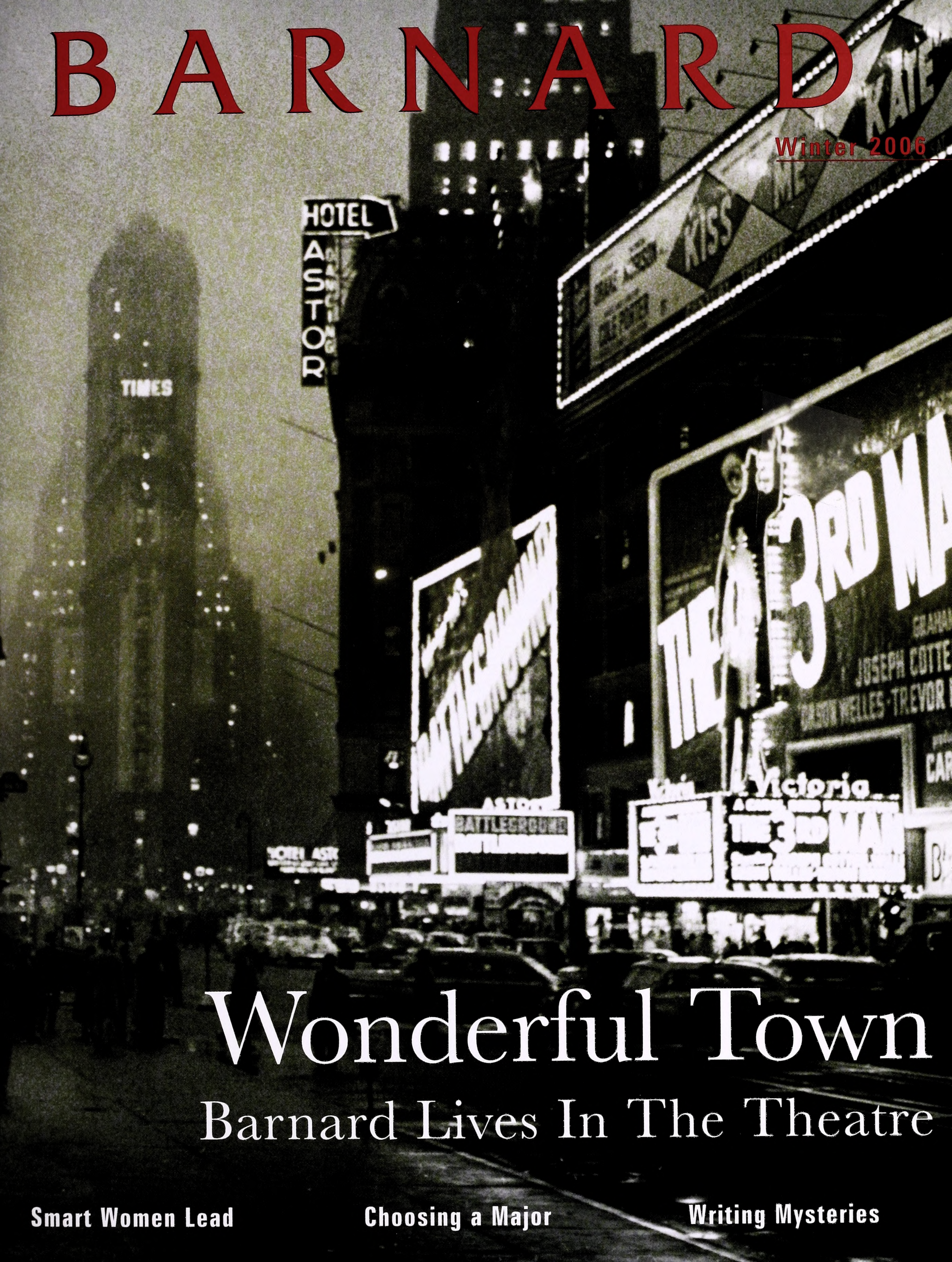


# BARNARD

Winter 2006



## Wonderful Town

Barnard Lives In The Theatre

Smart Women Lead

Choosing a Major

Writing Mysteries



# Bear Barnard in Mind

I arrived at Barnard in 1974 with a hunger to learn, eager to see if I could thrive in big, bad, bankrupt New York City. I dreamed of becoming a journalist but had no connections, and my life savings were too paltry to last even through first year. It was the summer of Watergate, and all of a sudden, everyone wanted to grow up to be Woodward or Bernstein.

Barnard started me on my path—via babysitting. Dean Dorothy Denburg, then working in admissions, remembered me from my interview and suggested me when a pair of newspaper reporters needed someone to mind their daughters. (Their previous sitter, who had just graduated, turned out to be Anna Quindlen '74.) This was the first step in a career that has included newspaper and magazine writing and editing, plus lots of managing and mentoring.

I was just one of thousands of students who've benefited from the Barnard network—a web of support and connections fostered by College staff, faculty, and alumnae. I've done my best to return the favor.

I can't imagine how my life would have turned out without Barnard, and without financial aid from the College, I never would have found out. By recognizing Barnard in my will, I hope to help ensure that the Woodwards and Bernsteins—and Barnard babysitters—of this century will have the same opportunities.

—Cyndi Stivers '78



*Cyndi Stivers, who spent the last decade as founding editor-in-chief and president of Time Out New York, is now executive vice president of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.*

*For more information about bequests and other ways to remember Barnard through your estate, please contact:*

## **Barnard College**

Office of Planned Giving

3009 Broadway

New York, NY 10027-6598

Phone: 212.854.2001

Toll-free: 866.257.1889

E-mail: [plannedgiving@barnard.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@barnard.edu)

Online: [giving.barnard.edu](http://giving.barnard.edu)



*Donors of Planned Gifts are invited to join The Athena Society*



# BARNARD

W i n t e r 2 0 0 6

## FEATURE PACKAGE

### Wonderful Town

For a life in the theatre, Barnard, and New York City, beckon

#### 20 The Workshop

The College offers rigorous hands-on training

by *Jessie Royce Hill*

#### 24 The Producer

Dasha Epstein has produced hits on and off Broadway

by *Robin Cherry*

#### 26 The Company

Alumnae are creating lasting and varied works

by *Wesley Yang*



GATES PAGE 5



SYLLABUS PAGE 11

## IN EVERY ISSUE

### 2 Letters

### 3 President's Page

Three smart women discuss politics on campus

### 5 Through the Gates

The latest news, ideas, and events from Barnard's campus and beyond

### 11 Syllabus

Rosalyn Deutsche, visiting professor of art history, guides a debate over how best to commemorate loss of lives

### 12 Sources

Recent gifts support junior science faculty and aid Hurricane Katrina victims

### 15 Books, etc.

Photographer Diane Bondareff shoots for candid when the scene is scripted

### 30 Class Notes & Profiles

Alumnae on: heated rhetoric; reconstructing a family history; and lighting a fire in the bellies of underprivileged girls

### 62 Alumnae Association News

### 68 Last Word

What the women's movement means to an older woman

### On the Cover: Times Square, ca. 1950



THE PRODUCER PAGE 24



# LETTERS

## Happy Campers

When I came to page 24 of the Fall issue of *Barnard*, I about jumped out of my skin! I believe that I took the picture on that page, and yes, the date is 1935. But I can't identify the girls on the rock. They were part of a group of students who came to Barnard Camp (no, it was not called Camp Barnard)\* in June of that year, after classes were over. Miss Holland ran a training camp for those who might be in charge of future weekends, and I was part of her staff. We had been on a hike to this nearby lake, whose name I have forgotten. We used to skate on it in winter.

I spent many happy weekends at Barnard Camp when I was an undergraduate, and in my senior year (1935-36) I was elected Camp Chairman. Margaret Holland was a good friend and a wonderful teacher. She never forgot a student's name.

Irma Toth Hupfel, pictured on the inside front cover, also is a classmate, and I have a snapshot of her of 1935 vintage at Barnard Camp.

Sincerely,  
*Adair Brasted Gould '36*  
*Wilmington, Del.*

\*As noted below in Corrections/  
Clarifications

## Bible Basics

Re: "Grappling with Faith" (Fall 2005, p. 26): You quote an undergraduate as saying she has taken eight to 10 courses on Christianity and has had to open the Bible only once. What kind of nonsense is this? I should think reading the founding document, or at least large parts of it, is pretty basic to studying a religion.

*Carol Crystle '62*  
*Chicago, Ill.*

## Remembrance

I was particularly moved by a letter about Paulette Suber in the Fall 2005 issue. I was very close to Ms. Suber during my undergraduate years, and I did not know of her untimely passing. She was a surrogate mother to me, and I grew very close to her during my sophomore year after writing a *Columbia Spectator* profile on her.

*Michelle Lee '02*  
*College Point, N.Y.*

## CORRECTIONS / CLARIFICATIONS

On page 62 of the Fall 2005 issue, Jyoti Menon's last name was misspelled. Jyoti, a 2001 graduate, serves as the Young Alumnae Committee Chair of the AABC. We regret the error.

## Barnard Camp

The reference to Camp Barnard in the feature "Mind, Body, Spirit" (Fall 2005) was incorrect; prior to being renamed Holly House, the retreat was known as Barnard Camp. Also, on page 25 of that story, we mistakenly wrote that Margaret Holland was at Barnard through two World Wars; since she came to the College in 1926, that should have read "through one World War."

## Barnard Fund Giving

The Class Notes pages of our Fall 2005 issue included Barnard Fund giving figures. Three numbers were listed for class years ending in 0 and 5, those who had celebrated reunions in June 2005. The "Five-Year Comprehensive Giving" figure represented unrestricted annual gifts to The Barnard Fund from 2001-05. It did not include gifts for other purposes.

*continued on page 64*

# BARNARD

## Editor

DIMITRA KESSENIDES '89

## Art Director

EILEEN CUBBAGE

## Associate Editor

DEBORAH M. STAAB

## Staff Writers

AMY E. HUGHES  
ANNE SCHUTZBERGER

## Copy Editor

REBEKKAH LINTON

## Research Editor

REBECCA GEIGER

## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE

### President and Alumnae Trustee

LISA PHILLIPS DAVIS '76

## OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

### Vice President for Development and Alumnae Affairs

CAMERAN MASON

### Director of Alumnae Affairs

ROBERTA WATERSTONE ALBERT '92

### Director of Development Communications

PENNY VAN AMBURG

### Manager of Electronic Communications

LEAH KOPPERMAN '89

WINTER 2006, VOL. XCV, NO. 1.

BARNARD MAGAZINE (USPS 875-280, ISSN 1071-6513) IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. POSTMASTER: SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM TO ALUMNAE RECORDS, BARNARD COLLEGE, BOX AS, 3009 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10027-6598.

### EDITORIAL OFFICE:

BARNARD MAGAZINE, VAGELOS ALUMNAE CENTER, BARNARD COLLEGE, 3009 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10027-6598. PHONE: 212-854-0085. FAX: 212-854-0044. E-MAIL: MAGAZINE@BARNARD.EDU.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF CONTRIBUTORS OR THE EDITOR AND DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF BARNARD COLLEGE OR THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE.


LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (150 WORDS MAXIMUM), SUBMISSIONS FOR LAST WORD (600 WORDS MAXIMUM), AND UNSOLICITED ARTICLES AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE EDITOR AND ARE EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

THE CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED IN CLASS NOTES IS FOR THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR THE MAGAZINE AND MAY NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.

FOR ALUMNAE-RELATED INQUIRIES, CALL ALUMNAE AFFAIRS AT 212-854-2005 OR E-MAIL ALUMNAEAFFAIRS@BARNARD.EDU.

TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, GO TO WWW.BARNARD.EDU/ALUM AND CLICK ON "KEEPING IN TOUCH" OR WRITE TO ALUMNAE RECORDS, BARNARD COLLEGE, BOX AS, 3009 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NY 10027-6598. TELEPHONE: 212-854-7792. E-MAIL: ALUMRECORDS@BARNARD.EDU.

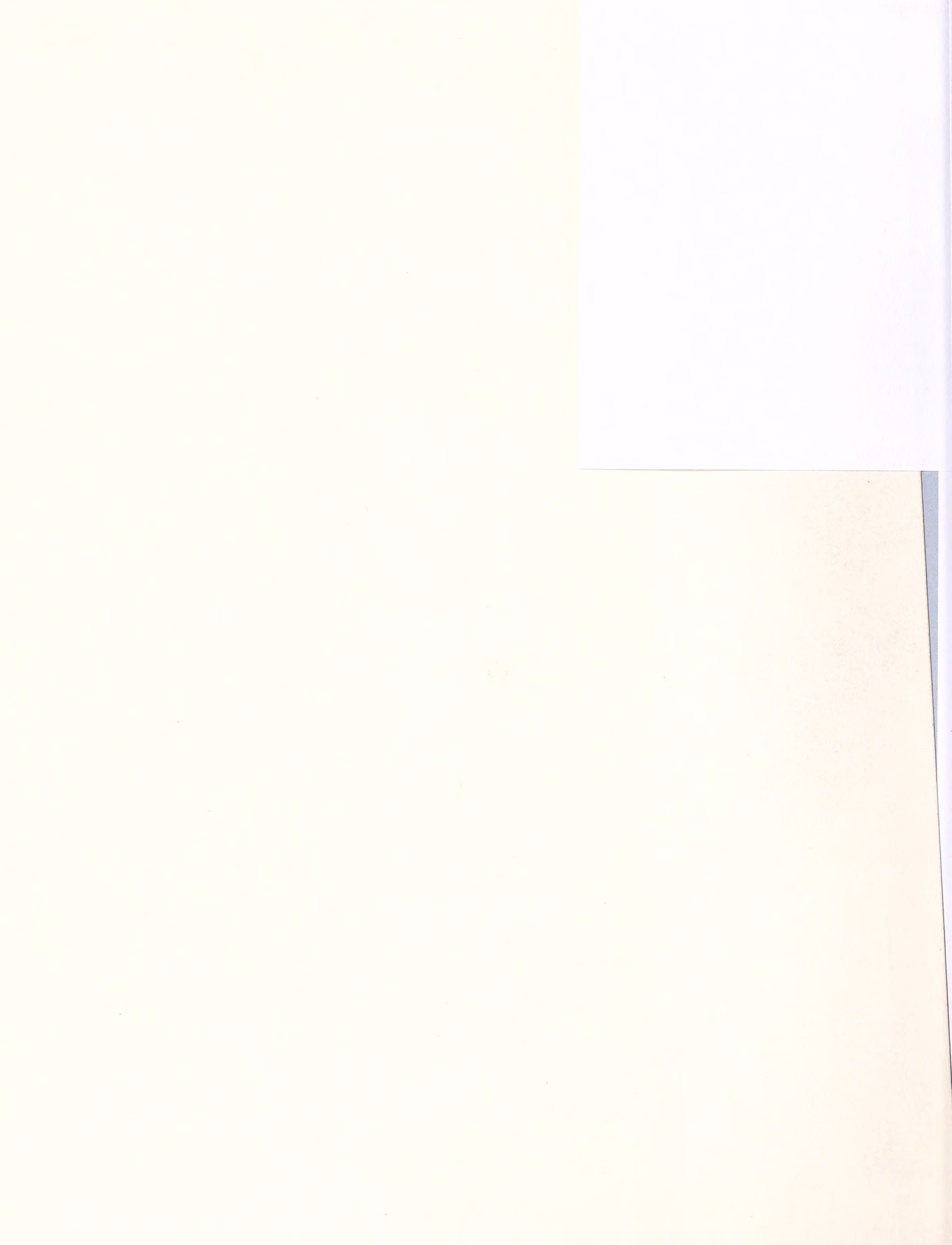




Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Barnard College

<https://archive.org/details/barnard951barn>







# Smart Women Lead

**N**ot long after the November elections, I had an interesting conversation with seniors Jennifer Sokoler and Maria Fitzgerald. Jennifer and Maria are the founders and cochairs of Smart Women Lead, which mobilizes Barnard students to vote, become involved in electoral politics, and work toward careers in public service. This column excerpts our conversation.

First, you should know more about these student leaders.

Jennifer majors in political science. She is secretary/treasurer of College Democrats of New York and a member of the national student advisory board for Campus Progress, a network of politically enlightened young Americans. Last September, following a summer internship in the Mississippi Delta, she organized a two-day forum at Barnard featuring Rita Schwerner Bender, widow of slain civil-rights worker Michael Schwerner, and four other longtime Mississippi activists.

