elizabeth S. Boylan to do a cluster hire—bringing in tenured faculty who would strengthen the Africana studies program and make a lasting impact on the College.

The three new faculty members—Professor Tina Campt, who took over from Hall as director of Africana studies, Professor Yvette Christiansë, and Associate Professor Celia E. Naylor—arrived at Barnard in the fall of 2010. In addition to being renowned scholars and dedicated teachers, they have established new courses of study in the curriculum.

Although her career in academics had taken Hall to several prestigious institutions—University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore College, Georgetown University, and Fordham University—she had always wanted to teach at a women's college because she attended one as an undergraduate. Her academic focus includes black feminism, critical race theory, slavery, and depictions of race in literature. She is currently working on a book about the sugar trade in seventeenth-century England from the perspective of literary analysis.

When Hall joined the Barnard faculty, the College was looking for a sense of direction for Africana studies. Because it is a program and not a department, faculty members were often doing a delicate balancing act between their roles in Africana studies and the departments through which they had or sought tenure. “There seemed to be an agreement that we needed more tenured faculty and more faculty who had contractual responsibilities to Africana studies,” Hall says. “The year I got here Liz Boylan started that process by writing into faculty contracts that there would be some teaching responsibility for Africana studies where applicable.”

Hall wrote the proposal for the cluster hire. Professor Janet Jakobsen, director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women, reconfigured the Difficult Dialogues Faculty Development Seminar to focus on Africana gender studies. This provided the funds and space to identify potential candidates and informally bring them to campus.

The fields of the three new instructors complemented each other and worked well with the existing teaching staff. The tenure homes for the three—women's, gender and sexuality studies, history, and English—participated in the hiring process. It was vitally important to Hall that each had a genuine passion for teaching undergraduates. “We have a really vibrant community [as well as] people who are working together and willing to get behind a vision for Africana studies and these students. In terms of gender and African Diaspora, we now have pretty much the strongest faculty in the country,” affirms Hall.

Continued on Page 73



TINA CAMPT
Professor and Director of Africana Studies



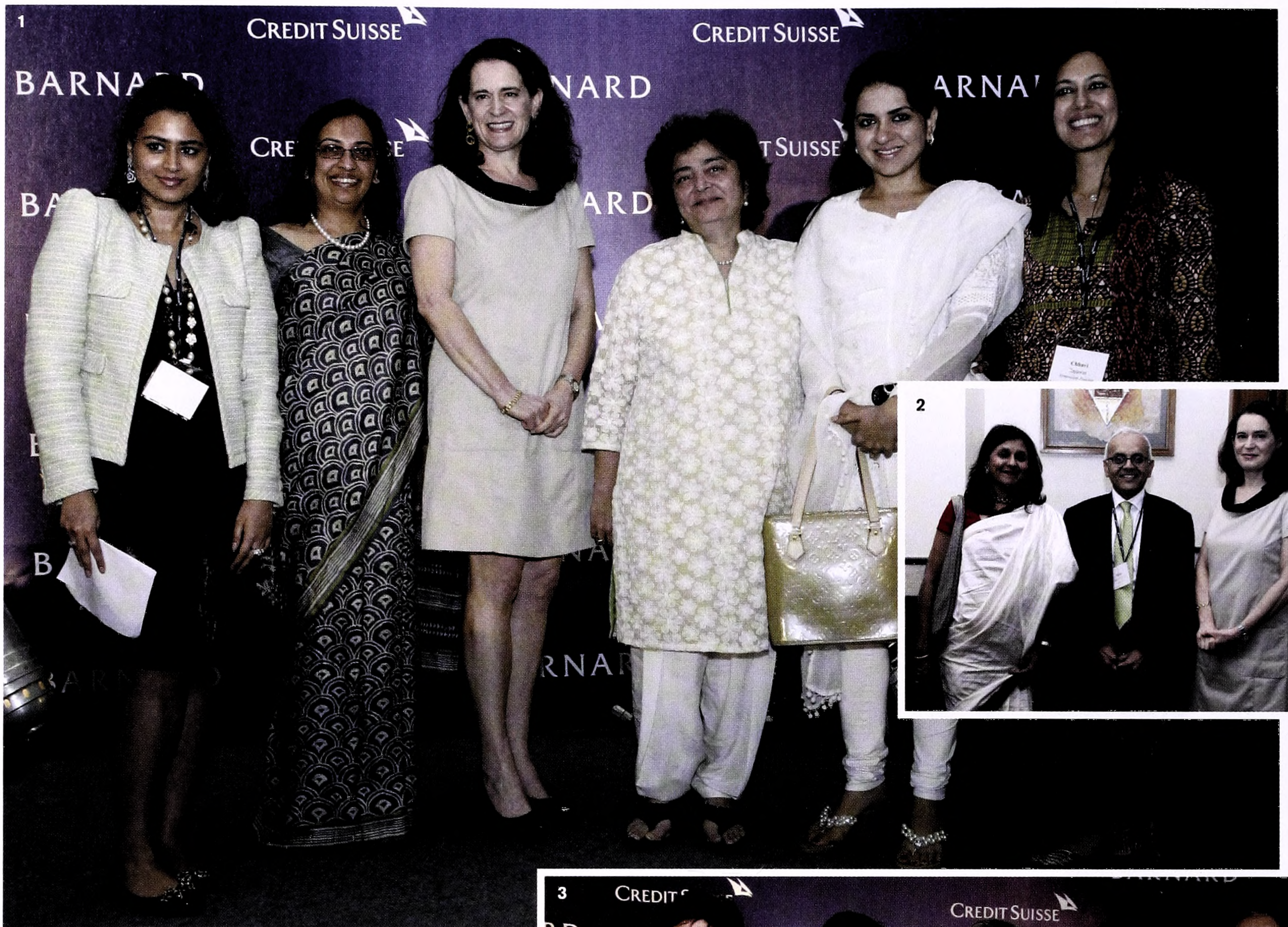
YVETTE CHRISTIANSË
Professor of Africana Studies



KIM HALL
Lucyle Hook Chair, Professor of English and Africana Studies



CELIA E. NAYLOR
Associate Professor of Africana Studies



It just makes a lot of business sense to have a good proportion of senior women; because you do get different perspectives. You get the mixture of the EQ and the IQ. You get a more balanced work culture. So, it's not just a corporate responsibility. It is also very good business sense.

VEDIKA BHANDARKAR
MANAGING DIRECTOR & VICE CHAIR, CREDIT SUISSE INDIA

What I have enjoyed a great deal in my life is being a part of the whole.

And I think the richness that we have coming from a country like ours ... whether it's the geography, the religions, the languages... I have been privileged to build from Gangotri down to the southern tip, from Calcutta to rehabilitating a village in Bhadli. ... And there is a commonality of spirit that runs through the whole country. I think we all have that running through us. And we're very proud of it.

BRINDA SOMAYA
ARCHITECT

DATELINE: MUMBAI

Barnard's Fourth Annual Global Symposium draws together India's women leaders to share their culture and ideas and to inspire young women to become leaders of the future

I believe that if you're not willing to embrace failure, you're not going to be able to take the risks that you need to take to maximize your own potential and the potential of the people around you.

SHAHEEN MISTRI
FOUNDER OF TEACH FOR INDIA



From left: **1** Shristi Mittal '09, Vedika Bhandarkar, Debora Spar, Zia Mody, Shaina NC, and Chhavi Rajawat **2** Saloni Chand Jhaveri '86, Mihir Doshi P12 and P15, and President Spar **3** Kathryn Kolbert, Kiran Bedi, Mirai Chatterjee, Shaheen Mistri, and Gita Sen **4** Shayoni Mitra, Farah Khan, Nandita Das, Mallika Kapur, and Brinda Somaya **5** The symposium's audience **6** High school students at a workshop with Jung Hee Hyun '13 **7** Neharah Gill '13, Jordan Borgman '13, Sara Chava Lederman '12, Zoe Namerow '13, Jung Hee Hyun, and Shilpa Guha '12 **8** At the Young Women's Leadership Workshop

“How can we not be here?” asked Barnard president Debora Spar as she opened the Fourth Annual Global Symposium, *Women Changing India*, sponsored exclusively by Credit Suisse in March. “This is one of the most important countries on the planet, and is driven in large part by women.” Spar continued, “Women are critical stakeholders in India—they are leaders in their communities, in economic development, in activist movements, in corporate board rooms—their influence is really at the heart of everything happening here.”

The symposium’s goal of greater understanding of how women’s leadership works in different cultures was explored through three panels during the daylong event. Distinguished panelists tackled key topics such as women’s leadership in social activist efforts, media and arts, and business and government. Women drawn from these fields included Kiran Bedi, India’s first and highest ranking woman police officer; Shaheen Mistri, founder of Teach for India; CNN international correspondent Mallika Kapur; Shaina NC, politician and fashion designer; actress and activist Nandita Das; and Vedika Bhandarkar, managing director and vice-chair of Credit Suisse India.

As the symposia have evolved, increasing attention has been directed to developing women leaders of the future on both regional and world stages. Beginning with last year’s symposium in Johannesburg, events were scheduled for Barnard’s Global Fellows (there were six in Mumbai), students who expressly apply to a selection committee for the honorific months before the symposium takes place.

On March 15, more than 80 high

school students from around Mumbai gathered at the Cathedral and John Connon School to take part in Barnard College’s 2012 Young Women’s Leadership Workshop. The event featured a plenary address by Riya Bhattacharya, a research analyst from Credit Suisse in India, who stressed the importance of financial literacy for young women. Participants also heard from President Spar and Professor Kathryn Kolbert, the Constance Hess Williams Director of Barnard’s Athena Center for Leadership Studies. Ann Dachs, a senior admissions officer and director of Barnard’s Pre-College Programs, talked about the value of a liberal-arts education.

Student fellows led small group workshops to help participants explore leadership and develop collaboration and negotiation skills. The curriculum, “Perspectives on Leadership,” incorporated a role-playing exercise where the students were encouraged to consider an eminent domain scenario set in a fictional Mumbai slum. A redevelopment plan would bring in foreign investment and help establish the city as a leading global center, but would also have significant humanitarian, environmental, and health impacts. The students talked through the clashing perspectives and interests associated with this issue.

“[They] were extremely well-versed in the concept of slum-renewal,” said Jung Hee Hyun ’13, one of the Barnard fellows. “Their arguments were insightful and they were able to engage in lively, collaborative discussions about very complex issues.... I learned more from them than anything.” Neharah Gill ’13 agreed, noting how the students embraced the role-playing experience, “One young woman told me, ‘We’re always blaming the government, but now coming from the perspective of the government, we see how difficult it is to come up with solid solutions.’”

Other aspects of leadership emerged. “The most memorable moment for me was witnessing firsthand a shift in how the students defined leadership,” said

Sara Lederman ’12. At first, the high school students talked about presumed strengths among leaders, such as being bold, outspoken, and confident. But later debriefing the exercise, one of the quieter students in the group admitted that she didn’t feel like a “leader” during the workshop because she was less vocal. Another reassured her that listening and letting others speak is an equally powerful leadership attribute. “It was incredible to actually see that message click,” recalled Lederman.

Jordan Borgman ’13 added, “Leadership is not about gaining accolades for yourself; it is about being an advocate for others, while also helping them find their own voice.”

The experience in Mumbai also made Borgman more aware of what she’s learning at Barnard about being part of a community where women are respected, and about believing in the value of her own thoughts and opinions. “Before I thought of Barnard as an academic experience, now I realize that it is actually a deeply personal one,” said Borgman.

To watch videos from the global symposium please visit barnard.edu/magazine

I think not for a minute should we forget that most of India’s women are poor, rural, but very economically active. It is they, who through their labor power and through their insights, are powering our economy. In fact, about 60 percent of India’s GDP is accounted for by the informal economy. And most informal workers are poor, rural women. Their priority is work. Education comes later on, because for them, work is a lifeline to survival. If they have basic security of work and income, they can feed their children. They can have basic health care. So it’s not either/or.

GITA SEN

PROFESSOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT IN BANGALORE

GLOBAL FELLOWS IN SANGLI

A Performance Becomes a Political Force

The impulse to produce a play is an important one. It is a crucial stage of cooperative and creative ownership of ones' own narratives. For a collective of sex workers in Sangli, a rural community on the border of India's Maharashtra province, this impulse has become a critical part of organizing and advocating for their rights. *Veshya AIDS Mukabala Parishad*, meaning "Sex Workers Free From Injustice," known as VAMP, is a subset of SANGRAM, an organization fighting the AIDS epidemic in India by empowering sex workers, rural women and girls, women widowed by the disease, and other marginalized groups. Personal agency has been a rallying cry around much of VAMP's work, and members have embraced theatre as one means of expression.

In March, I visited Sangli with Catherine Sameh, the associate director of BCRW, and Barnard's six Global Symposium Student Fellows. We were accompanied by Sushama Deshpande, a well-known professional of the Marathi stage, who directed VAMP's most recent play, *Hum Aur Tum Sab* (Us and You All). During our daylong visit we watched the performance, spoke with members of VAMP, and visited their *galli*, or street, where they live and work.

In the 1990s, when the AIDS crisis was imminent in India, five sex workers formed VAMP at the urging of grassroots activist Meena Seshu, who now runs SANGRAM. The collective has grown impressively, setting up extensive condom distribution networks, awareness campaigns, access to medical care for the infected, and HIV/AIDS

testing facilities. After nearly two decades, positive cases among the local population have dropped to less than two percent. VAMP has also managed to implement stipulations within its district: girls must be 18 or older to enter the profession, no middlemen take cuts, and sex workers negotiate their own terms.

Recently, theatre has become another aspect of VAMP's efforts to educate and empower. Previous productions were performed in Marathi, but the play we watched was deliberately in Hindi, the national language. It recounts the history of VAMP, from its formation in 1996 to the present challenges of growing membership and organizing sex workers.

Hum Aur Tum Sab is episodic, stylistically simple, and direct. Various characters slip in and out of the narrator role, weaving a chronological story. Sets are minimal, portable and symbolic, with the colorful, painted doorways serving as the crucial gateway between the public and the private world. Rhythms of communal life are apparent: card-playing becomes a marker of relaxed leisurely sisterhood. The actors often sit in circular formation, exchanging stories amongst themselves and the audience. With a background score of Hindi film songs lending the

lushness of old Bollywood, the overall mood of the piece is celebratory.

Hum Aur Tum Sab amply and ably conveys the disturbing aspects of VAMP's saga: constant police brutality, violence of clients, the stigmatization of their children in schools, and their invisibility in the spectrum of electoral politics. Men who are the children of sex workers and now volunteer their time at VAMP play male roles. They acknowledge their deep discomfort in performing mostly negative roles of abusive men in various capacities of power. Personal stories of rape, family rejection, and coercion to prostitution are woven into the greater narrative, but we are returned to the larger and more beneficial story of mass organization.

VAMP members aspire to tour their play throughout India and beyond. The more mainstream an audience *Hum Aur Tum Sab* reaches, the more their story will be heard. And the more members they can retain in VAMP, the better they will be able to regulate their profession. While prostitution is still illegal in India, VAMP and its cohorts continue to negotiate a complex terrain of local policy, social persecution, and economic compulsion to demonstrate remarkable political will to mobilization.



Above and top: VAMP activists in performance; Right: Performers with Global Fellows and Professor Mitra holding her daughter, Sophina.

CORNUCOPIA OF CULINARY TALENTS



ENID BALLINGER STETTNER '54 SPECIALTY-FOODS ENTREPRENEUR

Entrepreneurship comes naturally to Enid Ballinger Stettner, who opened a fashion company when she was 24. Stettner launched Wild Thymes Farm in the '80s as a specialty food company that makes distinctive condiments. Credit her with pioneering the craving for herb-flavored vinegars, her first product, using what grew in her abundant garden in upstate New York's Hudson Valley. An art-history major at Barnard, Stettner sees her work as simply another form of creative expression. "I paint with the palate," she says. "I'm adding color, I'm adding flavor—everything has to have a beautiful

color." Stettner's family business has since expanded to encompass a wide variety of sauces, marinades, and salad dressings. "I had no food background," she admits. "What I understood best was how to balance flavors. It's just like the theatre—you project your voice. If you put something in a jar, you exaggerate the flavor to hold up in a jar." An unabashed perfectionist who makes her own spice blends, Stettner says that to achieve the desired results, "Sometimes I use 20 different seasonings in an item."

Visit wildthymes.com for more information



JILL A. DONENFELD '06

THE CULINISTA

Clear about what she wants to achieve in her work, Jill A. Donenfeld says, “I want to help people, to inspire people to cook together.” A Cincinnati, Ohio, native who grew up with healthy, home-cooked family dinners, she adds, “It’s people coming together through food.” Three days after graduating, she founded The Culinistas, a company that provides home-chef services for families in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. As a Barnard student majoring in urban studies, Donenfeld was fascinated by the way “restaurants and food consumption shaped the city.” For one class, she interviewed

celebrity chefs such as Eric Ripert of New York’s famed Le Bernardin, and even did her thesis on the impact of Whole Foods entering the city’s market. While at Barnard, Donenfeld also contributed restaurant reviews for *Time Out New York*, and worked as a private chef when she was a senior. She’s also worked in restaurants and as a caterer, in addition to blogging about food and coauthoring a cookbook, *Party Like a Culinista: Fresh Recipes, Bold Flavors, and Good Friends*, published last fall. “I just followed my passion,” says Donenfeld.

Visit theculinistas.com for more information



DORIS PLATZKER FRIEDENSOHN '58

FOOD-SERVICE ACTIVIST

Doris Friedensohn, professor emerita of women's studies at New Jersey City University, is interested in all aspects of food: what we eat, how it's served, and who prepares it. "Part of what fascinates me about food is how it figures in culture and illuminates aspects of human behavior," says Friedensohn, who as a scholar explored issues of feminism, diversity, and culture. When she found her way, in retirement, to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Newark and the Food Service Training Academy, which trains low-income people for jobs in the food industry, Friedensohn was "hooked by the

stories of the students I met. I was moved by people's sense of grit and hope." She shared many of these stories in her book, *Cooking for Change: Tales From a Food Service Training Academy*. "It's important that people know these stories," explains Friedensohn, who admired her subjects' tenacity and resilience in the face of significant hardships. Being in the training program enables people to feel good about themselves, which might spark more efforts and achievements up the economic ladder.

Visit njfoodbank.org/cookingforchange for more information



DANA JACOBI '66 & MELISSA CLARK '90

WRITERS

Writing about food in a way that inspires home cooks to turn on the oven and actually make meals is a talent that both Dana Jacobi and Melissa Clark display in their careers. Jacobi, one of the first online food writers, is the author of 10 best-selling cookbooks. A former business executive who started her food career as a caterer, she also developed her own line of food products. Corporations seek her expertise for recipes and product development. “I love the fact that there’s variety, and I’m doing something new and different,” says Jacobi, who was an art-history major at Barnard.

For Melissa Clark, who started “writing restaurant reviews as a kid,” and published her first cookbook at 23, her column

in *The New York Times* Dining section gives her a powerful platform for her mission. “I just wanted to help people make dinner,” says Clark. “At 6 o’clock at night, I look in the fridge and wonder what am I going to make for dinner. Spending a half hour together cooking is the best way to show people love.” Clark, a Brooklyn native who catered for Barnard and Columbia professors while studying for her MFA at Columbia, relishes her varied experiences in the food world. Besides her most recent work, *Cook This Now*, Clark, who was an English major, has written 32 other cookbooks.

Visit danajacobi.com for more from Dana Jacobi

Visit melissaclark.net for more from Melissa Clark



BARBARA SIBLEY '84

RESTAURANT OWNER

Barbara Sibley opened her restaurant, La Palapa, to satisfy her desire for the authentic Mexican food she was raised on in Mexico City. “When it came to opening La Palapa, it was pure homesickness,” says Sibley. “What’s on the menu is what I’ve been craving.” She even makes her own cheese and her own chorizo, because “I want it to taste like Mexico.” An anthropology major, she’s also motivated by the desire to “translate my culture, to share it and break stereotypes.” Sibley is actively involved in the food world as a cookbook author, member of the Women Chef & Restaurateurs and vice president of the New York Women’s Culinary Alliance. Concerned about food’s role in the larger community, she’s

also testified in front of Congress about the need for an increase in the federal tipped minimum wage. And food has always been very much about family, from her grandmother and mother’s expert home cooking, to her hands-on cooking with her two young children. It definitely helps that La Palapa is next door to where Sibley and her husband live, given the demands of her career. “I can come home and be with my kids, can put them to bed, and then go back to the restaurant.” Working in her own restaurant is an “incredible gift,” she says. “It’s tremendous hard work and tremendous joy to share your creations with people and have instant feedback.”

Visit lapalapa.com for more information



Photograph by Jamie Thrower

CHRISTINA TURLEY '06

WINERY SALES DIRECTOR

As the director of sales for the family business, Turley Wine Cellars in the Napa Valley, Christina Turley sees her role as an “opportunity to build something, with my own kind of vision. Because we’re small and in high demand, it’s more educational than sales.” Although she came to Barnard to get away from the vintner’s world where she grew up, the lure of wine—and food—never went away. During the summers, Turley remained in the city, working as a restaurant hostess. She found herself “reading food Web sites [because] I missed being around food.” An art-history major, Turley worked at a

gallery for two years before she realized that art history was an appropriate pairing with her professional work with wine. “I look at art and wine as very similar,” she says. “The more you know, the more you enjoy it. Ultimately, it’s about pleasure. My mission is to demystify [wine] and remind people that ultimately it’s pleasurable.” Turley observes that although, “the wine business is definitely male dominated, the great thing about coming from Barnard is you learn you have to stand up for yourself.”

Visit turleywinecellars.com for more information

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Caterer Liz Neumark bought a farm to help change the way New Yorkers think about food.

Follow the Hudson River for about 140 miles north of Manhattan and you will arrive at the bucolic town of Kinderhook. The region is rich in history, having once been home to a U.S. president, Martin Van Buren, a U.S. vice president, Aaron Burr, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* author Washington Irving. These days, it is also home to Katchkie Farm, a 60-acre organic farm that is a trailblazer in the local food, farm-to-table movement. Its year-round fresh food is grown specifically to feed clients of Great Performances, one of New York City's most successful catering companies. The farm is also home to The Sylvia Center, a nonprofit organization that aims to teach children about food and nutrition by providing hands-on farming and cooking experience. The woman driving all three of these operations: their charismatic founder and CEO Liz Neumark '77.

Great Performances' motto is "celebrate food," and Neumark has done just that since she started the company in 1979. She was two years out of Barnard at the time, having graduated with degrees in urban studies and political science, when she had the idea to create a waitress service employing struggling female artists looking to supplement their incomes. Within five years, Great Performances had evolved into a catering company known for its great food as well as its attention to detail. As the parties grew more elaborate, Great Performances kept pace, becoming New York's largest off-site caterer, operating from a 23,000-square-foot space in Hudson Square, and working with some of the city's largest institutions, including Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Plaza Hotel.

By the mid-2000s, the booming business found Neumark looking for ways to remain innovative. Catering companies are typically small and nimble, and she wanted her substantial operation to retain the sensibility that fueled its growth. "I thought one way to stay small was to base things on [locally grown] food," says Neumark. "Maybe it's from my Russian stock, but I've always had this idea in the back of my mind, 'Wouldn't it be nice to have a farm?'" A farm could provide local food and seasonal flavors to Great Performances, grown under the same sustainable farming practices gaining popularity among environmentalists. "If we could stick to the basics, it would be healthy for our clients and healthy for [our business]," she says.

There was another cause of Neumark's restlessness. After the loss of her 7-year-old daughter, Sylvia, who died from a sudden brain aneurysm, Neumark found it difficult to care about the party planning that once drove her success. "I thought, 'I don't know how I can come back to this industry, where people obsess over a color or the length of a tablecloth,'" she says. The company had always been philanthropic, donating to a variety of causes, but Neumark wanted something more. She wanted a legacy for the little girl who had loved helping others, something

Continued on Page 74







Reflections & Relevance

In October I had the privilege to hear author Edwidge Danticat '90 deliver the first lecture of the Africana studies program's Distinguished Alumnae Series. An eloquent speaker, she spoke of her path to becoming a writer and the influence of her mentors at Barnard. She opened her lecture by describing her thoughts as she walked across campus, "I felt like I was going to meet the person I used to be, and we'd say hello."

I walk the paths of Barnard often these days, and Edwidge's image resonated with me. Of course, the campus map has changed in 35 years, but I still can see the spot where I took my yearbook photo under the tree in front of Milbank Hall. That's where I expect to greet the "me" I used to be, smiling into the lens and striking a pose for the future. My younger self would probably start an animated conversation with me. She was president of Undergrad (now SGA). She had come to Barnard wanting to be a writer but she headed off to medical school. She was excited to graduate but knew she would miss her friends. The future was bright and all was well with the world. "Women can do anything, you know," she might say.

I wouldn't try to argue with her optimistic outlook for women and the world. While there is no doubt that there has been a sea change for women, the future isn't exactly what she and I may have dreamed. She probably would be shocked that we were still discussing some of the same issues facing women in 2012 as we debated in 1977. Personally, things turned out well for my former self and me. Although it continues to be a struggle to "have it all," we did become a writer, as well as a doctor, and managed to fit the family in there as well.

But I might challenge her description of her idyllic time at Barnard. What about being a commuter for a year? What about the friendship and roommate dramas, the relationship traumas, and the professors she didn't love? And didn't Barnard have three presidents during her three years? It wasn't so perfect.

I imagine she would look at me quizzically, shrug her shoulders, and counter that she still loved Barnard, then ask why I was dwelling on the negative when there were so many good things that happened during those four years.

This reflection was a fun exercise. But it is also what happens when I speak to many alumnae, especially those who graduated during the '70s and '80s. The negative memories seem to linger and overshadow the positive experiences as well as the academic achievements. They end by asking: Why would I want to get involved in the Alumnae Association? Why should I give back to Barnard? What did Barnard do for me?

Well, maybe it's time to reflect on what Barnard did do for us, even with its imperfections. Let's reflect on the positive. Because the bottom line is that what Barnard gave us was an outstanding education. If you can honestly say that your Barnard degree did not help you as you went forward in life, then stop listening now. But if you ever put Barnard College down on your résumé or curriculum vitae, even if you added other degrees or accomplishments since then, you owe something to the College. Beyond our own education, Barnard has been a leader in the fight for equality for women. Our lives and the lives of our daughters have been affected by this ongoing struggle. The President of the United States chose to speak at our commencement precisely because of the history of Barnard.

As Barnard faces the future, this future will be determined by its past. Even in the past, Barnard's tuition did not cover all the costs of a four-year education and the contributions made by alumnae helped bridge the gap. The College needs your help, and today's bright enthusiastic students need it, too. It is up to the alumnae of Barnard, all 30,000 plus of us, to help Barnard stay competitive and meet the increasingly complicated needs of students.

As I say goodbye to my younger self, I hear her shout, "Thank you!"

All my best wishes,

Mary Ann LoFrumento '77

Regional Clubs Bring Barnard Around the World

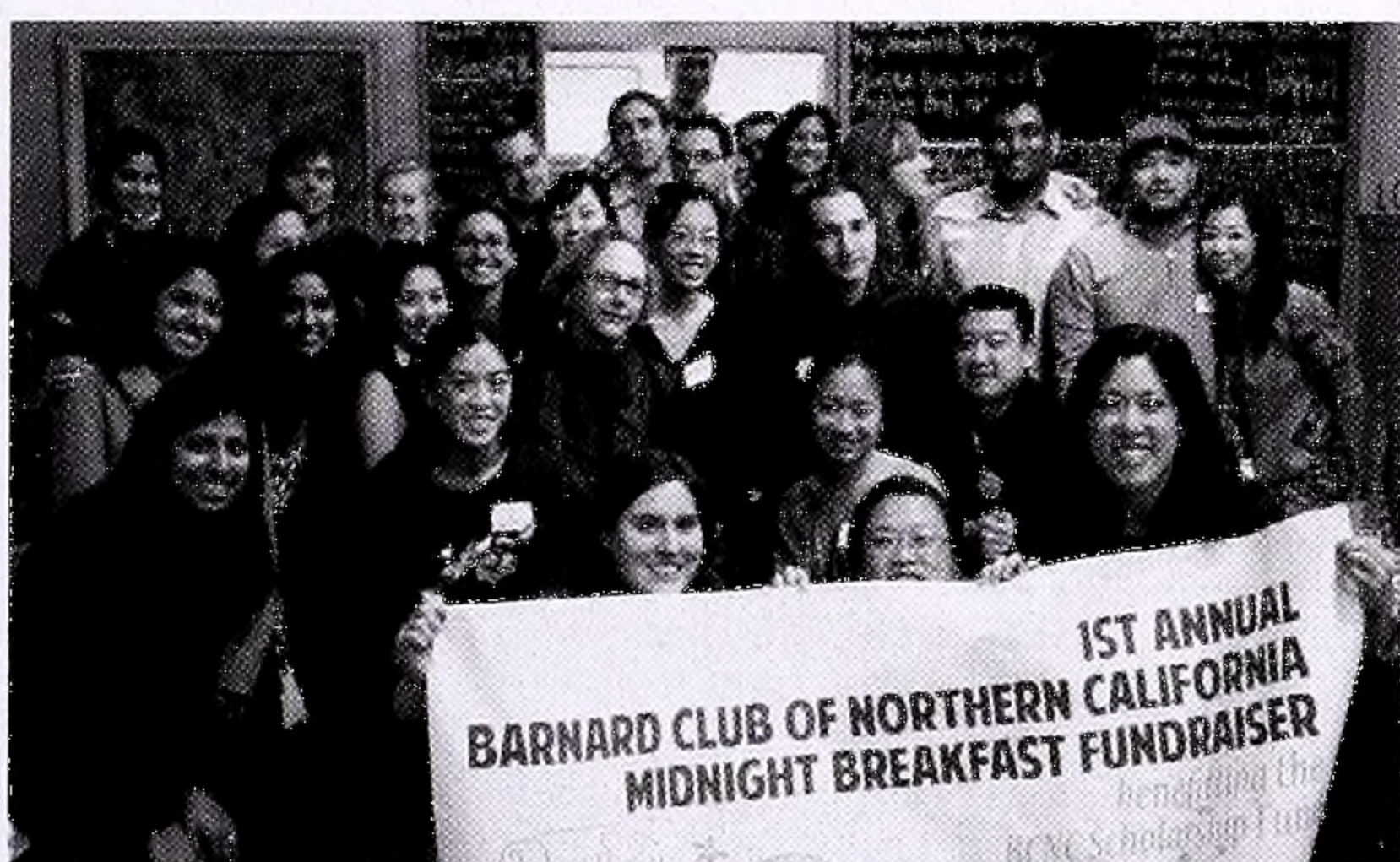
Barnard College's global footprint currently stretches through more than 65 countries, in large part due to the vast alumnae network both here and abroad. Dedicated to fostering connections to Barnard around the world, these highly valued groups of interesting and intelligent volunteers open their own networks to their Barnard sisters and offer support through all stages of life.

Barnard's regional clubs host a variety of events from book clubs to professional development workshops to happy hours and museum

tours. The clubs bridge the gaps between the classes and allow lifelong relationships to build, ultimately based on the life-changing experience of a Barnard education.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the Barnard regional clubs or events, visit alum.barnard.edu, call 212.854.2005, or e-mail alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu. Barnard wants to connect with you, wherever you are, and we look forward to expanding these connections in your communities throughout the world.

MIDNIGHT BREAKFAST MOVES TO THE WEST COAST



On January 6, more than 100 alumnae, current students, and their guests attended the first Annual Midnight Breakfast fundraiser at Kate's Kitchen in San Francisco. Hosted by the Barnard Club of Northern California, this single event raised over \$2,000 for the Barnard Northern California Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to young women from the Bay Area. The fund-raiser successfully recreated the spirit of Midnight Breakfast, a Barnard finals week tradition since 1998. Special guest and scholarship recipient Rebecca Kelliher '13 helped "M.C." Danielle Childs '10 and event coordinators Jessica Meksavan '05 and Lisa Lin '98 quiz attendees on Barnard trivia as everyone enjoyed delicious breakfast foods. Guests walked away with prizes, free Mission Minis cupcakes, and a strengthened bond with the Bay Area's Barnard community.

ONCE A BARNARD WOMAN ALWAYS A BARNARD WOMAN

On January 11, current Barnard students attended the Barnard Club of Long Island's Lessons Learned mixer with recent graduates, several alumnae from

the 1960s, and even a mother-daughter alumna-student pair. All enjoyed spending time together mingling over drinks and delicious snacks at Vitae Restaurant in Huntington. Alumnae recounted what they wished they would have known as students; students reported what surprised them most upon entering the College.

MEET OUR NEWEST CLUB

On January 29, 40 enthusiastic alumnae in North Carolina gathered for the kickoff event of the newly minted Barnard Club of the Triangle. Eight board members were elected, and plans were laid for future events, such as museum trips, theatre outings, and networking, among other possibilities. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce about their Barnard years and welcomed the formation of the club.

CONNECTING IN HONG KONG



The Barnard Club of Hong Kong has been very busy. After hosting an exciting visit by President Spar on December 8, they kicked off the new year on February 4, with brunch at Oolaa. Alumnae were able to reconnect with old friends and make new ones by telling stories of their unique yet similar Barnard experiences. *Pictured from*

left: Ascia Wallingford '07, Joyce Ng '11, Yanni Guo '06, and Christine Wong Mar '65

TOASTING SOUTH AFRICAN WINES



The Barnard College Club of New York and the Barnard Business and Professional Women jointly sponsored a wine tasting on February 7. Graciously

underwritten by the Wines of South Africa and the South African Consulate General, guests enjoyed a presentation, with a tasting of 12 South-African red, white, and sparkling wines, along with regional food specialties. The event came together thanks to Meagan Callahan '12, the daughter of representatives from Wines of South Africa.

SUPPORTING BARNARD AUTHORS

On March 16, the Barnard Club of Philadelphia attended dinner followed by reading at the Philadelphia Free Library by Edwidge Danticat '90 who also discussed the themes in her newest book, *Create Dangerously: The Immigrant Artist at Work*. The event featured a musical performance by Haitian-American composer and violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain whose eclectic works have included commissions from Carnegie Hall and the Library of Congress. It was a wonderful evening of friendly conversation and musical and cultural exploration.

Regional Receptions with President Debora Spar and Vice President for College Relations Dorothy Denburg

In an effort to consistently keep alumnae updated on and engaged with happenings at the College, President Spar and Dorothy Urman Denburg '70 attend regional receptions across the globe to connect with alumnae and share their Barnard experiences.



LONDON

In February, President Spar attended a reception hosted by the Barnard Club of London, providing updates about the College and speaking with guests. Ariel Yoffie '13 (center) and Rachel Ames '07 (right) discussed the Barnard Beyond the Gates Internship program, detailing how the program was a life-changing experience for each of them. The program matches alumnae employers with current study-abroad students for a semester-long internship and mentoring.

TEXAS

In January, President Spar spoke at the Petroleum Club in Houston in conjunction with the Harvard Business School Club in Houston, while Dorothy Denburg attended alumnae receptions in Austin, Dallas, and Houston. Our thanks to the gracious hosts in those cities—Victoria Chin '70, Aileen Mejia Pratt '77, and Dale Sonnenberg '63—for opening their homes and reenergizing the Barnard community in Texas.



From left: Chira Cassel '04, Aleksandra Cuprys '04, Charlotte Joseph '07, Celeste Rivera '04, and Dorothy Denburg enjoy Miami.



MIAMI

On March 25, Marcia Beiley Dunn '63 (above left) hosted a reception at her home for Vice President Denburg (center), and Professor of Art History Anne Higonnet (right). Denburg addressed the group on the state of the College; Higonnet spoke of the research into the reattribution of one the Metropolitan Museum's most famous paintings, *Young Woman Drawing*.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On February 7, President Spar attended a reception graciously hosted by Cheryl Milstein '82 at the Jefferson Hotel. Approximately 80 alumnae attended; the evening featured presentations by President Spar, Barnard Club of Washington Co-President Kathy McNally '69, and House of Representatives member Nita Lowey.

Photographs by Kenneth Hupart (SEAS '77)

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College was established in 1895 to further the interests of the College and connect alumnae worldwide. Learn more online at alum.barnard.edu.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

The Alumnae Affairs staff work closely with students and alumnae volunteers to carry out program initiatives and further the mission of the Alumnae Association.

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For classes without correspondents, send notes to:

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Sherman McCormick, the son of **Katrine Sherman Groves McCormick**, regrets to inform her friends of her passing on Oct. 9, 2011, at the age of 99. "She fondly remembered her days at Barnard and often delighted in reading about her friends. Katrine lived a long and inspiring life completely independently until she was almost 97. Her last years were full of remembrances and reading of world events. She remained independent in thought and activity till the very last day of her life. I remember her reading an article to me about the economy, written by Nouriel Roubini, as though I were a child to whom she was reading, the day before she died. Katrine sends warm remembrances to all who may remember her. *Ave atque vale.*"

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I'm so sorry to report that we have lost Adair. I received an impressive obituary

from the University of Delaware, where she was a professor of biology and evolution for many years. But I must first share my own sorrow at this news. She was our class fund chair for more years than I can count, and I still remember fondly the many convivial reunion committee meetings we shared. Adair was one of the kindest and most effectual people I have known, and I have cherished and admired her for 75 years. Her passing leaves a depressing breach in our dwindling ranks.

After graduation, **Adair Brasted Gould** went on to get a PhD in genetics at the University of Rochester, but marriage and children sidetracked her career until 1964, when she joined the biology department at the University of Delaware. Upon retiring in 1981, she developed new interests at the Delaware Art Museum. She was a docent there for 25 years and also taught art history at the Academy of Lifetime Learning. Not content with the world of art, this caring woman also spent 18 years as a "listener" for a crisis hot line, CONTACT. Her other lifetime attachment was to Chataqua, where her family gathered each summer.

Our deep sympathy goes to her family: three daughters, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, as well as a sister and many nieces and nephews.

I'm writing these notes from Seattle, where I spend the winter with my namesake, my daughter Nora James Percival. At the moment we are housebound by a foot of snow. So much for trying to escape a mountain winter. I hope you have all had a healthy and safe winter, and by now are ready for spring.

My new memoir is (thankfully) finished and published. It is called *The Whirligig of Time* and is about my life during World War II, featuring my wartime job as counselor to women workers in a huge defense plant,

as well as assorted wartime upheavals.

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Emily Virginia Turk Obst writes, "I am so glad that our Class Notes are resuming. Thanks for taking it on. I have been living here in Palm Beach County, Fla., since 1946. For a while we had a small 1939 group meeting, thanks to **Bernice Breitbart Schlang** and her husband. They ran the Chesterfield Hotel in Palm Beach and were most hospitable in providing us with a meeting place, food, and beverages. But that was some years ago, and now I don't know who among our classmates is still here. When our new college president visited the area, the Barnard College Club of South Florida met just a few blocks from where I now live, but I was unable to attend.

"I live in a condo situated on the Intracoastal Waterway, with a view of the Atlantic Ocean. I am very happy here, with good friends both here and at our church nearby.

"My best friend is my computer, which keeps me busy for hours at a time. Through it, I travel (virtually) to faraway places, learn about my ancestors, and do the nitty-gritty accounting so very necessary. And I can play bridge or solitaire with it when I wish.

"My husband, Hal Obst, died in 2007, one day before what would have been our 64th anniversary, and our daughter, Mary

Obst '68, in 2002. My two sons visit me frequently. Tony lives in Short Hills, N.J., and Jim is in Chicago. Thanks to many good friends here, I am leading a happy retiree's life, but I would like to hear from '39ers in our area."

Paula Kassell
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We regret to report that **Jane Goldstein Berzer** passed away on Dec. 7, 2011. According to jewishjournal.com, she is survived by two daughters, one son, and four grandchildren.

Mary Katherine Blohm writes, "My mother, **Mary Donnellon Blohm**, passed away on Jan. 25, 2012. She was preceded in death on Oct. 21, 2011, by her sister, Frances Donnellon Updike '43. They were very proud of Barnard." Mary was an engineering assistant for Bell Laboratories in Manhattan. In 1943, she married Willard H. Blohm, who passed away in 1992. They had five children. In Tenafly, N.J., she was on the executive board of the Parent Teacher Association and was president of the Tenafly Women's Club. She was a Cub Scout den mother, Brownie leader, and Sunday school teacher. She ran for the New Jersey State Assembly from the 15th District in 1979 while living in Hackettstown. In 1980, Mary and Willard moved to Lake Wales, Fla., where she was president of the Council of Catholic Women at the Holy Spirit Church. She was also president of the Lake Wales chapter of the American Association of University Women. In addition, she wrote poetry, painted, and was a talented pianist. She moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., in 1993 with her sister, Frances. When she was asked by a television reporter, in 2000, what she thought was the most significant event in her lifetime, she said, "It's incredible when you think that when I was born, women were not allowed to vote." She is survived by a brother, five children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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Mabel Schubert Foust is active in running the Church Mouse, a profitable thrift shop in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Mabel Campbell lives in the same apartment she lived in during her years at Barnard. She walks around the campus for exercise. She attended the summer theatre festival in Cooperstown, N.Y.

Marion Blum Sweet took an active part in organizing her family's summer gathering near a lake in Wisconsin.

Barbara Fish Saltzman lives in her home in the hills around Los Angeles and enjoys taking her daily walk.

Virginia Rogers Cushing is making a good recovery from her hip-replacement surgery in August. She hosted a Boxing Day gathering for her granddaughter, Lisah, and two great-granddaughters, Elianna and Danielle.

Doris Bayer Coster is preparing for our 70th reunion. Hope you can make it!

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Did you consider making a gift to the very special Class of '43 Scholarship Fund when you made your year-end gifts? A number of you wondered where we stand. As of January 2012, \$87,604 had been raised. Our contribution must total \$100,000 in actual contributions in order to be recognized as a Class of '43 scholarship. We are therefore, as of this writing, \$12,400 short. With your help we can celebrate the achievement of our goal at our upcoming 70th reunion.

Sadly, **Irene Jones Reinert**, **Annette Dreyfus Benacerraf**, and **Anne Vermilye Gifford** passed away during the summer of 2011. Please remember these old friends.

My new home becomes more special with each passing day. If you can't visit, do call and say, "Hello."

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We lower the flag to mark the life of **Ursula Colbourne Brecknell**, who died on Dec. 22, 2011. A Staten Island native, she moved to Montgomery Township, N.J., in 1964, finding her lifework in local history and the study of Dutch architecture. Along the way, she was editor of *The Montgomery Citizen* newspaper, author of a book on the township, charter member of the Van Harlingen Historical Society, and principal of a consulting business, Historic House Surveys. At the time of her death, she was collaborating on a book on Dutch architecture in New Jersey.

Gloria Mandeville Johnson sends news of a move for her and her husband. After 50 years in Eugene, Ore., where she taught in the English department of the University of Oregon, they headed north to be near family, settling in Gig Harbor, Wash.

Ina Murray Campbell reports that Rebekah Snyder '13 is the 2011-12 recipient of the Class of 1944 Memorial Scholarship Fund. Forging ahead with her psychology major and Spanish and philosophy minors, she hopes to perfect her language in Spain this summer and is interning at Mount Sinai. A bright future in clinical psychology may be on the horizon.

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Renewing Barnard friendships is a most rewarding thing to do.

Before the holiday season, I had a surprise phone call from **Betty Burton de Vogelaere**, who lives in Lake Forest, Ill. She had not been back to Barnard since we graduated in 1945, said good-bye

to each other, and all went on to our life paths. Betty would be making a nostalgic visit to New York City within a few days and wanted to have lunch, go up to 116th Street, and walk the campus for memory's sake. We met at the New York Athletic Club for lunch with her daughter, Michele, and renewed our friendship from college days. It was like very little time had passed.

Betty was a transfer psych major from Northwestern University who lived in the dorm. **Patricia Cady Remmer**, who was the residence hall president at the time, immediately gave her the assignment of being the social contact with the midshipmen school at Columbia. Betty was a knockout brunette who went over to John Jay Hall each week to post notices of the tea dances, which were held at Barnard or on the *USS Prairie State* that weekend. Her good looks recruited many of the budding naval officers.

She returned to Oak Park and a few years later married a high school acquaintance, Robert deVogelaere, an advertising executive. They had four children: Suzette lives in Mill Valley, Calif.; her son, Brick, lives in Pacific Palisades, Calif.; Michele lives in San Francisco; and Janine, a banker, recently moved to a new condo on the Upper West Side. When the family moved to Lake Forest, Betty became very involved with the children's education and rose to be head of the Lake Forest school board. Professionally she was a real estate broker for 30 years, and enjoyed meeting many corporate executives and their families who were transferred from different regions of the country to the Chicago area.

As her child-raising years simmered down, she became a dedicated golfer, a pursuit she enjoyed with her husband for many years. She continues to be interested in the arts in Chicago, belongs to a book club, and is an avid bridge player. A lover of travel, she's planning a trip to Morocco this coming fall. Seeing Betty again was a dividend of trying to stay in touch with all of you.

After the joy of reuniting with a college friend, my emotions were quickly dampened when Barnard sent me word of the death of **Miriam Burstein** on Dec. 4, 2011.

I knew Miriam very well in college and had the highest respect for her intelligence, wit, and organization. We worked on the *Barnard Bulletin* together, and in our senior year she was the editor

in chief; **Betty Sachs Adenbaum** and I were her managing editors. This was like a full-time job we had to perform in concert with our studies. We planned stories, trained cub reporters, and placated faculty members who criticized some of the campus coverage. As editor, Miriam had the tact, the strength, and the confidence to put together a very strong team.

After college, she earned her master's in English at Columbia and was appointed to the faculty of the highly credited Hunter College High School, rising to chair of the English department and assistant principal. She was a corrector of SAT and international baccalaureate exams, and distinguished herself as a state department-sponsored guide to teachers of English in Finland.

Miriam was the sister of Deborah Burstein Karp '43 and the daughter of the late Rabbi Abraham Burstein, who led a Jewish congregation in Manhattan.

The class has lost two spouses who were very involved with our alumnae years. Dr. Arthur Miller, husband of **Hope Simon Miller**, hosted the class following every reunion at their penthouse overlooking Gramercy Park. Irving Waltcher, husband of our immediate past class president **Azelle Brown Waltcher**, was a constant advisor to us.

We extend our condolences to the families.

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*Due to an editing mistake in the winter 2012 issue, **Carol Schreiber Perrin's** major in college was misprinted. Her actual major was chemistry. We regret the error.*

Gloria Kreisch Reynolds writes from California that she won't be able to attend Reunion in May, but is "eternally grateful for the wonderful education I received at Barnard College."

We also heard of the death of **Elizabeth Stone Poole**, who lived in Cleveland, N.C., several years ago. There was no further information available.

Lastly, I learned that **Helen De Vries Edersheim's** husband recently died. He and Helen had been gracious hosts a number of times in their lovely apartment during reunion.

On Dec. 4, 2011, **Dena Kranowitz Mann** died in Rockville, Md., where she had lived for several years, and was buried in New Britain, Conn., her girlhood home. She is survived by four children.

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Our class mini-reunion lunch was celebrated at the Metropolitan Museum of Art last November. In attendance were **Lois Williams Emma** (who arranged for our access to the lovely trustees' dining room), **Anne Kennard, Nancy Ackerson Kowalchuck, Jocelyn Schoen Malkin, Adele Kostellow Morrill, Nora Robell, Nora Ravsky Schwartz**, and your correspondent. We talked with many others who were unable to attend, but sent regards: **Margaret Lerner Eyre, Elinor Cahill Georgopulo, Liz Eastman Gross, Mary Miller Mack**, and **Louise Lyczak Monjo**. We hope more classmates will be able to attend this year's mini-reunion.

We want to share this note from **Helen Allan Archibald**, prompted by the sad news that **Helen Denninger Blackeby** had died in March 2011: "Helen, **Dorothy Dingfeld De Togni**, and I became close friends during our years at Barnard. Although Dorothy and I grew up in Brooklyn, it was Helen who introduced us to Manhattan. She loved arranging for us to meet and go to fine restaurants. I remember one special occasion, when we had drinks (probably hot chocolate) at the old Peacock Alley in the Waldorf-Astoria. We often studied together in what was then called 'odd study,' liking the ability to talk as we studied and disliking the silence of 'even study.' We participated as prancing horses in Greek Games. The three of us returned to our first reunion in 1949, the last time we were together.

After graduation, Helen took an entry job with Bell Telephone. She stayed with the company throughout her career, rising to a high executive position. Helen and her husband lived in San Diego, Calif., for many years. Although we lived only 70 miles apart from one another, we were never able to meet. Sophisticated, poised, good humored, Helen Denninger Blackeby will be missed."

Shared memories like this reinforce our Barnard connection. Tell us about yours. We'll print them in this column. And we'll collect them to share at our 65th reunion—only one year from now!

Lawrie Trevor Nomer misses her camping trips, now that she has sold her bicycle, travel trailer, and pickup truck. But, no surprise, she rides her exercise bike at home 22 miles every day and swims laps four times a week at a sports center. Two of her four children live in north Texas, an easy day-trip, so she has had several enjoyable visits with them. She and her daughter, Louise, are planning a trip to the Grand Canyon (her first visit) but will skip the steepest trails. Lawrie is penciling in a visit to New York for our 65th reunion.

We caught up with Jocelyn Malkin at our mini-reunion, her first after moving to New Haven, Conn., from the Washington, D.C., area. Jocelyn attended Yale School of Medicine after graduating from Barnard (*Phi Beta Kappa* and *cum laude*) and earned her MS the same year her husband earned his PhD in physics. She pursued her interest in psychiatry, training with the Philadelphia Association for Psychoanalysis. Career moves took the Malkins to Bethesda, Md., where she practiced, taught, and supervised trainees. Overcoming decades of discrimination against women psychiatrists, Jocelyn became active in the Association of Yale Alumni in Medicine, worked on committees, and eventually served as president. She also chaired a biennial seminar in Aspen, Colo., attended by psychoanalysts from all over the globe. Now, adapting to retirement, Jocelyn is happy to be near her daughter and son, and she is proud of her oldest granddaughter, who recently graduated from Yale and plans to follow in Jocelyn's footsteps as a physician. A proud legacy.

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I'm impressed by how active many of our classmates are. For the first time, information on occupation or significant work outside the home was included on the class list. The occupations include docent, tour guide, master gardener, elementary schoolteacher, library assistant, geological researcher, owner of a word-processing company, CEO of a real estate company, photographer, and school principal. There were, naturally, artists and writers, who have almost always been self-employed. That is pretty remarkable when you consider our ages.

I would like to "flesh out" the list. Please let either me or Yvette know any details.

Helen McLaughlin, a retired school principal and a former history major at Barnard, enjoyed an Elderhostel Mediterranean cruise that included Corsica, Malta, and Sardinia. Helen writes that the most memorable thing about these three islands was the contrast between the ancient sites and the tall modern buildings. They each have busy seaports and are "tourist meccas." What made the trip even more special was that there was another Barnard woman on board, from the Class of 1950. Helen spends most of the year in New York City but summers in Spring Lake, N.J., where she has a condominium in the former Essex and Hudson Hotel.

Mary Eitingon Kasindorf communicates from Tennessee via her iPad. She has been in Tennessee for four years. While she's content, she finds it very different from the Northeast and the N.Y. metropolitan area. She no longer does on-site consulting but is still an advocate for the early childhood community, especially the Child Care Council of Nassau (N.Y.).
—RSG

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Our class news is a combination of good and not-so-good. **Gloria Litton Del Rio** is recovering from a bad fall, but notes, "My travel days seem to be over." **Cynthia Evans Covey** reports: "This has been a bad year for me. I have a back problem and now I am legally blind. But I am happy and doing things." We applaud her attitude and wish both her and Gloria well.

On Dec. 15, 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the presidents of Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and Wellesley Colleges launched the Women in Public Service Project and Colloquium, the first global conversation on increasing women's participation in public service. **Maureen McCann Miletta** and **Irma Socci Moore** were invited by Barnard to attend, along with 50 other Barnard women who are active volunteers for the College. They send this report: Secretary Clinton opened the morning program in the U.S. Department of State Auditorium. She was joined by International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and the presidents of the five remaining Seven Sisters colleges. Other notable women on the program included Republic of Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, U.S. Coast Guard Academy Superintendent Rear Admiral Sandra L. Stosz, Deputy Chief of Staff, NATO, Vice Admiral Carol Pottenger, U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, French Secretary of State for Health Nora Berra, Liberian Minister of Agriculture Florence Chenoweth, U.N. Conference on Trade and Development member Lourdes Navarro de Becerra (Panama), Thai Parliament member Jarupan Kuldiloke, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco Najat Zarrouk, senior advisor to the White House Valerie Jarrett, writer and activist Gloria Steinem, national news correspondents, and students and scholars from all over the world. More than 700 women were present.

The partnership between the U.S. Department of State and the five

women's colleges aims to create training, mentoring, and networking opportunities for emerging and aspiring women leaders and to draw public attention to advancing a new generation of women committed to public service. Its goal is to advance a global network of women equipped to tackle today's challenges. It will grow in the future to include other academic institutions, individuals, and related organizations worldwide that are committed to increasing the number of women in public service.

Lunch was held in the Kennedy Center, where we dined with Barnard women and alumnae from the other colleges. A stirring presentation by Melanne Verveer, ambassador-at-large for global women's issues, emphasized how much we need to encourage our young women to help women around the world to have the opportunities that we have had. Barnard Vice President for College Relations Dorothy Urman Denburg '70 was the closing speaker. She underscored the importance of this initiative in which we all have a part to play. It was a most inspiring and exciting day for those of us who were privileged to attend. —JZC

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Although I have a special folder for Class Notes in my file, I seem to have misplaced the notes I saved for this edition.