Maria majors in political science with a minor in English. Last spring, Yale Law School awarded her a Liman Undergraduate Summer Fellowship, which funds internships for students from Barnard, Harvard, Yale, and Brown who have demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the public interest. As a Liman Fellow, Maria worked at Sanctuary for Families, where she helped victims of domestic violence. The previous year, as a Francene Rodgers Fellow, she worked at Hour Children aiding incarcerated mothers and their families.

**Judith R. Shapiro (JRS):** What got you involved in politics?

**Maria Fitzgerald (MF):** I grew up in a conservative Catholic tradition and went to Catholic schools. Whenever I heard about a politician or event, I never felt I was getting the full story, and I was always looking for something else. In high school, I did a research

project trying to prove Nixon wasn't as bad as people thought.

**Jennifer Sokoler (JS):** I'm from Albany, where politics is in the water, but my political induction also came through religion. We are Reform Jews, and we practice our faith through social action. My mother was a board member of Planned Parenthood and delighted in dragging me out of school on lobby days. I remember being about seven and being brought into our assemblyman's office. Rather than talking about issues, he wanted to talk about the cute little girl.



**JRS:** What are the obstacles to getting Barnard students more involved?

**JS:** A general disenchantment with the political process—this feeling that it's really corrupt and impossible to get anything done. It's much more gratifying to volunteer at community-service organizations that change people's lives in immediate ways.

**MF:** Politics is so messy, people feel cleaner by doing good works. And it's hard for Barnard

women to see themselves in a candidate's office making phone calls. Is your work lost if that person doesn't win?

**WHEN WOMEN MAKE A DECISION, THEY STAND FIRM AND TAKE ACTION,  
BUT THE PROCESS THEY GO THROUGH TO REACH THAT DECISION IS  
MUCH MORE INCLUSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE.**

—JENNIFER SOKOLER '06

**JRS:** Tell me about the Smart Women Vote/Lead trajectory.

**MF:** I returned from a national "Vote, Run, Lead" student-training session in June 2004, and had a hard time getting a group going. Jennifer had a vision to go all at it. We organized a voter-registration drive and panel discussions. After the 2004 presidential election, we renamed ourselves Smart Women Lead and planned an Albany trip. We made appointments with legislators and lobbyists—all women—and sat down with them. Now we're putting together a panel on how the reproductive-rights issue has changed politics. Our group has about 10 committed individuals, and we work with other campus groups, like Students for Choice, Mujeres, and Well Woman.

*continued on page 64*



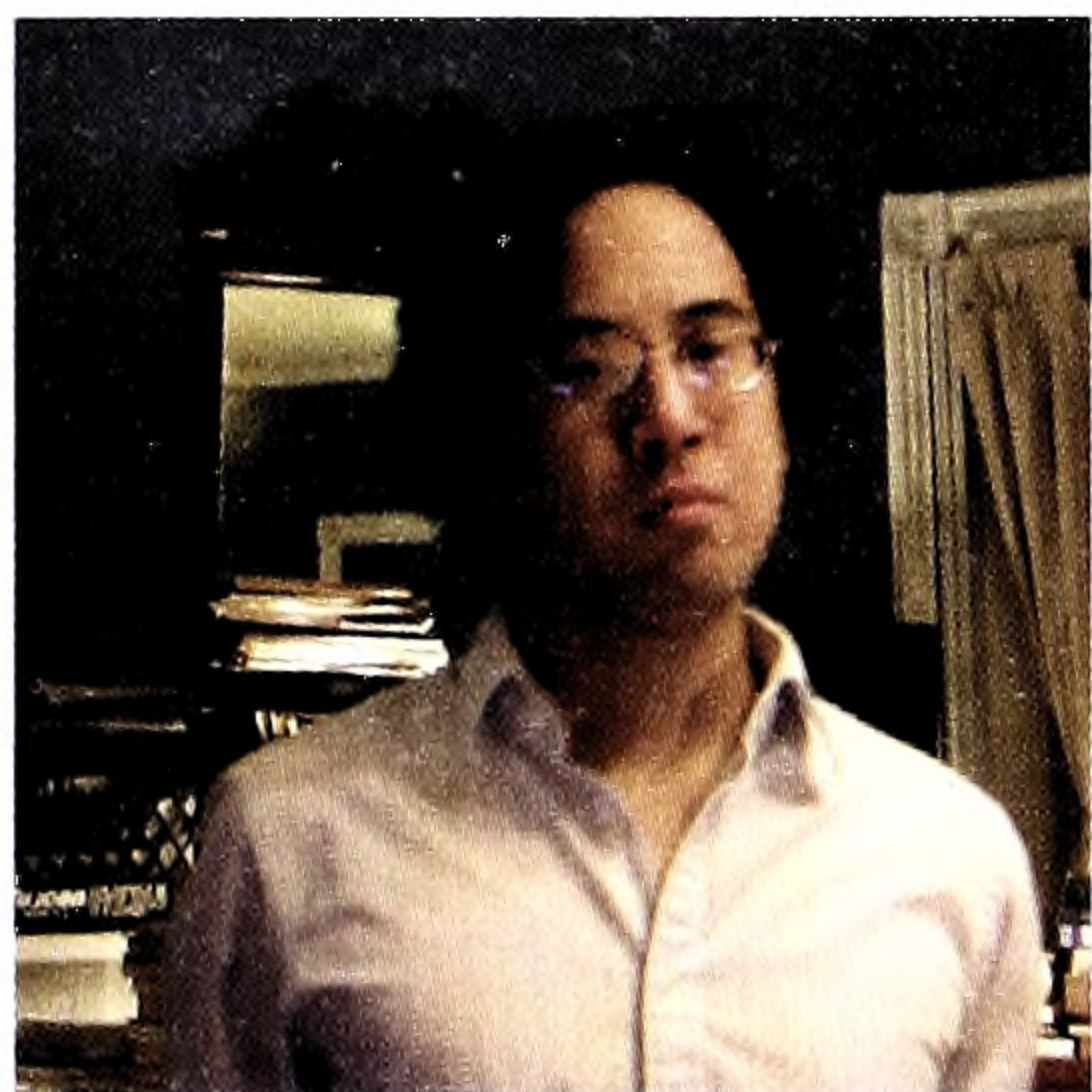
contributors



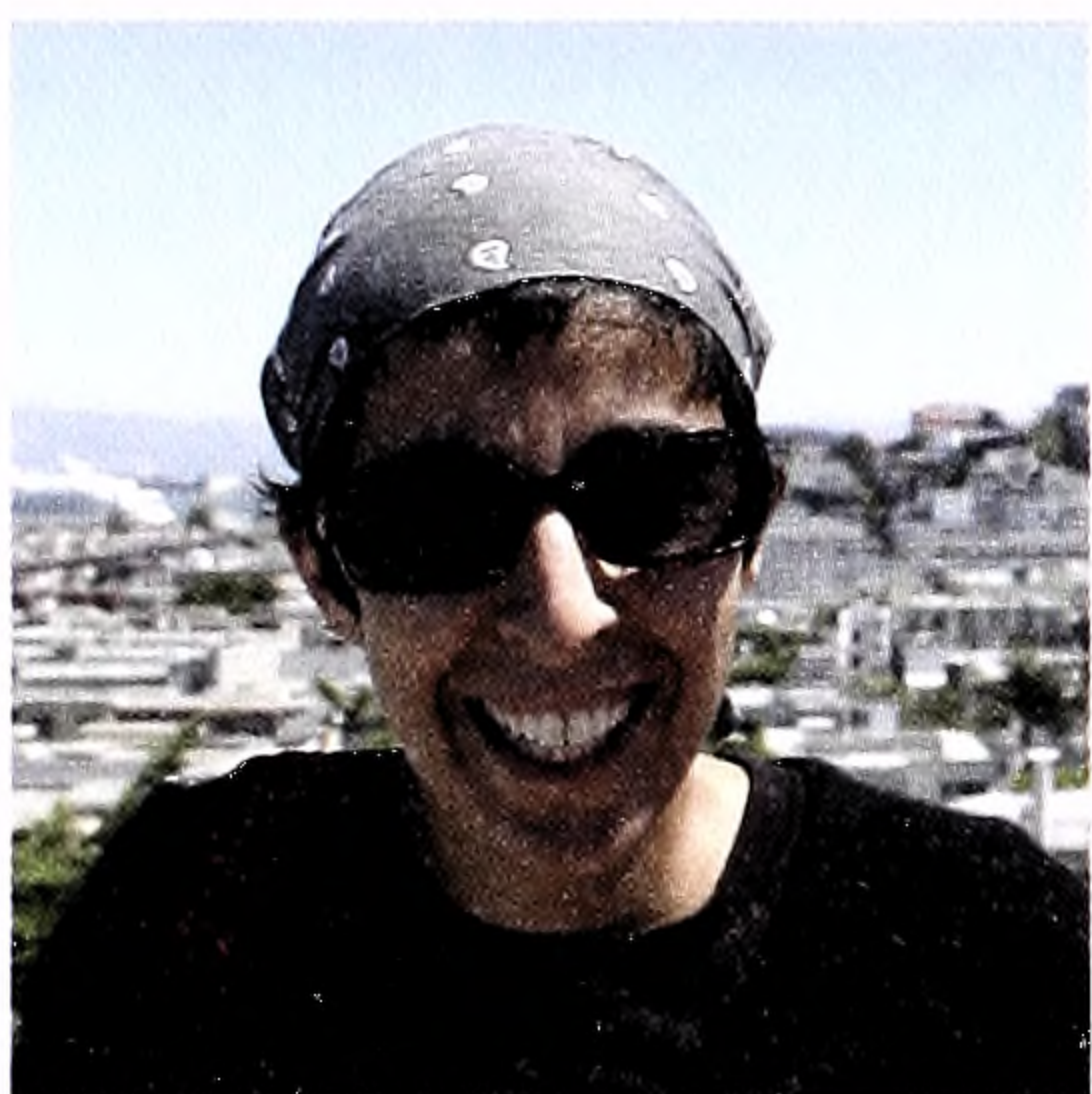
**Elizabeth Herr** is a New York-based editor and freelance writer. A former women's studies major, Herr was thrilled to profile radio show host and author Laura Flanders '85 (page 53). A self-described pop culture junkie, Herr is an editor at the recently launched celebrity weekly *OK!* magazine. She is a graduate of the master's program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.



Writer and regular *Barnard* contributor **Laura Shin** identified with the way today's students tend to choose their majors ("Take Your Pick," page 5). Shin, a modern thought and literature major at Stanford University, also focused on areas she enjoyed. She has written for *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. As an Argentine tango dancer and yoga teacher, she has written on these and related topics.



**Wesley Yang**, a freelance reporter and book critic, enjoyed the many face-to-face interviews conducted for his feature, "The Company" (page 26). "An interview can give people who are absorbed by their everyday activities an opportunity to reach for a larger perspective," says the Jersey City-based writer. Yang's work has appeared in the *New York Observer*, *Los Angeles Times Book Review*, and Salon.com.



**Alex Ze'evi-Christian** photographed Dasha Epstein for "The Producer" (page 24). "I wanted to construct a compelling composition by capturing Dasha's animated personality while including the theatrical elements in her apartment," says the New York City-based portrait and event photographer. Ze'evi-Christian, who studied at the International Center for Photography, combines documentary and fine art styles for her photo essays.

editor's letter

**E**very good and excellent thing stands moment by moment on the razor-edge of danger, and must be fought for," Dasha Epstein likes to say. The Thornton Wilder quote has hung on a wall within Epstein's view ever since she was a student at Barnard, a constant reminder that things don't just happen—you have to fight for them. Well, OK, a little bit of luck also doesn't hurt, as Epstein will readily concede. You can read all about this in our interview with this most accomplished New York producer and you can see just what it means to work, and to fight for a dream, in the other stories in our "Wonderful Town" package (which begins on page 18).

Barnard beckons young women from around the world for many reasons, academic and otherwise; for those who come to this wonderful town in search of a life in the theatre, what they find is a place that nurtures them artistically, intellectually, and socially. The ideas and dedication of the women we profile has led to the creation of astounding and enduring works. For these women, Barnard is the place where they found their voice, and figured out what to do with it—as directors, actors, playwrights, and more.

On May 8, Barnard will honor Dasha Epstein for her achievements as a producer, and her support of younger, emerging artists (the annual spring party and auction also is honoring Joan Snitzer, director of Barnard's visual arts program). We thought it a fitting time to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the Barnard women who are out there, making the theatre world a more interesting and inviting place.

Dimitra Kessenides '89  
Editor, *Barnard*



# THROUGH THE GATES

Campus News and Events

academics

## Take Your Pick

By Laura Shin

When sophomore Caitlin Fitzpatrick entered Barnard, she followed her advisor's recommendation for choosing a major—take classes you like. That's what she did. Initially, Fitzpatrick leaned toward political science or international politics. As a first year, she took "Introduction to International Politics" with Professor Kimberly Marten. "I found politics a bit depressing," she says. "But there was an economics unit in that, and that was interesting. I liked how there were tangible points, rather than issues like human rights that people can't agree on." Another course the following semester eventually factored into her choice of a major, too: Professor Mason Gentzler's "Introduction to Major Topics in East Asia." A stint spent teaching English in Urumqi, China, while she was in high school, sparked her interest in the country's politics and history. Fitzpatrick will officially declare a combined major in East Asian studies and political economy this spring. She designed the program with input from professors in both departments. Given China's increasing role in geo-politics and global economic issues, the major is not only something she finds intellectually rewarding, but it's practical, too.

Fitzpatrick exemplifies the predominant ethos behind choice of majors at Barnard. While the popularity of some courses of study at non-liberal arts colleges can be as volatile as the labor market, interests at Barnard change much more slowly. Registrar Constance Brown says the four top majors from

1998 to 2005 consistently have been psychology, English, economics, and political science; these account for about 40 percent of the student body.

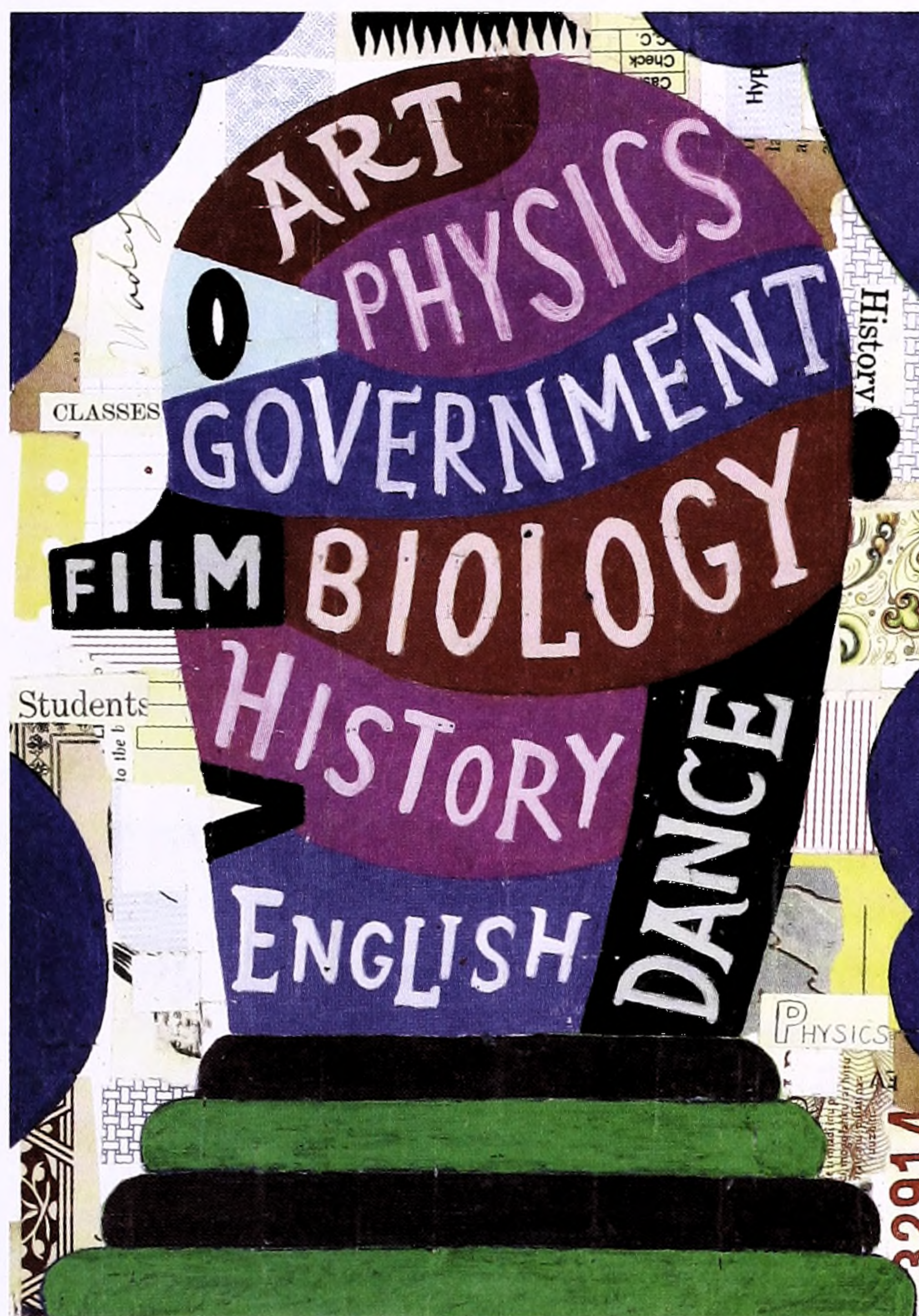
This imperviousness to the whims of the economy is typical of students at top-tier liberal arts colleges, who know that companies will always seek them out, says Dr. Paul Harrington, an economist at Northeastern University and co-author of the *College Majors Handbook*. "The firm that goes to Barnard is looking for broader characteristics, like an intellectual back-

ground and certain behavioral traits," he says. He adds that top liberal arts students often defer their career choice until graduate school, making the undergraduate major less defining than the typical college graduate's.