I remember hearing from a classmate in California who lives in a retirement community. She has continued her interest in music and recently performed a recital. Then there was a longtime widow who raised sheep in Connecticut. Unknown to her, a neighbor also raised sheep. They met and are now married. Sorry I don't have names to match these perhaps inaccurate stories. Please straighten me

On the Road Again Nancy Ross Auster '48

The first time Nancy Ross Auster ran a quarter-mile, she remembers thinking she was going to die. Auster, then 50, had never run before, but her college-age daughter had been bitten by the running bug and urged her mom to give it a try. That was 35 years and thousands of miles ago. Today, Auster, at 85, continues to run daily, logging 3.5 miles through the quiet streets of Canton, New York, and along its peaceful farm roads.

A retired economics professor at State University of New York - Canton, she is the 2011 5K champion for female runners ages 85 to 89, according to Running USA, a nonprofit organization that tracks statistics and promotes running. She earned that honor in October in a Syracuse race with a time of 45:33.

"When she came on the scene, it was like, who is that lady who's running so fast?" says Daniel Dominie, a marathoner who helps organize the annual Madrid, N.Y., Bluegrass Ramble that Auster regularly runs. "She's a great ambassador to the sport of running. She's always the first person to thank you for hosting a race, and she's encouraged more people to get involved with running here in the North Country than anyone I've ever known," he says. Auster credits her longtime women's running group with keeping her motivated and helping make the miles fly.

Before retiring, Auster was a passionate advocate for equal opportunities for female professors, who were routinely bypassed for promotions. She was the first woman to serve as president of the SUNY faculty senate in the early 1970s and was a union negotiator in the SUNY system.

She and her husband of 66 years, Don, a retired professor of sociology at St. Lawrence University, savor the small-town charm of Canton, which has about 3,000 residents. Thanks to her commitment to running 20 miles a week, Auster is a familiar site in all seasons. Her daughters and granddaughters have joined her for the Madrid Bluegrass Ramble, hosted each summer by the neighboring town.

Auster says her openness to learning new things such as quilting and her eagerness to challenge herself as a runner are the keys to her vitality. "If you're going to survive, you should be willing to accept change," she says. "You can't always remain as you were." —June D. Bell



Photograph © Carol Barclay

out if you will.

In the meantime, here are some notes I'm sure of....

Rhoda Sussman Weidenbaum writes that her husband, Sherman, passed away at the end of 2009. He had been a glass engineer at Corning Glass Works for several years and later taught at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as a full professor of chemistry. He had trained about every active officer in the Coast Guard, and many members of our class knew him. Her daughter, Abigail Weidenbaum Dishy '84, lives in Alon Shvut on the West Bank and is raising five children. Rhoda's daughter Tali is in charge of the English exit exam for high school in Israel. Her son, Mark,

graduated from Columbia (P&S '81) and is a spine surgeon and clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Physicians & Surgeons. His youngest daughter, Martina, is a junior at Barnard. And his daughter Rachel (CC '81) is an actress who some months ago played the leading role in a program on the PBS *American Experience* series. More recently, she played the lead in an off-Broadway production of *The Dybbuk*.

Rhoda has 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Last year, she retired from the Fairbank Center for Research on China at Harvard, and her bio is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who of American Women*, and *Who's Who in the World*. —JHM

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Our hardworking 60th reunion committee is in high gear. **Harriet Newman Cohen** hosted several meetings at her new law-firm offices overlooking Times Square with committee members **Bea Nissen Greene, Carol Connors Krikun, Claire Delage Metz, Inez Schapiro Reiser,** and **Elizabeth Bache Shwal.** They attended in person and **Marilyn Silver Lieberman,** and **Bettina Blake** in Boston and **Joan Munkelt Wilson** in California joined by telephone. The committee approved two new honorary members to our class: Alden Prouty, who worked with us for many years, especially in helping set up the Class of '52 Memorial Scholarship Fund, and Peter Rosenblatt, **Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt's** husband.

Claire Delage Metz set the theme for the Class of 1952's book, "My Life's Work Versus What I Planned." This theme is reminiscent of an earlier reunion (our 20th?), when **Miriam Schapiro Grosf** reported that we were each riding horses different from what we expected, but doing it rather well. The book, in black-and-white, will include an in memoriam section to celebrate the lives of the 95 classmates who have passed away.

On Thursday, May 31, Harriet Cohen will host a jazz cocktail party at her Times Square office space from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., catered by Moveable Feast. Folklore Urbano, a 12-piece band led by Pablo Mayor, will entertain us with its artful integration of Colombian music and jazz. Friday will include the luncheon at which **Ronnie Myers Eldridge** will receive the Millicent McIntosh Award for Feminism. The committee congratulated Marilyn Rosenblatt on inviting former Barnard president Ellen Futter '71 to join us and speak at the class dinner, to which we can bring daughters, granddaughters, spouses,

partners, and other guests. On Saturday, we'll participate in an intergenerational lunch with the Class of 2007, which is having its 5th reunion. The memorial service on Sunday morning at the Columbia chapel will precede the docent tour and film at the newly renovated New-York Historical Society Museum and lunch in their new café. The planning continues.

Jeannette Hovsepian, MD, is officially retired but occasionally works as a radiologist and lives near Palo Alto, Calif. She's looking forward to traveling cross-country to our 60th reunion and visiting her two daughters and four grandchildren.

Artemis Simopoulos Pinkerson, MD, an international authority on Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids and their use in nutrition and in prevention and treatment of diseases, is a prolific seminar and conference leader, documentary producer, and writer. She reports with pride that her daughter, Daphne Pinkerson '85, received the 2012 Columbia School of Journalism's DuPont Journalism Award for her work on HBO's 2011 documentary on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Abby Bonime Adams-Silvan, a New Yorker and psychoanalyst, reports that her two children and seven grandchildren have been a joy in her life.

We send warm wishes for improving health to **Rosemary Tartt, Nancy Guild Weidner,** and **Maureen Howley Wolfe.** Rosemary, another New Yorker, is recovering from open-heart surgery and is grateful for the health care provided in the city. She continues to improve. Nancy and her husband moved from New Jersey to a condo in Kent, Conn. Her husband's poor health and the recurrence of her cancer are concerns, especially since their daughters and grandchildren live far away. Maureen has developed lung cancer and is starting radiation therapy. She's hopeful that current improvements in treatment will strengthen her recovery. Maureen has five children and eight grandchildren who, unfortunately, live too far away for her to see very often.

Margaret Collins Maron, formerly class correspondent, has moved from Brooklyn to an assisted-living facility in Penfield, N.Y., where Peggy has her cat with her and her son nearby. She says to anyone considering an assisted-living facility, "Do it!"

At a recent 60th reunion committee meeting, it was reported that only half the

class has e-mail. That is probably untrue. We need to give Alumnae Affairs our up-to-date e-mail addresses and let your correspondents know if you are online at LinkedIn, Plaxo, Facebook, or Twitter, so we can keep up with you.

Edie Bernstein Schatz sent a lovely Thanksgiving note that she was enjoying her active, multifaceted life and felt blessed. So should we all.

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Ronnie Myers Eldridge '52

At Reunion Ronnie Myers Eldridge will receive, and richly deserves, the Millicent McIntosh Award for Feminism.

This award, established in 2004, honors "a woman who exemplifies the strong, independent traditions of Barnard and personifies Barnard's commitment to the education of women." Further, through her success as a social activist and her innovative leadership in New York City, state, and national politics, Ronnie "exemplifies our graduates' influence throughout society." We are all proud.

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In November, the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Fund had its annual fund-raising concert. This time, it was at Rose Hall in Lincoln Center. **Evelyn Ilton Strauss** heads the group that funds research to understand and eliminate leukemia in our lifetime. On a happy note, Gene and I became great-grandparents this past December when our granddaughter, Dalit, and her husband, David, had a baby girl. They live in Israel.

We have received news of the death

of **Anne Sibek Lanka** in October of breast cancer. She and her family lived in Bayport, N.Y.

Our condolences to **Barbara Glaser Sahlman** on the passing of her husband, Ira, in November. They had four children together and 11 grandchildren.

Sadly, **Alexandra De Ghize Dawson** passed away last December in Hadley, Mass. After Barnard, she attended Harvard Law School, from which she graduated in 1964. She practiced environmental law in Massachusetts and was a consultant to numerous environmental groups throughout the state. She also taught environmental law at Antioch University's eastern campus in New Hampshire. She is survived by her husband and three children. The news came from her longtime dear friend **Bridget Birdsall Cooke**.

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Jean Ricketts reports, "2011 was a wonderful year for me. I took a South America cruise, which included Antarctica, spent two weeks in France, and had a great week at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival in Cooperstown, N.Y. I continue to play violin in a small orchestra made up of homeschooled children and retirees, and I sing in a women's chorus. Moved a few years ago to a wonderful retirement community, where I am currently serving on the residents' council. Yes, I am definitely enjoying life."

I received a lovely e-mail from **Josephine (Bobbie) Moses Campbell**, who reports that while she lives in Decatur, Ga., her daughter and family live in Shirley, Mass. They have a summer cottage on a lovely little lake in Maine, and she spent this past holiday season with them. Her grandson is at the University of Rhode Island. A dog and a cat keep her company. Josephine has a little business doing tax returns. She's reasonably well and hopes that those reading this are too, considering our age, "which I still can't believe!"

Suzanne Markovits Javitt attended the wedding of her grandson, Michael Javitt, and Tara Chouake '10, who graduated *magna cum laude*. "I took great delight in teaching her the *Phi Beta Kappa* secret handshake. I have also enjoyed telling my granddaughter, Gabrielle Javitt, who is applying to Barnard now, about the highlights of my years there and why Barnard's environment is still a special place to help women develop their full potential as leaders."

Although **Miriam Berman Elkins** has hosted and been hosted by her family in and out of the country, her newest and most rewarding activity for the past several years began when one of her Israeli grandchildren came to visit with a gift of a Hebrew novel. "It occurred to me that it was only fair to her that I read it, so I embarked on a project that so far has included several novels and books of short stories that I translate from Hebrew. As I face the delightful challenges of solving the linguistic puzzles that greet me each morning, I find my Hebrew skills painlessly improving. I would add this activity to the list of mind-sharpening calisthenics advocated by mental-health experts."

Shirley Henschel is in Florida and will be there until the middle of May. She belongs to a gym and a synagogue and tries to keep mentally active as well. She sees **Laura Sheskin Rotstein** and gets together with her for dinner and the theatre. She's facing knee surgery in June and not looking forward to it! And she hopes to see **Gerry Kirshenbaum Lane** on her 2012 U.S. trip.

I heard from **Annick Szendroi Combier**, who reconnected with our class after many years when she submitted notes for our spring 2011 column. In her latest message, she mentions several trips: Figueras in Spain, where the "remarkable Dali theatre museum" is located; Cracow, Poland, "the only city [in that country] spared by the Germans during the war," with its "magnificent medieval center and its numerous churches"; and Auschwitz concentration camp, "a very difficult experience to go through." She has been reading *The Company of Women* by Mary Gordon '71, with the Barnard Book Club in Paris—"beautifully written." Annick has recently started painting in watercolors and says, "It is very difficult!"

As I write this, in January, I'm preparing to escape the cold in Virgin Gorda, B.V.I.

We have been going there for six years, and this year my sister, Class of 1949, and her husband will be joining us. We're both looking forward to it.

I have received word of the death of **Erika Graf Tauber**. An obituary appeared in *The New York Times* on Feb. 15.

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On a chilly January day, 11 classmates met for lunch in New York. In attendance were **Barbara Kahn Gaba, Patricia Dykema Geisler, Doris Joyner Bell Griffin, Gayle Abouchar Jaeger, Barbara Funk Lindeman, Marion Toman Marchal, Duane Lloyd Patterson, Marcella Jung Rosen, Carol Held Scharff, Ellen Blumenthal Sehgal, and Joyce Shimkin Usiskin.**

Renee Altman Fleischer, MD, and her husband, Elliot, celebrated their 57th anniversary and Elliot's 80th birthday on Dec. 17, 2011, with a wonderful dinner at Chattanooga Restaurant in Great Neck, N.Y. It was arranged by their children, Corey Bennet Fleischer and Deborah Ellen Fleischer, MD, who attended with her husband, Michael Nussbaum (they just celebrated their 25th anniversary), and their youngest son, Joshua, and his friend Raimie. Also present were Deborah and Michael's daughters, Becky, 20, a sophomore at UCLA, and Hannah Rose, who was celebrating her 18th birthday. **Marjorie Lobell Feuerstein** attended as well. Renee continues to serve as president of Na'aleh Women's Ensemble, which performs twice a year, and did a concert of Yiddish and Ladino folk songs, as well as Hebrew and English pieces, last November at the Holocaust Resource Center of Temple Judea in Manhasset, N.Y. She also sings with the Great Neck Choral Society, and you can hear a performance by searching "GNCS-Bach Magnificat" on YouTube. Renee says her two hip replacements are working well, and she hopes to make our 60th reunion, especially since she had to miss our 55th.

She concludes, "I cherish the memories of those four amazing years at a college that made a real difference in my life."

Barbara Neogy Lapcek recently attended a whirlwind of tributes to three remarkable men in her life: her father, her late husband, and her "kid brother." After spending the fall shoring up her ancient house in Hydra, Greece, she arrived in New York in time for the fourth annual Joe Lapchick Character Award Ceremony. Her father, a Basketball Hall of Famer and coach for the Knicks and St. John's University, was known for his integrity, fairness, and deeply democratic ethos. One example was his hiring Sweetwater Clifton, the first African American to play for the Knicks, breaking the historic racial barrier. The second tribute was a gala at the New Museum in New York honoring the 50th anniversary of *Transition*, the magazine founded in 1961 by her husband, Rajat Neogy, a writer and courageous editor, who critically changed the face of African writing. Neogy published a number of young, often unknown, writers, five of whom later became Nobel laureates. The third tribute appeared in *The New York Times* in recognition of her brother, Richard Lapchick, who has led successful battles against racism and sexism in major college and professional sports in America, and in South Africa in the '70s and '80s. Barbara herself founded Nommo, the first art gallery to exist in East Africa. It's still in business after 48 years, despite a civil war and Idi Amin Dada. She also founded Uganda's National Archive of Art and, after returning to New York, directed an array of arts organizations, where she continued the family tradition of fostering fairness, equality, and diversity. Her son, Jeffrey Brown, an Oscar- and Emmy-winning director, is continuing this commitment.

Toni Lautman Simon has moved to Woodland Hills in California's San Fernando Valley. You can get her contact information from the online directory (alum.barnard.edu) or Alumnae Affairs at 212.854.2005.

Maria Jurcik Basili reports that she and Renzo, who are retired in Naples, Fla., are well, with "new shoulders, one knee, and even a new elbow." They survived cancer 20 years ago and are living the good retired life. Maria reminisces that she met Renzo at a tea dance "in the golden days when we had dances and served

tea and cookies at four on Fridays." She remembers those days fondly and hopes her grandson, who is at Villanova, has the good times she had. Her granddaughter, a high school senior, is undecided about where to go next September.

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55th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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Our 55th reunion is just around the corner. We'll catch up with classmates and report on the festivities in the next column. Meanwhile, if you can't attend, and you didn't contribute to the class directory, send your news!

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As you are all aware by now, there was no class column in the previous issue. For the past three years, **Ellen Weintrob Schor** and I have been alternating submissions for the magazine. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to me until it was past the deadline, Ellen was unable to complete her last column due to the fact that she had contracted a serious infection during her rehabilitation from ankle surgery. Although she survived and was able to return home, she remained in serious condition. For a time, we thought she was recovering. However, we just received word that Ellen passed away on April 11. You can find her obituary by searching her name at dignitymemorial.com.

I'm very saddened by this loss. Although

we didn't know each other at Barnard, in the past three years, we became friends as well as collaborators; I will miss her. We send our deepest condolences to her family.

Following news of Ellen's illness, **Barbara Barre Weintraub** graciously volunteered to be our new class co-correspondent. Her first column will be in the summer issue. Thank you, Barbara, and welcome!

Carol Schott Sterling writes that she retired last June from her position as arts and education director at the Brooklyn Arts Council. She stated that being part of the BAC team and working with dedicated colleagues in the arts and education communities was one of the most rewarding experiences of her more than 50-year career in the arts administration and arts education fields. Congratulations, Carol, and we hope that you'll find that retirement can also have its rewards.

Doris Platzker Friedensohn's *Cooking for Change: Tales from a Food Service Training Academy* was published by Full Court Press in July 2011. She says that over the past five years, she spent more hours than "I cared to count at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, right on the border of Newark, watching hundreds of inner-city people, many of whom are ex-convicts and recovering addicts, grab at a second (or third) chance at an ordinary life in the mainstream economy." She explains that the book is "an anecdotal account of the efforts of some memorable individuals to be trained as cooks, find low-paying jobs, and reconstruct complicated and sometimes very troubled lives." She adds, "To say that I've learned more from my subjects, many of whom I count as friends, about American life today than from any course or collection of prizewinning fiction and nonfiction is an understatement." She and the book's photographer are in the process of developing a traveling exhibit of photos and narrative.

Diana Borut Stein and her husband took a tour of Egypt in November 2010. They saw all the traditional tourist sites, with Diana's favorite being Abu Simbel, two temples carved out of rock for Pharaoh Ramses II in the 13th century B.C. The temples were saved from flooding by the formation of Lake Nasser after the construction of the Aswan Dam by being moved to a higher location. Diana writes,

"The revolution was not unexpected at the time, since people were very aware of the corruption of the Mubarak regime, and spoke of revolt" even then. She continues, "The parliamentary elections that occurred in December showed the usual corrupt result. So it was more than Tunisia's example that led to the revolt in January."

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Barbara Marcon Tabor enthusiastically writes, "I have very much to tell. I have finished writing my book, *Secrets of a Rockette*, and just contacted my first agent. I hope it will sell. I actually was a Rockette for a year and a half right after graduation and then went on to Broadway. My son is now ready to retire from the New York Police Department. He's a detective and works for one of the big chiefs at headquarters on Compstat data presentations. Who would have guessed that this boy who went to private schools and [was in the] performing arts as a classical pianist and bass player would become a police officer?"

Judith Daynard Boies is in the latter half of her term as alumna trustee. "I'm saddened that it will be coming to an end just as I'm beginning to get the hang of it. It has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know and understand Barnard in a way that was not even conceivable as a student (though let me add that today's students are probably capable of that as well as everything else). Barnard seems to me far more exciting a place today than it was when we were students, and if our classmates can reconnect with it, they will become part of that excitement. I am auditing my third course with Mary Gordon '71 this semester, which is a reward in itself for being an alumna. (OK, I'm going

public with it in the hope that I get through the formidable reading list.) Congress has been good to me, changing the estate-tax laws every few years, so I am still practicing law as counsel to Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP. We celebrated Bob's 85th birthday in Vieques, Puerto Rico, over Christmas—21 family members. Only beloved Chester, the dog, was absent."

Coralie Marcus Bryant manages to stay busy. She's scholar in residence at the international development program of the School of International Service at American University. "Right now I am working to organize the family photos, and that is proving to be a really challenging job. I am on the board of trustees at Sidwell Friends School, which we have come to love.... Our children went and now our grandchildren are going to this school. I am also vice president of an NGO called New Rules for Global Finance, [which tracks] a range of financial issues; currently we are looking at the Financial Stability Board ... wondering about its accountability. New Rules Group also tries to achieve more accountability from the International Monetary Fund." Coralie says she'd be interested teaching as an adjunct at Barnard, specifically a course on poverty and inequality in the U.S., a topic she has written on. "But," she says, "it would mean lots of commuting, so I suspect it would not be financially wise." She recently traveled on the Mekong River to Cambodia and Laos. "One of our daughters is working in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases. Apparently she is particularly good at identifying viruses that travel from animals to people. And she kills these viruses," Coralie says.

Judith Spiegler Adler shares, "Our crisis of last year was a big one—youngest daughter, who has two very little kids, was diagnosed with breast cancer, with a whole year of treatments and a future unclear. One of the things that helped was the support of Barnard friends—**Henrietta Schloss Barkey, Joan Hirsch Holtzman, Adela Bernard Karliner, Lillian Wishnia Rand, Susan Levitt Stamberg**, as well as Marianne Lowenkopf Sussman '60.... It's a crisis none of us is ever prepared for.... Another person who helped me get through the year was my 98-year-old mother, whom many of my Barnard friends remember fondly; just holding her hands has helped."

Also Judith writes that her daughter's recent exam was very reassuring. We wish her daughter a good recovery.

As a Class of 1959 correspondent, I had the opportunity to be a Barnard Leadership Assembly delegate for the two-day meeting on campus. As usual, I found being in contact with Barnard alumnae was both fun and rewarding. The programs I attended gave a lot of insight into the issues facing Barnard. For the College to continue to attract the best faculty and students, strong financial footing is needed. Tuition and fees cost more than \$55,000 annually, and half of the students receive some form of financial aid. It costs Barnard \$80,000 annually to educate each student. The College actually subsidizes everyone who attends. Fund-raising and growth of the endowment is really critical for providing financial aid. Barnard is doing a tremendous job and needs our support.

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Joyce Duran Stern, co-president, and **Sara Singman Silbiger**, co-vice president, represented our class at Barnard's 2011 Leadership Assembly, while **Joan Cassell Dassule** came from her home in France to represent the Barnard Club of Paris. Joyce and Sara write: "The two-day event was meticulously organized to provide varied experiences that included professional briefings about the school today, covering Barnard's financial picture (not as strong as desirable), current students (wonderfully talented and diverse), the admissions process (rigorous), and the new curriculum requirements (demanding). The program also offered a provocative lecture on immigration issues by Jose C. Moya, a visit to the new, amazing lab facilities, and a presentation by four students who reported on their unusual work-study

experiences. There were opportunities as well for both informal and structured interaction with interesting women from other classes." Joan stayed at Sara's apartment, which gave them a chance to share experiences, views on books, and walks up Broadway.

Myrna Neuringer Levy writes from Toronto, "Finally, I have something to brag about for Class Notes. This past fall, I had two pieces published in two anthologies. Both have to do with the genealogical research that I have been doing on my father's family. The first story appeared in *Tracing Our Roots, Telling Our Stories*, which was published by the Toronto chapter of the Jewish Genealogical Society in honor of its 25th anniversary. I wrote 'Why Grandpa Had a Headache' for the book, and helped collect and edit the 44 pieces. The second story, 'A Paradise on Earth,' is in *Letters and Pictures from the Old Suitcase*. This compilation was edited by Ellen S. Jaffe and Lil Blume and published by Pinking Shears Publications. Now I can turn to other writing projects and perhaps clean off my desk."

When Susan asked **Roberta Cohen** about her retirement, Roberta wrote back, "It's not really a retirement at all, but a better balancing of my work and my life. I go to more concerts and museums, visit at a more leisurely pace with friends and family, and go to more vacation islands with my husband. Yet professionally I remain active in the field of humanitarian and human-rights issues—protection of displaced populations, genocide prevention, implementation of the international responsibility to protect. I remain a firm believer in international efforts to protect people under assault in their own countries, the complexities notwithstanding. I'm now a nonresident senior fellow at Brookings, which means I write occasional in-depth reports; moderate meetings; serve as a panelist; teach a course, at the American University Washington College of Law, on protecting vulnerable populations; and have an association with Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration. In September, I was elected chair of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, a high-profile bipartisan group that seeks to expose the horrendous practices of the Kim regime in North Korea. I once asked Roger Baldwin,

founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, what kept him so fresh, young, and engaged at 95, and he replied, 'I always keep an unpopular cause in my pocket.' Well, North Korea is my unpopular cause. It gets me up in the morning, because what goes on there is so outrageous. Recently, I was in a PBS documentary, *Women, War & Peace*, in which I drew attention to the unattended needs of women uprooted by war and underscored the frequent exclusion of women from peace negotiations. When Brookings asked me to blog on it, I drew upon my Barnard training in Greek plays." You can find it by searching for "women, war, Cohen" at brookings.edu.

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I heard from two classmates both of whom set their remarks in the context of the current political, fiscal, and social climate.

Reflecting ruefully on the chaos of 2011, **Suzy McKee Charnas** writes, "It stinks, and if I could get the hell out of here and live in some relatively functional (but probably cold and dark) socialist country, I would. Not that this would be perfect, but as a friend of mine wrote recently, answering a rage-post on my blog, 'I never expected to be a citizen of the Evil Empire.' That's not what an education at Barnard prepared me for either, but here we are, stumbling fast toward corporate feudalism. Disappointing? Yes. Much.

"Still, some mild positives: My stepson survived an accident and the emergency brain surgery that followed, and his wife and two college-aged kids worked magnificently to drive our excuse for a health system to help him recover. My husband's health has declined more slowly than expected, and he is still mostly the

sweet, bright, funny guy I've been married to since 1969. My stepdaughter loves her very good job at the naval hospital in San Diego. As for me, I've finally finished redesigning my Web site, turning it from the idiosyncratic playground it was back when I launched it in 2001 to the streamlined, shiny display case made to encourage book sales that today's publishing world (also known as *The Titanic*) demands, if a writer is to survive. I did some teaching, some traveling, some Tai Chi, lots of yakking on the Internet....

"Converting more than half my backlist of published books into e-book format for sale on Kindle was a long, backbreaking, but very interesting experience. I got to reread all my own stuff, a process full of surprises. On the whole, I'm proud of my work and glad to be able to resurrect it from out-of-print limbo to accessibility. Here's to a better 2012."

Carol Friedman Bromer was sorry to miss our 50th reunion last June, but noted that 2011 was a year of major medical events for her family, fortunately all resolved happily. She reports, "I have just completed two terms on the board of Jewish Community Action (JCA), an organization devoted to change in social, economic, and racial justice through alliances and organizing campaigns with a variety of local communities, in Minneapolis–St. Paul. It's a real opportunity to put Jewish values in action, in such areas as housing foreclosure and responsible banking practices, immigration reform, and supporting light-rail transportation service in St. Paul's Central Corridor, to name just a few. I remain active at my local Conservative synagogue, both as a student and as part of the governing board. We are delighted with the range and depth of arts, music, and theatre available in this area, which influenced our decision to remain here in our retirement. My goals this year include more involved political activity on both a local and national level, hoping to counterbalance some of the negative tone that permeates the current campaigns."

Ruth Schwartz Cowan was widowed, after 43 years of marriage, in March 2011. She will retire, after 45 years of teaching, in June 2012. She's looking forward to reinventing herself, with feelings that could best be called bittersweet enthusiasm, and she would love to converse about this with classmates who are going through (or

have gone through) the same transition. You can get her contact information from Alumnae Affairs, 212.854.2005, or contact her through the Alumnae Network, alum.barnard.edu.

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50th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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The following women are planning to come to our 50th reunion, May 31–June 3, 2012. Maybe seeing these names will encourage others to register: **Alice Finkelstein Alekman, Barbara Goldberg Appelbaum, Judy Eisenberg Bieber, Maya Rosenfeld Brown, Linda Theil Cahill, Susan Ablon Cole, Barbara Thompson Day, Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, Angela Carracino DiDomenico, Vivian Levy Ebersman, Sandra Ravetz Edlitz, Abbe Fessenden, Roxanne Cohen Fischer, Libby Guth Fishman, Dorothy Lukas Friedlander, Linda Roth Futterman, Naomi Albert Gardner, Linda Lieberman Goldberg, Roz Marshack Gordon, Valerie Horst, Lynn Puerschner Hurst, Harriet Kaye Inselbuch, Carole Kaplowitz Kantor, Susan Lippman Karp, Joan Rezak Katz, Cornelia Kubler Kavanagh, Leila Kern, Ruth Weinstein Klein, Anita Weinerman Kornbluth, Eleanor Traube Kra, Joan Lewis Kretschmer, Barbara Stone Laruccia, Marsha Wittenberg Latiner, Marsha Corn Levine, Barbara Fogel Levine, Janice Wiegman Lieberman, Barbara Lovenheim, Sheila Greene Mandel, Sara Ginsberg Marks, Susan Maurer, Lois Engelson Mendelson, Rhoda Scharf Narins, Ruth Nemzoff, Vivian Himmelweit Palmer, Elizabeth Sessions Pease, Joy Felsner Perla, Linda Rosenblum Persily, Arlene Plakun, Susan Levenson Pringle, Martha Rose Reeves, Jean (Rusty) Miller Rich, Rita Gabler Rover, Deborah Bersin Rubin, Ellie Yudin Sachse, Nancy Brown Schmiderer, Patricia Brick Schwartz, Jean Shaffer, Roz Leventhal Siegel, Judy Astor Smith, Judy Terry Smith, Jackie Martin Stein, Ruth Klein Stein,**

Alison Gibb Swanberg, Anne Vogel Steinhardt, Gail Cohen Taylor, Barbara Kallman Weinberg, Marcia Stecker Weller, Ann-Sue Kober Werner, Pat Berko Wild, Karen Kissin Wilkin, Ruth Wilson Witten, Nancy Kung Wong, Susan Tiktin Yemin, and Elaine Yudkovitz. We're hoping to have more than 100 classmates attend this very special reunion.

The following events have been planned for the weekend: Harriet Inselbuch is hosting a cocktail party Thursday evening, May 31. On Friday afternoon, June 1, Joan Katz has organized a panel on "Rethinking Priorities in Public Education—Outside the Barnard Gates." Panelists are Susan Cole, president of Montclair State College, Judy Bieber, formerly of LaGuardia Community College, Marsha Levine, educational consultant on school reform and teacher-education issues, and Pat Schwartz, retired middle school principal.

The Friday evening class dinner will honor past class officers, show class memorabilia that has been donated to the College Archives, present a brief PowerPoint presentation of our college years, and include a musical interlude by several class members, including Joan Katz, Sara Marks, and Nancy Schmiderer.

On Saturday morning, June 2, Linda Futterman will moderate a panel including Nancy Kung Wong, a former industry vice president for marketing, Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, Yale art professor and a public artist, Sandra Edlitz, a retired family court judge, and Ruth Stein, a professor of pediatrics at Einstein and Montefiore. The Saturday afternoon discussion for our class will be "Keeping Up with the Future," led by Ruth Nemzoff, and will include Leila Kern, a judge, Janice Lieberman, a psychoanalyst and author, and Barbara Lovenheim, an author and journalist.

Our special class activities will also include a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new American wing with curator Barbara Weinberg, followed by a class lunch at the College. The Class of 1962 Footprint Room will be open during Reunion as a place to sit and talk, look at photos, books, and other work by our classmates, and also view computer images concerning our class.

Last November, several Florida classmates gathered at the home of Libby Fishman to talk about the past and

the present, while feeling good about their Barnard connection: Alice Alekman, **Arlene Klein Diamond, Judith Feit Orange**, Vivian Himmelweit Palmer, Deborah Rubin (visiting relatives in Florida), and Nancy Kung Wong.

If you have old letters, photos, programs, costumes, scrapbooks, diaries, etc. from your time at Barnard that you'd like to give the College, please contact Marcia Bassett, Barnard archivist. The collection is housed in the Barnard library.

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Hold the Date! It's almost 50 years since graduation: May 30–June 2, 2013. Stay up-to-date on reunion plans—log onto alum.barnard.edu/1963—and update your profile now!

Susana Bottini writes from Buenos Aires, Argentina, that after teaching English at the Language Center of the Argentine Air Force and tutoring students to pass the Cambridge University exams, she retired and is learning French and philosophy. Married to Mark for 42 years, she has one daughter who is a child therapist, one daughter who is an artist and decorator, and a son who is a systems analyst at Telecom. She also has six grandchildren and a lively 95-year-old mother.

Batya Max Blidstein lives in Beersheva, Israel. Retired from Ben Gurion University's student psychological services, she continues in private practice. She writes, "After Philadelphia and Montreal, the years of my practice here were challenging ones. Beyond the relatively simple hurdles of language, there was the challenge of picking up the slang, the body language, the children's games, the sports terms—in short, the metaphors of a new culture that are critical to therapeutic communication. Students in Israel have served years in the army and have experienced financial hurdles not usually encountered by American students. It's been an adventure."

Ronnie Kramer Brancazio writes,

"After marrying Peter and graduating, I obtained my master's in experimental psychology at Columbia. Raising our two sons, David and Larry, made me realize I was more interested in children than in lab rats, so I obtained a professional certificate in school psych, then developed an interest in deafness and trained in that specialty, which led to a position as a school psychologist at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf. Now retired, Peter and I have organized a civic association in Flushing." Visit nydailynews.com and search for "Civic Battle in Flushing" to read about one of the association's actions.

Ann Martha Clark Spier writes: "Fifty years in 30 words: grad school, marriage, two children, music prof, divorce, real estate broker, owner, remarriage to a tenor, grandchildren, retirement; enjoying reading, writing, traveling, hiking, singing, playing with grands, dogs, and taking care of a schizophrenic daughter. Next major event: singing Mahler's 8th with Los Angeles Philharmonic and putting the finishing touches on an 18-year project, a post-Armageddon metaphysical epic, 'The Zoo Chronicles.'"

Jackie Barkan Stuart writes, "After retiring from the practice of bankruptcy law, I now travel with Alan, my husband of 50 years, to visit my three daughters and their families—Tori, a photographer in Dover, Mass., Carolyn, an art historian in Los Angeles, and Elizabeth, a psychiatrist in San Francisco. I serve as a member of the collections committee of the Harvard Art Museums, due to my interest in antique Chinese ceramics, and as an ESL tutor in a program for Spanish-speaking people in Port Chester, N.Y."

Betty Ansoerge reports that after 10 years teaching at a vocational school in New York, she moved permanently to Montana. For the first four years, she lived in Fortine in a mud-floored earth house built into the side of a mountain on a 7-acre farm, with four parrots. Now she lives in Red Lodge, which, she reports, is an old Western law-and-order town. She's fascinated by the history of Montana, has published a book of her poems, and is considering a run for city council. —AMW

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Suzanne Selby Grenager writes that her new book, *Bare Naked at the Reality Dance*, is available at amazon.com and Barnes & Noble, also in Kindle and Nook versions. She describes it as a tale of the courage and commitment it takes to wake up, fall in love with yourself, and make the difference we're all born and dying to make. As a wife, mother, daughter, yogini, and spiritual mentor, she hopes to inspire her reader to see and be "the wild and wonderful person you already are." A former *Philadelphia Inquirer* columnist and a writer published in *Yoga Journal*, Suzanne was an early Kripalu yoga teacher and leader, and she also is certified in the body-mind-spirit Rubinfeld Synergy Method. She has lived in India and Egypt and is married with two grown children.

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Jane Newham McGroarty writes that in doing research on community gardens, she stumbled upon news of Sally (Elise) Sweet, who left after her sophomore year to get married. Sally finished college at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. She and her husband, Cecil Wyde, had two daughters. Sally received an MFA from Tufts and later a degree from Candler Theological Seminary at Emory University. Widowed in 1987, Sally moved to Decatur, Ga., where she became a community organizer and activist. She and a neighbor transformed a plot of land into a community garden and environmental education center, the Oakhurst Community Garden Project. Sally passed away in

August 2010. She is survived by her second husband, Robert Dean.

After a career of nearly 41 years, **Shirah Neiman** has retired from her position as an assistant United States attorney (AUSA) in the Southern District of New York. In 1970, Shirah was a trailblazer when she was the first woman appointed to serve as an AUSA in the criminal division. She became the deputy U.S. attorney for more than eight years and served as chief counsel to several U.S. attorneys. Her specialty was in the area of white-collar corporate crime, tax fraud, and money laundering. Shirah is looking forward to her new career as a consultant in a variety of areas, including corporate compliance. She's affiliated with Richard C. Breeden & Co., headed by the chair of the SEC under George Bush, Sr.

Karen Rosenberg Slater is a child and adolescent psychiatrist in private practice in Estero, Fla. She and her husband attend the symphony at the Naples Philharmonic Center of the Arts and enjoy the Naples Museum of Art and the Sarasota Ringling Museum of Art. She's involved with the Naples Women's Cultural Alliance of the Jewish Federation.

Carol Symonds Worthey is a composer, painter, and writer, but, she says, she is proudest of her grandson, who was born in March 2011, and her 31 years of marriage to Ray Korn. Her compositions have been performed in 12 countries to date. Recent premiers include Hong Kong and Beijing; "Fanfare for the New Renaissance," at Italian Brass Week/Santa Fiora Music Festival, performed by brass members of the Vienna Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, and Israel Philharmonic, and conducted by Dale Clevenger; "Sandcastles" trio, released on Crystal Records with the Weiss Family Woodwinds; "Romanza," premiered by pianist Beth Levin and violinist Yuki Numata at Facebook Friends Concert in Manhattan; and many other performances throughout Europe, Asia, and the U.S. As a pianist, Carol performed her works live on Classical Music Discoveries Internet radio to an estimated 385,000 listeners worldwide. Her book, *Turning Life Into Art: How a Composer Works*, features a chapter of insights from 66 famous contemporary composers, including Pulitzer winners. As a painter, Carol has exhibited in Florence, Italy, and Beverly Hills, Calif., and she collaborated

musically with Parisian sculptor Anne Ferrer for an exhibit called "Billowing Beauties" at Manhattan's Roger Smith Lab, which has been nominated by the International Association of Art Critics for Best in a Commercial Gallery 2010–11. Her music, paintings, and writings can be found at carolworthey.com.

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Lots of updates this time around!

Susan L. Halper is a private art dealer in New York City, advising collectors and sometimes curating exhibitions. She's still excited about her trip last spring with her daughter, Katie Ida, who was studying in Denmark at the time. After a "whirlwind tour of Copenhagen," Susan reports, they had a wonderful time traveling to Istanbul, Athens, and the island of Santorini.

Jane Witherspoon and her partner, Brian Stewart, have also been traveling—with gusto. Since 2006, they've spent six months a year aboard their 42-foot ketch, *Pilgrim*, sailing from their home port of Toronto to far-flung destinations. In 2011, they traveled home from Scotland (a destination the previous year) via the Faeroe Islands and Iceland, to Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. Jane writes, "Greenland was iced in, alas." (How often do you read *that* in a friend's travel account?) Add their warm-water sailing, and it's no wonder Jane says, "Retirement' has been great."

Ellen Hillsberg Coman, on the other hand, writes from Albuquerque, N.M., that her retirement "lasted two months." A clinical neuropsychologist, she's happier working three days a week at the University of New Mexico's Center for Neuropsychological Services, where she specializes in the assessment and diagnosis of cognitive and emotional disorders in older adults. Ellen and her

husband, Andrew Ribner, a surgeon, moved to Albuquerque in 2010 from the Bay Area—where they raised their children, Kate, now 28, and Nick, 24. They enjoy the Southwest culture, hiking, bird-watching, and fabulous restaurants.

From Jerusalem, **Elaine Kushner Varady** writes, "Life here is very, very complicated and worrisome." Those sobering realities aside, Elaine, who retired from a curatorial position at the Israel Museum in 2001, has been studying "on and off" at Hebrew University, working part-time, and helping care for her family.

Judith Schatz Schaeffer Young became a great-grandmother last July. "I am truly excited about Charlotte," Judy writes of her great-granddaughter, adding an interesting family note: Charlotte's grandmother is Judy's step-daughter, and just five years younger than Judy. (No, this isn't a test.) On a professional note: Judy is the librarian at a nursing school in the Philadelphia suburbs and is on the editorial board of *Home Healthcare Nurse*, a monthly journal. She was guest editor for the January issue: "I'm finally using my degree in English after all these years."

Broadway producer **Annette Niemtow** has been busy working on a musical, *Leap of Faith*, with music by Oscar-winner Alan Menken; as of this writing, the show was due to open in April at the St. James Theater. Annette and her longtime partner, Eve Ellis, were married in Connecticut in 2009.

Phyllis Roth Selter writes that she has spent 36 years as a pediatrician at the bilingual (Spanish/English) South End Community Health Center in Boston, as well as at the Brandeis University student health center. A mother of three and grandmother of four, Phyllis also volunteers as a facilitator at a center for grieving children, teens, and families; and with her husband, a child psychiatrist, she enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, canoeing on the Charles River, and traveling to Italy.

Margaret Steinglass Wirtenberg reports from Weston, Conn., that she is "still painting, writing, and doing nonpartisan politics." Margaret designed and maintains "About Weston," a Web site that chronicles local government activities. She also writes a weekly column and is the host of a public-access cable interview show about the state's 169 towns.

After 35 years as an English professor at the University of the Sciences in

Philadelphia, **Laurie Gertz Kirszner** is now professor emeritus. She's using her free time to update some of the college English textbooks she's written. She and husband, Mark, also have an apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side, to be near family and friends. "In my heart I'll always be a New Yorker," she says.

On behalf of the class, we sent condolences to **Judith Senitzky Reichman** on the loss last fall of her husband, the well-known Hollywood producer and director Gil Cates. Judith thanks us for our expression of sympathy.

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Margaret Emery Hegg is approaching retirement as a general internist with Kaiser North California, where she has practiced since 1976. She may continue to work a few mornings a week in the county clinic, but she looks forward to pursuing her other loves, which include music and travel. She sings with the Oakland Symphony Chorus; her most recent junkets included Mongolia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iceland, Kenya, Mali, Turkey, and Burkina Faso. Her adult daughter is in graduate school in Philadelphia, and her son is studying music and living in Oakland.

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Jeffrey and I are just getting used to both of us being retired and at home at

the same time during the day. It isn't a tough adjustment for us, luckily. I am still a clinical supervisor at Pace University. I observe, critique, and encourage prospective teachers who are student-teaching in area schools. I really enjoy it. I also edit a newsletter for our local Science Teachers of NYS section. Jeff and I have picked up a Meals on Wheels route here in White Plains, N.Y. It's very fulfilling and makes us feel good to do it, and from what we can tell, it's much appreciated. We make a good team—I drive and he delivers. Since I had arthroscopic knee surgery in December, it's a good job for me, because walking still isn't easy or pain free. We're also singing in our temple's Purim festivities and participated in an interfaith Martin Luther King celebration. We're still connected with the Village Light Opera Group in the city. Please write and tell me what you do, either as a profession or to fill your newly found leisure time. If nothing else, it may give other folks some ideas.

I got a lovely e-mail from **Anna Smallen-Isaac**, who writes, "I retired in 1999, and you know how well that worked because I was subsequently employed by Chadbourne as a consultant. I am 'retiring' again in January from the New York County Lawyers Association, where I am the reference librarian and write a monthly column. I hope to see more of my 5-year-old grandson, who loves kindergarten and karate, and work from home. I saw **Marti Shames Groen** and her husband, Cliff, a few weeks ago. They are enjoying their retirement, too." It seems that everyone I've spoken to has retired to do other things. No one sits at home and does nothing. Well, no one admits it, anyway!

Jeff and I went to **Linda Rosen Garfunkel's** home at the end of January for her annual Chinese New Year celebration. All of the guests brought some food item, and Linda supplied the rest. Richard, her husband, supplied written information on the particular year's symbol. This year it was the dragon. **Rosalie Rudes Siegel** dropped in for a few minutes as well, so we got to wave at each other. I spent most of the evening ensconced in a chair, due to that pesky knee, but I managed to chat with most of the invited guests. It was a good evening.

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From her home in Copenhagen, **Martha Gaber Abrahamsen** writes, "Let's hope that 2012 will be more peaceful and better organized politically, financially, and environmentally." She notes that 2011 had been quiet professionally. "Since virtually every book that I translate has to be funded by foundations, and Denmark is also affected by the economic crisis, it takes longer to find the necessary money even for important projects," she writes. "An author's perseverance paid off, though, and I've started translating yet another big monograph on a dead Danish architect. It's good to be back at my Mac for several hours a day; I'm too young to retire!" Martha rowed more than 1,000 km in 2011, took two opera trips to Germany, and visited her family cabin in Norway. This summer she plans to visit Southampton, England, to celebrate her son's new PhD.

Just as adventurous is **Pamela Munro**, who is in touch from one of the oldest neighborhoods in Hollywood. "Bela Lugosi died in my building," she says, noting that classmates can follow her activities on MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter as pamphyila. "I'm also still blogging on frugality at myfrugallife.com/blog_pamphyila.html, Pam's Pennypinching with Style," she adds that there's also a lot happening on the professional dramatic front. "I am appearing in episodes of several cable shows: *Homicide Hunter*; *Angels Among Us*; and *1,000 Ways to Die* (as the wife of a Nazi—done all in German—a chance to use my major). I'm prepping for a project where I get to be a hippie mother—typecasting I have always yearned for. You can also see *Jolly Roger: Massacre at Cutter's Cove*, the humorous pirate film I did a few years ago, on DVD." She's happily married to Mark Christensen, originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He's on the board at the Monsignor Oscar Romero Charter School in downtown Los Angeles. For the seventh year, they played Santa and Mrs. Claus at the 12/7 Channel Islands Harbor Holiday Celebration in Ventura. "We keep our boat there, and it's our home away from home." They also played Christmas music, with Pamela on the recorder and vocals and

Mark on percussion, at Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church.

From Manhattan, **Ellen Shulman Lapon** writes: "I took a big step and announced my resignation from Fitch Ratings, effective Dec. 9, 2011. I have worked at exactly three jobs since Barnard graduation, and worked continuously for 43 years (less two maternity leaves of six weeks each). Too old to be doing the same daily grind, but too young to stop working." Ellen isn't too old to start an independent consulting practice "to do capital structure and credit-rating advisory for clients in the world of utilities and infrastructure project finance," while making time for yoga, museum visits, home projects, and family.

News on the grandparent front came from **Joanna Gough Roy** and **Daphne Fodor Philipson**. "My new grandson, Wynn Roy Griffiths, was born on Nov. 14, 2011, to my daughter, Sarah, and her husband, Dave," Joanna writes. "Wynn has two older sisters, Hazel, age 5, and Holly, 2. Great joy!" Daphne is also overjoyed with her new grandson, Vincent Cassetta. "Vincent can't go to Barnard," she says, "but I hope he will grow up to be worthy of marrying a Barnard woman. Ha!"

Elaine Kuracina and her sister, Marilee Kuracina '72, went far afield when they spent a week sailing off the coast of Turkey and hiking in the Cappadocia region, where they explored caves, tunnels, and underground cities. "Istanbul was a shoppers' paradise," writes Elaine. "[I] continue to find opportunities to present my musical drama *American Muse*. A staged reading is planned for a charity fund-raiser in Saratoga, N.Y., this spring. I also directed the melodrama *Here Come the Cows* at the historic Edwards Opera House and the one and only Kellish Musical Barn in Syracuse, N.Y."

Victoria Morgan writes from Hawaii: "In January, I visited Naples, Fla., to celebrate my mom's 90th birthday. She rented a condo there, as she lives in Rehoboth Beach, Del. I hope I inherited those good genes! I have also moved back to California, [splitting my time between] my daughter's apartment in San Francisco and the home of some friends in Santa Cruz." She does tax-return preparation for the first five months of the year.

Marilyn Jimenez writes, "After graduating from Barnard, I went across the street for my PhD. In 1984, I joined the faculty of Hobart and William Smith

Colleges, where I am still a tenured professor. I teach mainly film studies and production courses."

Lynne Spigelmire Viti teaches law and media studies-based courses in Wellesley's writing program. During the fall 2011 semester, she was also a visiting faculty member in the arts, humanities, and social science program at Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. She taught a course in American constitutional law. Last July, she started a blog of memoir and fiction at stillinschool.wordpress.com.

Mary (Manya) Lang is coping with breast cancer and "fixing up our new 1950s ranch house." She retired last spring, after 23 years as a writing instructor at Southern Connecticut State University. Even though she missed all that first-year energy, she continues to write nonfiction and poetry and do readings, mostly in Connecticut. "I'm juggling about three books right now and will teach one course in the spring term," she says.

Meredith Willis writes, "I run an online newsletter about books and writing, and I would love to have comments on books and related topics from our class." The newsletter is by (free) subscription, and appears online at meredithsuewillis.com/booksforreaders.html.

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Leslie Freede Oster retired from her career as a teacher of English and cinema in colleges and high school. She's now teaching film in two lifelong-learning programs associated with Elderhostel. She's also a certified yoga teacher, teaching at her home and at a local private school in Westchester. She recently reconnected with her former Barnard roommate, **Karen Steingart**.

Last summer, **Abby Glazer Robinson** ran the School of Visual Arts Summer Abroad Digital Photography Residency in Shanghai for the second year of the program. She'll run it again this summer. It's a unique four-week residency that

emphasizes the exploration of Shanghai and encourages the integration of Western and Eastern photographic practices. You can read about previous participants' experiences on the program's blog at shanghaiphoto.wordpress.com and on the blog Abby wrote last summer for *Photo District News* at pdnedu.blogs.com/pdnedu. Abby also launched the newest section of her Web site, "Home/Body Imaging," an ongoing project that combines installation, performance, and photography. The work can be accessed through abbyrobinson.com.

Carole Greenberg Wilson's latest documentary, *Reconciliation: Mandela's Miracle*, was screened at the home of Marcia Zylber Gordon '77, president of the Barnard Club of Los Angeles, on Jan. 7. The screening was a big success. And with all the Barnard brain power in the room, the Q&A session after the film was stimulating and fun! Carole is currently producing two documentaries: One is about Joshu Sasaki Roshi, the 104-year-old Zen master who was a pioneer in bringing Zen to the West in 1962; the other is *Burma's Ghandi*, about Aung San Suu Kyi and her remarkable accomplishments in bringing human rights and a democratic government to Myanmar.

It is with deep sadness that I note the passing of two classmates: **Jorene Frenkl Robbie** passed away on Jan. 2, 2012. **Marite Baumanis Jones** passed away on Dec. 21, 2011, following major cancer surgery. Marite was 63 and had volunteered for the Barnard College Club of New York as a Web master for the last three and a half years. She was an active member of our class, served as class fund chair, and worked on several recent class reunions, including our 40th.

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Welcome to first-time contributors **Lisa Forrell** and **Suzanne Nalbantian Reynolds**.

Lisa is a theatre and film director in London, where she'll direct two major plays this year. Her recent film *Madame Ida* is being shown in Paris at the Cinéma Grand Action and at Festival des Arts at Saint-Étienne. Prior to directing, she spent 12 years as an English barrister; for more, visit her Web site, lisaforrell.com.

Suzanne, a professor of English and comparative literature at Long Island University, has authored five books in addition to being chief editor of the interdisciplinary volume *The Memory Process: Neuroscientific and Humanistic Perspectives*, published by MIT Press in 2010. Her previous book, *Memory in Literature: From Rousseau to Neuroscience*, from Palgrave Macmillan, forged new pathways linking literary criticism to neuroscience. She lectures at prestigious universities and institutes in the United States, France, and Germany.

Congratulations to **Fay Chew Matsuda**, whose daughter, Amy, married Bevis Chin on June 4, 2011 ("The *only* reason why I could not attend Reunion!"). Fay is director of the Hamilton Madison House City Hall Senior Center in lower Manhattan. "Surrounded by so many older adults finding new interests and learning new skills (like becoming new U.S. citizens) ... well, it's just inspiring—no kidding." Her husband, Karl, is a senior preparator in exhibitions at the American Museum of Natural History.

Vikki Stark, director of the Sedona Centre in Montreal, is hosting its first women's retreat to Sedona, Ariz., in March. For her next book, she's seeking interviewees who were children or teens when their parents divorced. Access the questionnaire at surveymonkey.com/s/childdivorcestudy.

Mary Lane's twin daughters have been admitted early decision to Kenyon College in Ohio and Washington University in St. Louis for fall 2012. Her son is a sophomore at Brown, concentrating in computer science and philosophy, with an interest in creative nonfiction writing.

Look for a new Wool & Grant CD this fall, with songs by **Ina May Wool** and Bev Grant. For sample recordings and a schedule, go to reverbNation.com/woolgrant. Also, be on the watch this spring for **Linda Elovitz Marshall's** latest picture book, *Grandma Rose's Magic*, from Kar-Ben Publishers.

Lee Canossa opened 2012 in San

Miguel de Allende, Mexico, with Rosemary Lesser Amidei '63 and her husband, Paul. She then joined **Patria Baradi Pacis** and her husband, Cam, **Linda Nealon** and her husband, John Woods, and **Elyse Von Egloffstein** and her husband, Tony Migliaccio, for the nuptials of George and **Melinda Sherer Chau's** son, Michael, and Alexandra Silva on Jan. 28 in New Jersey.

Catherine Bilzor Cretu spent a quiet and reflective New Year's Eve with Linda Stern Lewis '72 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., en route to Vieques for 10 days—nine days with the flu, plus one spectacular snorkel observation of hawksbills, barracudas, and giant French blue angels.

Finally, an update on the Barnard '71 Oral History Project. Eleven classmates (**Michelle Patrick, Katherine Brewster, Linda Kahn, Linda Marshall, Karla Spurlock-Evans, Cheryl Weiner, Barbara Shear, Carolyn Quigley, Lee Canossa, Patricia McGovern,** and entertainment lawyer **Janis C. Nelson**) plus Michelle's husband, Bob Solomon, have organized into three working groups: a planning team, a money management team, and a creative production team. As soon as we finalize the organizational structure needed to complete the '71 oral histories, we will resume interviewing and taping classmates. If you're interested in offering publicity and promotion expertise to the project, please contact Katherine Brewster at 212.222.9859 or kjbrewster@me.com.

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40th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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We hope you plan to attend our 40th reunion, May 31–June 3. The Thursday night class reception is being held at the “haunted” house of **Joan Spivak**. Come to this “spirited” event! On Friday night, we'll have our class dinner on campus. The gala event for all classes will be held on Saturday night. We've also put together a class reunion book. If you can help with any reunion activities, contact **Katie Cangelosi** at katiecan3@aol.com.

The second edition of **Evelyn Ehrlich's** book *The Financial Services Marketing Handbook* was published by Wiley in March. She and **Sally Brender Seymour** are putting together the reunion survey and class book.

Lydia Hernandez-Velez was in town to meet with the New York City commissioner of the Department for the Aging and spoke with **Frances Sadler**. Both plan on attending Reunion and agree that 44 years ago feels like yesterday.