However, because students at Barnard are interested in current events, trends in majors are a microcosm of shifts in the outside world. What's new in recent years is the emergence of majors created to fill demand, such as film studies, which became a major in 2004, and environmental policy, which became a major in 2003 and had eight students as of this past fall. Film studies currently has 21 students. Lori Schwartz, a junior in the program, says film studies is an approachable major for today's students, who grew up with the experience of making short films with their friends at home. "Digital technology makes people feel like filmmaking is not this far-off

endeavor that they can't pursue," says Schwartz.

The department of Asian and Middle Eastern cultures (AMEC) has seen some changes since 9/11. "Our courses have become more popular since 9/11, though I think the interest pre-dates that," says Professor Rachel McDermott, chair of the department. Although the number of students interested in East Asia, particularly China, has remained



Trends in majors at Barnard are a microcosm of shifts in the outside world.



# Professor Weiman's Door

steady, “we’ve been noticing that the Middle East is catching up,” says McDermott. The number of students choosing AMEC as their major has increased by about a third over 10 years, dating to the beginning of the Middle East peace process, but even more interesting, McDermott says, is that “the rate of student interest overall in courses related to the Middle East has skyrocketed since 9/11. They are taking Arabic in droves, and also courses on Islam and the Middle East.” For her, the best change is that many students are studying cultures that aren’t their own. For instance, many Jewish students are studying Arabic as well as the Arab culture, and one Egyptian student, sophomore Mai Eldib, is studying Hebrew. Eldib, who has a double AMEC and political science major, says that although she could have passed out of AMEC’s language requirement with her native Arabic, she was inspired to take Hebrew, because “no one at home learns it.” She hopes eventually to work in Egypt, her home country, to help resolve conflict in the region.

Current world events and global politics also have piqued students’ interest in human rights and international development issues. Sophomore Amanda Pillsbury’s interest in public health matters developed after she read *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*, about the Harvard doctor who brought modern medicine to people in developing countries. As such, Pillsbury is pursuing a combined anthropology/human rights course of study. She says of herself and of friends with similar academic priorities, “we all want to work in [some area of social] activism, including public health, but there’s no pre-public health program.” The best option, given her goals, was to pursue the interdisciplinary approach of the human rights department. The human rights combination was introduced in 2002. Courses are drawn from many of Barnard’s academic departments, including history, political science, religion, law, and Asian studies. This spring, 25 seniors will graduate with a combined degree that includes human rights.

“People just end up picking what they like and what they’re good at,” Fitzpatrick, the East Asian studies and political economy major, says. “They do consider, ‘Can I do something with this?’ But with just about everything, you’re going to find something you can do.”

A walk through Barnard’s tunnel has little to recommend it: the shelter and warmth the walkway provides, the flyers covering walls and lockers. One provocative spot, though, has caused pedestrians to stop, read, and think: Professor David Weiman’s door, situated in the hallway below Lehman Library, home to the economics department. Weiman has turned his door into a public forum for the issues he explores in his lecture, “Theoretical Foundations of Political Economics”—

“THESE ARE ISSUES I ADDRESS IN CLASS, BUT I’M BRINGING THEM OUT ON A MORE PRACTICAL LEVEL.”

PROFESSOR DAVID WEIMAN

class, wealth, and equality, among others. While canvassing for votes in Pennsylvania in the fall of 2004, he drove by a Bush/Cheney billboard that declared, “Because It’s Your Money.”

The sign spurred him to act, and soon the door was transformed.





The postings—drawn mostly from *The New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *BusinessWeek*—varied from week to week last semester. Here we present a sample, and some of the professor's thoughts on the issues at hand.

### France Has an Underclass, But Its Roots Are Still Shallow

By CRAIG S. SMITH

JUST two months ago the French watched in horrified fascination at the anarchy of New Orleans, where members of America's underclass were seen looting stores and defying the police in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Last week, as rioters torched cars and trashed businesses in the immigrant-concentrated suburbs of Paris, the images of wild gangs of young men silhouetted against the yellow flames of burning cars came as an unwelcome reminder for France that it has its own growing underclass.

The coincidence of timing can be revealing—and deceptive. The corrosive gap between America's whites and its racial minorities, especially African-Americans, is the product of centuries: slavery, followed by cycles of poverty and racial exclusion that denied generation after generation the best the United States could offer. France, on the other hand, is only beginning to struggle with a much newer variant of the same problem: the fury of Muslims of North African descent who have found themselves caught for three generations in a trap of ethnic and religious discrimination.

Even so, France is still low on the curve toward developing an entrenched, structural underclass—one that could breed extremism and lasting social problems. So far, wide hundreds of cars and buses have been burned and dozens of businesses destroyed in violence that has spread to a dozen towns, most rioters appear to be teenage boys bent more on making the news than making a coherent political statement. "It's a game of cowboys and Indians," said Olivier Roy, a French scholar of European Islam. He is usually keen to warn Europeans of the potential danger posed by Islamists living among them. But in this case, he said, the danger is a long-range one. So far, he said, the attacks on the police and the torching of cars has less the character of a religious war than of "a local sport, a rite of passage."

The violence, on the other hand, reflects something that any American who lived through the urban upheavals of the 1960s or the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, might recognize: a dangerous degree of isolation felt by a growing segment of its population, especially its youth. Although many Americans feel that their country still has a lot of work to do to close the gap between blacks and whites, the social protests and urban upheavals of the



Making Parallels The wreckage after unrest last week in the Paris suburb Clichy-sous-Bois, right; the Los Angeles riots in 1992.



1960s produced a stream of measures intended to increase political and economic opportunities rapidly for members of minority groups, and to stress the value of diversity in a democracy. By contrast, the French model has so far relied largely on expensive measures to keep poor Muslims fed, housed and educated, but has not effectively addressed the social or political isolation they feel from job and housing discrimination, and has actually limited their ability to define themselves as a political in-

#### In the housing projects around Paris, green lawns and angry young men.

terest group. Affirmative action, a cornerstone of the American approach, has been a taboo here. Manuel Valls, a member of Parliament and mayor of Evry, a troubled suburb south of Paris that has seen its share of violence in the past few days, put it this way: "We've combined the failure of our integration model with the worst effects of ghettoization, without a social ladder for people to climb."

In the U.S. and Britain, the communities help create opportunities for advancement, he continued. But in France, "the state and the politicians have left the playing field

open for a political-religious response—that's undeniable. Still, because France's difficulties are relatively recent, it may have a chance to escape the depth of the American problems.

For one thing, the physical conditions in these neighborhoods have not begun to rival poor urban areas in the United States. Even in the worst government housing developments, green lawns and neat flower beds break the monotony of the gray concrete. There are more than 750 such neighborhoods in the country, housing nearly five million people or about 8 percent of the population.

The despair in these housing projects (called *cités hères*) has been mitigated by better schools than those that serve poor, minority districts in the United States (education is financed nationally in France, rather than through local tax rates) and by extensive welfare programs. Even when employed, a family of four living in a government-subsidized apartment typically pays only a few hundred dollars a month in rent and can receive more than \$1,200 a month in various subsidies. The unemployed receive more. For all health care and education are free.

There is crime, but not nearly at the level of random violence feared in poor neighborhoods in American cities. Gangs are tightly controlled and are still relatively rare. When a teenager was killed in a drive-by shooting in a Paris suburb this year, it made

national headlines. The family unit among immigrants is still strong, as are ties to their homelands.

But that tight social fabric is fraying as the second and now third generations of French-born immigrants come of age. On two levels, many young immigrants find themselves questioning where they really belong. They have weaker ties than their parents did to their ancestral countries, but they are also discovering that contrary to what they have been taught in school, they are not fully French.

That is one foundation of the fear among some experts that a structural underclass is emerging. Already, French Arabs and French-Africans make up the majority of inmates in France's prisons, just as minorities make up a vastly disproportionate part of the American prison population.

France's definition of citizenship also presents problems. While the United States stresses pluralism, France continues to discourage anything that could carve up the French body politic along ethnic lines, the word "communautarisme," which roughly translates as ghettoization, is known to all French as a destructive force that afflicts, most notably, the United States.

It was only in 2003 that the French government encouraged the formation of an umbrella Islamic organization that could represent French Muslims in a dialogue with the state. The overall policy has only increased Muslim resentment by housing

Highlighted Portion: "Thus far this year, the median weekly wage earned by blacks fell by 5 percent... [For] whites as a group... the decline this year is less than 1 percent."



"For Blacks, A Dream In Decline," *The New York Times*, 10/23/2005

Weiman: Sometime in the 17th century, people like Thomas Hobbes said people are fundamentally equal. That's a striking shift from before—Aristotle, for instance, believed there was a natural hierarchy among people. So equality could mean that we're all the same, right, or it means that we're all equal in that we should all be given the same chance, that there should be a level playing field. There are many different ways to think about equality. It didn't come up in the recent mayoral elections here, but there are disparities in the labor market in this city, and problems of unemployment and underemployment in African American communities. Unemployment rates are much greater now between blacks and whites. Who is talking about this?

There is nothing I teach directly on this subject, but I want students to explore these questions and engage in politics.

### In Baseball, Being the Boss Doesn't Pay

Red Sox fans were surprised that Theo Epstein, the general manager, decided last week to leave the team. After all, in 2004 he guided the team to its first World Series title in 86 years.

But they may also have been surprised by something else: his salary.

In 2005, Mr. Epstein earned \$350,000, making him one of the lowest-paid general managers in Major League Baseball. In fact, he made slightly more money than Adam Stern, the Red Sox' reserve outfielder who last season started two games, had two hits and whose salary was somewhere around \$316,000, the league minimum.

Mr. Epstein is not unlike other general managers: They are responsible, more than anyone else, for building a winning team, but they make a pittance compared with the players they help acquire.

Why is that so? In the end, it's nothing more than the law of supply and demand. As much as owners value an executive like Mr. Epstein, they believe it is easier to replace a general manager than an ace pitcher like Curt Schilling (\$14.5 million a year).

If Mr. Epstein had accepted Boston's three-year, \$4.5 million offer, he would have moved into the upper reaches of salaries for general managers. Brian Cashman, the general manager of the Yankees, recently signed a three-year deal for about \$5.5 mil-

lion. But Mr. Cashman's salary is less than a third of what the manager, Joe Torre, makes as part of his three-year, \$19.2 million deal. Unlike almost any other industry, baseball puts management at the bottom of the salary pyramid.

Still, general managers who win one of those 30 precious jobs rarely complain. Not every teenager can become the next Manny Ramirez or Derek Jeter, but a lot of baseball-mad teenagers figure they can become the next Epstein or Cashman. That could help explain why Mr. Epstein did not specifically mention money in vaguely discussing his reasons for departing.

Mostly, it is believed that Mr. Epstein and Larry Lucchino, the team president, engaged in a struggle over power and trust and that led to Mr. Epstein's walking away and waiting for his next—and presumably better paid—general manager job.

JACK CURRY

ON THE WEB  
Photographer's Journal: Christoph Bangert discusses the "strange pictures" he shot in Iraq. In Document File, a violent, animated TV show from Iran.  
nytimes.com/weekinreview

Highlighted Portion: "[General managers] are responsible, more than anyone else, for building a winning team, but they make a pittance compared with the players they help acquire."

Weiman: We're used to seeing bosses make more than shopworkers. Not in baseball. If you think about the players, they're up front, on stage. They get a disproportionate share of the returns. In 2004, the Red Sox finally won the World Series. It had eluded them for 80 plus years. In the absence of the back office, the players can't do their jobs effectively. But the general manager is paid the same salary as some right fielder who'll be let go next year while somebody else gets millions. So the back office, so to speak, is undervalued and the performers are overvalued.

"In Baseball, Being the Boss Doesn't Pay," *The New York Times*, 11/6/2005



## campus life

## The SGA President Leads, and Follows

By M.A. Moutoussis as told to Dimitra Kessenides

I decided to come to Barnard after I visited a friend of mine for a weekend during my junior year of high school. My friend was a senior at the time. I just knew it was the place for me—it was a combination of the community I witnessed, the sense that you are part of a small liberal arts college, but that there are things to take advantage of at the university, too, and the fact that Barnard is in New York City, a place that offers endless opportunities. This city also is where I'm from—I grew up at 72nd Street and York Avenue.

That weekend, my friend and her roommate kept talking about what it means to be a strong Barnard woman, and the sense of pride and empowerment they felt as students here. As an idea it was very attractive to me, but it wasn't until I actually enrolled here that I felt it myself and understood what they were talking about.

I never considered joining student government when I got here. But my roommate attended a student government information session, and afterward she came back and said, "You have to run for first-year class president." I thought she was crazy. I had no prior experience. She managed to persuade me to go to another information session. I listened to these juniors and seniors talking about the close-knit community of the College, and the types of programs that student government sponsors. It showed me how much of a campus life exists; I realized I wanted a more active part of it. So I ran for class vice president, and I won. I've worked with student government ever since.

In running for Student Government Association president last spring, I understood the job would be demanding. I had a good sense of the time commitment the position entails because I worked closely with the last president—there would be daily meetings, and I would get a few hundred e-mails a day to respond to.

I'm the kind of person who likes to be around people. One of my favorite things is reaching out to students, and helping them get involved and make a difference. I think being a good leader means empowering your constituents to make changes. Sometimes it's hard to inspire students to take that initiative, but not impossible. It happened a few times last semester, after Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Pakistan. There were students turning to us for help, wanting to know how they could come together, fund-raise, and send relief to victims of both disasters. With the earthquake relief, for example, I advised them to reach out to the Organization of Pakistani Students, which is a club we recognize, since they were organizing their own efforts. Then I spoke



M.A. Moutoussis enjoys a couple of minutes of sunshine between meetings.

with the dean of international students to gain a better understanding of the administration's efforts, and in turn to better advise the students. The privilege of working with student government for four years has given me a deep understanding about how the College functions, and where SGA's role lies in both Barnard's and Columbia's communities. We're all constantly asking, "What can we do better?"

I came here as a premed student. Then, sophomore year, I took Richard Pious' "Dynamics of American Politics." My parents really didn't want me studying politics—they believed it to be corrupt, and not something for me to go into. I took the class and loved it. It completely changed my perception of how our federal government really operates. In high school I was taught that everything was primarily hierarchical, and that the executive branch had much more power.

I'm still premed; my major is political science. My coursework, my experience in student government, and recent events—in January I attended the Public Leadership Education Network conference on women and public policy in science and technology, in Washington, D.C., along with four other Barnard women—have helped me to realize that, long-term, I'd like to pursue a master's degree in public health policy and at some point go back to Washington.



## connections

## Historical Revision

By Jami Bernard '78

I was moving to a new home and, therefore, packing—an anxious task in which every possession brings a rush of Proustian memory. Ah, my Barbie doll! Oh, the horrible orange afghan my grandmother crocheted! And what's this—Citizen Kane's sled?

I was gathering these Rosebuds when I came across a sealed, yellowed manila envelope with a Barnard return address. I've always known what was in it, but I'd never peeked. Now, close to 30 years later, I was at a crossroads: Pack it? Toss it?

I opened it.

In 1977 I applied to Barnard's Senior Scholar program, in which you spend your final year working on a project instead of taking classes. My proposal was that I write a novel in which the editor in chief of a women's college newspaper solves a mystery.