Francine Berman returned from a trip to Italy and relates that while standing in front of the statue of David, she recalled a memorable photo of one of our classmates in our yearbook striking “the pose.”

Donna Tonkon Punim, who lives in southern California, reports that her two daughters, Melissa and Amanda, graduated last May on the same day, from schools on each coast. She and her husband, Jeff, took Melissa out for dinner on Friday night. He stayed for her graduation from Loyola Law School the next day, while Donna caught the red-eye to Philadelphia to attend Amanda's graduation at the University of Pennsylvania. Jeff flew out on the red-eye after Melissa's graduation, and they were able to attend Penn's “all schools” graduation on Monday. To celebrate the graduations, they all went on a safari to Africa. They have since learned that Melissa passed the bar. Donna is a trusts and estates attorney.

Toby Grisanzio Fixel Provencher summarizes her past 40 years: After graduating with a major in Italian literature, she got a master's degree in elementary education and taught for four years at an American school in Rome, while her husband attended medical school and she continued opera studies. They moved to New York City, where he continued medical studies, she pursued opera, and they began a family. They then moved to Massachusetts, where he set up a practice and she continued with opera activities and got a master's in holistic counseling, which ended up not working out financially. She met her current husband, Sam, through recital work in 1993. She now lives in Waltham, Mass., and has been working in the medical information field for six years at Meditech, a software company that provides applications for hospitals and private practice. She can't attend Reunion, but plans on getting to the next one.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Paull writes that she didn't realize there was no photo of her in the *Mortarboard*. She spent her entire senior year in France and wrote her senior thesis for her double major in art and architecture history and American studies the summer before senior year. (Now that's being ahead of the curve!) She declares she's a bone fide member of '72, although she has occasional nightmares of her degree being rescinded due to not taking enough math. (Maybe I'm not a graduate—I took no math.) She gets together about once a year in the U.S., France, or England with three of her Plimpton roommates.

Rose Yu-Chin continues to supervise doctors at the Manhattan Psychiatric Center and train residents from NYU School of Medicine. She's the medical director of medical-student education at St. George's University School of Medicine and has a part-time private practice in adult psychiatry at her office in SoHo. Her husband, Andrew Chin, is an artist and is working on new wall sculptures. He's also well known for his “hairy paintings” and was reviewed in *Art in America* in 2006. His works will be shown in Hong Kong, Boston, New York, and Beijing. They visit China regularly and have many friends who work at the 318 art colony in Beijing. They still enjoy taking ballroom dance classes. Their son, Ian, graduates from college in May and will then complete a baking program at Le Cordon Bleu.

Shoko Moriwaki Iwata sends word that she had hip-replacement surgery in mid-January and is recovering.

On a sad note, **Mary Kahl**, who was corporation counsel for the City of South Portland from 1991 to 2008 and very active in organizing that city's annual Art in the Park events, died unexpectedly in July 2011. There were several write-ups in Portland papers, and everyone was very shocked at her sudden death. If you have any information or memories, please share.

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Rena Lederman is a professor of

anthropology at Princeton, where she's been teaching since 1981, after doing doctoral work at Columbia. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she did field research in Papua New Guinea, where her interests centered on gender, exchange, politics, and historical discourse. More recently, she's been treating higher education as her "field site," with a focus on the comparative ethnography of disciplinary cultures (for example, historiography, anthropology, sociology, and social psychology). She has a 25-year-old son, who holds a bachelor's degree from American University, and a 20-year-old daughter, who is a junior at Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho.

Vanessa Villafane-Gregory has lived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, since 1981. She's a psychologist and volunteers at a community-based organization that offers mental-health services to women recovering from addictions. She also volunteers teaching English to military members and their families.

Betty Teller has lived in Napa, Calif., since moving there 13 years ago to help open a food and wine museum called Copia, as the exhibitions director. About six years ago, when the place started to spiral downhill, she decided that 30 years in museums was more than enough time in the nonprofit trenches. She now writes a humor/food column that appears biweekly in the *Napa Valley Register*, works as a copy editor for a research firm, and does freelance writing and editing.

Marsha Kaufman Kwicinski has been with the insurance department at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, the second-largest law firm in Detroit, for the past 12 years. Her company helps clients with the planning and development of alternative-risk financing programs. She and her husband, Mark (CC '73), have lived in Detroit since 1978, after a three-year stop in Cleveland and a year in New York after graduation. Mark worked for many years for a financial printing company called Bowne, Inc. (now R.R. Donnelly) as their director of customer service. Since 2009, he has been a freelance copy editor for S4Carlisle Publishing Services, a publisher of college textbooks. They have two grown kids, Joshua, 27, and Lizzy, 24. They both graduated from Georgetown University and work in Washington, D.C.

Suzanne McAllister has lived in Jenkintown, Pa., since 2005. She resumed

a clinical practice in psychotherapy in 2006 and opened her own office in 2009. She had taken a hiatus from clinical work for a number of years while working as a management psychologist for corporate America. She uses a holistic approach in her work, including mindfulness and healthy lifestyle issues such as exercise and nutrition. She also works part-time as the program development consultant for Animals and Society, a think tank for animal advocates. She is "a proud daughter, sister, aunt, and great-aunt."

Andrea Schaffner has been a geriatric physician practicing for 30 years in Connecticut. She has three grown children who are all employed, but not approaching marriage or grandchildren. She's happily married and writes that she's replaced her children with a golden doodle dog named Moxie. —JH

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Mary Jo Melone has proven that age 59 is not too old to fulfill lifelong dreams: She has graduated from the University of South Florida with an MFA in fiction. Next up, graduate certificates or perhaps a master's degree in applied linguistics. She's hoping to use the linguistics certificate to tutor writing to non-native speakers of English.

Georganne Chapin, president and CEO of Hudson Health Plan, has been named to the editorial advisory board of *Managed Care* magazine. Nationally known as a health-care visionary and passionate advocate for health equity, health-care reform, and bioethics, Georganne was an anthropology major at Barnard. She earned a master's and an MPhil degree in sociomedical sciences from Columbia, and she has a JD with certificates in health law and international law from Pace University.

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Ellen M. Rosenthal, president and CEO of Conner Prairie, an outdoor history museum near Indianapolis, traveled in April with her husband, Ted Logan, and nephew to visit family roots in Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine. Her nephew is a diplomat specializing in Russian policy. Ted is a professor of medical oncology at Indiana University Health Center.

Susan Ochshorn reports that *Empire/El Pueblo*, the self-published book by photographer Sam Logan, her son, and her ex-husband, William Logan (CC '75), was featured in "Publish It Yourself," an exposition curated by French *Glamour's* photography director and held in September at Maison d'art Bernard Anthonioz in Nogent-sur-Marne, outside Paris. Her stepson, Liam Gross, the son of her husband, Marc Gross (CC '73), was married last summer to a fellow physician. Her daughter Eliza Logan graduated from Kenyon College last May and is back in New York City auditioning and otherwise honing her thespian skills after winning the Joanne Woodward Award for her senior thesis, *Proof*, in which she played the main role. "Marc and I are delighted to have all our children (ranging in age from 21–29) relatively close to home: Amanda, our youngest, is still with us on West End Avenue; Liam and his wife, Valerie, are in Astoria, where Eliza is about to join them. And Sam is taking his NYC roots and putting them down in Hudson, an up-and-coming creative arts hub up the river in Columbia County," she writes.

Barbara Campbell says, "After a 30-year career, I retired from the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in 2004." She then began part-time work as a member of a psychiatric assessment team in the emergency room of a San Antonio hospital, giving her "new insights regarding our health-care system and how it affects people with severe mental illness and people with intellectual disabilities." In 2009, she enrolled in a PhD program at

the University of Texas at San Antonio, and will graduate with a degree in counselor education and supervision.

Joan Herman writes that she enjoys looking at the ocean in Pacific Palisades, Calif., with her husband, Richard Rasiej (CU), and their cat, Jules. "Richard and I will celebrate our 35th anniversary this summer with a trip to Russia for the White Nights Festival, with fellow dance lovers from Center Dance Arts (a nonprofit group that supports dance at the Music Center in Los Angeles)." She's busy with a variety of business activities, serves on the boards of Convergys and Qualicorp, SA, and does some consulting in health care for private-equity firms and health-care organizations. She's also on the board of several nonprofit organizations—Center Dance Arts, South Central Scholars Foundation, American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles—and is cochair of the Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund.

Allegra (Happy) Haynes says she has moved again from the frying pan into the fire, leaving her post of five years as the chief community engagement officer for Denver public schools for a four-year term on the Denver school board. She was elected vice president at her first meeting. This is Happy's second foray into the political arena, having previously served for 13 years on the Denver City Council. While the school board is an unpaid position, she doesn't consider it a step backward, noting her lifelong passion for public education (she pursued studies in elementary education while at Barnard). She also serves as a governor's appointee on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Happy would welcome any thoughts or advice from others interested and engaged in public education.

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This column is being written as I make the final preparations for my Super Bowl party, with all my Giants-fan friends. Here's the latest news from your classmates:

Maria Tchaconas Stewart writes, "I am a clinical psychologist and speech pathologist in private practice in Illinois, and I work at a school for behavior-disordered kids." She and her husband, Michael, recently celebrated 24 years of marriage. Michael is a physician at Northwestern, where Maria earned her master's in speech pathology. They have two children, Jessica and Andy. Jessica is a sophomore at DePaul University in Chicago, majoring in accounting, and Andy is a junior in high school. Maria stays in touch with Lillian Ng, her Columbia engineering roommate from senior year.

Lisa Borg reports that she's the happy and healthy mother of three teenagers, living in New York City and working as a psychiatrist specializing in addictive disorders. "I love my kids and my work, and all is well," she writes. Lisa also teaches, does research, and has a private practice.

Pearl Steinmetz-Herskovitz resides in Rehovot, Israel, where she is director of the CT unit at Kaplan Hospital. She reports, "I enjoy the challenges of my job, and it is the most fulfilling job I have had since my *aliya* 25 years ago." Pearl recently welcomed a second grandchild, Yosef Neriya, born to her son Netanel and his wife, Michal Herskovitz. Netanel is studying environmental sciences at Hadassah College in Jerusalem. Pearl's oldest son, Yaakov, is applying for a doctorate in Hebrew literature in the United States, having obtained his master's degree from Tel Aviv University. Pearl and Marty's youngest, Re'ut, is in ninth grade.

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The English Journal, from the National Council of Teachers of English, published **Jeanette McDaniel Toomer's** article "Through Their Eyes: Remembering September 11, 2001," in their November 2011 issue. At the NCTE annual convention in Chicago, she presented her workshop "Mining Gold: The Writer, the Story, and the Storyteller," on teaching

students how to write memoirs. November 2011 was the 100th anniversary of the NCTE. Jeanette also serves on the council's executive committee.

An honorable mention goes to **Larissa Shmailo** in the international Russian translators' competition for the Compass Award, sponsored by Princeton University, Georgetown University, and Montclair State University.

In response to the invitation sent to our class regarding a mini-reunion held at **Deborah Newman Shapiro's** house on Jan. 15, **Sara Averick** sent the following: "Sounds like it will be a lovely gathering. I live in Jerusalem, so I won't be able to make it. Is there a chance you'll be coming to Israel? There is a whole slew of '79 alums here, including **Sondra Oster Baras, Linda Kalish-Marcus, Gayle Eller Luria**, plus Wendy Friedman Serlin '80. We get together for lunch at least once a year and for weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, and other milestones, in between. I usually see **Tova Osofsky** at the Barnard Book Club, which meets the last Wednesday of each month."

Sara provided an update on **Karen Radkowsky** as well. Karen is the founding chair of Limmud N.Y., which was held in January for at least 700 people. They saw each other at the Limmud conference in the U.K. (with 2,500 others), which is a learning space, arts festival, and schmooze-a-thon, where Jews of different denominations and ages come together in an intensive learning experience.

While **Melissa Knox-Raab** couldn't join us on the 15th, she let us know she'll be coming to New York from Germany with her family in July and will spend two weeks on Nantucket Island before going back.

As for the mini-reunion itself, a great time was had by all! Attending the brunch were **Lisa Kalus Hendler, Cindy Ladopoulos, Rukhl Schaechter-Ejdelman, Suzanne LoFrumento Thomsen**, and **Agnes Vincze-Rosen**. I know I'm forgetting people (isn't getting old fun?). Please send an e-mail so we can give you a shout-out next time. We shared great stories and I can't wait to do it again!

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In the winter issue, I was longing to hear how Dr. **Peggy Thomson's** second, more-hoopla, less-history-making wedding ceremony turned out. Peggy writes: "I am happy to report that we had a lovely ceremony in Cold Spring, N.Y., on Oct. 8, 2011, and are now officially married, twice—once in the sight of God (and 17 guests) and once in the eyes of the city clerk, who was very chipper and pleasant but didn't give us nearly as many gifts or even a single slice of cake. The weather cooperated ... and the whole affair was pervaded by a sense of energy and hope." Which is a wonderful way to sum up a wedding, I think.

As I have trouble turning in four short columns a year, I was rendered breathless by an announcement from **Darlene Yee-Melichar**, who is a professor and coordinator of the gerontology program at San Francisco State University, as well as the vice chair of the academic senate of the California State University. Well, obviously just saying all that out loud would make me breathless, but I was referring to writings she released in 2011: *Assisted Living Administration and Management: Effective Practice and Model Programs in Elder Care* is her new book, while her article "Resilience in Aging: Cultural and Ethnic Perspectives" was published in *Aging: Concepts, Research, and Outcomes*, and "Experts' Corner: Housing, Aging in Place, Institutional and Congregate Settings, and Alternate Living" appeared in *The Aging Networks: A Guide to Programs and Services for Older Americans*.

I am, in fact, a much older American than when I started typing that sentence, and if my gnarled little fingers can untie the bow on this box of bonbons, I will retire to the couch and age in place for a while.

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It's with a feeling of support and solidarity that I include news from **Karen Tenney**. She writes: "In June 2010, I was diagnosed with a stage-3 brain tumor, too large and close to my speech center to have it surgically removed. I went through 10 months of chemotherapy and two months of radiation. So far, the growth of the tumor has stopped. I will get it checked by MRI every three to six months for the rest of my life. Needless to say, my life has changed radically. I have an 11-year-old daughter who is a natural-born performer and absolute genius when it comes to technology. Maybe the same could be said about her whole generation: They were born with a remote in their hands. During my illness, I wrote a book about my spiritual transformation. I am close to publishing it. I don't have a title yet, but it will be available under my name on amazon.com. Thanks for staying in touch."

Composer **Judi Lamble** writes that her choral compositions have twice been included in the International Festival of New Jewish Liturgical Music. She cofounded the Twin Cities Jewish Chorale, a 35-voice community choir, which she chairs. Judi is vice president of claims for OneBeacon Insurance. As her daughter applies for college in 2012, she says, "I have my fingers crossed that Barnard is among her preferences."

Nancy Freeman enjoys life on the Upper West Side with her husband, Paul, and twin sons, Joey and Benjamin. She has a private practice for psychotherapy and psychoanalysis on Central Park West, is a supervising analyst at the White Institute, and teaches. She specializes in the world of families created with assisted conception (her own children were conceived with donor eggs).

Patricia O'Sullivan is associate publisher at Prospect Park Media, in Pasadena, Calif. Prospect Park released *The Neurotic Parent's Guide to College Admissions* by J.D. Rothman, in March. Patty got her MBA at Drucker School, Claremont Graduate University, and she founded the Nauset Group, a

strategic-management consulting firm. She has two college-aged children, one at Redlands and one at Amherst.

Carol Green Ungar had a wonderful time seeing classmates at Reunion. She lives in a small town near Jerusalem, where she's a stay-at-home mom, freelance writer, and blogger. Visit her at kosherhomecooking.com.

Kudos to **Rita Gunther McGrath** for being recognized as one of the top 20 management thinkers in the world by Thinkers50. Rita, who is an associate professor at Columbia Business School, has published four articles in the *Harvard Business Review* in the past year, facilitated sessions at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, and raised two children. Her daughter, Anne, joins the ranks of Barnard alumnae this year. And her son, Matt, is in his second year of working in consultancy at Accenture, having graduated from Trinity College, Dublin.

Melissa Hubsher-Freedman is a clinical psychologist in Bucks County, Pa. She's married with two redheaded children: Zachary, 16, and Sophie, 14. "It is so weird to have a son who is almost a foot taller than I am and who has his driver's permit," her message exclaims.

Willa Perlman's first book for children, *Pocket Kisses*, is being released by Little Brown Kids in 2011. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster published her second book, *Good Night World*, in July. Willa's son, Jonathan, is a first-year at Columbia College. She and **Hester Kaplan** started a Barnard Alumnae Club of Rhode Island. "At our first gathering, we had alumnae from the classes of 1938 through 2005," she writes. Willa also has an executive-search practice, Ligature Partners.

Import manager and treasurer for her family business, **Leslie Shalom Berrebi** brings clothing and accessories to the mass market. Her recent travels have taken her to Charleston, S.C., Savannah, Ga., and Spain. She lives in New York and has a 15-year-old daughter.

Believe it or not, wedding bells are ringing for some of our children. **Ariel Hurwich Braun's** son, Yoni, was married in Tel Aviv, Israel, this January. **Abby Bernheim Landzberg** writes that her oldest daughter, Nicole, became engaged this past New Year's Eve.

After years in her native Japan, **Mamiko Yanagihara Hiroki** is delighted

to return to New York. She lives with her husband, the Japanese ambassador, who previously served as Japanese ambassador to Afghanistan, and their 17-year-old daughter. Hiroki's eldest daughter works at Japan's largest law firm.

News also comes from **Suzanne Vega**, whose latest tour has taken her to Singapore; Taipei, Taiwan; Osaka, Japan; and Tokyo, and continued in the U.S. She has embarked upon a project called *Suzanne Vega, The Close-Up Series, Vol. 1-4*, which will be released as a boxed set in May. Also in the making is an original play with music, about the life and work of Carson McCullers. Another album is due out in 2013. Her daughter, Ruby, will enter Williams College this year.

Jane Harari Federman lived and worked in the White Mountains last year and decided "rural is not for me" when she hit a moose while driving. She's now "settled back into the old routine of saving the lives of people on the North Shore of Long Island." Jane is an emergency physician.

Laura Helfman also has a medical career and braves the emergency department of Children's Hospital at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. No stranger to adventure, Laura is a white-water rafter and works as a commercial guide in Colorado, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Among the many journeys she has completed is a trip along the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

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30th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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Mail from **Eileen Tabios** notes that she will release her 19th poetry collection in spring 2012, entitled *the relational elations of ORPHANED ALGEBRA*, to be published by Marsh Hawk Press. The book is a collaboration with Denver-based poet and Trans/Queer activist j/j hastain. Advance words include, from poet-scholar-critic Susan Schultz: "Tabios and hastain are trans-parents to a fresh embodiment of words and bodies, and to what they

mean when they come together as books and persons. Their writing counts the change(s) in unexpected vocabularies." Hope to see you at Reunion!

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Although Facebook presents stiff competition, Class Notes is a great way to catch up with people you studied with in the library, shared a meal with in the dining room, or passed every day in the dorms. So for those of you who have not yet shared your news, 2012 is the time to share!

Eleanor Elkins, DMA, writes that she's on the music faculty at Angelo State University in west Texas. Since last summer, she has been a certified yoga instructor and teaches at several yoga studios. Eleanor is looking forward to her trip to New York City in March, when she will present a session at the Music Teachers National Association convention. While in New York, Eleanor will take her only child, Julian, 11, to Barnard to show him where she spent her college years and to reconnect with Barnard friends.

Lynn Foden has been working for the past six years as the chief of operations for the Africa Region of the Peace Corps and previously lived in Africa. Lynn says that it's a great job; they operate in 26 countries in Africa and have more than 3,000 volunteers serving in Africa and contributing to grassroots development activities in the areas of health, education, agriculture, small-enterprise development, and youth development. She is currently working with two staff members who are also alumnae, Sarah Elinor Morgenthau '85 (head of Peace Corps Response volunteers) and Priscilla A. Sampil '00 (director of management for Peace Corps Guinea, based in West Africa). Lynn has run across several alumnae during her African travels and says, "Clearly the education we received at Barnard was great preparation for service."

Mary Jo Ford is very happy to connect at last with some amazing Barnard ladies

(including your class correspondent) in Los Angeles through her participation in the Barnard of Los Angeles book club! Mary Jo writes that she returned to New York after medical school for her surgical and anesthesia training and then headed west in 1992. She has been in private practice ever since with her husband, Noel Chun. Mary Jo and Noel have three kids, ages 21, 16, and 14.

Penny Brandt Jackson lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and says that she can now commit fully to her writing, as she's an empty nester with her daughter in college. Penny is a playwright and a novelist. The first honor she received for her work was the Elizabeth Janeway Prize for fiction in her senior year at Barnard. Her plays have been produced in Chicago, Seattle, Orlando, Fla., and New York City. Penny is currently working on a full-length play based on one she wrote at Barnard and hopes that it will be produced next fall. She says her professors at Barnard truly transformed her as a reader and a writer. A supporter of the current writing program, she often uses the Barnard library to write. For more information, visit pennybrandtjackson.com.

Galina Datskovsky's daughter Zahava is a junior at Barnard, and her daughter Esther got into Barnard on early decision and will start school this September.

Bettina Jacobs Poirier and her husband, Jim, who graduated from Harvard in 1977, will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year. They met at New York University law school in 1984 and have been together ever since. Bettina writes that their greatest joy is their son, Jack. Jim has been at the U.S. Department of Justice for more than 20 years, and she's in her sixth year as staff director and chief counsel for the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and works for Senator Barbara Boxer of California. Bettina loves the work, especially protecting children's health and advancing transportation projects and policy. She and her husband enjoy visits to Manhattan and have friends and relatives at Columbia. She hopes to check out a Barnard in Washington Club event.

Pam Rubin writes that she loves being a counselor at the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She's working toward her master's in counseling at Acadia University, after a first career as a lawyer. Pam made Nova Scotia her

home to be part of the large Shambhala community there, and she's also an avid practitioner of *ikebana*, Japanese flower arrangement. Her daughter is a "wonderful 15-year-old." Pam welcomes alums traveling to Nova Scotia to contact her.

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In Vermont, **Gabriella Mirollo** is in the second year of her business, Two Tigers Creations, which produces and promotes her creative works: written word, photography, and crocheted apparel. She has a photo book out, *Studies in Contrast*, and a 2012 calendar called "Bikes in Black-and-White."

Georganne Gould Moss's sons are 9 and 11. They're avid athletes, and love life. She is a managing director at Wells Fargo Advisors, serves on the advisory board of the Princeton Education Foundation, and has served on committees for the Princeton Public Library.

Helen Rochlitzer Reale and her husband, Peter Reale, have a daughter who will be a first-year at Barnard this fall and will play on the Columbia volleyball team. Their son is a first-year at Loyola High School in Los Angeles. Helen plays tournament beach volleyball, works for an investor in Westwood, and coaches club volleyball.

Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker is now a lecturer at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in the legal studies and business ethics department. In spring 2012, she will teach "The Legal Aspects of Entrepreneurship." She's vice president of Kohelet Yeshiva High School in Merion, Pa.

Rachel Stella moved to Cambodia and assumed a new identity. She writes as Raphaëlle Saorge for the periodical *Phnom Penh-Charmante Ville*.

As editor of *The Rockland Jewish Reporter*, **Marla Cohen** won first place for her monthly column at the American Jewish Press Association conference in Dallas for the third time in four years. She won the Louis Rapoport Award for Excellence in Commentary.

Serenity Through Peaceful Design

Anna Sy '84

When you first see an Anna Sy home, you are struck instantly by its quiet elegance and serene sophistication. When you meet the architect for the first time, you notice those same qualities. Sy radiates the quiet contentment of people who have found and follow their life's passion.

"Who I am as a person can't help but come out in the work I do," says Sy, who runs Manila-based CS Design Consultancy Inc. and Redding, Connecticut-based CS Architecture LLC with business partner Jason Chai. "I am a quiet, subdued person and those qualities are evident in the architecture."

Sy, now 49, made her first buildings as a child, using LEGOs and Q-tips. Raised by traditional parents who moved the family from the Philippines to Hong Kong and other places throughout Asia, Sy had to fight hard for permission to attend college in the United States. (Her parents simply wanted her to learn to play piano and find a suitable husband.) But her struggle paid off when she enrolled at Barnard to major in art history.

Along the way, she was introduced to the study of architecture, taking classes with renowned architect Robert A.M. Stern, among other influential professors. "He insisted we learn the classics, which helped me understand where the basics of architecture came from," she says.

Sy continued her training at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design, then worked as a design architect in a Los Angeles firm, where she met Chai. Eventually, a client asked Sy and Chai to design homes in Singapore. They accepted and, when the commute became too unwieldy, Sy opened what she and Chai thought would be a temporary office in Manila. That was in 1995, and Sy has been there ever since.

While running businesses in and designing for different cultures and climates may seem complex, the balancing act appeals to Sy. "Our projects in the U.S. are focused on form. The modern Connecticut house we designed is located in the middle of a field and is therefore seen from all sides. It's like a sculpture," she says. "But our projects in the Philippines are never viewed from afar. All are located in dense neighborhoods on smaller lots surrounded by high walls for security. The experience of inner space is more important [there]."

Sy's spaces have a complex, almost meditative quality that brings to mind other spaces where contemplative intention meets architectural expression—Quaker houses, Zen gardens, yogic temples. "Our houses are calming and peaceful," says Sy. "It is important to us that they age well and won't eventually feel outdated. They may be modern, but they are classic, too."
—Heidi McInerney



Benette Gilbert Rosen's story "The Mighty Mites" will become an animated feature film, with a \$25 million budget. She continues acting and has had several callbacks for television programs and films. Sadly, she lost her mother to cancer recently. Her mother would have been proud that Benette now owns the dress that Elizabeth Taylor wore on the cover of

Ladies Home Journal in October 1975.

In October, **Margarita (Ari) Brose** moved to the Upper West Side, 10 blocks from her niece, Chelsea Morton '12. She stays in touch with her former Plimpton roommate, Rebecca Prevots '85, who recently visited with one of her twins, Gabriel, 7. They had dinner at V&T's with Sue Rosenthal '85 and family, then

watched Columbia play Princeton in Levien Gym. Ari ran into former glee-clubbers Linda Pennacchio Staples '83, Greg Staples (CC '81), and David Huemer (CC '86) at the game. Cathy Schwartz Cotton '83 and Harvey Cotton (CC '81), parents of Benjamin (CC '11), also joined them.

Florence Wetzel's book *Madeline: A Novel of Love, Buddhism, and Hoboken*, published in 2003, now has a second edition. It's also available as an e-book.

Amy Stewart is treasurer of the Women Environmental Artists Directory (weadartists.org), an international nonprofit group that promotes female artists whose work focuses on environment and social justice. For 10 years she has been the business manager for Pyatok Architects in Oakland, Calif. She has been happily married for 13 years, and is the committee chair for her son's Boy Scout troop.

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Here's some news from classmates who are envisioning new opportunities: **Lynnette Widder** writes in for the first time to let us know that she's on leave this spring from her role as associate professor and head of the department of architecture at Rhode Island School of Design. She'll be working to complete her dissertation on postwar German architecture, specifically its relationship to and the influence of the U.S. architects and the construction practices used in Germany in the '40s and '50s. She's also collaborating on research into the use of computer modeling for providing early feedback on thermal performance to assist architects working on building façade designs. Lynnette has a 12-year-old son, Thilo, and she and her partner, Christian Volkmann, are principals in

a small NYC architectural practice, Aardvarchitecture, which is working on an energy-efficient town house in Harlem.

Angela Tessinari, who also writes in for the first time, is back on the block. She and her husband, Kevin McCarthy (CC '85), moved back to the Columbia University area three years ago with their two sons, Luke, 12, and Wyatt, 9. Angela directed the daytime drama *All My Children* for 15 years, until the program's cancellation last summer. Upon sending in this update, Angela had just received a Directors Guild of America nomination for one of her episodes.

Philippa Ribbink continues her busy private practice in obstetrics and gynecology and her volunteer faculty work at Oregon Health Sciences University, and this year she and her partner are off to Ethiopia again to continue their work delivering babies under very challenging circumstances. Remember, you can follow Philippa's progress in Ethiopia on her blog, pribbink.wordpress.com.

Jillian Medoff's new book, *I Couldn't Love You More*, is available from Grand Central Publishing. (Article on page 15.)

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Gloria Pan got back in touch and after spending a few years on Wall Street, followed by nine more in Tokyo with her husband, who is a Japan specialist. They have landed in the Washington, D.C., suburbs. She's in Internet communications for progressive nonprofit organizations and has two kids.

Based in Bangkok, Thailand, **Chamsai (Chami) Jotisalikhorn** is an internationally renowned lifestyle writer who has written 10 books on interior design, luxury travel, Asian style, Asian spas, and holistic

wellness, which are sold worldwide in six languages at leading bookstores and online dealers, like amazon.com. She's a correspondent journalist for various international publications, including Condé Nast *Traveller* (U.K.), *Travel+Leisure* (Southeast Asia), *AsiaSpa* (Hong Kong), *Urban Land* (U.S.), and *Home & Décor* (Singapore) magazines; *The Nation* (Thailand), *The Bangkok Post*, and *The Business Times* Singapore newspapers; and numerous travel and spa guidebooks. Profiled and quoted in media throughout Asia, Chami has served as a judge for the region's AsiaSpa Awards (Hong Kong) since 2008. She owns and is managing partner of a communications consulting firm, specializing in PR and media relations for niche lifestyle clients such as boutique hotels, resorts, spas, and design and architectural firms.

Chami, **Lori Stevens**, and her husband, Tim Lubin (CC '86), have managed to stay in touch, traveling together between India and Thailand. Lori lives relatively contentedly on her new homestead in Rockbridge County, Va., with a resident emu, six chickens, three cats, various wild fauna, her husband, and two sons: Leo, who attends Bard; and Jacob, a high school senior. She received her MFA in studio art from James Madison University and shows regionally in the Shenandoah Valley and in New Delhi, India, where she and her family spent five years.

Chisa Hidaka's film, *Together: Dancing with Spinner Dolphins*, won Best Short Film in the Animal Advocacy category at the 2011 Artist Film Festival. Chisa integrated vanguard approaches to dance and improvisation with the most current scientific information about dolphin behavior to engage the animals in creative play, approaching them as equals and always on their terms. The project, which aimed to highlight dolphins' creativity and beauty and to inspire audiences to respect them and protect their ocean habitats, screened at Columbia's Miller Theatre in January. Currently, Chisa's working group, the Dolphin Dance Project, is finishing a second short film, shot by eminent underwater cinematographer Howard Hall, for release later this year, as well as developing a feature-length dance film that integrates the latest dolphin research to tell the full story of these interactions through human dance.

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25th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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I hope that all of you are preparing your return to the Upper West Side for our 25th reunion, May 31–June 2! It has been exciting to watch the e-mails flying back and forth as **Pia Fiedler Lord** and the reunion committee plan a wonderful series of events for the weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Angela Shen-Hsieh writes to share the heartbreaking news that our friend **M. Suzanne Keech** died of cancer on Nov. 7, 2011. Ang had been with Suzanne shortly before she died and was grateful for the opportunity to say good-bye. After graduating from Barnard, Suzanne received an MBA at Columbia and worked for a number of years at MetLife. More recently, she was a successful manager in large-scale real estate and served as corporate managing director for Studley Inc., a Washington, D.C., commercial real estate firm. Those of us who knew Suzanne knew her to be an extremely kind and generous person. This was evidenced in her many years of commitment and service to charitable organizations such as Higher Achievement, a D.C.-based organization that mentors underprivileged children, for which Suzanne served on the board and as vice chair in recent years. Suzanne is survived by her parents, her sister, and her brother. We extend our deepest sympathy to Suzanne's family and friends for this untimely loss.

Wendy Allegaert is thrilled to report she has been cast as Dr. Hanna Martin in the world premiere of Christine Evans's new play, *You Are Dead. You Are Here. A Ghost Story for the Digital War Age*. Using the computer-generated therapeutic program Virtual Iraq and old-fashioned storytelling, this play is part magical realism and part scientific study of the horrors of war. The play had a sold-out showing during Culturemart at HERE, a performing arts center in New York City,

and a full production is being planned in the fall. Stay tuned.

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Genevieve Rosenbaum writes, "My daughter, lyla Sophie, was born on March 27, 2011. **Deborah Donenfeld**, my dear friend since first-year seminar at Barnard, accompanied me at the delivery at New York-Presbyterian. Following my divorce a few years ago, I decided to have a baby on my own. What a great decision that was—being lyla's mom is one of the great joys of my life. We live in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. On the work front, I am a psychologist running training programs for graduate students at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, where I've been for the past 11 years. I also do clinical work with children, adolescents, and adults."

Kathy Malakorn-Lew writes, "It has dawned on me and my husband, Ed Lew (SEAS '88), that time has flown by fast. We live in Needham, Mass., and are attending physicians at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston. I am a primary-care physician, and Ed is a gastroenterologist. I am busy with work, carpooling to after-school sports and piano and guitar lessons. Our eldest daughter, Kaitlyn, is 13, and will be attending high school next year. We started looking into some different high schools for her and realized that in just four short years, we shall be looking at colleges. That thought gave us pause, wishing that we could hold onto our kids' childhood just a wee bit longer. Our youngest daughter, Kim, is 9, in fourth grade, and a typical little sister. Yet both girls are best friends."

From **Garrett Deckel** comes this update: "I'm a psychiatrist in private practice on the Upper West Side and on the faculty of the Mount Sinai School

of Medicine. My husband and I recently celebrated our fifth wedding anniversary."

In 2011, **Anna Park Song** and her husband, Ken Song (CC '88), served in Natal, South Africa, at Lily of the Valley, an orphanage for more than 100 children affected by HIV/AIDS. She writes: "We were all profoundly affected by working with these children, born into seemingly impossible situations. Each of us was blessed witnessing how God's love can transform even the grimmest of circumstances. The donations and care were so appreciated by these vulnerable children, but surprisingly, they seemed most grateful that we came, that people from far away cared enough about them and their plight to work alongside them. Our family has committed this year to continue to travel to various overseas nonprofit organizations and shine a light on the incredible impact they make on the lives of vulnerable children."

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Crystal Lee has very active 4-year-old twins, Eric and Ryan. She's enjoying life in Bergen County, N.J.

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The e-mail blast worked; lots of news, so I had to edit!

Uzma Sarfraz-Khan writes that she now lives in McLean, Va. She says McLean reminds her of Scarsdale, N.Y., where she grew up, and she appreciates the proximity to wine country. **Nandita Ruchandani** recently came for a visit, and Uzma met

up with **Liz Schack Rabban** at their high school reunion.

Kristy Bird Trouchon recently joined the UC-Davis School of Medicine as an executive analyst. She says it's a great professional opportunity, and it helps her keep her mind off her recent divorce.

Christina Wayne is now president of Cineflix Studios, which develops and produces a variety of television series, and she's executive producer of the series *Copper*, which will air this August, for BBC America. She was previously in charge of the AMC shows *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*, and *Broken Trail*. Christina lives in New York with her husband, Fredrik, and daughter, Auden Gray, age 2.

Robin Lustig Schreiber has been living in Israel for almost 10 years with her husband, Avi, and four kids: Aron, 21, Eli, 19, Leora, 14, and Moshe, 8. Robin and her family live in the town of Chashmonaim, halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, where she runs the committee to greet new families. She reports that many Barnard graduates live in the area.

Julianne Cho writes that after 17 years in the Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre & Broadcasting and the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, she recently left to take an expanded role as deputy commissioner at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

Leslie Cohen has been living in Westchester County with her husband, Wade (CC '90), and sons, Sam, 12, and James, 10. After teaching and working with preschools and elementary schools, Leslie recently made the leap to middle school English and loves the change. She was extremely happy to have linked up with her former Barnard roommate, **Elizabeth Gordon Jonckheer**, and her family on their last visit to New York from their home in San Francisco.

Jeannie Rhee Kenyon completed her doctor of pharmacy degree in 2000 at the University of Maryland. After a residency, she practiced with Veterans Affairs hospitals in three different states before settling in at Genentech in Seattle. She has been married for 10 years and has a son, Alex, 5, and a daughter, Jordan, 7.

Dana Gillette is enjoying her life in Northampton, Mass., and runs a fund-raising and communications consulting business. While in New York City for a consulting project, Dana caught up with **Norah Bowler**, a public defender at

Legal Aid, and made frequent trips to Amir's Falafel. While she loves living in the country, her time in the city was reminder of why she chose to attend Barnard.

Renee Lewis works as a laboratory systems specialist at LabCorp in Cranford, N.J. She also runs a pastry business, Decadent Desserts, which you can find on Facebook. Renee's looking forward to her first New York City Marathon this year.

Emily Jagoda lives in Palo Alto, Calif., with her husband, Jorge, and their two boys, Vincent, 6, and Arthur, 3. She finds her work as an architect especially enjoyable after taking a few years off to be with her kids.

Michelle Gitlitz Lupkin received her PhD in clinical psychology with health emphasis in August 2011 and is working as a postdoctoral fellow at Long Island Jewish/Zucker Hillside Hospital in child and adolescent psychology. She lives in Teaneck, N.J., and has been married to Jonathan Lupkin (CC '89) for 22 years. They have four daughters, and their oldest, Shira, is a sophomore at Barnard.

Ladies, we have officially reached the stage where our daughters are turning into the next generation of Barnard women!

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Alyssa Cohen Kaplan writes that in June 2010, her 7-year-old daughter, Tzipora Malka, was diagnosed with lymphoma. After months of weekly appointments at Memorial Sloan-Kettering for doctor visits and chemotherapy, her cancer is gone. A few weeks after Tzipora finished chemotherapy, Alyssa became pregnant, and on Aug. 15, 2011, she had a beautiful baby boy, Me'ir Moshe. Me'ir means "source of light," and it is their hope that he grows up to be a person who is caring and selfless and brings light into others' lives. Alyssa is thankful to the many people in her community, as well as outside her community, who helped her family during the months of chemotherapy and were the shining light in their very dark time.

Her son, Shmuel, 12, is in love with Me'ir, and Tzipora Malka enjoys him more now that he smiles and laughs at things she does. They live in West Orange, N.J., and she continues to run her business, koshergourmetmart.com, selling kosher gourmet food and other food items.

Yael Lewin writes that her first book, *Night's Dancer: The Life of Janet Collins*, from Wesleyan University Press, was published last fall. Telling the story of the first African-American prima ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera, it has gotten excellent reviews and, most importantly, came out of one of her Barnard theses. More information about her book can be found at janetcollinsbook.wordpress.com.

Karen Beatty joyfully (finally!) announces the adoption of her son, 3-year-old Jerry, home in the U.S. from God's Littlest Angels in Pétion-Ville, Haiti. Karen recently moved from Brooklyn to Pelham, N.Y., and is a brand manager at BNY Mellon Wealth Management.

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20th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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This May marks 20 years since we graduated from Barnard. We look forward to hearing from you, especially those of you who have taken on the hardest task on earth: working from home to raise children and take care of the household.

Lisa Pruss Rafal writes that she spent many years after graduating from Barnard as a stay-at-home mom, devoting her time to raising good children. However, as of June 2011, she started her own business and now has that to report as well. Last August, she opened her first head-lice treatment center in New Jersey, and this January she opened her second office. She brought a highly successful, nontoxic treatment for head lice to northern New Jersey through a franchise called Lice Lifters. She uses a FDA-cleared medical device called the LouseBuster and has given relief to hundreds of people who were suffering through head-lice

infestation. She's very proud that her company is a woman-owned business that employs women who are working part-time while pursuing other things such as education and raising their families.

Thelma Joy Rodriguez, who lives in Brooklyn with her husband, has been a civil-rights lawyer for 14 years and has been teaching yoga at Barnard for the past three years.

Catherine McKay Araiza is the learning manager for Shell Trading and Shipping, which is a global energy commodity trading and shipping company. Her work takes her regularly to London and Singapore (she'd love to connect with alumnae in either place). She has two children, Alex, 7, and Sofia, 5, who love their school in the Garden Oaks neighborhood of Houston, Texas. Catherine keeps in touch with **Maydelle Fason** and got to see her last spring while she was visiting New York City.

Kim Parker-Wesley is happy to report that, after 14 years of working for others, she has opened her family-law practice in Northern California and has already planted seeds to provide family-law services in Los Angeles.

Jenny Milchman has received the final edits on her debut novel, *Cover of Snow*, which is scheduled to be published next February. —KPW

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Jenny Milchman
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Sara Holtzschue lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, plays music, and teaches at CUNY and the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Her classes include a 20th-century humanities course, Western music history, and small-group flute instruction. Look her up in the online Alumnae Directory if you'd like to be included on her mailing list for performances. She currently performs as a vocalist and composer, and she'll soon resume flute performance as well.

Karen Ackerman Kosowsky writes to let us know that she celebrated the bat mitzvah of her daughter, Jordana,

surrounded by alumnae, including Monica Marks Aboodi '85, Ellen Klestzick Goldschmidt '85, Cherly Tager Goldschmidt '80, Rebecca Lacher Leibowitz '92, **Dahlia Kalter-Nordlicht**, and Linda Katz Zucker '87.

Life here is busy, but I can't complain. My little Sadie continues to make me smile every day. Please keep in touch.

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Maria Lourenco writes, "My husband, Thomas Scherer, and I are delighted to announce the birth of our daughter, Hannah Zoe, on Oct. 15, 2011. Zoey was born in Frankfurt, Germany, with three (!) citizenships: American, Brazilian, and German. I'm on a six-month maternity leave and will return to work at Barclays this spring."

Tracy Akner
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95

After almost a decade as a freelance journalist, **Sarah Bronson** recently began a regular office job with normal hours and a steady paycheck. She's a marketing writer for the Jewish Agency for Israel, a nonprofit organization whose mission she believes in. She reports having a terrific boss and really nice co-workers.

Irina Pertsovsky Brandler lives in Pelham, N.Y. She's the owner of Sugar & Spice Bake Shop in City Island, where she creates wedding and birthday cakes.

Christian Blair Pitts and her husband welcomed their second son, William, in April. Christian finished writing her first novel, based on growing up on a sailboat in the Sea of Cortez, and began her second novel, about the collapse of crime boss Lucky Luciano. She reports that these novels are "merely" labors of love.

Alicia Hall Moran is appearing on

Broadway in *The Gershwins' Porgy & Bess*, in which she's understudy to Audra McDonald, who plays Bess, and in the ensemble. She and her husband, Jason, participated in the Whitney Biennial.

Elizabeth Flisser Rosman and her husband, Adam, had a daughter, Emily Alex, on Aug. 30. Also in August, Elizabeth joined Reservoir Capital Group as a managing director and partner.

Shirin Darouvar Simkhai is pursuing a master of social work degree at Fordham University while raising her three children, Ethan and Michael, 13, and Ellie, 9.

Amita Umanikar helps with a family-owned travel agency. She's also enthusiastic about her rewarding work tutoring students.

Daria Saraf sells real estate for Sothebys in San Francisco. In her free time, she studies static trapeze, oil painting, and singing. She has met Barnard women in her ballet class, temple, and children's school. She's always happy to run into a fellow alum, and she is still grateful to not have homework anymore. Her kids are Shaia, 6, and Aja, 4.

Sheryl Handler-Matar has met several Barnard alumnae at her kids' school. Shirley Yakar Rush '94 is one of Sheryl's closest friends. Their 10-year-old daughters are in the same class. Even though they were only a year apart, they didn't meet until years later, in Cleveland. Sheryl also met Rachel Grundfast Lappen '00 at a birthday party for Rachel's son, who's in the same preschool class as Sheryl's younger daughter.

Elizabeth Rachel Lemon served on the jury of a six-week federal criminal trial, which ended up handing down the first conviction for a violation of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, and it attracted media attention due to a defendant's family ties to a U.S. congressman. Making a judgment with so much weight in the real world was more difficult than anticipated.

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96

Two of our classmates have baby news:

Ronnie Koenig and her husband, Luke Alberts, announce the arrival of their twins, Evelyn Honor and Judd Valor, in September.

Beth Silver Shalev writes, "We've had a couple of exciting life events in the past few months: Our son, Joseph Maor, was born in September. He arrived just in time to celebrate the bat mitzvah of his sister, Elisheva, a few weeks later! Dovie, 9, is looking forward to bossing his little brother around. I am taking some time off my job, working on a contract basis as a real-estate lawyer, specializing in leasing."

We also have some professional updates: **Deborah Friedman Malka** became a certified pediatric hematology-oncology nurse in November. She writes that she's living in Denver with her husband, Scott, and three kids: Ari, 9, Naomi, 7, and Eli, 5.

Send your news to Sarah or Samantha or find us on through the Barnard College Class of 1996 group on Facebook.

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Alexa Dietrich '96

In November, Alexa Dietrich, an assistant professor of anthropology at Wagner College, received the Excellence in

Teaching Award. In nominating her, the department chair wrote, "Her most outstanding characteristic as a teacher is, I believe, her tremendous concern and empathy for her students. She not only knows every student by name in her courses, but knows them personally.... She is truly an extraordinary and positive role model."

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Alison Cross e-mailed me with some fun and delicious news: "I recently moved to Atlanta after 14 years in San Francisco to open the Boxcar Grocer, a natural-foods store that works with urban farmers to source locally grown, organic produce. The store is located in the downtown neighborhood of Castleberry Hill. One of our favorite vendors happens to be a fellow alum, Adio Akil '78, whose prepared raw foods have people begging us for more if they run out. We've reimaged what a corner store can be by providing healthy food and convenience grocery items in a very modern, café-like atmosphere."

I look forward to seeing all of you at Reunion, May 31–June 3, 2012. I remember standing on Broadway waiting to move in, frizzy-haired and bleary-eyed, and meeting the amazing Barnard women who would enrich my life. May we be as lucky for the next 15 years and beyond.

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98

Katherine (Chia-Feng) Huang writes, "Inspired by some significant medical events following my son's birth in 2006, I have recently completed a career change after 10 years of working in the entertainment industry as a costume designer and assistant. In 2011, I graduated from nursing school as the class valedictorian and school president. Currently I'm a pediatric registered nurse at UCLA Medical Center. I live in Pasadena, Calif., with my husband and a healthy 5-year-old boy."

99

"Greetings from Afghanistan!" **Courtney Kjos Short** writes. She's a major in the

United States Army and is serving as the chief of operations for an infantry brigade combat team and the officer in charge of the brigade female engagement team.

Rachel Wolf also writes to us from the Middle East. Rachel was just appointed the chief operating officer for the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

Back in New York, Rabbi **Rachel Ain** (BC/JTS '99) is now the senior director of the National Young Leadership Department at the Jewish Federations of North America, where she oversees national leadership development programs for 22- to 45-year-olds involved in their local Jewish communities. Along with her husband and two sons, Rachel has moved back to Morningside Heights, where they all are enjoying the sights and sounds of the Barnard/Columbia community.

Up in Boston, **Shira Cohen-Goldberg** has been working as a literacy specialist for several years—first in schools, and now for the nonprofit Hill for Literacy. She works with schools designing systems for change around literacy instruction in the Boston area. She has been living in Cambridge, Mass., for the past nine years. Shira married Ari Goldberg in June 2010, and they had a son, Hallel Nachum Avichai Cohen-Goldberg, on Sept. 13, 2011.

Please keep sending us your news—we love hearing from you.

Jolanka Fisher Nickerman & Laura Levin Schreiber
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00

Rachel Grundfast Lappen is happy to announce that she and Justin (CC '02) welcomed their second little boy, Elliot, on March 18, 2011. Rachel, Justin, Elliot, and their other son, Gavi, live in the Cleveland area, where she's executive director of Chagrin Arts.

Bess Greenbaum reports that after graduation, **Amber Burgess** went on to attend dental school in Connecticut, then headed to Michigan for her orthodontic residency. Currently, Amber and her husband reside in Austin, Texas, where Amber is a part-owner of a three-location orthodontic practice with two other orthos.

She and her husband, Jon, had their first baby girl, Ellory Keagan Haupt, 5 lbs., 13 oz., and 19 inches long, on Oct. 21, 2011.

Ilana Wolfe Weinberg married Craig Weinberg (GS '05) last August. **Kim Li** was a matron of honor, as was Aliza Slosberg Weinstock '05. Rena Kaufmann '05 was a bridesmaid. **Zenub Kakli** and **Anne Motto Gilvarry** were also at the wedding. Craig and Ilana still live on the Upper West Side, years after being at Barnard and Columbia. Ilana reports that she's a teacher at a private school, and Craig is in mobile marketing.

Andrea Luttrell Keeth and her husband, Randy Keeth, welcomed their first child, Townes Elwood, in April 2011. Andrea is at SMU working on her dissertation, which examines gender and subversion in contemporary American women's writing.

E-mail **Rani Karnik**, with "Class Notes" in the subject line. Don't forget to look for our class page on Facebook and "Like" it!

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01

Nalini Saxena is now an associate director at Standard & Poor's, following a few years as a commercial banker and obtaining an MBA at Duke. She covers a portfolio of consumer-products companies and performs credit and strategy analysis. Nalini is also excited about teaching a workshop at Barnard's Athena Leadership Lab, which gives her an opportunity to reconnect with Barnard and her passion for corporate training and development.

Jennifer Styperk is poet and founder of Poetry Salon, which creates unique gifts using poems. Poetry Salon is going to Beverly Hills, Calif., as she recently partnered with jeweler Peter Marco, who will also offer the option of unique gifts.

Chaitali (Tali) Kapadia started her PhD program in business organization at the University of North Carolina.

Meghan Hardison got her master's in library and information science, with a concentration in archival management,

from Simmons College and has relocated to Astoria, N.Y., from Boston. For graduation, she was chosen to deliver the commencement remarks on behalf of students from all Simmons graduate schools and programs.

Kayla Rosenberg has resigned as the manager of consulting services at the Nonprofit Finance Fund to go on a seven-month sabbatical in South America.

Alyssa Kim Schabloski graduated from the UCLA schools of law and public health in 2008 with a JD and a master's in public health. Admitted to the California and Arizona bars, she now represents plaintiffs dying from mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure. She lives in Santa Monica, Calif., and is a member of the Cowboy Lawyers Association.

Becky Cole Lurie is living in Brookline, Mass., with her husband, Adam Lurie (SEAS '02), a resident at Boston University, and her daughters, 3-year-old Talia and 6-month-old Sophia. Becky is working at the Staples, Inc., corporate office in talent management for the U.S. retail division and loves it.

Anna Ayzenberg is a school psychologist in Bergen County, N.J. In July 2011, she married Victor Chavez, and they spent their honeymoon at a yoga retreat in Costa Rica.

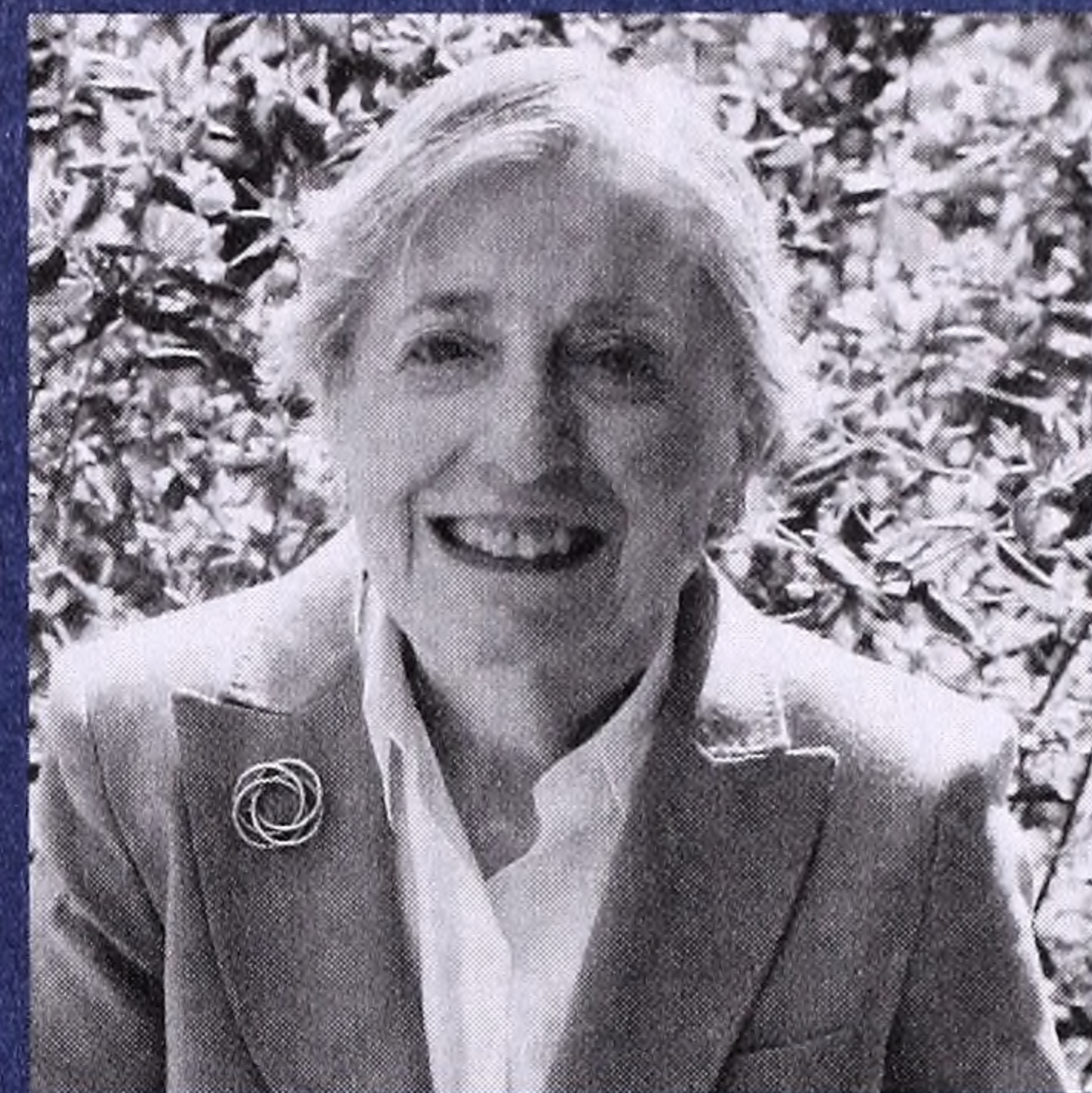
On Dec. 26, 2010, Gustavo Edward Lowry was born in Los Angeles to **Adriana Galvan** and her husband, Bill Lowry.