Not coincidentally, I was editor in chief of the *barnard bulletin* at the time. But some of the interdepartmental professors who interviewed me for the Senior Scholar program weren't happy with the reporting in the *bulletin*, and held me responsible. They saw the school paper as a peppy house organ, not a place for Woodward-Bernstein wannabes.

"Now SHE'S in the hot seat!" chortled one when I came in for the interview.

I was the first applicant to the Senior Scholar program to be rejected. It was a political decision, I have no doubt, but in a last-ditch attempt to prove that I was a serious writer, I had sent around a short story I'd written about my sister's lifelong fear of vampires.

Not everyone on the panel was against me. One, a chemistry professor, later returned my manuscript with a note saying that although fiction wasn't her field, she'd taken the liberty of making a few notations.

So it was that in July 2005, I opened

the envelope that had been sealed like a time capsule back in 1977. Inside was the vampire story, decorated in blood-red by the professor's magic marker.

Writers aren't known for their thick skins; I steeled myself to feel the ancient anger again. Instead, I sat there quietly after reading the remarks, all of them sane, on-target, and helpful. Then I went on the Internet and looked up my secret mentor so I could thank her for trying to guide me down my chosen path.

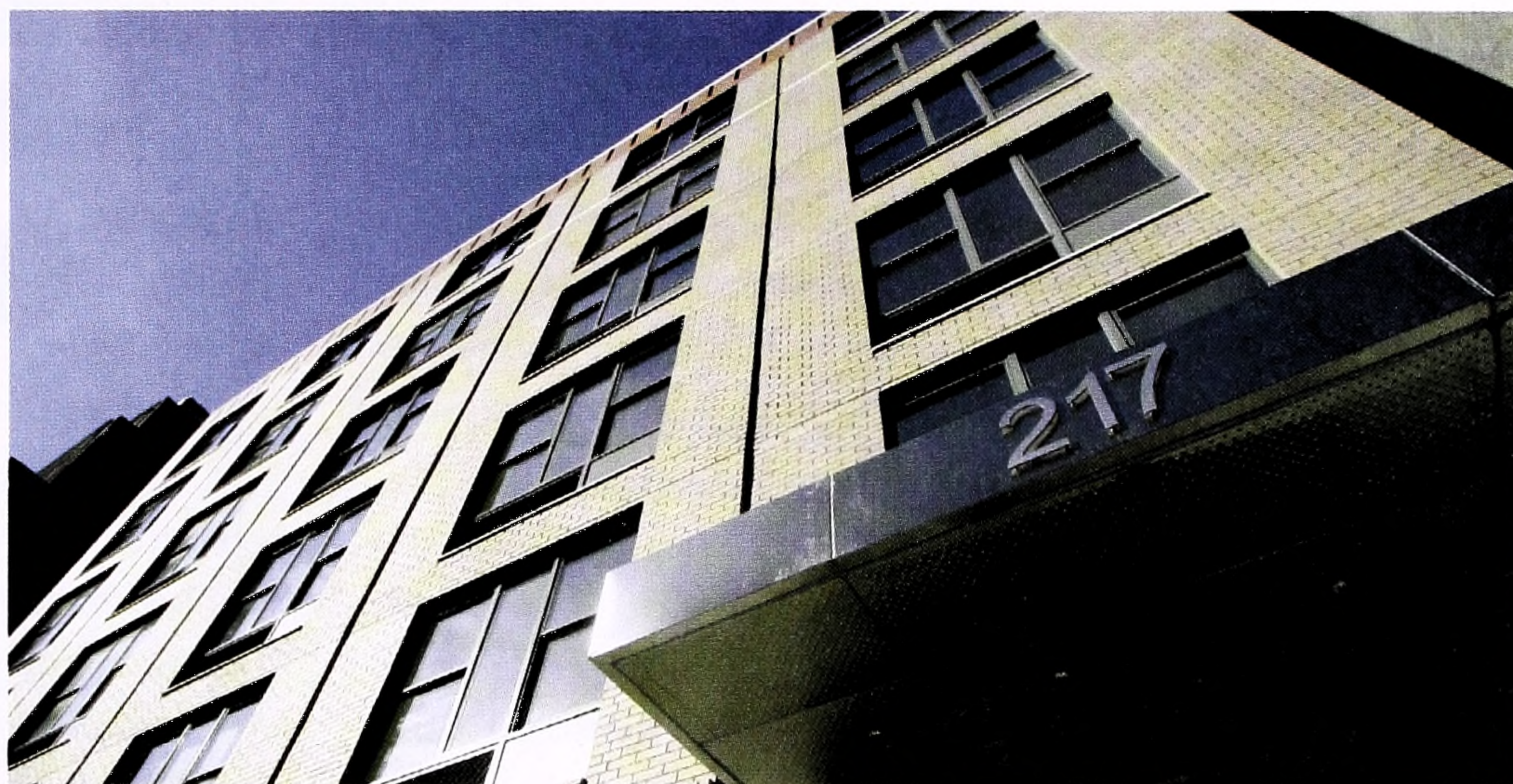
Bernice Segal had died in 1989.

Because of my stubborn pride, I was never able to accept Professor Segal's gift of constructive criticism. But the incident opened my eyes to a larger gift.

Segal wasn't the only faculty member who reached out in ways as generous as they were subtle, and not only to me, but to all women passing through Barnard's gates. For four years, I had the good fortune to marinate in Barnard's nurturing stew, some of whose ingredients I'm only able to taste now, decades later.

Thanks to Bernice Segal, a professor I never knew and who owed me nothing, I got my own little Senior Scholar program after all—the editor in chief of a women's college newspaper opens an ancient envelope and solves a mystery.

*Jami Bernard is an author and a film critic for the New York Daily News*

residential life  
New Digs

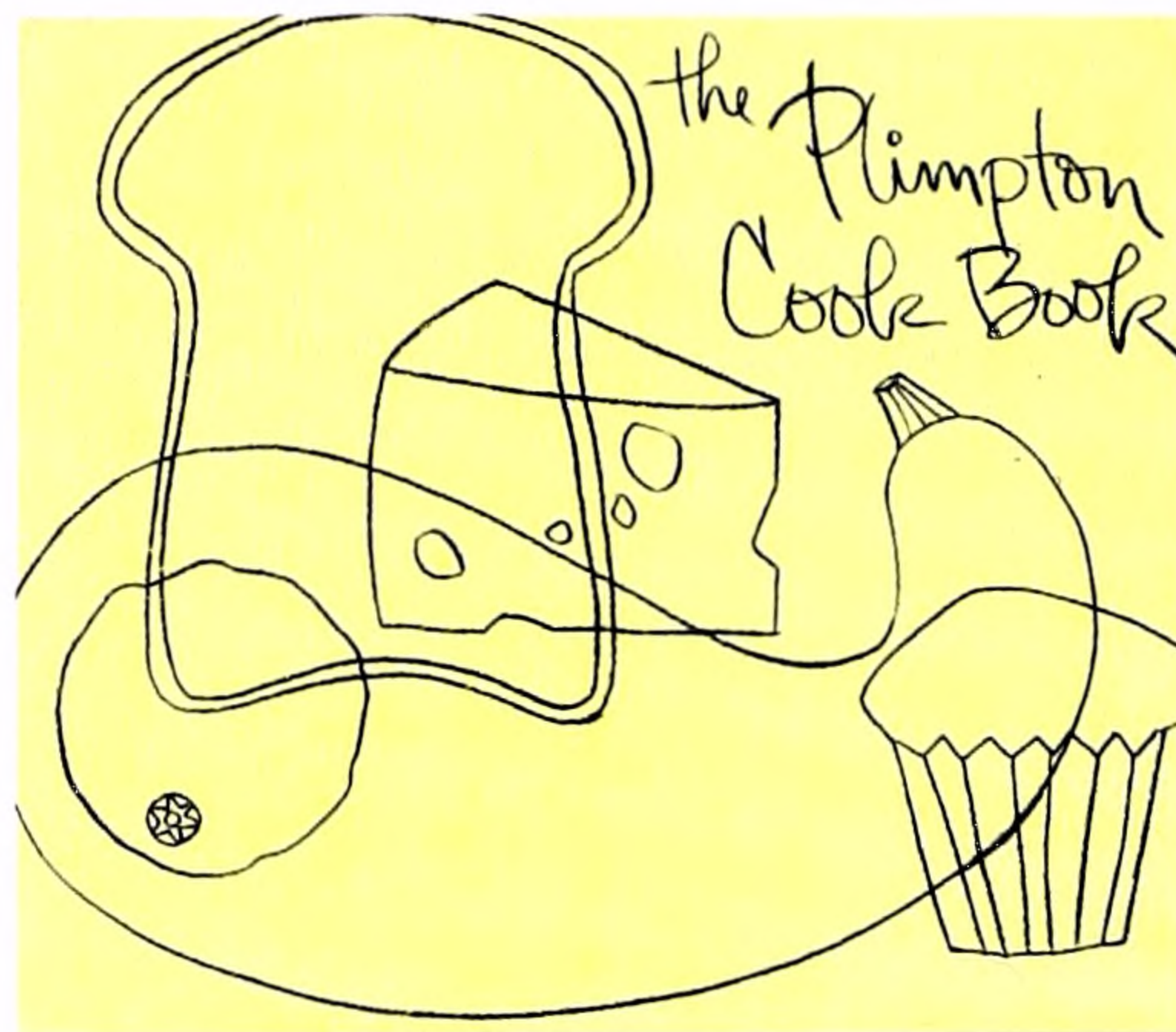
**217 110th Street**, also known as Cathedral Gardens, is the latest addition to Barnard's expanding campus—the newest housing available both to faculty and students. The 10 floors include 24 one- and two-bedroom apartments plus a full-floor lounge boasting views of Morningside Park. The apartments feature high ceilings, large windows, lots of light, and beautiful kitchens with new appliances (including dishwashers). A ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 12—attended by President Judith Shapiro, Provost Elizabeth Boylan, and Dean Dorothy Denburg, among others—marked the move-in date for some faculty members. Official opening day, when students will take up residence, comes at the start of next semester.



from the archives

## Home Cooking

**D**ormitories serve as surrogate homes for students away at college. Even more so, perhaps, for those residence halls equipped with kitchens. There a student can re-interpret a favorite family dish, or develop one of her own, then share the meal with dorm-



"Plimpton's the place for good eating."

mates and, on occasion, a professor. Such was the case in Plimpton Hall in the early 1970s (the dorm opened in 1968). Students took full advantage of their communal kitchens. "We did cook a lot in my suite, because at that time I kept kosher, and so we had a kosher kitchen," says Miriam Frank '74. "Having professors over to dinner got a big push during the strike of 1970; we could brainstorm on neutral territory—the campus was boiling—in more convivial surroundings, and with wine and food," recalls Ruth Steinberg '72.

In the early '70s\*, the residents of Plimpton decided to cull their favorite recipes and create *The Plimpton Cook Book*. It included some old ones, some new, "all of them well-tested and well-established favorites," as the book notes. We recently discovered this volume, with the help of Barnard College archivist Donald Glassman, and decided to share the recipe below. As Plimpton's cooks did in 1972, we bid you "Happy Eating!" —DK

## FRENCH STYLE PEAS

## Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. peas, shelled (or 2 packages frozen)
- 1 cup lettuce leaves—whole or shredded
- 1/3 cup chopped scallions
- 2 tbsp. chicken broth
- 1 1/2 tbsp. butter
- 2 to 2 1/2 tsp. sugar
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper

Line a deep casserole with half the lettuce. Put scallions over lettuce, then add in the peas. Add broth, butter, sugar, salt, pepper, and remaining lettuce.

Cover and cook over low heat for 20 to 25 minutes, or until tender.

Recipe by Ruth Steinberg '72

\* There is no date on the book, but based on the recollections of some contributors, it's a safe guess the publication year was 1972.

## February 2006

T  
H  
U

23

DANGEROUS WOMEN IN THE LAND OF THE TANGO: Anarchists in Belle Epoque Buenos Aires. Lecture by Professor José Moya presented by the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW). Noon, Room 101, Barnard Hall. Call 212-854-2067.

## March 2006

T  
H  
U

2-5

SENIOR THESIS THEATRE FESTIVAL. Original works and adaptations. Minor Latham Playhouse, Milbank Hall. Call 212-854-5638.

T  
U  
E

7

WOMEN POETS AT BARNARD. An evening of readings by Eve Grubin, Jane Miller, and Michelle Robinson. 7 p.m., Sulzberger Parlor, Third Floor, Barnard Hall. E-mail [shamilton@barnard.edu](mailto:shamilton@barnard.edu).

M  
O  
N

13

NEGOTIATING COMPENSATION. Presented by Barnard Business & Professional Women. 7 to 9 p.m., Vagelos Alumnae Center. Pre-registration/fee required. E-mail [Gabrielle@bbpw.org](mailto:Gabrielle@bbpw.org).

## April 2006

S  
A  
T

8

ENGENDERING JUSTICE: PRISONS, ACTIVISM AND CHANGE. The 31st annual Scholar & Feminist Conference presented by BCRW. All day event; pre-registration required. Call 212-854-2067.

T  
H  
U

20

TRANSFORMATION AND THE WRITER. Reading by Stacey D'Erasmus '83, from her novel-in-progress, *A Secret Life*. 6:30 p.m., Sulzberger Parlor, Third Floor, Barnard Hall. Call 212-854-2037.

## May 2006

M  
O  
N

1

READING BY CURRENT STUDENTS OF CREATIVE WRITING. 7 to 9 p.m., Sulzberger Parlor, Third Floor, Barnard Hall. Call 212-854-2115.

42

PERCENTAGE INCREASE  
IN FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE  
COLLEGE TUITION  
BETWEEN  
1994-95 AND 2004-05

(Source: College Board, *Trends in Student Aid 2005*)



# Never Again?

*Seminar asks whether memorials help us learn from the past*

Last October, during a press conference at the Wall Street headquarters of the Bank of New York, the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation triumphantly announced that more than \$101 million had been raised for a memorial at Ground Zero. Yet this announcement marked no end to the bitter widespread debate about what to build and how to commemorate the loss of lives.

Meanwhile, in a seminar room in upper Manhattan, Barnard and Columbia students engaged in a noncontentious discussion of the role of such a memorial. Filling the fall roster of “The Art of Witness: Memorials and Historical Trauma” (AHIS BC 3949) were 15 undergraduates and three graduate students. Their teacher was Rosalyn Deutsche, visiting professor of art history, who created the Barnard course after 9/11.

Deutsche says of the seminar’s focus, “It’s usually assumed that a memorial will help prevent the reoccurrence of an atrocity. What kind of memorial and what kind of memory might actually do that?” She pauses, then reflects, “Many memorials produce a kind of forgetting rather than a kind of remembering.”

Guided by these concerns, the students examine works of art, architecture, literature, and film that bear witness to the Holocaust and other historic atrocities. At the same time, the class studies relevant texts by philosophers, psychologists, and other social theorists.

On October 19, the day before the downtown press conference, the class was discussing “Theses on the Philosophy of History,” by Walter Benjamin, a German Jewish philosopher and literary critic. Written in 1940, the year Benjamin died while trying to escape the Nazis, the work is a polemic against historicism, according to which history is viewed as gradual,

inevitable progress. According to Benjamin, historicism guided Germany’s Social Democrats and fatally misdirected them, feeding their passivity as Hitler seized and consolidated power. Benjamin argued that historians should counter historicism by focusing on past horrors and injustices. This focus, he said, would rescue horrific historical events from their misrepresentation and misuse by demagogues,

and would clarify the need to take forceful action during history’s critical junctures.

Deutsche then showed slides of Krzysztof Wodiczko’s 1986 work *The Homeless Projection*, in which photographic images of shopping carts and other equipment used by homeless people were projected onto New York City statues and civic monuments. She asked the class whether this sly critique of displacement and gentrification could be interpreted as a Benjaminian memorial; an analytical discussion ensued. “It lifts my spirits to see students contending with issues so ethically and seriously and with such commitment,” Deutsche says.

One of last semester’s students was Ora Bayewitz ’06, who has completed internships at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Jewish Heritage and is writing her senior thesis on the contemporary French installation artist Christian Boltanski. Boltanski has used 1930s photographs of smiling Jewish children to create evocative memorials to Holocaust victims.

“I wanted to address how artists today are dealing with the Holocaust,” Bayewitz says. Speaking about the course, she praises Deutsche, the readings, and the students’ diverse perspectives. “I wanted to question my own assumptions,” she says. “And each person brings a lot to the class.”



The Towers of Light, a temporary memorial at Ground Zero.



## **Selected Course Readings**





Increased student interest in the sciences is the goal of three recent gifts.