Jenny Barsky Reese and her husband, Adam, welcomed a daughter, Rachel Bernie, to the family in February 2011. Jenny returned to work as a post-doc at Johns Hopkins University.

Ellen LaPorte Robinson, her husband, Benjamin, and their daughter, Magdalena, welcomed the newest addition to their family: Herschel James, born on July 1, 2011, in Seattle. Ellen continues to work as a stay-at-home mom while teaching piano on the side.

Lisa Dean-Kluger Jerles and her husband, Todd, had a son, Moses, on July 18. His big sister, Dagny, 3, was happy, as was the baby's grandfather, with whom Lisa works as an attorney at Kluger Kaplann Law Firm in Miami.

Together with their son, Saadiah Yitzchak, **Razelle Holtz Weinstein** and Dov Weinstein welcomed another son, Elisha Yochanan, to the world on July 25. Congrats to the proud grandmother,



"Barnard gave me so much. Not just a first-class education, but, in all respects, preparation for life. Giving back feels very good. Having focused on retirement planning for others throughout my career, I know a **Barnard gift annuity makes perfect sense** for me now."

Ronda Shainmark Gelb
'54

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Barnard chemistry professor Toby Berger Holtz '67, and Rachel Furst '00, who attended the baby-naming ceremony.

Mary Nazzal and her husband of nine years, Aysar Batayneh, welcomed their baby, Jad, into the world in December 2011. They have happily settled in the beautiful city of Amman, Jordan, and are watching momentous events unfold in the region. Mary continues her legal work in support of Palestinian rights.

Milena Perez Schmidt and her husband, Barney Schmidt, had their first child, Penelope Fae Schmidt, on Aug. 27, when the earthquake hit New York.

In early March, **Miyabi (Abbie) Yamamoto** gave birth to a baby girl, Mina, her second child. Shortly afterward, the Great Tohoku earthquake hit, and her sister was forced to evacuate to New York, where she has settled. In August, Abbie submitted her doctoral dissertation on early 20th-century Japanese and Korean women's literature to UC-Berkeley. This fall, she accepted a faculty position at Sarah Lawrence College as a sabbatical replacement.

*Migna Taveras Lespinasse
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Margaret Inga Wiatrowski '01

The New York Foundation for the Arts awarded a \$7,000 Artist Fellowship to Margaret Inga

Wiatrowski for her artwork in the category of Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts. The Fellowships are made to individual artists living and working in the state of New York for unrestricted use, and are awarded in 15 artistic disciplines.

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02

Katie Curran Butler earned her MD from Columbia in 2006, and is in her last year of surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. She completed a fellowship in surgical critical care in 2010, and has accepted a position as an acute-care surgeon at Beth Israel Deaconess

Medical Center in Boston. Katie and her husband, Scott Butler (SEAS '01), live north of Boston, where they hang out with wild turkeys and deer, grow hops in the front yard, and brew beer in the basement.

Last summer, **Caroline Kim** and **Constance Moy Piau** worked together for several weeks on a project in Kampala, Uganda, with Booz Allen Hamilton. They discovered that in addition to attending the same undergraduate and graduate programs, they've been living parallel lives.

Gareth White accepted a position with the Counseling and Mental Health Center of the University of Texas, Austin. She'll work in the triage program, assessing students in crisis.

Erica Zeichner Siena gave birth to a boy, Charles Logan Siena, on Dec. 30, 2011, at 8:20 a.m., weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz., 20 inches long.

On New Year's Eve, **Kate Richlin-Zack** married Adam Shain, who graduated from New Jersey Institute of Technology, from which he received a bachelor's degree and also a master's degree in 2007. Kate's bridesmaids included **Califia Davis, Rachel Mamiya, Christina Suarez**, as well as Samantha Muniz '04, Jieun Sung Blais (SEAS '03, CC '04), and Kimberly Kalmanson (CC '03). After a two-week honeymoon in Australia and New Zealand, Kate started a new market research position at Merck.

Alexandra (Anda) French married Gabriel Mugar in Boston on June 25, 2011. In attendance were Jessie Ko Beck (CC '00), **Stela Plaku, Colleen Cotter, Molly Kelleher Honig**, Raegan Johnston (CC '02), Irene Kopitov '04, Jenny Shoukimas (CC '01), **Maggie Hanel Storino**, Margie Winfrey (CC '02), Anda's mother, Linda Neshamkin '67, and her uncle, Paul Neshamkin (CC '63), as well as many other Barnard and Columbia alumnae from the past 60 years. Anda and Gabe live in Syracuse, N.Y., where Anda is an assistant professor at the Syracuse University School of Architecture and a partner in French 2Design with her sister, building projects in Massachusetts and New York.

Jacklyn Salama-Lahav graduated from New York University's midwifery program in 2009. She recently opened her own midwifery practice, concentrating on gynecological care. She makes home visits to all of the New York City boroughs, and in the near future she will be offering visits at her home office as well.

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03

Mary (Molly) Culver lives in Brooklyn and has worked within New York City's sustainable food movement since 2005. After a year abroad in Chile following graduation, Molly went on to serve as an Americorps VISTA with the food-justice nonprofit organization Just Food. Receiving a certificate in agroecology from the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 2008, she now works and teaches at the High School for Public Service Youth Farm. She is also a teacher and founding board member for Farm School NYC, New York's first school for urban agriculture.

Eve Axelrod Davis and her husband, Yechiel, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ovadyah Boruch. He was born on April 12, 2011, at 1:14 a.m. At birth, he weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz., and was 20 inches long. Their older daughter, Nechama Leah, is proud to be a big sister.

*Anna Melman
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04

Stefanie Fahrion has lived in London since 2010 and works as a distribution manager at Independent, a film production, sales, and distribution company. Independent recently produced the film adaptation of *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver '78, which was directed by Lynne Ramsey and starred Tilda Swinton.

Andrea Davila graduated from Columbia Business School last May and is now working at the New York City Housing Authority on institutionalizing economic opportunity within public-housing communities. She also teaches in the Financial Fluency program (thanks

to Linda Reals '93 for teaching HER!) at Barnard's Athena Center. She and her partner, **E. Grace Glenn**, live in Brooklyn. Grace is the senior director of buying at the design-oriented e-commerce start-up fab.com, and she previously worked at Marvel Entertainment and Kidrobot.

Stephanie Kwan moved to Washington, D.C., in December 2011. She relocated to start a new job and is looking forward to reconnecting with Barnard and Columbia folks in the area. She has already caught up with **Candace Chin**, Amy Hsieh '03, Constance Moy Piau '02, and Emily Shin (CC '04).

Teresa K. Miller has a serial poem and an essay in the anthology *Conversations at the Wartime Café: A Decade of War 2001–11*, released at Bluestockings on the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. Her poetry has also recently appeared in *Sous Les Pavés, E*ratio*, and slouch.com, and she read in San Francisco's 2011 LitCrawl with fellow writers from the Sanchez Grotto Annex.

Lesley Wojcik lives in Portland, Ore., and is in her third year of anesthesiology residency. She and her husband, David, love all the outdoor activities and the Pacific Northwest's culture and food.

Maria Eugenia Albina completed her MAT in elementary education and is currently teaching second grade at a Chicago public school.

In the fall of 2011, **Anna Martin** became a National Board Certified Teacher in the field of social studies/history, specializing in early adolescence.

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05

Everyone is talking about the amazing new class blog, at barnardclassof2005.wordpress.com. Our classmates are keeping busy, staying in touch, and making the world a better and more Barnard place.

I get exhausted just thinking about what **Pamela Cole** is up to. She reports to us from the U.S. Air Force at Laughlin Air Force Base, where she's the installation

health and wellness dietitian. She also owns Fuel the Fighter LLC, where she consults with amateur, professional, and recreational athletes. When she's not making other people healthy, she's training for marathons and triathlons.

Elizabeth (Liz) Curtis, Danielle Love, and **Jessica Meksavan** hosted the Barnard Club of Northern California's first Midnight Breakfast and raised over \$2,000 for the club's scholarship fund. Anna Quindlen '74 may not have been there to serve the potatoes, but I was there to eat them, so I think we can safely call the night a huge success. Elizabeth enjoyed spending Thanksgiving in the company of Jessica Conquest '06, Emily Dobbins '06, Erin Fennern '06, and Rebecca Hayoun '06. She'd also like to congratulate **Nikki Candelore Roda** on completing her first semester at the University of Michigan, where, in true Barnard fashion, Nikki kicked some serious butt.

Amanda Prischak writes in from Erie, Pa., where she has been doing marketing for a local university for three years. She's also moonlighting as a freelance writer and participating in her local chapter of the American Association of University Women. Her clients span everything from a Fortune 500 insurance company to a wine magazine.

Emily Smergel has a lot of exciting news to report: **Audra Noble** married Ryan Bekkerus last May, and Emily, **Julia Eddington**, **Noa Rabinowitz**, and **Kate Strickland**, all first-year hall-mates on Sulzberger-Reid, were bridesmaids. Audra is a fifth-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Fordham. Julia is in her second year at the Texas State University MFA in fiction program and is teaching English composition and editing the online literary journal Front Porch at frontporchjournal.com. Noa married Joshua Cohen in September 2011. They live in Washington, D.C., where Noa is the associate director of national events for the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. Kate lives in Minneapolis, where she's a development manager for Milkweed Editions, an independent literary press founded by Emilie Buchwald '57. Emily graduated from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health in 2010 and is now in her second year of medical school at the University of Michigan, where she was excited to find that **Nancy Linthicum**

is also a student. Nancy travels between Cairo and Ann Arbor to her work on her PhD in Arabic literature, but she still makes time to keep in touch with Emily, Nikki, and **Alison Walsh Weiss**.

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06

In May, **Yanni Guo** graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law. In January, she was admitted into the New York bar. Yanni is an associate in the capital markets practice at White & Case in Hong Kong. Since arriving in Hong Kong, Yanni has connected with many wonderful alumnae, including Lynette Yuming Chiu '04, Sonu Arjan Daryanani '04, and Gloria Tai '05.

Nicole Johnston married Ben Wroblewski on Oct. 15, 2011, in Saline, Mich. **Katie Coon**, **Sahyuri Samantha Lalime**, and **Holly Snow** were in attendance.

This past November, **Nafeesah Allen** (SIPA '09) began her second tour as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State. She is serving as a consular officer at the embassy in New Delhi, India. In preparation for her current posting, she spent the majority of 2011 learning Hindi. Previously she served on the Pakistan desk at State Department headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Michelle Kaplan graduated from Fordham Law School in 2010 and is working as an associate at Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker. On Nov. 20, 2011, Michelle married Adam Botwinick, a graduate of NYU Medical School and a resident in internal medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. Several classmates attended their wedding, including Jessica Eisenberg '07, **Racquel Kelly Jemal Massry**, Erin Meyer (CC '08), **Andrea Ribaud**, and **Jennifer Taler**.

In the Bay Area, **Lindsay Dillon** has started a new position at Art.com, Inc. As marketing manager for strategic partnerships and display-advertising, Lindsay manages online display advertising strategy and relationship building with partners to grow brand

awareness in 2012.

Jill Donenfeld was featured in *Forbes Magazine's* "30 Under 30: Food & Wine." The article reads, "In whatever incarnation tomorrow's generation has its Martha Stewart-like role," says restaurateur Danny Meyer, 'Jill Donenfeld is likely to play it.'"

Maryangela (M.A.) Moutoussis recently moved to London and is absolutely loving it.

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5th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

07

On Aug. 13, 2011, our class vice president, **Gillian DiPietro**, sojourned back to campus to marry Joseph Anzalone (CC '07) at St. Paul's Chapel. Gillian was joined at the altar by beautiful bridesmaids **Katie Kluger Kenigsberg** and **Christina Giaccone**, and on the dance floor by ever-fierce guests Megan Gearheart '08, Andi Grossman '06, **Josie Rice**, **Elisa Maezono**, Tiffany Christatos Mills '03 (SEAS '04), Anna Parnes '09, **Amanda Seybold**, **Amy Stokes**, Lindsey Summers '06, Suchita Varhade '09, and many more CU friends. The ceremony was expertly officiated by University Chaplain Jewelnel Davis. Then, on Dec. 1, Gillian appeared on *Jeopardy!*—a lifetime goal. She was thrilled to walk away from one of the best days of her life with a raunchy Dickensian joke told by Alex Trebek and \$1,000.

Katie married her high school sweetheart, Dan Kenigsberg, on Oct. 15, 2011, at Capitale in Manhattan. She celebrated with Jessica McHugh '08, Gillian DiPietro, Amanda Seybold, Elisa Maezono, Alexandra Demshock '09, Monica Ierardo '09, Christina Giaccone, **Alana Dligacz**, and many other CU friends. Katie and Dan live on the Upper East Side, and Katie left Penguin Group to begin working in digital advertising sales

at Akamai Technologies right after their honeymoon in Bora Bora.

Kristen O'Neil just returned from 27 months of service with the Peace Corps. She worked as a small-business development educator and advisor in a little town in the mountains of northern Nicaragua. Now she's relaxing at home in New Jersey and applying to grad school for international economic development.

Amelia Wenger writes, "I am about a year away from finishing up my PhD in marine biology in Australia. I am also working at the Catchment to Reef Research Group at the Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research, where I am monitoring flood plumes to assess water quality on the Great Barrier Reef. In my free time, I play soccer, rock climb, and scuba dive!" Amelia is excited to return to the States for our reunion in May.

Ashleigh Rachel Lau passed away at age 26 on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2012, in New York City, surrounded by family. She is survived by her sister, Natalie, her brother, Jonathan, her parents, Yan and Rebecca Lau, and her husband, Everett Yeh. After majoring in English, Ashleigh went on to work at Morgan Stanley until late 2009, when she was diagnosed with alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma, a very rare type of cancer typically found in children under 10 years old. Ashleigh underwent treatment, including a clinical trial, and briefly went into remission in late 2010, but the cancer resurfaced in March 2011. She married Everett in August 2011. Ashleigh will be remembered for her generous spirit, easy wit, deep love of literature, resounding faith, and unflinching grace.

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09

In memoriam: It is with heavy hearts that we say good-bye to **Sonia Sethi**. Sonia passed away on Jan. 8, after a five-month battle with advanced sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. Sonia was a double major at Boston University, where she was going for her master's in public health. At Barnard, she was a neuroscience

major, premed, and led many student organizations, including Ahimsa, Barnard-Columbia Undergraduate Public Health Society, and the *pH level* newsletter. In her spare time, she would either be volunteering, helping her friends, dancing to Enrique Iglesias, or baking cupcakes. Sonia was a generous, kind, and loving friend, and she will be deeply missed.

Erin Axelrod is an assistant coach to a girls' lacrosse team and teaches an environmental course one day per week at a local high school. In addition, she's continuing her love of urban studies as programs manager for a Sonoma County nonprofit organization that works with cities to transform publicly owned lawns into food-producing edible ecosystems, saving hundreds of thousands of gallons of water while producing food and habitat. She is thrilled to serve on the recreation, music, and parks commission in her hometown of Petaluma, Calif.

Leah Rekhter moved after graduation to Israel, where she completed her master of science in industrial psychology. She now lives in Tel Aviv and works as a market analyst. She got married in July 2011, and some of her closest friends from Barnard made the trip across the world for the wedding, including **Julie Rappoport** (who was also a bridesmaid), **Shoshana Sprague**, and Carly Siegel (GS '09).

Simi Liberman Schwartz is a wealth-management advisor with Merrill Lynch. She's based in New Jersey and has been lucky enough to work with some Barnard alumnae. She joined the admissions office to interview prospective students and has had an amazing time. She feels it's a great way to give back and pass the torch.

Last year, **Courtney Wong** quit her job to pursue a career in music and nonprofit work. She just released two singles on iTunes and CD Baby and is finishing recording her album, to be released sometime this year. She works with a nonprofit group called New York City Urban Project, which engages college students to serve the homeless, tutor/mentor children, and work to fight human trafficking. She also recently started a stop-motion video series that aims to educate the public about human trafficking (youtube.com/courtneywong). One of her videos, on how our electronics come from minerals mined by slaves in the DR Congo, recently gained a lot of attention and was even retweeted by actress Robin Wright.

Since she isn't getting paid for most of this work, she does freelance research work for Sesame Workshop to pay the bills. —JF

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Takako Shilla Kono graduated with a master of public affairs degree in urban and social policy in May 2011 as part of Barnard's dual-degree program with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She's now working as an assistant director at NYU.

Carrie Foulkes is in London, working with the Daniel Blau gallery, and starting a photography magazine.

Gilli Messer lives in Los Angeles, where she's pursuing acting and writing. She wrapped an independent film last August and can be seen in several commercials.

Melissa Macedo has also been in Los Angeles, working as an actor and musician. She has been performing at venues such as the Hotel Café, House of Blues, and the Roxy with her twin sister, Michelle. The two recently released their first album together, called *Flags & Boxes*, and released a music video, which was featured alongside their Huffington Post interview in December. Melissa also recently started a record label called Moongold Records.

As a choreographer, **Lorene Bouboushian** has shown various in-progress iterations of her solo dance works at several venues. She's currently an artist-in-residence at New York Live Arts (formerly Dance Theater Workshop) through the Fresh Tracks program. She also developed a site with Kate Ryan '09, lorenebouboushian.com, which showcases videos, writing, along with her perspective and philosophy on her work.

Caroline Leone has been promoted to a senior Tier 3 personal trainer at Equinox Fitness Club on Greenwich Avenue in New York City and has also been offered a position as a manager in training with the company. In addition, Caroline has been

Bases Loaded

Nicole Velazquez '09

In the fall of her senior year, Nicole Velazquez '09 sat down to write her personal statement for her law school applications. This "A-line trajectory"—12 years of primary and secondary schooling, college, and then graduate school—had been the life she and her family in the Lower East Side envisioned for her since childhood. But Nicole found herself staring at a blank paper and realized something important was missing.

"I always knew I want to go to law school, but I didn't know why," she says. By the end of senior year, having reassessed her interests, she decided to divert from the A-line trajectory. "Education was something I was interested in," says Nicole. "I was one of those children who, being raised where I was, could have ended up messing around in the neighborhood and making bad decisions." But good parenting and an excellent education at an independent school in Brooklyn changed her prospects.

Nicole joined AmeriCorps following her graduation from Barnard and worked for City Year as a teacher's assistant in a Long Island middle school. After the completion of her services, she started working for Harlem RBI, an after-school program for children from kindergarten to 12th grade that incorporates sports, academics, and health, service, and leadership workshops. The organization's "curriculum," which consists of activities such as baseball or softball games, public-speaking training, and nutrition lessons, promotes children's physical, academic, and emotional development in ways that underfunded schools cannot provide. Nicole became the director of its TeamBuilder program for 13- to 14-year-olds in 2009.

"We're giving more formal instruction in a more hands-on way than school does to teach them the life skills that they don't get at schools," she explains. "Over the years, RBI has worked to serve the needs of the families in the community and has shaped and grown their programming in a way that's responsive to these changing needs." For example, to address the urgent problem of the high teen-pregnancy rate in East Harlem and diminishing funding for sex education in schools, a number of Harlem RBI's students and alumni formed a sexual health peer education group called The Base and went to local schools to teach students about safe sex.

Having worked in the nonprofit education sector, Nicole has found her "moral direction" for the future. She will be attending law school next year with a focus on educational reform and child advocacy. "I see these youths, who struggle every day, aren't receiving proper support," says Nicole. "And they are too young to ask for help or know what is wrong. Once people label you as a bad kid, they start closing doors on you, and that's not fair."

—Xinyi Lin '14



accepted to run in her first half-marathon, for which she has just begun training.

Lastly, **Giselle M. León** joined family and friends to create the Hope Reichbach Memorial Fund (hopeforbrooklyn.com), which provides summer scholarships for

students taking on internships in civic leadership and community organizing. The fund was created after Hope's untimely death in April 2011 and was inspired by her legacy of active leadership and communal responsibility as well as her

passion for Brooklyn. In less than one year, the fund has raised over \$150,000, and it is currently accepting first-year and sophomore applicants for summer 2012.

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1st Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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Obituaries



Sue Howard Larson

Professor emerita of philosophy at Barnard College and Columbia University Graduate School, Sue Howard Larson,

died on Dec. 7, 2011, at age 79, due to injuries sustained in a car accident.

According to her *New York Times* obituary, she was a Wittgenstein Scholar, and a feminist, who earned her bachelor's and PhD from Stanford University. She also taught at Mills College, Princeton University, and Stanford, where she was the first woman faculty member of the philosophy department.

She is survived by two nephews and a grandniece. Her death was reported to the College by her close friend Elizabeth Koob '73.

Photo: Prof. Sue Larson, circa 1966. From the Mortarboard 1966, p.33. Courtesy of the Barnard College Archives

In Memoriam

- 1924 **Gilda Monzillo Marsh**,
March 4, 1996
- 1927 **Virginia Molina Day**,
March 30, 2007
- 1932 **Helen Greenebaum Joffe**,
Oct. 3, 2011
- 1933 **Virginia Craft Rose**,
Dec. 26, 2011
- Jean Waterman Bender**,
Jan. 3, 2012
- 1936 **Phyllis Hadley**, March 9, 2007
- 1937 **Mary Shields**, April 17, 2011
- 1938 **Marjorie Ashworth Yahraes**,
May 2, 2009
- Emma Coulter Ware**,
May 29, 2011
- 1940 **Eugenia Grier Wheeler**,
Dec. 28, 2011
- 1941 **Rosalyn Rubin Spier**,
March 15, 2002
- Madelyn Lotz McKean**,
Oct. 10, 2011
- Eleanor Johnson**, Jan. 12, 2012
- Mary Donnellon Blohm**,
Jan. 25, 2012
- Winifred Hessinger**, Feb. 3, 2012
- Priscilla Burge Chandler**,
March 1, 2012
- 1943 **Patricia Carroll Donecho**,
March 4, 2010
- Martha Livesay Whiteside**,
Dec. 6, 2011
- Ruth Imbert de Groff**,
Jan. 15, 2012
- Margaret Jamieson Winkler**,
Feb. 4, 2012
- 1944 **Marilyn Collyer Holohan**,
Dec. 20, 2011
- Ursula Colbourne Brecknell**,
Dec. 22, 2011
- Esta Greenberg Chavkin**,
Dec. 24, 2011
- Ethel Weiss Brandwein**,
Feb. 3, 2012
- Carol Mali Du Bois**,
March 3, 2012
- 1946 **Nancy Beal Gardner**,
Nov. 23, 2011
- 1947 **Sheila Devaney Cavanor**,
Nov. 19, 2003
- Jacqueline Shumaker Reinhardt**, April 14, 2009
- Mary Louise Hannigan**,
Nov. 11, 2011
- 1948 **Beverly Lister Webb**,
Oct. 22, 2009
- 1950 **Mary Reid Dinger**,
March 20, 2011
- Basilia Welch Abel Smith**,
Oct. 3, 2011
- Florrie Levison Wertheimer**,
Feb. 10, 2012
- 1951 **Margaret Farrell Kruse**,
Jan. 28, 2012
- 1952 **Carol Leberman Baldwin**,
Sept. 1, 1981
- Dorothy Holland Ketchner**,
July 12, 2001
- Ann Conners Theibert**,
May 24, 2003
- 1953 **Hilda Haemmerle**,
June 12, 2011
- Anne Sibek Lanka**,
Oct. 27, 2011
- Alexandra De Ghize Dawson**,
Dec. 30, 2011
- 1954 **Eva Grunewald Fremont**,
Nov. 7, 2011
- Erika Graf Tauber**,
Feb. 14, 2012
- 1957 **Helvetia Jones Jones**,
Oct. 26, 2010
- 1961 **Judith Farr Tormey**,
April 1, 1998
- Ruth Heiferman Prenner**,
July 2, 2011
- 1964 **Marilyn Barlach Dershowitz**,
July 2, 2011
- 1967 **Inger-Marie Chamberlain**,
Jan. 4, 2002
- 1968 **Claudia Hoffer Gosselin**,
Jan. 21, 2011
- Lynn Gordon**, Feb. 9, 2012
- Beth Steinfeld Uval**,
Oct. 6, 2010
- 1969 **Nancy Donovan**,
Sept. 16, 2003
- Jean Skinner Harvey**,
Feb. 22, 2012
- 1970 **Marite Baumanis Jones**,
Dec. 21, 2011
- Jorene Frenkl Robbie**,
Jan. 2, 2012
- 1971 **Beth Weinstein**, Jan. 29, 2012
- 1992 **Margaret Simkin**, Aug. 5, 2009
- 2007 **Ashleigh Lau**, Feb. 9, 2012
- 2009 **Sonia Sethi**, Jan. 8, 2012

A Generation of Firsts

An alumna honors her parents' past to improve students' futures



The family of Dr. Judith Schwartz '78, from left: Ilana Brizel, Michael Brizel, Schwartz, her mother, Elizabeth, Alexandra Brizel, and fund recipient Lianne Ramos '14

Judith Schwartz is a small woman who wears a large smile and a long physician's lab coat, as she digs out two water bottles from her office fridge while chatting, skillfully hitting upon common experiences. And no wonder: Schwartz is accustomed to making small talk with the patients who frequent her gynecological practice on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

During an hour-long interview to discuss the Barnard scholarship fund she created, Schwartz hesitates and looks uncomfortable. "How corny is this going to sound?" she asks, then laughs. "I feel like I've lived the American dream."

In 1996, Schwartz and her husband, Michael Brizel, executive vice-president and general counsel at Saks Incorporated, decided that they wanted to provide Barnard students with the opportunity to fulfill that same dream. Schwartz, the first person in her family to attend college and a first-generation American, also wanted to honor her parents. And so, they launched the Elizabeth and Fred Schwartz Scholarship Fund. According to its criteria preference, the student recipients all hail from immigrant families and are first-generation Americans.

"My mother, known in our family as *bobbe*, was born in Hungary in 1925, as was my father, *poppe*, in 1922," Schwartz told an attentive audience of more than 200 alumnae, students, parents, and administrators on Feb. 28, when she gave the keynote donors speech for the annual Torchbearers event, which celebrates student support programs. "They grew up in small towns, with loving families and strong Jewish community lives, lives forever altered by World War II."

In her address, Schwartz spoke of how her parents arrived in the States with no assets and almost no surviving relatives after devastating losses in the Holocaust. Here, they rebuilt their lives, establishing themselves in Fairfield, Connecticut, home to many professionals, and commuted to New York City.

Growing up, Schwartz often saw herself as an outsider. Her parents, older than those of her peers, and of another culture, didn't understand why she wanted to wear bell-bottoms or her fascination with The Beatles. Her home had a European air, with lavish multi-course meals on Friday nights and red velvet wallpaper in the bathrooms.

"How to navigate these new waters, and yet remain part of my parents' community?" Schwartz asked the audience. "I remember reading fellow Barnard alum Jhumpa Lahiri's book *The Namesake* years later and relating to the main character's assimilation dilemmas, although mine were less obvious."

At Barnard, Schwartz blossomed, gaining confidence, finding female role models and a sense of belonging. She enjoyed the support of faculty, even when she decided to attempt an unusual project: study the maternal behavior in male rats. "I can't tell you how or why I came up with that idea to be perfectly blunt," says Schwartz, laughing.

The Elizabeth and Fred Schwartz Scholarship Fund has helped nine students make their way through college. The current recipient, Lianne Ramos '14, is a Middle East studies major, who plans to pursue a diplomatic career. As the daughter of immigrants from the Philippines, Ramos says she feels a self-imposed pressure to tackle academic studies with rigor, knowing the sacrifices her parents made.

Beyond the fund, Barnard continues to occupy a central place in Schwartz's busy life, which includes two daughters, her gynecological practice, and teaching at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She mentors Barnard students interested in medicine, and for the past decade has served on the board of the Columbia/Barnard Hillel. As a Barnard student, she says: "I got the feeling I could be anything."

An Affinity Leads to Opportunity

Diana Lanier Smith '45 provides scholarship support to Native American students

It's not a coincidence that Diana Lanier Smith '45 has a connection to the Great Canoe at the American Museum of Natural History. It was the gift of her great-grandfather, Heber R. Bishop, an acclaimed philanthropist and collector who had amassed more than 5,000 Native American artifacts from the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Like her great-grandfather, Smith has long had a serious interest in the lives of Native Americans; one that started in childhood when, Smith recalls, she saw a group going to a market to display their wares. "My interest in their history grew and grew. I read avidly," she recalls, especially the Oliver LaFarge works. She adds, "My mother was wonderful about taking me to lectures and Native American programs as a child."

That initial curiosity translated into Smith's continuing studies, involvement in the Association of Indian Affairs, the careful acquisition of significant Native American artifacts and, in 2004, the endowment of the Diana Lanier Smith '45 Scholarship Fund. As she explains, "The least thing I could do would be to create a scholarship for someone from a reservation," with the hope that the recipient would later be able to contribute to her native community.

The scholarship is designed for students who are financial aid recipients, with a preference given to Native Americans, says Abigail Talcott, stewardship officer. The first student recipient of this fund was named in the 2005-2006 academic year.

The current recipient, India Lovato '14, acknowledges the impact of this scholarship, which she also received last year. Studying art history, Lovato is originally from Colorado and an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho tribe; she's also a Sicangu Lakota through her maternal grandfather. "To receive this kind of support from someone like Mrs. Smith is fantastic and I am very grateful for it," Lovato says. "The Torchbearers dinners I've gone to, both last year and this year, have given me the opportunity to more personally thank her." Lovato also corresponds with Smith during the year to keep her updated on her studies and activities at the College.

Although Smith isn't able to visit campus often (until she attended the Torchbearers' reception last year, she hadn't been to Barnard for 40 years), the College exerts a strong pull.



India Lovato '14 and Diana Lanier Smith '45

"I completely loved my courses at Barnard," recalls Smith, who majored in government and minored in history. One of her fondest memories is of the daily lunches she enjoyed in the courtyard with other international-relations students. And Smith still remembers one of her favorite classes, with anthropology professor Gladys Reichard, one of the most important anthropologists to

study the Navajo in the mid-twentieth century.

When an opportunity arose for Smith to live on a Native American reservation in the West, family obligations prevented her, to her lasting disappointment. "I could not leave my young children and family," Smith says with regret. Ultimately, she was able to take a Smithsonian Institution camping trip to study the cultures of the Southwest, which was a definite highlight of her many travel experiences.

Smith enjoyed a career in editing, publishing, and public relations, including two years at the *Herald Tribune* in New York and a lengthy tenure at the Peabody Museum at Yale. While Native American culture and history remains a focus of Smith's intellectual interest, her passions also include American history, historic preservation, and anthropology. The widow of Karl B. Smith, she divides her time among residences in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Florida. The mother of three sons, she also has seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She is a member of the Rhode Island chapter of the Colonial Dames of North America and trustee for the Lanier Mansion Foundation in Madison, Indiana. Her great-great-grandfather James Franklin Doughty Lanier, a banker and investor, was a significant figure in Indiana's history during the mid-nineteenth century, even rescuing the state's government from bankruptcy after overspending on infrastructure. But looking back at her family tree, the genes of her great-grandfather Bishop, the intrepid collector of Native American artifacts, seem to have exerted the strongest influence.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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elaborate and predictable as catechism. On Thanksgiving: turkey, stuffing, two kinds of potatoes, carrots, green beans, and that horrible jelled cranberry sauce my middle son refused to live without. On Christmas, it was salmon, rib roast, and cookies—four kinds, extra nuts, no exceptions. Sometimes, when calendar collisions meant that Passover, Easter and Greek Orthodox Easter, all fell at once, we mixed and matched with culinary obsession: matzo ball soup, lamb, ham, eggs and wiggly Jell-O bunnies. None of this was exactly gourmet fare. But I kept cooking and we kept eating, testifying to the only gospel that our family's diverse ancestry seemed to share: Food equals love. *Amo cookat. Amat eatat.* Or something like that. If I love you, I will cook. And if you love me, you will eat.

My father-in-law is walking a bit slower these days. The cold bothers him and he naps more frequently than I remember. But when we picked him up at the airport last week, the suitcase was still there— one shirt, one pair of socks, two pounds of raisins, a bag of almonds, and some cheese. He is cooking. We are good.

HOME, EQUALITY, & THE AMERICAN DREAM

Continued from Page 5

title. "I realized, when I started looking at this whole system of ownership and having that place where we could begin to build our dreams, a place we could use to support ourselves, that there were problems not only of racial denial, but there were problems with a system that denied women," said Hill.

The Elliotts ultimately lost their farm and land, and in 1915 they moved to Oklahoma to start a new life. Bad debt agreements, threats of violence and actual violence directed at William Henry, apparent government indifference to this plight, and no real safety net for people who came upon hard economic times contributed to the decision to move. Painful as it was, Hill's grandparents had the courage "to move to a new place where they could imagine a new life for their children and

their grandchildren."

William Henry and Ida Elliott are among the many precedents Hill touched on in approaching the current housing crisis in America and the inequality and imbalance that persist in Americans' access to and rights in establishing a home. In the recent crisis many of the same issues exist, Hill pointed out, "of racism, of devaluing of women, of the failure of the law to protect people's rights, the failure of the law to provide a safety net."

One quality more than any other emerged from Anita Hill's address: optimism. As she recounted a family history of struggles and hardship, and described a present-day crisis confronting Americans that by most measures offers little hope, Hill challenged the audience to reimagine what home means, and in so doing, reimagine our lives and equality for everyone. Hill's belief in the power of doing this, came largely from her mother, Erma Elliott Hill.

"[My mother] believed that you don't build a vision of your life on your current circumstances, but you build a vision of your life, and even of your children's lives, on what you can imagine for them in the future and prepare for that, and prepare them for that."

Belief in one's ability to reimagine a life and to work towards greater equality, to establish homes and communities, and hope for better times, has been strengthened by Hill's own life over the past two decades since the Senate hearings of 1991.

"I'm optimistic because I know that we can move things, we can change things if we are engaged and if we are responding to the things that we need to respond to. I don't have to go 100 years back to get to that point. Twenty years ago ... there was my testimony [before the Senate]. And I thank all of you who were my supporters and I thank every one of you who believed in me, because you ... spoke out.

"You did not remain silent about what really matters. And that's why I am hopeful, that's why I believe, that's why I'm optimistic. Because I've seen change occur in my lifetime, but I know that it only occurs when people invest, and speak out, and make known their needs, and their desire for a better America."

CHANGE THEY CAN BELIEVE IN?

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political shift."

The revolutions need to be assessed on a country-by-country basis, he asserted. In Egypt, where the median age is young and the illiteracy rate is fairly high, "we are looking at deeper problems than elections," he said.

On the possibility of a nuclear Iran, and the Israeli strategy to prevent that scenario, he commented, "You don't need a PhD in psychology to understand Ahmadinejad. He means what he says. And this is what he says: 'Israel should be wiped off the map.'"

"So, I ask the world: What will happen if Iran acquires nuclear capabilities?" he queried in a bracing tone. "One thing is for sure. It will inspire a nuclear arms race, and some will end up in terrorist hands." A nuclear Iran, contended Aharoni, would "pose a threat to everything we value." Aharoni grew even more animated, asserting, "It's not Iran versus Israel. It is Iran versus the West."

ON TOP OF THE WORLD

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rivers in Asia including the Indus and the Yangtze Rivers, and the plateau's pollution would be disastrous for the local residents and the billions of people living downstream. "They have done nothing with the garbage yet, especially in the remote, difficult to access areas," says Dolma, recalling a photos in which piles of trash stood in stark contrast to the beautiful mountains in the distance.

With support from faculty and researchers, Dolma and a teammate will travel to a Tibetan village in Sichuan, China, to provide basic information on waste management. Her plan materialized in Professor Diane Dittrick's course "Environmental Leadership, Ethics, and Action" (ELEA), which encourages students to take the leadership skills and topical expertise developed in class to a larger local, national, or global arena. Dolma, whom Dittrick calls a "poster child" for the course, will lead informal and interactive youth development workshops to empower local young

people to become leaders of their own communities and continue this work.

“An important thing about being a leader is not imposing your values on other people.... You need to observe, listen, speak, and then act,” says Dolma. “I believe my role is not to lead anyone, but to give people the resources so *they* can become leaders instead.”

SYLLABUS: THE WRITING FELLOWS

Continued from Page 14

fellows to be attached to their courses to help students in the class with several written assignments over the semester. The professor meets with the fellow to go over the nature of the assignments, each of which has two due dates. The fellow reads the first draft before she meets with the student writer to review comments and suggestions. The second draft is the final version submitted to the instructor for grading. Although the Center does not track the grades of students who seek help, the constant wait list for appointments and the high demand from the faculty are two measures of the program's success.

Feedback from faculty over the years has been positive. Gail Archer, professor of professional practice and director of the music program, whose “Introduction to Music” course has been associated with the program from the beginning, finds that her students are more concise, better organized, and use language more elegantly after working with fellows. Sharon Harrison of the economics department requests fellows for her “First Year Seminar,” which includes drafting an op-ed piece and an analytical paper. “It's good to have someone for the students to talk with about these assignments. The fellows help with developing ideas at the early stages,” she says.

For the student seeking individual consultation, a fellow can relieve some of the stress of writing a paper. Lucy Hunter '12, an art-history major and current fellow, says that people arriving at the Center in tears often feel better after listening to constructive feedback. She adds, “In an hour, a miserable student can become invigorated about her topic and excited for the work

ahead. Peer-to-peer discourse drains the intensity.” A kind, helpful, and enthusiastic fellow can make all the difference; Gladyn Innocent '14, an English and Africana studies major, wanted to be a writing fellow for this reason. Innocent collaborated with a writing fellow during a Barnard pre-college program and says that the ways in which writing was discussed, and the methods with which the fellow guided her through her own thoughts were “amazing.”

What are the most common writing issues faced by Barnard students? “I don't think of writing mechanics in terms of problems,” remarks Hunter. She notices the most pronounced trend is a resistance to arguing; students are reluctant to criticize existing scholarship. Working with a fellow, the focus is on intellectual communication. This encourages students to feel more authorized to tackle a special topic and to have authority over their content. The fellow is not there to correct grammar (“You can have a paper with perfect grammar but no idea,” says Cobrin), but to include grammar, structure, and ideas as part of the same package. A student gets to hear what her writing sounds like to a non-judgmental reader often outside the subject area.

While fellows push students to go into other forums of written expression with confidence, fellows are strengthening their own papers. Innocent says her writing benefits from revising and assisting with others' work. Her communication skills, including public speaking, have improved as well. “Creating a conversation with people whom I do not know has become easier,” she says.

The Writing Center and writing fellows program represent much more than coaching writers. Jong sees the work of the Center and its fellows as the epitome of mentorship. “Mentoring is the new feminism,” she says. “It's vitally important that we learn how to mentor each other. The creation of culture is not a solitary skill. Women need to practice collaboration.” As a mentor, Innocent fully invests herself in the work, becoming as anxious as the student awaiting reception of a paper. Hunter avers it is about inclusion and creative democracy, noting that

power hierarchies reward the fluent and disenfranchise the untaught. It is also about agency—who is active and who is passive. Crafting a convincing argument in a paper is about the active voice, making a claim, and supporting it. Perhaps this explains the writing fellow program's informal motto: “Join the Revolution.”

SALON: A HARROWING CHOICE

Continued from Page 15

in the process—the novel is the type of page-turner that keeps you reading far later into the night than you'd planned—they're likely to be satisfied with how Medoff ties the story together. “With this book, I said to myself, ‘I'm going to write about the things that people think about but don't say,’” Medoff explains. “It's profoundly harrowing, but so exhilarating at the same time.”

SALON: THE KEYS TO INCLUSION

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affect you? I'm a big fan of the College because it lived up to what it said it was going to do: Create in me a strong person. Barnard focused on the fact that I was a woman and capable of doing all things. I had great role models—both men and women—who were dedicated to the success of women. Chris Royer in admissions profoundly affected me. We were different ages and races, and from totally different backgrounds, but she completely supported me.

However, I did not get affirmation as an African American. Role models that reflected my background, history, race, were absent. This was not unusual, because I was at a predominately white college.

What would you most like Barnard

students and alums to know? I want people to know that there is no shame in this game of moving diversity forward. It's really about how we can all get to the world we want.

THE NEXT PICTURE SHOW

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Earlier this year the Picture House hosted its first concert, with performances by jazz-guitar legends Howard Alden and Bucky Pizzarelli that followed a screening of *Sweet and Lowdown*, Woody Allen's 1999 film. (Both Alden and Pizzarelli were featured on the movie's soundtrack.)

Educational programming is equally robust. In addition to acting and screenwriting classes for adults, there is a wide range of programs for children of various age groups. These include classes in film acting, film editing, and animation; a spring break movie-making vacation camp for younger students; and courses in screenwriting and directing as well as an evening film club aimed at high schoolers.

Christman is especially enthusiastic about a new Picture House program called *The Power of Cinema*, which will screen films for students on a variety of social issues and provide them with ideas about how to get engaged. "We're trying to get people impassioned about issues," she says, "and really show that cinema has a unique power to effect social change." As part of the effort, Christman says her goal is to bring in students from Scarsdale, the Bronx, and other neighborhoods in order to promote dialogue among kids with different socioeconomic backgrounds. "We're kind of uniquely positioned to do that," says Christman, who notes that Pelham is just a 30-minute train ride from Grand Central and just north of the Bronx. "We're a gateway to the suburbs and a gateway to the city."

Christman is also active in the Barnard community. She is a member of the Leadership Council for Barnard's Athena Center for Leadership Studies, and for the past two years played a key role in fund-raising and planning for its annual film festival, which focuses on films made by women or featuring strong women.

"I think the film festival is an inspired idea," says Christman, who served as a cochair of this year's Athena Film Festival. As a big believer in the need for more films that showcase women's stories, she says she was more than happy to lend her credentials.

AFRICANA STUDIES

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During her interview with Barnard President Debora Spar, Tina Campt told a story about her first time on the campus. "I applied to Barnard and got in. It was my top choice," she says. "I came for the prospectives weekend. I walked into Barnard Hall and I burst into tears because I thought this was too big a city."

Campt opted for Vassar and then earned a master's and doctorate in history from Cornell University. Before Barnard, she taught at Duke University, the University of California Santa Cruz, and the Technical University of Berlin. Trained in history, she has always taught in interdisciplinary programs. Today, she takes great delight in the fact that her office is on the second floor of Barnard Hall overlooking those once intimidating front gates.

Campt participated in the *Difficult Dialogues* seminar and discussed the research that informs her new book, *Image Matters: Archive, Photography and the African Diaspora in Europe*, which centers on family photography of black Europeans in the first half of the twentieth century. "That was my first experience with sitting around the table with art historians, religious-studies scholars, African Diaspora scholars, American-studies scholars and gender scholars," she recalls. "Among liberal-arts colleges, Barnard is leading the way in trying to cultivate scholarship and scholarly communities that are not just within departments, but that give the liberal-arts education a different way of reaching and training students."

Most of her courses involve gender and the African Diaspora. Campt finds the faculty interaction of CCIS incredibly enlightening. "We get to combine our research strengths with our teaching in a way that allows us to collaborate with other scholars and learn from them," Campt says.

Associate Professor of History Celia E. Naylor is a historian whose courses include "Introduction to African-American History," "Black Feminism(s)/Womanism(s) and 'Black Sexual Politics' in Contemporary U.S. Popular Culture," and "Introduction to the African Diaspora." She authored the book *African Cherokees in Indian Territory: From Chattel to Citizens*.

Naylor started her undergraduate studies at Cornell wanting to be the first African-American female astronaut, but Dr. Mae Jemison occupied that position, and Naylor shifted her passion to history with a focus on African-American history. A master's degree in Afro-American studies at UCLA and a master's and doctorate in history at Duke University followed.

Before arriving at Morningside Heights, she taught at Dartmouth College for eight years. Naylor credits Hall and her vision for Africana studies at Barnard with the inspiration to apply for the position. "I think it really interesting and innovative that Africana studies incorporates so many different disciplines," says Naylor. "It's exciting to think about how these students are getting not only a foundation that incorporates race, gender, class, and sexuality, but also really tangible, palpable illustrations and understandings of the complexities and nuances of these issues."

The interaction with other faculty in CCIS has helped Naylor explore ideologies and concepts from new perspectives. "Being able to interact with young women who are excited, who are interesting, who are really engaged in the classroom experience, but also interested in looking beyond the gates of Barnard and seeing what New York City has to offer, and even more broadly, the world: It's wonderful," she says.

Professor of English and Africana Studies Yvette Christiansë brought to Barnard subjects beyond the sphere of influence of Europe and the Americas, which Hall felt was lacking. Born in South Africa during apartheid and educated at the University of Sydney, Christiansë is an award-winning author of poetry and fiction. She has taught at Princeton and Fordham, as well as universities in South Africa.

"We've been able to develop absolutely cutting-edge curricula for the students, particularly in the global context," she adds. "The kind of international programs that we're encouraged to do are just breathtaking." This spring semester, Christiansë co-taught the interdisciplinary course "Africana Issues: Narrating Indian Ocean Africa" with Professor Isabel Hofmeyr of the University of the Witwatersrand in

Johannesburg. The two classrooms are connected via live-stream video technology and the students are encouraged to not only interact, but also blog about their experiences.

“We’re looking at what I think is an often neglected part of post-colonial studies, that is to consider that long tradition of globalism in the Indian Ocean,” Christiansë says. “We’re looking at the labor movements and the history of slavery in that area.”

“The students are connecting with each other via this fantastic possibility of immediate electronic conversation. We had hoped to eventually establish a Web site based on their research, which they will hand off to the next students, but it’s difficult logistically, so that’s on hold for now.”

Christiansë appreciates the feedback that CCIS brings in terms of new perspectives, which she then brings to her teaching. “All of the affiliate programs still have their distinct identities, but we draw on each other’s skills,” she notes. “We really have formulated new core courses.”

She aims to bring to Africana studies new outreach initiatives, such as one with the Museum for African Art currently in Long Island City. She also hopes to present the work of young Soweto-born composer Neo Muyanga as a learning expression. Christiansë utilizes elements of pop culture in her teaching—such as references to rap music and how much of it contains historical references.

“The students learn and I learn,” concludes the professor.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Continued from Page 32

unique that would teach other children about the celebration of food. “As we created parties and events,” she says, “we would work on the secondary mission of teaching children to eat well.”

In 2006, the company purchased a piece of unfarmed land in upstate New York. The foundation was quickly laid for a year-round working farm operation, including three greenhouses, two with in-ground radiant heat fueled by the catering company’s old cooking oil. The

farm was called Katchkie, which is the Yiddish word for duck, after Neumark’s pet name for her son, Sam, now 17. One year later, the farm had its first harvest.

The timing could not have been better. The local food movement has since become the hottest trend in food, and Katchkie Farm is an industry leader. Most of the farm’s yield is served up to clients of Great Performances as part of the caterer’s unique 100-Mile Menus, made up of dishes sourced within a 100-mile radius of New York City. The operation is still too small to completely support the catering giant. “Everything we grow, we use,” Neumark says, “but our need outstrips everything we could possibly grow.”

Where Katchkie Farm can’t provide, neighboring farms can. One nearby farmer specializes in green beans, for example. Fresh produce and artisanal products from Katchkie Farm are also sold at farmers’ markets and in specialty stores across the state. The farm is known for its spicy-sweet Thunder Pickles, and its Katchkie Ketchup is so adored it received a rave in *The New York Times* (film legend Lauren Bacall was once spotted buying the signature condiment at Zabar’s on the Upper West Side). Katchkie Farm has a Community Supported Agriculture program, or farm share, for New York City residents, and even offers a workplace program to companies interested in providing a unique employee benefit.

The Sylvia Center has made an impact as well. The organization works with about 1,000 children on Katchkie Farm during the growing season. Most are from the Kinderhook area, but some are visitors from New York City. The center sponsors after-school programs and works in community centers in the city; it is currently offering programs in five housing-authority buildings and will soon expand to almost double that. “We also work with teenagers, which is really interesting. First they are tough, they don’t want to be doing this, but then they all want to be chefs,” says Neumark. While the Sylvia Center does not aspire to be a jobs program, she says, leading young people into the hospitality industry is an added benefit.

All of this work has put Neumark and her staff at the forefront of food politics. Having won numerous business awards

throughout her career, Neumark is now recognized as a trailblazer for local food, sustainable agriculture, and anti-hunger initiatives. She serves on the governor’s Food Policy Council to help shape the state’s food initiatives, she writes a regular column about food for *The Huffington Post*, and is working on a cookbook, *Sylvia’s Table*, due from Knopf next year. She is also on the board of Barnard’s Athena Center for Leadership Studies, which aims to nurture the next generation of female trailblazers. “We live in a world where great food is a privilege. [But] there’s really not an awareness of where our food comes from,” Neumark says. Katchkie Farm and the Sylvia Center have given her and her staff an understanding of these issues, and the chance to help shape the debate. Put simply, she says, “It shifted the way we look at food.”

For more information, visit katchkiefarm.com

LAST WORD: IN THE KITCHEN...

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food writers; celebrities and sponsor executives tasted and took photos of the dishes. After four hours of cooking, we submitted our best dishes to the judges.

On Tuesday morning, Stewart began the awards ceremony by narrating the history of the Bake-Off with vintage film clips and TV footage. As each award winner was announced in the four categories—Entertaining Appetizers, Breakfast and Brunches, Dinner Made Easy, and Sweet Treats—I remained hopeful. But, the Dinner Made Easy award went to Chicken Empanada Cones, not Meatball Minestrone Bake. The Grand Prize went to Sweet Treats—Pumpkin Ravioli and Salty Caramel Whipped Cream.

I was surprised to find I didn’t feel disappointed, and I couldn’t help but think about my next entry for the 2014 Bake-Off. Sweet or savory? What will be the sponsor ingredients? But that will have to wait. There’s this burger contest coming up. Time to fire up the grill.

LAST IMAGE: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Please send submissions to David Hopson at dhopson@barnard.edu.



In the Kitchen with Dinah



It was a poppin' fresh idea—"Meatball Minestrone Bake"! That recipe that brought me to the biggest cooking contest in the world this year—the 45th Pillsbury Bake-Off. With a grand prize of \$1 million dollars and \$10,000 in kitchen appliances, I was ecstatic to be among the 100 finalists.

How did I get involved in cooking contests? It started with a love of all things food related, including the Jewish cooking traditions of my suitemates from 616, which gave me insights on how to make the best matzo-ball soup. While I studied for a master's in public health at the University of California, Berkeley, I tried organic food for the first time and visited San Francisco's farmers' markets. As a hospital administrator in New York City, food became a way to connect with staff and patients of different cultural backgrounds. I devoured cookbooks and food magazines, watched cooking shows, and soon discovered a world of cooking contests. I decided to put all my food experiences to good use.

For my first contest, the *Staten Island Advance* newspaper's annual "Taste-off," I combined bay scallops with shredded potatoes and carrots for color and health appeal, parsley, eggs and flour as a binding agent, along with spices. After pan-frying the patties in corn oil, I added pizzazz with chopped green and red hot and sweet peppers. Scallop Up (named by my daughter, Noelle) won the appetizer category and took the grand prize, which helped to replace my broken oven.

ABC's *Rachael Ray Show* was in its first season when the show launched the "10-Ingredient Challenge." Not long after I submitted a DVD describing and showing my recipes for Korean Grilled Skirt Steak with a Blueberry Glaze, Apricot and Blueberry Cannolis, and Korean String Bean Pancakes, Rachael Ray called to congratulate me as one of three contestants selected from hundreds. "Who makes a skirt steak with a blueberry glaze?" she asked, complimenting my creativity.

A film crew came to my house to film a segment of me cooking up wontons and chatting with my husband, G. Shane Triano, a Columbia School of Engineering graduate, my daughter, and my son, Alex. The night before shooting the "Challenge" I was called by the show and told I'd have 30 minutes on the show to cook a new "3-Ingredient Challenge" using tomatoes, corn on the cob, and apple cider, along with other pantry ingredients. Picking figs and Parmesan cheese as my pantry items, I cooked up Asian Grilled Pork Chops with a Tomato, Corn, and Fig Glaze served on a bed of arugula salad with Crazy Corn Parmesan Chips. When Ray opened the judges' envelope, she called out, "Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah!" I had just won a trip for two to Mexico.

Now I felt ready to enter the Pillsbury Bake-Off, which is held every other year. My family loves my Italian meatballs so I knew I wanted to feature them. Progresso Soup, a sponsor, had several products as eligible ingredients including its high-fiber Minestrone soup. Eureka! Pour the soup in a casserole, layer it with meatballs, bake, and top with a generous amount of a shredded Italian cheese blend and a breadstick topping using Pillsbury Crescent Rounds. I tweaked the seasoning and submitted Meatball Minestrone Bake in the Dinner Made Easy category in April 2011.

Five months later, Bake-Off public relations called to say I was a finalist, but I wasn't allowed to tell anyone or talk about or cook my dish again until it was officially revealed in January 2012. Adding to the thrills, fellow alumna Martha Stewart would host the Bake-Off contest and televise the award winners on *The Martha Stewart Show* at the Peabody Hotel in Orlando, Florida, in March.

The red carpet was rolled out as I arrived with my mom, my husband, and son, and the other contestants. At 7:45 a.m., on March 26, the 100 finalists lined up to make the traditional Bake-Off March into the "cooking arena." We started our "engines" (ovens) and prepared our recipes for the judges amid video crews and

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