## Investing in Science

### Alumnae support junior science faculty

When Helen Ranney '41 earned her M.D. from the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1947, women doctors were a rarity—but that didn't stop her from pursuing her ambitions. Ranney's career was marked by a series of notable achievements: she was the first woman to lead an academic department of medicine, the first woman to serve as president of the Association of American Physicians, and one of the first women to be named a distinguished physician of the Veterans Administration. "I advanced in my career by taking risks at institutions that didn't have a lot of resources but were open to women," Ranney says. "I guess I learned a lot and contributed something—but I probably learned more than I contributed."

To nurture future scientists, several alumnae, including Ranney, Dr. Ellise Delphin '71, and Dr. Rena Vassilopoulou-Sellin '71, have established funds to support junior tenure-track science faculty at

the College. Given the costs involved in establishing a laboratory and initiating a research program at a new institution, science professors need substantial funding for their research, for their teaching, and to mentor aspiring scientists. Endowed and expendable funds help attract outstanding teacher-scholars and offer students valuable research opportunities. "Any institution is only as strong as the people who work there," Delphin explains. "Supporting young professors is probably the most important thing an educational institution can do to perpetuate itself."

Delphin, professor and chair of the anesthesiology department at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, says Barnard's all-women environment contributed to her decision to support science at the College. In the early 1970s, men outnumbered women 10 to one in Delphin's class at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. Most of her female classmates came

from women's colleges. "I definitely think our experiences as undergraduates at schools where gender was never an issue helped prepare us for what was in store," she says.

Although the gender gap at medical schools has narrowed in recent years, women still face obstacles in science. An encouraging professor can make all the difference to a student who is considering a career in the sciences. That is why Sellin, professor of medicine at University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, established a support fund at Barnard for junior professors. "It's difficult for a student to be enthusiastic about a scientific career if she sees that her professor is having a hard time juggling everything," she says. "When a junior faculty member successfully navigates the tenure process, a career in science becomes more attractive to young women, because they see it's possible to succeed."

"I am so grateful to these three distinguished alumnae who have decided to invest particularly in our junior science faculty and their student research assistants," says Elizabeth Boylan, provost of the College. "Start-up funds for those just hired and research support for faculty who have successfully passed their third-year performance review before tenure are two important ways to translate alumnae support into meaningful impact on the research careers of our faculty."

All three women look forward to seeing how their investments will enhance faculty research and increase student engagement in the sciences. According to Ranney, "If we can attract more young, inspiring science professors to Barnard, more students will be interested in laboratory work and have access to hands-on experience and mentoring. Over the years, that will have a significant impact on the field. And if even more people invest in the faculty, that will multiply the impact Barnard can make."

—Amy E. Hughes



# Taming the SAT

## Barnard volunteers prep Harlem students for college admissions

The SAT is one of the most widely used screening tools for college admissions departments in this country, and high school students from middle- and upper-income families routinely take advantage of the private tutoring and commercial courses that all but guarantee a higher score. On the other hand, for students from low-income families, the test can be daunting. “The end of the world” is what Ruth Aguas, a senior at East Harlem’s Young Women’s Leadership School (YWLS), expected of her SAT experience. But thanks to Let’s Get Ready, a program that provides free SAT training to students unable to pay for costly test-prep courses, Aguas’ anxiety transformed into self-assurance. “It gave me so much confidence, and taught me everything was going to be OK,” she says.

Let’s Get Ready (LGR) started in 1998 when Eugenie Rosenthal, then a Harvard undergraduate, and several like-minded friends began tutoring low-income students in Mount Vernon, N.Y., in preparation for the SAT. That effort eventually grew into a full-fledged non-profit enterprise that today partners with students from Barnard and eight other Northeastern colleges. In the seven years since its launch, LGR has helped nearly 3,000 high school students, 92 percent of whom have gone directly to college—an impressive figure given that 32 percent of high-achieving students from low-income families never make it to four-year schools.

Each year, two students serve as codirectors of Barnard’s participation in LGR, promoting the program on campus,

recruiting volunteer coaches, coordinating training sessions, and developing workshop materials. Financial support from Barnard trustee Cheryl Glicker Milstein ’82 enables the College to pay the codirectors a stipend for their work. The more opportunities we can offer our students to work in the community, the better, because it’s something that they would eagerly do anyway,” Milstein says.



Students at Young Women’s Leadership School received free SAT coaching.

LGR’s student-to-coach ratio is 5:1, which is one reason for the program’s success. “Whenever I had questions, my coach from Barnard was there to explain everything to me,” says Lydia Warr, another YWLS senior. “To sit down with someone who’s been through it, especially somebody your own age, is really helpful.” Students who’ve received LGR tutoring have increased their scores on the 1,600-point SAT by an average of 112 points. In addition to test preparation, workshops cover all parts of the college admissions process, including writing application essays and applying for financial aid.

Barnard students who serve as codirectors and coaches benefit from the experience, says Geri Perret, director of

career resources in the Office of Career Development. “It has an impact on their decisions about courses, summer internships, and postgraduation plans. Quite simply, their involvement sparks a passion that continues to shape their goals and dreams,” she says.

Andrea Davila ’04, who served as a coach during her senior year at Barnard, found the work so fulfilling that she

joined the organization’s full-time staff as operations manager after graduation. Davila believes it’s the coaches that distinguish LGR from the standard preparatory courses on the market. “Commercial SAT courses typically are taught by professional teachers, in contrast to our coaches, who recently have experienced the confusing application process themselves and are able to share encouragement, tips, and tricks.” Davila still volunteers as a coach in her free time.

During the Fall 2005 semester, Barnard students worked with juniors at A. Philip Randolph High School in Harlem. Dennis Brennan, a college counselor at the school, is impressed by the program’s many benefits, including some that have little to do with test scores: “The students definitely become better test-takers, but the lessons they learn about life are equally important. They learn that no one can make it alone, and that we all share in each other’s successes.”

To support Barnard students’ participation in Let’s Get Ready, contact the Office of Development at 212-854-2001, or e-mail [development@barnard.edu](mailto:development@barnard.edu).

—AEH



# Holiday Cheer

On Dec. 6, Andrea Bundonis Glimcher '92 hosted a holiday gathering at New York's PaceWildenstein gallery in Chelsea to honor Barnard's most generous supporters: alumnae, parents, and friends who contribute at the Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger Society level and above as well as Dean's Circle donors. President Judith Shapiro and board chair Anna Quindlen '74 extended thanks to the guests, who enjoyed songs of the season by the Bacchantae, Barnard's *a cappella* choir.

—AEH



Left to right: Joan Snitzer, senior lecturer in art history and director of the visual arts concentration; Louise Heublein McCagg '59; and Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55.



Left to right: President Judith Shapiro, Patrick Mimran PA 04, and Hengameh Mirashiapi PA 04.



Left to right: Andrea Bundonis Glimcher '92 and Barbara Novak '50, professor emerita of art history.

## A Perfect Match

Microsoft executives offer aid to Barnard students affected by Hurricane Katrina

When Hurricane Katrina hit, the nation responded. At Barnard, a coalition of students, faculty, and staff collected 3,000 items of clothing, 400 cans of food, almost \$2,000, and other supplies for those in need. Three thousand miles away in Seattle the Microsoft Women's Leadership Council (WLC)—a group of professionals and managers dedicated to women's advancement at the company—focused its Katrina-related fundraising on undergraduates directly affected by the storm. Ideally, the group wanted to support students at a college whose mission mirrored its own; Terrell

Cox, WLC's president, researched several schools and ultimately settled on Barnard.

"The more I learned about Barnard, the more I realized what a great institution it is," Cox says. "The College recognizes the strengths that women bring to the table and is teaching them how to be successful in traditionally male industries." The WLC members made personal contributions to the cause that were matched by the company. In total, WLC and Microsoft raised nearly \$15,000 for assistance to Barnard students from the Gulf Coast whose families were affected by the

storm, as well as undergraduates from Loyola University and Tulane University who are studying at Barnard while their own universities rebuild.

WLC members hope to meet the students sometime in the near future; they also plan to make Barnard a beneficiary of future fund-raising efforts. "Barnard is the kind of college we want to partner with over the long-term," says Cox. "Our group is very excited about supporting the College because we want to help the leaders of tomorrow. We believe Barnard is a great investment."

—AEH



# Candid Camera

**A**t some point, all successful photographers find their natural subject. For Ansel Adams, for instance, it was the Yosemite Valley. For William Wegman, it was his statuesque weimaraners, Man Ray and Fay Ray. Diane Bondareff's inspiration and signature images are drawn from far more mundane material: "I love press conferences," she says, and it's easy to see why. Now a sought-after freelancer, she spent six years as a photographer for two New York City mayors—an assistant photographer for David Dinkins and the official photographer for Rudolph Giuliani. "The lighting is usually dramatic, and most politicians tend to make interesting faces and gestures," she says. "I like trying to find a candid moment in these scripted events."

The daughter of two Washington lawyers, Bondareff '90 arrived at Barnard with dreams of becoming a foreign diplomat to Russia. Quickly humbled by the complexities of the Cyrillic alphabet, she left the College with a degree in art history. Uncertain about which creative field she preferred, Bondareff eventually landed an interview for a job as an assistant to fine-art photographer Dorothy Zeidman. At just five feet tall, Bondareff was literally less than what most professional photographers look for in a gear-hauler. After the interview, Zeidman tested Bondareff. "She's like, 'OK, let's go out to my Jeep, see if you can reach into the back to get my equipment.'" Bondareff says. She could, barely. "I was so nervous, because the equipment was so heavy. But I did it—I was strong, and young."

While working with Zeidman, Bondareff



"I would turn down a professional job if they asked me to shoot film," Bondareff says.

learned that Mayor Dinkins's photo unit was looking for an intern. Despite her skimpy portfolio—just a few "artsy" shots, she says—she got the job. Joan Vitale Strong, then head photographer, later told her why she was chosen: she was the only applicant with no typos in her captions. The six-month internship led to a full-time clerical stint.

After Dinkins lost to his Republican challenger, Giuliani, in November 1993, Bondareff stayed on, eventually becoming the mayor's chief photographer. Besides the obvious political differences, the two men had different styles in front of the camera. Where Dinkins had seemed to enjoy mugging for portraits, Giuliani, an avid amateur lensman, preferred taking pictures. Bondareff organized a show of Giuliani's photos

when he was still in office in May 1998; the shots were sold off for charity.

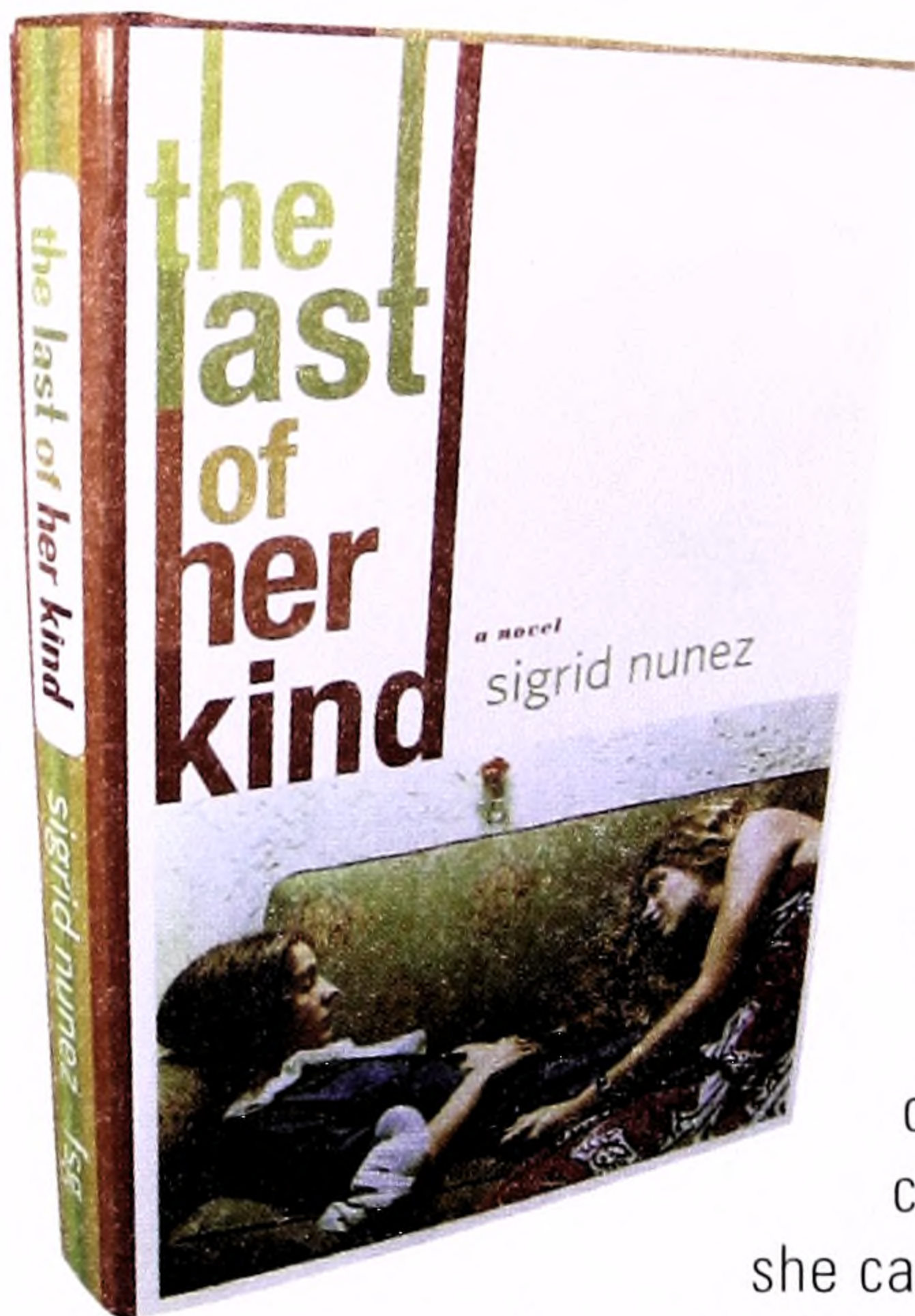
Now a freelancer, Bondareff still photographs public figures for clients such as the Associated Press and Bloomberg News. (Full disclosure: she shoots for *Barnard*, too). But she might also be called upon to take a celebrity portrait of, say, Tom Wolfe (for the *Toronto Star*), or snap a corpse in a dumpster (for *The New York Times*) with either her digital Canon Mark II or her Canon 1D cameras. She thrives on the variety, and seems unfazed by the broad range of assignments she has to nail.

"It doesn't feel like a job," she says. Perhaps once you've learned to spot the drama in a press conference, every other photographic task seems downright easy.

—James Burnett



quick takes



**The Last of Her Kind**

by Sigrid Nunez '72  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux  
2006, \$25

It's a rite of passage as old as Milbank Hall: Two young women from radically different backgrounds find themselves sharing a room during their freshman year at Barnard College.

Dooley Drayton is the only child of a wealthy, upper-class couple from Connecticut she can't wait to leave behind.

Georgette George survived a rough childhood as one of six children in a poor, violence-prone family in upstate New York. The year is 1968. Neither woman remains at Barnard past her sophomore year, but what they share during two years of all-night conversations and exchanged confidences entwines their lives for the next 25 years.

*The Last of Her Kind* by Sigrid Nunez evokes the heady combination of fervent radicalism and casual drug-taking on college campuses in the late '60s. Dooley, who demands to be called by her middle name, Ann, joins Students for a Democratic Society and sells all her suede jackets and maxi skirts so she can give the money to charity, while Georgette is more enthralled by crystal meth than My Lai. But even after Georgette and Ann's lives diverge, Georgette is infatuated with attempting to comprehend her friend's single-minded devotion to her causes.

The novel's plot is dramatic—at times hair-raisingly so—but the author's narrative style keeps the reader somewhat disengaged from the characters. Nunez, who teaches in the graduate creative writing program at The New School University in New York City, succeeds in capturing the way in which one can become transfixed by another person, consumed with trying to understand the choices she makes in her life.

—Jennifer Greenstein

*Jennifer Greenstein has reviewed books for The Associated Press and Publishers Weekly.*

new & upcoming releases

FICTION

**The Priest's Madonna**

by Amy Hassinger '94  
G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2006, \$23.95

**The Rug Merchant**

by Meg (Margarethe) Mullins '95  
Viking, 2006, \$23.95

**The Beheading Game**

by Brenda (Schwabacher) Webster '58  
Wings Press, 2006, \$22.95

NONFICTION

**Isami's House: Three Centuries of a Japanese Family**

by Gail Lee Bernstein '59  
U of California Press, 2005, \$19.95

**Italian Family Dining: Recipes, Menus, and Memories of Meals with a Great American Food Family**

by Edward Giobbi and Eugenia Giobbi Bone '83  
Rodale Books, 2005, \$27.50

**My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots**

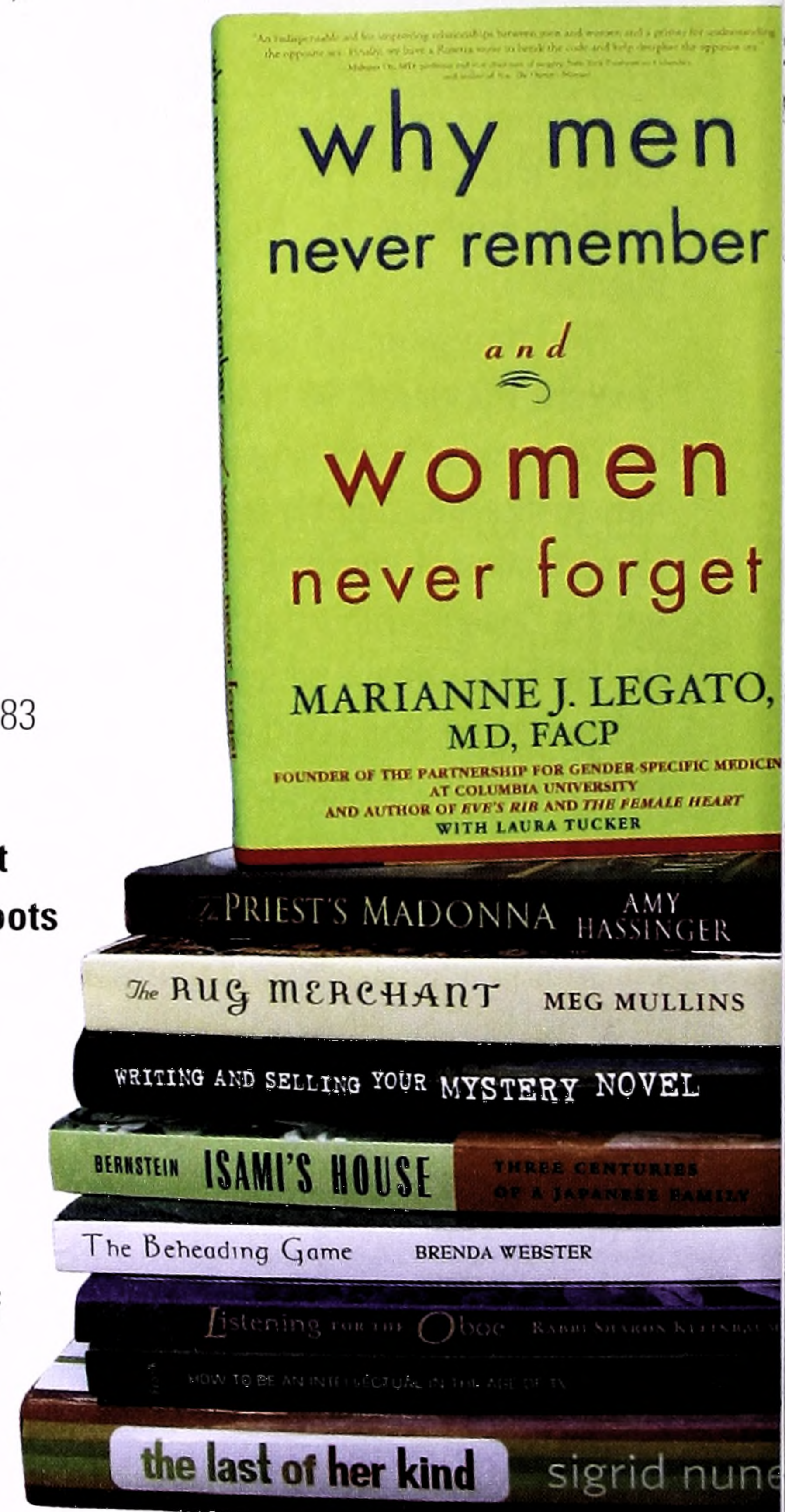
by Thulani Davis '70  
Basic Civitas Books, 2006, \$25

**Bioethics and the Law**

by Janet L. Dolgin '68 and Prof. Lois Shepherd  
Aspen Publishers, 2005, \$93

**How to Be an Intellectual in the Age of TV: The Lessons of Gore Vidal**

by Marcie Frank '82  
Duke University Press, 2005, \$17.95





## Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel

by Hallie Ephron (Touger) '69  
Writer's Digest Books, 2005, \$21.99

**B:** What separates a great mystery writer from an OK one?

**HE:** Great characters and credible surprise. The best mysteries are the ones whose characters stick with you; but also there's a moment in the book where there's a twist that totally surprises you and in retrospect you say, "Oh, I should have seen that coming, of course." Like in the movie *The Sixth Sense*, when you realize that the guy is dead. You want to go back to the beginning and see where the author, or in this case the director, producer, and writer fooled you.

What makes it a best-seller is an inspired idea—an idea that really grabs people—and a great character, not just well-fleshed-out characters. The inspiration, the thing that makes a book go from finished to really good, that's much harder, and finding good ideas is really about being lucky.

**B:** You offer a formula in the book. Is successful mystery writing purely formulaic? Does style not play a role?

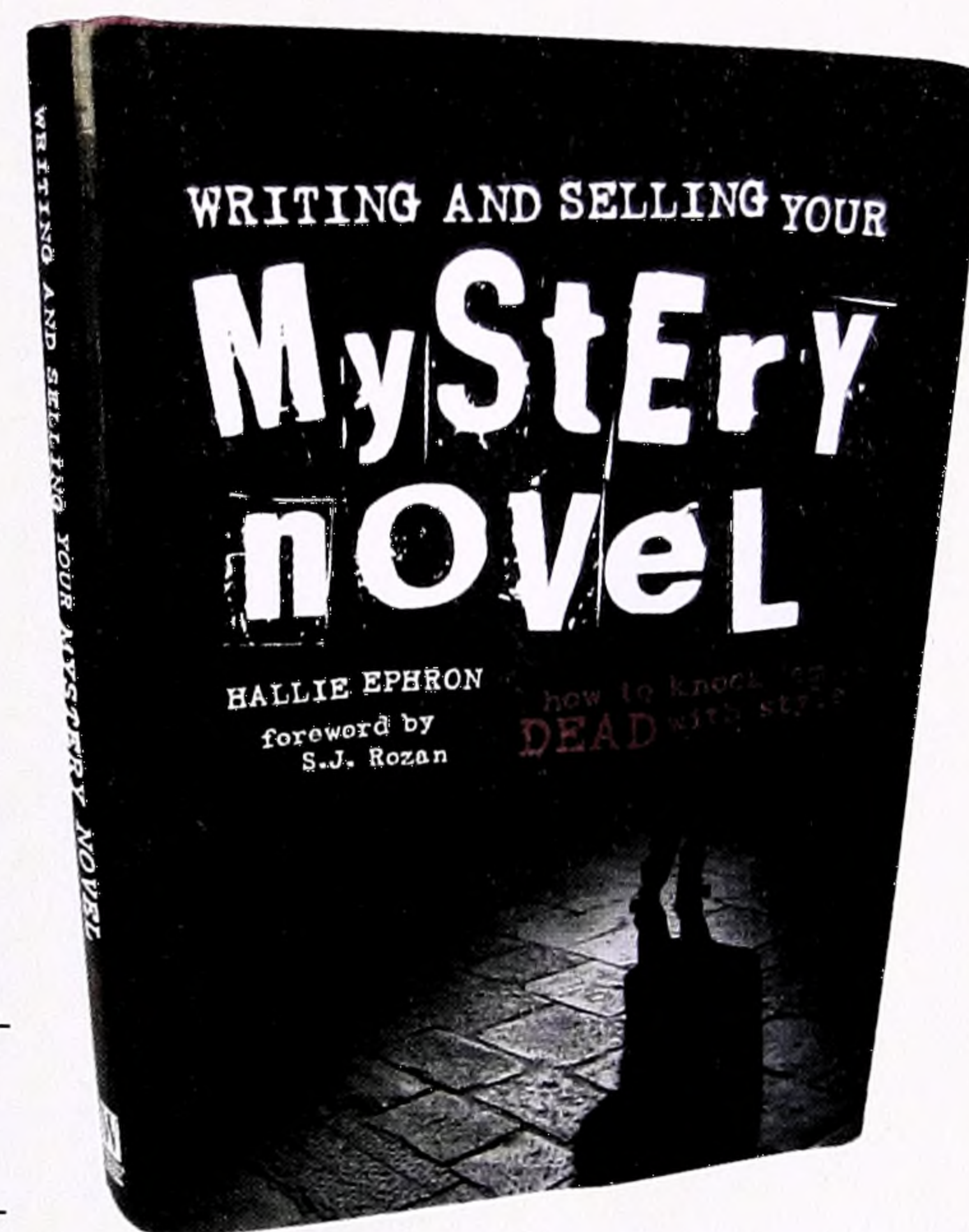
**HE:** I think it's both—there are certain things the reader expects, like the three-act structure, the big confrontation near the end, final pages that explain things to the reader. Beyond that, it's wide open in terms of what writers can do.

**B:** What are some of the misconceptions people have about mysteries, writing them and reading them?

**HE:** People think that villains have to be really bad guys, but villains can be textured and interesting characters in their own right. It's more interesting to have a villain who's a little bit appealing. Hannibal Lecter [from Thomas Harris' *The Silence of the Lambs*] is a wonderful villain because the reader actually likes him.

Also, a radio commentator asked me if I thought all the terrible things that happened in the world happened because mystery writers write about them. I said, if only the world was like the world in a mystery novel, because you know who's bad and who's good; goodness triumphs and evil is incarcerated or meets justice. That doesn't always happen in the real world. People think that the world of mystery fiction is more horrible than the real world, and I think the opposite is the case. The real world is far more horrifying.

—Kewannah Wallace



## Listening for the Oboe

by Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum '81  
Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, 2005, \$18

## The Brightening Glance: Imagination and Childhood

by Ellen Handler Spitz '61  
Pantheon, 2006, \$25

## FACULTY

## Why Men Never Remember and Women Never Forget

by Marianne J. Legato, MD, FACP,  
Professor of Clinical Medicine-Columbia,  
with Laura Tucker  
Rodale Books, 2005, \$24.95

## Creativity from Constraints: The Psychology of Breakthrough

by Patricia D. Stokes, Adjunct Associate  
Professor of Psychology  
Springer Publishing, 2005, \$32.95

## BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

## Gunstories: Life-Changing Experiences with Guns

by S. Beth Atkin '83  
HarperCollins, 2006, \$16.99

## Gene Hunter, The Story of Neuropsychologist Nancy Wexler

by Adele (Strauss) Glimm '58  
Joseph Henry Press-Scholastic, 2005, \$31

## PERFORMANCES

## Hairspray

Neil Simon Theatre, New York, NY  
Donna Vivino '00 appears as Shelley through  
June 2006

## EXHIBITIONS

## Seeing Double: New Paintings

by Susan (Laufer) Bee '73  
A.I.R. Gallery, New York, NY  
February 7 Through March 4, 2006



Susan Bee's *Diving into the Wreck*, 2005

To be considered for "Books, etc.", please e-mail us at [classnotes@barnard.edu](mailto:classnotes@barnard.edu)



W O N D E R F U L

# Town

PART ONE: THE WORKSHOP

PAGE 20

PART TWO: THE PRODUCER

PAGE 24

PART THREE: THE COMPANY

PAGE 26

## SYNOPSIS:

Young women throughout the world arrive in New York City to attend Barnard College. They balance demanding studies with equally demanding practical work on stage (and behind). A producer, after a string of successful hits on and off Broadway, decides to dedicate herself to finding new, unheard voices and to teaching others what she knows. Like the producer, the members of two companies, as well as a playwriting duo, successfully make a life for themselves working in the theatre. Day in and day out, all are creating something wonderful.

GETTY IMAGES







HOTEL  
ASTOR

TIMES

ASTOR  
THE BATTLEGROUND

THE 3RD MAN  
by GRAHAM GREENE  
JOSEPH COTTEN - VALLI  
DAWN WELLES - TREVOR HOWARD  
produced and directed  
CAROL REED

Victoria  
THE 3RD MAN

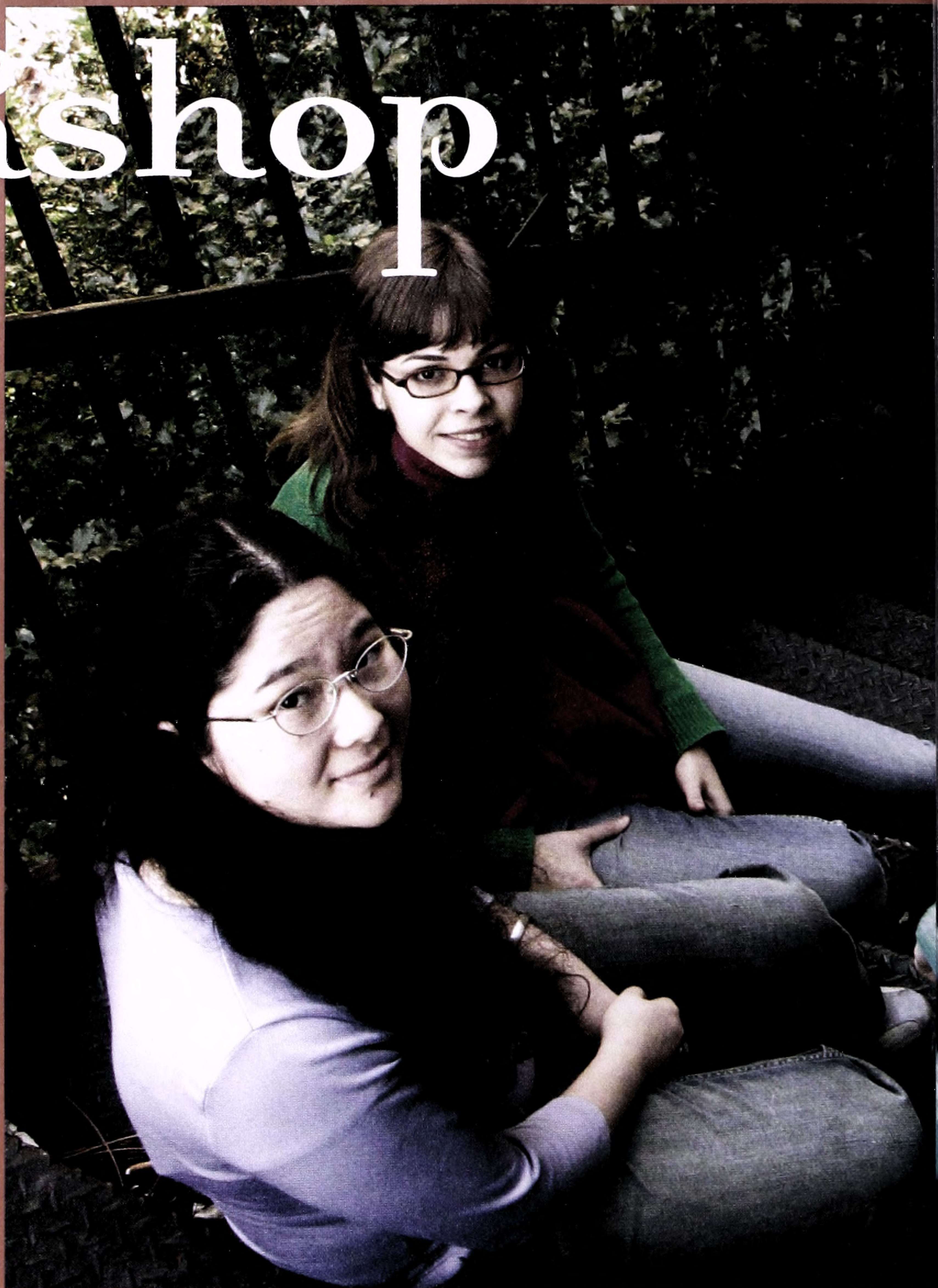


# T H E Workshop

by Jessie Royce Hill

FOR STUDENTS WHO WANT TO STUDY AND WORK IN THE THEATRE, BARNARD SERVES AS A LABORATORY OF INSPIRATION AND INNOVATION.

Ask Barnard students why they choose to major in theatre and no one mentions Broadway. Or off Broadway, for that matter. It isn't that they don't care to take in Patti LuPone in *Sweeney Todd* or Nathan Lane in this season's revival of *The Odd Couple*, or perhaps to share a stage with them someday. But big-scale commercial plays burn a low wattage for the women here. They're busy learning how dramaturgy is absorbing puppetry. Or how director Peter Brook stages *Tierno Bokar*. Or what a prop master does.







BRYNA LIEBERMAN (LEFT), AMELIA FREEMAN-LYNDE (CENTER), AND MEREDITH HILL (RIGHT) OUTSIDE THEIR WORKSHOP, BARNARD'S MINOR LATHAM PLAYHOUSE.

Maybe former professor Paul Berman had the right idea. The force behind the department when it first broke off from Barnard's Program in the Arts in the 1980s, Berman strove to steep theatre majors in all aspects of the art—from theory and criticism to design and directing. “We want to train minds,” he told this magazine in 1988, “to appreciate theatre, to have an artistic point of view.”

That point of view is hardly limited to Andrew Lloyd Webber or the brand names that define New York's commercial stage. Instead, Barnard students discover the world's theatre: Chinese opera, Japanese Noh, Persian Ta'ziyeh, and Balinese Topeng. And they take a broad view of New York's theatrical community, developing plays penned by prisoners in New York State penitentiaries [see sidebar, page 66] and directing public-school kids in original productions.

“Far-ranging” is how senior Amelia Freeman-Lynde '06 describes Barnard's theatre department. She remembers paging through *The Performing Arts Major's College Guide* while still a high school student in Athens, Ga. “I was in this sea of blue in the red of the South,” she says. “I had been acting since the third grade and I wanted to be in a city out of the South.”

Barnard beckoned.

## PURSUING SCHOLARSHIP AND THE ARTS

The College and the theatre major offer a unique opportunity for students like Freeman-Lynde who want to get their hands dirty hanging curtains and running lightboards, who want to master iambic pentameter and Expressionism and do it all center stage, in New York City. Currently, there are 24 theatre majors. It's a safe bet that all will walk away from their Barnard years with a first-rate liberal arts education, plus a lot of theatre skills.

Barnard's campus doesn't insulate students from life beyond its gates. The College is an urban school, with urban realities. The sensitivity this breeds is especially important for students who are artists. As one instructor puts it, Barnard theatre majors share a philosophy of “social consciousness.”

Freeman-Lynde, Meredith Hill '07, and Bryna Lieberman '07 are three students who epitomize the Barnard theatre experience. They came to the school with a desire both for scholarship and for the nuts and bolts of a trade; not for a conservatory, but a college that takes the arts seriously—and a theatre department with what one student calls an “out there” style of interpreting classical works and a willingness to take on plenty of new and experimental plays.

Freeman-Lynde figured out pretty quickly upon her arrival at Barnard that she wouldn't be coddled by the theatre department. She auditioned every semester for plays but has yet to be cast in one. “At first,



I felt wounded, but then I knew I had to deal with it and keep going if I wanted to be in theatre,” she says.

So she busied herself with coursework and a work-study job building sets and props. She completed internships at the Vineyard Playhouse on Martha’s Vineyard and with Mabou Mines, an avant-garde theatre company in New York’s East Village. In the fall of 2004, she assisted Barnard senior lecturer Amy Trompetter stage a production of Oscar Wilde’s *The Happy Prince* reimaged with puppets in Kentucky.

“Barnard brings in professionals from places like St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn and the Kitchen downtown,” says Freeman-Lynde. “And the professors ... I mean, Shawn-Marie Garrett? Smart, witty. I want to grow up to be her.”

This March, Freeman-Lynde will complete her senior thesis, co-directing and acting in a short play by Tennessee Williams called *A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot*. It’s composed of two Southern characters. The play was, she says, “a drawing board for characters who show up later in his full plays.” The source material resonates with Freeman-Lynde’s own Southern roots, the ones she once was eager to escape.

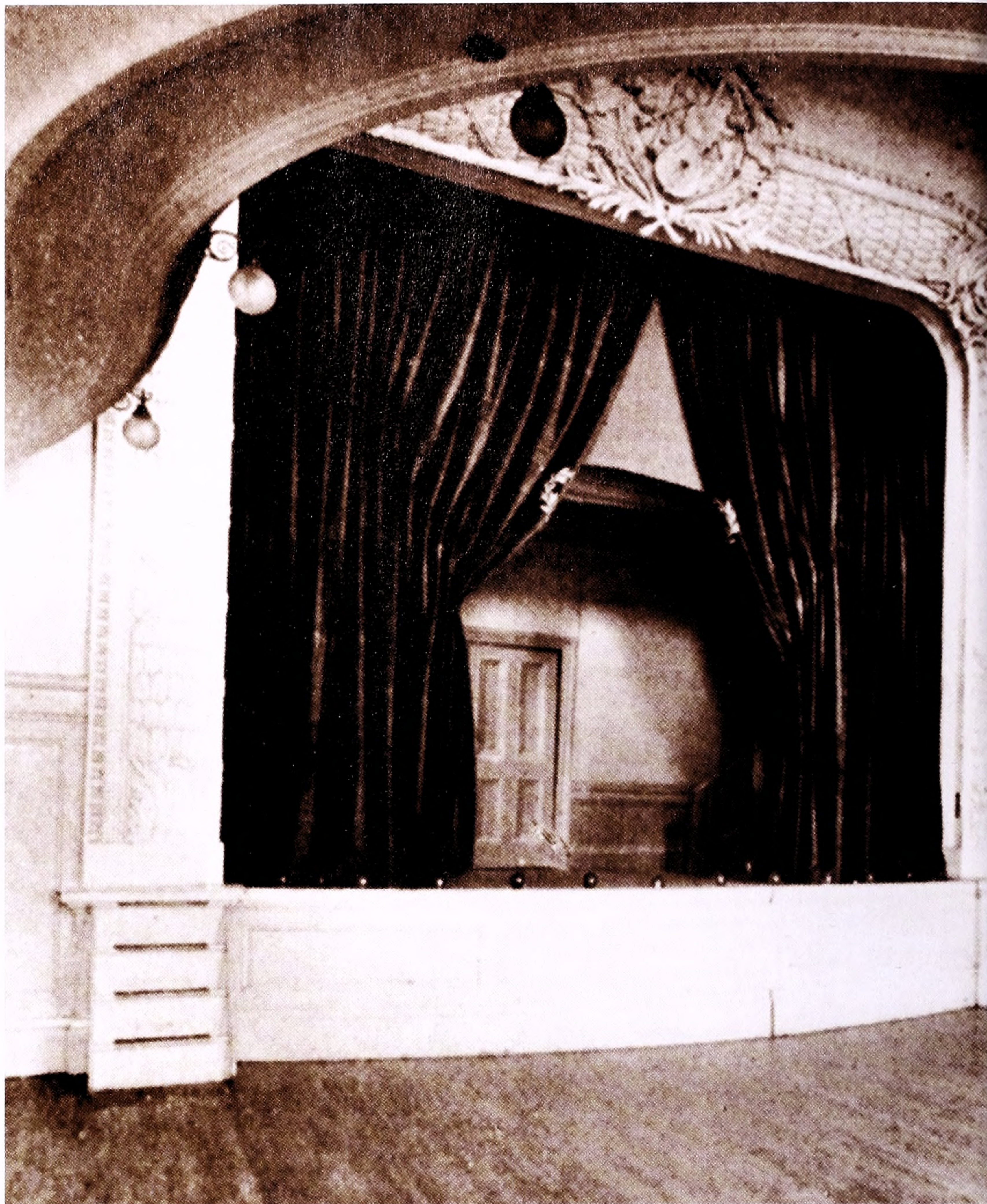
Freeman-Lynde has treated her theatre studies over the past four years at Barnard as a laboratory of ideas and skills. She’s developed enough of both for a life in the theatre after Barnard, and tempered them with healthy skepticism. Her plan for next year: “I’ll get a job in tech—building sets or stage managing. Once I get stable work, I can see if it’s a life I’ll like.”

## FROM HIGHER ED TO PUBLIC ED

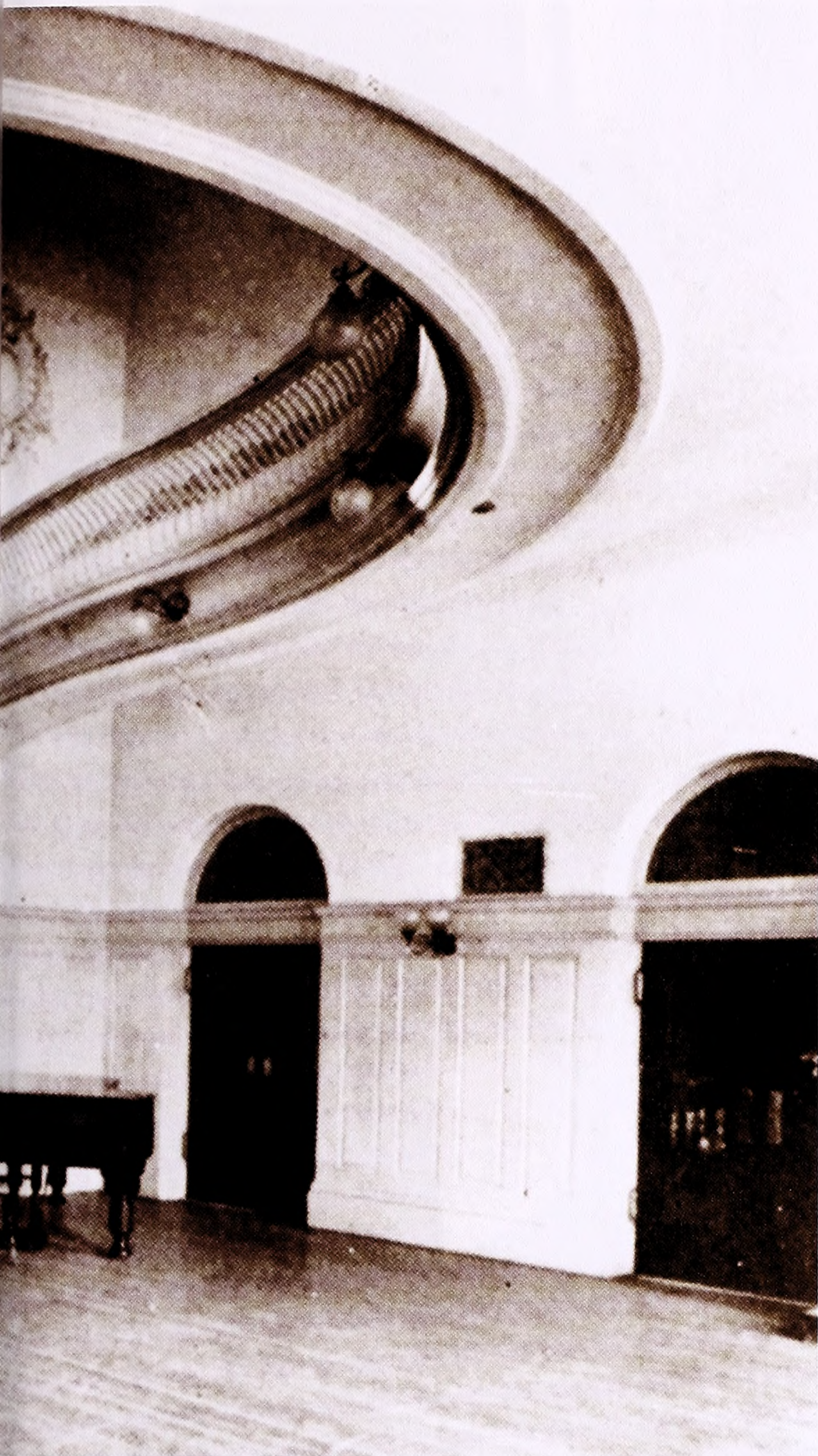
Meredith Hill is sure the theatre is a life she’ll like. Her résumé during her stint at Barnard rivals those of ambitious post-grads. A junior from a small town north of Boston, she absorbed theatre and music at a serious level while in high school—taking classes at the New England Conservatory in Boston. College meant a chance to diversify, she says.

“I like going from a world-theatre master class in Kathakali—an Indian form of dance drama—to set-design to Shakespeare,” says Hill. She counts among her avocations dance, arts journalism, and theatre education. And while she takes an active role in departmental productions, performing this past fall as a puppeteer in *The Queen of Spades* while choreographing the production of *Xandra* (which was inspired by Euripides’ *The Trojan Women* as well as other texts about the work), it is Hill’s work with the New York public-school system that shapes her Barnard narrative.

In the spring of 2005, Hill interned at Mott Hall II middle school on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, co-directing *Guys and Dolls* along with other Barnard students. To prepare the sixth through eighth graders for musical theatre, Hill taught a Broadway dance class. The kids were so upset when Hill’s internship ended that she proposed an arrangement with an English teacher







THE THEATRE, BRINCKERHOFF HALL (CA. 1909),  
KNOWN TODAY AS MINOR LATHAM PLAYHOUSE,  
MILBANK HALL.

to continue running a lunchtime workshop for the teacher's class. "We'd push away the desks and do pieces from *Chicago* and *Mamma Mia!*" Hill recalls. She plans to return to Mott Hall II this spring to co-direct the same group of students in *Grease*.

Hill also teaches theatre to younger children. Through Artists Reaching Out, a student-run community impact program at Columbia that provides arts education to a local elementary school—mostly through after-school classes—Hill witnessed firsthand how performing can foster self-esteem and even playfulness in timid kids.

"At PS 165, we taught a class about how to use stage voices," she says. "Some of the third graders were so shy at first, they wouldn't go out on the stage." Hill and her colleagues drew them onto the stage with group games and improvisation. First, she says, they'd stand in a big circle, pretending to throw an invisible ball to one another and making up sound effects to accompany it.

Gradually the games grew more extensive. "We broke them into pairs and asked one kid to sell something, like a shoe, to the other. Sometimes we'd have them speak only in gibberish." The idea was to get them to create characters and voices on a stage without the burden of reading a script and learning lines. "By the end," says Hill, "we'd ask for volunteers and all the hands were shooting up."

Hill's brief tenure in city schools has convinced her of the need to bring arts education into the classroom. The encouragement and self-confidence that develops from working in the arts has an impact on academic performance, she says. She attributes the decline in funding for public school theatre initiatives to the No Child Left Behind Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush in 2002. Now Hill is ready to help fill the void: she plans to get her teaching certificate while at Barnard and to work in theatre education after graduation.

Hill embodies what theatre senior lecturer Amy Trompetter says is a crucial connection between theatre and society. "Students come to New York eager to find a link to the city," says Trompetter. "And there's an idealism among the faculty," she says of the department's desire to expose students to a broad range of traditions and environments. "Our students are not protected."

## UNITING COMMUNITIES

Lest it seem Barnard's theatre majors clinch all the spoils the department has to offer, consider junior Bryna Lieberman. She, too, arrived at Barnard with expectations about theatre, albeit slightly different than those of Hill and Freeman-Lynde: Lieberman knew she didn't want to major in it.

As a teenager in Santa Cruz, she immersed herself in theatre and

*continued on page 66*



# THE Producer

by Robin Cherry

**D**asha Epstein '55 may be one of Broadway's most accomplished producers, but when I sat down with her, she was a proud grandmother first and a producer second. Her grandson, Henry—named after Epstein's late husband—is well positioned to follow in his grandmother's footsteps. He's seen the musical *Mamma Mia!* three times—and he's only three.

Epstein grew up in Westchester County. She decided to attend Barnard to study English. Her theatrical career was set in motion somewhat by chance, and she wound up apprenticing under some of the great names of the American stage—Lillian Hellman, author of *The Children's Hour*, *The Little Foxes*, and *Toys in the Attic*, and Jule Styne, the famed composer who scored, among other shows, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Gypsy*, and the Tony-winning *Hallelujah, Baby!* It was a great theatre education and the jobs provided her with the foundation she needed years later to break out on her own. She would become a producer—she realized early on that

she possessed an ear for good stories, ones with plenty of emotional weight. Her instincts were right on.

Between the early 1970s and the mid-1980s, Epstein's name was attached to some of the most important works presented on and off Broadway, including *Same Time, Next Year*, the 1970s hit about a couple having an affair who meet annually over 25 years; *Ain't Misbehavin'*, the energetic Fats Waller musical, set in 1930s Harlem, which won the Tony Award for best musical in 1978; *Children of a Lesser God*, the 1980 Tony winner for Best Play; and *Whose Life Is It Anyway*,







about a sculptor paralyzed after a serious accident. Today, Epstein is focused on bringing new blood into the theatre by supporting new playwrights and nurturing new audiences. "It's always been a goal of mine to find people who don't already have the affirmation of success attached to them, because then you're giving a chance to new voices and new talent," she says. Epstein sat down to talk to *Barnard* in early December.

**BARNARD:** How did you get started in the theatre?

**DASHA EPSTEIN:** I was at Barnard and my advisor was English Professor Howard Teichmann. We called him Teich. He made us write 500 words every day. The writing made you so aware, so conscious. I was looking at people's shoes in the subway and writing 500 words about shoes. I was writing 500 words about people's nails. It taught me an awareness of detail. And in theatre, detail, I think, is very important.

When I graduated from Barnard, my parents wanted to take me off to Europe for a summer after they heard I was interested in the theatre.

**B:** What was your first real job?

**DE:** My parents kept an apartment across the street from Lillian Hellman's office on 54th Street, in what used to be The Dorset Hotel. When Teich learned this, he took me to meet her. Hellman hired me as an assistant, and the summer after I graduated, I wound up doing research for her on *Toys in the Attic*. I guess the proximity to the apartment was what convinced my parents it was OK to do this. They figured I couldn't wander. I always wondered if they sat and looked out the window to see if I was going anywhere.

**B:** How did you meet Jule Styne?

**DE:** Hellman introduced me to him. When we met, he was working on *Mr. Wonderful*. He said, "You can be my gofer." Sylvia Herscher, his assistant, said, "Dasha, you're going to learn a lot. Keep your ears open. Listen and ask questions." So I developed that ability to absorb. I don't care if you're cleaning floors, you have to be like a sponge. Just absorb everything.

The second day on the job, Styne gave me a script to read. It was good, but I didn't think it was great so I stayed up all night and rewrote it. I gave it back to him with my notes and said, "This is how I think it should be."

**B:** He saw what you were made of?

**DE:** I think it gave him insight into my dedication to the theatre. Not that I was an accomplished writer, but I think it showed him that I was very serious, and I wanted to be someone in theatre.

Another important influence was Broadway producer Morty Gottlieb, who was a good friend of my husband's. It was around 1960. I'd gotten married and had two children, and I was getting a little bit bored. I really wanted to get back to work. Gottlieb said to my husband, "Dasha's getting bored and I really want this marriage to work because the two of you are terrific together. I have a new play, *Same Time, Next Year*." We'd heard nothing of it. The two people cast in it were Ellen Burstyn and Charles Grodin. So Morty asked if I'd co-produce it with him. I said, "What do you want me to do?"

*continued on page 67*



T H E

# Company

by Wesley Yang

ON BROADWAY  
AND OFF, BARNARD  
WOMEN ARE CREATING  
THEATRE THAT  
PROVOKES, NOURISHES  
AND ENTERTAINS.

## PROLOGUE

Count on academics to sound funereal when they talk about a con-

temporary art form, even when they're trying not to. "I'm reluctant to pronounce the theatre dead," begins Shawn-Marie Garrett, an assistant professor in the Barnard College theatre program. Garrett teaches theatre history and works as a dramaturge (a kind of advisor to the director on how to make different elements of the play cohere to create a believable imaginative world) in the New York theatre, most recently with the director Andre Gregory. "People have been continually sounding the death knell of theatre, and somehow it continually comes back like a mythical hydra, always regenerating itself in a new form."







JESSICA BRATER (LEFT), KATYA SCHAPIRO (CENTER), CATHERINE WALLACH (RIGHT), ALONG WITH FELLOW COMPANY MEMBERS, READ THROUGH AN UPCOMING WORK.

That said, certain conditions must be acknowledged. Garrett rehearses the familiar litany of grievances that you hear around the city: the scarcity and prohibitive cost of space, the drying up of government and private funds for noncommercial companies. These conditions, among others, have made life for actors, playwrights, and producers embarking on their careers, as she puts it, “brutally, brutally difficult.” “When you consider the number of Broadway plays out there, compared to the ’50s, you get depressed. When you look at the funding situation for new artists compared to the ’60s and ’70s, you get depressed. When you consider the variety and quality of the work produced on Broadway and off-Broadway, you get depressed...”

She pauses—she is seated in her office on the fifth floor of Milbank Hall on a warm November evening just after sundown—and looks pensive for a moment. “I want to say something hopeful about the state of the theatre.” There is, of course, never any shortage of renewed hope being injected into the theatre. It comes in the form of thousands of young people aspiring to launch careers in the unforgiving world of the New York stage. They want to make it big on Broadway, or to mess with the rules of the stage on the downtown scene. They are beginning their own lives in the theatre, just as others seem intent on declaring it a finished thing. A handful of Barnard women would like to disagree.

## ACT I

“Everyone is always declaring the theatre dead. Theatre is not dead because people are still doing it, because people still need to do it,” says Jessica Brater ’00, the artistic director of Polybe+Seats, a small experimental company consisting of five Barnard women and one woman from Columbia. Polybe+Seats is named for Gertrude Stein’s dog, and its aesthetic is influenced by Stein’s non-linear narrative plays and theories of the stage. The group performs Stein’s plays with discordant eruptions of melodramatic dialogue punctuated by highly stylized movement. They deliberately run roughshod over classical Aristotelian poetics. Polybe+Seats would like to follow in Stein’s wake, and in the wake of avant-garde theatre figures like Richard Foreman and the Wooster Group. “We’re doing something very different on the stage, but at the same time we’re not bleeding or puking or getting naked,” notes associate producer Catherine Wallach ’01. “Not that there’s anything wrong with any of that or that we wouldn’t necessarily do that if the scene called for it.”

The company members are all studying theatre in graduate school or working in the professional theatre, in addition to working with their own company. Brater, Wallach, producing director Stacey Cooper McMath ’01, and associate artistic director Miriam Felton-Dansky ’02 are seated on couches in Brater’s Brooklyn



living room on a late November afternoon. There are excellent homemade muffins and an abundance of brave and spirited talk about the importance of striking off and doing one's own work. "It is delightful," declares Cooper McMath, "to be together at the head of an organization that we have created, one entering its fifth year of existence." She recalls a moment a few years back when an important artistic decision had to be made. "We were like, 'There's nobody to ask but us! We'll just make it, we can't get in trouble if we screw up.'"

The women of Polybe+Seats studied theatre and acted in plays together as undergraduates. In 2001 some of them presented Barnard graduate Sally Oswald's *Desmond or Abraham and Frances*, in the New York International Fringe Festival. The following year, the company offered Oswald's *Two Spent Swimmers* at Brown University's New Plays Festival, then at the Abingdon Theatre, which was at the time on 42nd Street in New York. In the summer of 2003, the company produced three short plays by Gertrude Stein that received favorable notice in *The Village Voice*.

A paradox at the heart of experimental theatre is that the most aesthetically intransigent work is most dependent on public subsidy—or the kindness of strangers. Begin with a vision of artistic revolution, and soon you will find yourself spending the bulk of your time thinking about raising money. The company's latest project, about artist Charlotte Salomon, promises to be its most ambitious work—it also aspires to be a breakthrough to both a larger theatergoing audience and to the administrators who control purse strings. Salomon, a German Jew in her early 20s from a wealthy and artistic family, fled Berlin in 1939 for the South of France. She sequestered herself in a room in which she produced more than 1,300 paintings over the course of two years. The paintings were overlaid with transparencies providing narration and musical cues. She called the series *Life? Or Theatre? A Play With Music*. "Take good care of them, they are my whole life," she told a physician into whose care she delivered the paintings. In 1943 the Nazis found her, shipped her off to Auschwitz, and killed her.

Polybe+Seats proposes to give this fraught material its first complete theatrical rendition. The hundreds of Expressionistic paint-







ABOVE: TISA CHANG'S PANASIAN REPERTORY THEATRE PRODUCED *RASHOMON* IN LATE 2002.

LEFT: THESE DAYS, KAIT KERRIGAN SPENDS LESS TIME ON A PIANO AND MORE ON A COMPUTER.

ings will be styled into the backdrop for a “total work of art” that will fuse story, music, and painting. “When you look at these paintings, you can see that she really needed to do this in order to save her own life,” Brater says.

## ACT II

In Midtown Manhattan, Kait Kerrigan '04 is preparing for a showcase of her songs written in a very different theatrical idiom. A playwriting career is not typically stumbled into accidentally, but that is what happened to Kerrigan during her junior year. She was an English major, an aspiring fiction writer, and someday, she hoped, a professor. She also enjoyed acting in student productions. One semester, when every play being staged by Barnard's and Columbia's various student theatrical organizations was male-dominated, Kerrigan won a grant to stage a play with an all-female cast. But she was unable to secure the rights to the play. This left her in something of a bind. “I had all this money, and no play,” she reminisces about days not-so-long past. “My friends kept telling me, ‘You should write it yourself,’” she recalls. “I was like, ‘No way, uh-uh, I don't write shows.’”

Soon after making this declaration, Kerrigan wrote her first show. She cast seven actors to star in the not-yet-written play, then cobbled their stories into seven linked monologues. “Our motto was, ‘More monologue, less vagina,’” she says, speaking in a noisy diner at 69th Street and Broadway.

*Her Old Possessions* went over well at Columbia, and it had readings in Seattle and Oxford, England. The summer between her junior and senior years, Kerrigan's stepmother passed along Kerrigan's e-mail address to an old family acquaintance, Brian Lowdermilk. He'd just quit Harvard to study music at New York University. Kerrigan and Lowdermilk had done community theatre together back in their native Pennsylvania, but, as Lowdermilk observes, Kerrigan was two years older than him, and they weren't really friends. “My stepmom is always writing me to get me in contact with people,” Kerrigan says, with a slight roll of her eyes, “and nothing ever, ever comes of it.”

This once, something came of it. Two weeks after an e-mail was sent, the two started to write their first musical, working in the piano practice room in Plimpton Hall. “No one was ever in there, especially on weekend nights,” says Lowdermilk. “We felt so blessed to have that space.” They wrote not knowing any of the rules of the well-made musical, and violated most of them. The play opens with 16 actors front stage singing to the audience. The main character, an acoustician who despises music, does not sing until the final act. The second song is not, as is customary, one in which the protagonist proclaims, “I want ...” something. The duo directed

*continued on page 64*





# Class Notes

31

Jane Stein Aberlin  
640 Ocean Ave., Apt. 306  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-761-2102

34

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

35

We've lost several classmates, and we send our deepest sympathy to their families and friends. Doris Milman '38 tells us that her cousin **Mildred Kreeger Davidson** of Manhattan died Sept. 24. Mildred was our class president. She attended our 70th reunion in June, making such an effort to get there directly from a hospital in a wheelchair. **Edith Cantor Morrison** died on Aug. 6, writes her niece Erica Zeichner Maltz '02.

Margaret Sudekum informed us that her mother, **Violet Hopwood Sudekum**, 90, passed away on Oct. 21. A native of New York City, Violet graduated with a degree in mathematics and later obtained a second degree from the Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School. She worked as an executive secretary, and during World

War II she was a government electronics inspector for General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y. She married Lothar Sudekum in 1944, just before he was shipped overseas, where he participated in the Battle of the Bulge with the armed forces. The couple raised two daughters. Violet was involved in local and national politics. After her husband's retirement, the couple moved to Bloomsbury, N.J. In 1999 they moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. Violet is survived by her daughter and a sister.

Ruth Blumner Schwartz '41 sent the College a loving remembrance of her sister, **Aline Blumner**. She writes of Aline's generosity and her devotion as an alumna. Aline was active in the Barnard College Club of New York and the Barnard Club of Westchester and counted many alumnae among her friends.

Marie Leis Pearce  
701 Market St. Apt. 252  
Oxford, MI 48371-3576

70TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

36

This is our 70th reunion year! How many of us will make it to the event? It would be wonderful to see and enjoy old friends. I know I'll do my best to make it. The class committee has planned a questionnaire, which is being distributed to classmates by **Sonya Turitz Schopick**, our vice president and reunion chair. She's working hard to plan a joyous occasion for us, so please help her by answering the questions and returning it promptly, whether or not you plan to attend. This is also an opportunity to send us your news, even if you can't be there.

I was saddened to hear of the death of **Lucy Riddleberger**

**Burke** in July. The news was sent by her daughters, Catherine, Cynthia, and Carol. Those who wish to send personal messages may contact me for an e-mail address. We send our sympathy to them.

I'm nursing an injured shoulder, but am still writing—tempting fate by starting a new book, a novel for a change—and marketing my two memoirs. It's fun meeting people and enjoying the great feedback.

Remember, reunion is in June!

Nora Lourie Percival  
478 Greer Lane  
Vilas, NC 28692  
828-297-2828

38

It's been several years since I talked with my dear friend, **Audrey Snyder Harding**, so I was very touched to have a message from her daughter, Meg, telling me that Audrey and her husband, Ken, still live in Michigan, in the home by the river that Audrey loves so much. Audrey's health has been failing for several years as a result of a series of small strokes, but Meg reports that Audrey is happy and content and enjoys reports of her Barnard friends.

**Maxine Meyer Greene** has made news again with a laudatory *Associated Press* article that discusses her work helping young people "to learn and grow." She is a philosopher-in-residence at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, where she's considered a guru of education theory and is recognized for fostering "a passion for literature, music, films, painting, and today's news," as a way to capture students' interest. Her approach to education is being used in the new public High School for Arts in New York. In addition to her work at Lincoln

For classes without correspondents, send notes to  
Deborah M. Staab  
Barnard magazine  
Vagelos Alumnae Center  
Barnard College  
3009 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027-6598  
E-mail: [classnotes@barnard.edu](mailto:classnotes@barnard.edu)



Center, she's Wm. F. Russell Professor Emerita of Philosophy and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

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

---

39

Martha Ankeney Schaffer  
636 Prospect St.  
Westfield, NJ  
07090-3931  
908-232-1840

---

**40 Evelyn Sarian Maldonado** died on June 6. She is survived by her husband, Edward, one daughter, and two grandchildren. The class sends its deepest sympathy to them. Please contact me with your updates and news for our next column.

Flora Ehrsam Dudley  
437 Melbourne Ave.  
Mamaroneck, NY  
10543-2730  
914-698-1273

---

65TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**41** Our approaching reunion has brought correspondence from **Sue Riley Clagett, Winifred Meagher Donoghue, Adeline Bostelmann Higgins, Betty Clifford Macomber, and Alice Kliemand Meyer.** Hopefully these letters mean you're planning a trip to the College in June. It's not easy to attend if you live outside the city, but you won't have such an opportunity again for another five years. Whatever your plans, we hope you're sending a paragraph to be included in our class booklet. I'm not certain if snapshots can be used, but please include them if possible.

The class dinner will be Friday, June 9, and we hope to have high tea on Saturday. The Alumnae Association will send a full schedule, including information about the

Thursday evening trip to a Broadway theatre and other events. As for places to stay uptown, the only option other than the dormitory would be to try to reserve one of the few rooms at Union Theological Seminary.

**Vicky Hughes Reiss** and **Estelle De Vito** took part in the planning meeting. A number of classmates already have expressed their intention to attend, including **June Wilson Bain**, whose daughter hopes to come with her from California.

**Judith Johnson Snyder's** husband, Wayne, forwarded a loving summary of the speeches at her memorial service last February. Judy was a devoted teacher of young children and a loving mother who took several years from her teaching career at 41 to raise her twin daughters, Jan and Judy. Despite her dependence on oxygen tanks for five years, she worked determinedly for the cause of world peace and justice.

**Barbara Baehr** received the Chancellor's International Center volunteer's award for tutor of the year again. This time it's in a leather case with the gold seal of the University of California at San Diego. Congratulations, Barbara.

**Ruth Stevenson Carpenter** moved from her home of 38 years to River Rock Lodge in Jackson, Wyo. She misses her home, but it was built for seven Carpenters and became much too large for just one person. She's very proud of the college accomplishments of her grandchildren and mentioned that her granddaughter, Deborah, works at *The Architect's Newspaper* in New York and plans to enter a graduate program in architecture at Columbia University.

**Beatrice Belis Soltz** writes that she and her husband have left Boynton Beach, Fla., for Orchard Cove in Canton, Mass. They're very proud of their daughter Judith Soltz '68, general counsel and executive vice president of Cigna.

The Aug. 18 issue of *Country Journal*

reports that **Athena Capraro Warren** won a \$2,000 grant from Xeric Foundation for Hampshire Care in Leeds, United Kingdom. Athena founded Second Mile in 1981, a non-profit organization of volunteers who work with the patients and sponsor activities. The grant will enable the activities to be expanded to painting, clay, and other creative media. She hopes nearby artists will volunteer their expertise.

We're sorry to report that Sue Riley Clagett's husband, Marshall, died on Oct. 21 at the age of 89. He taught and published at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton from 1964 and was a noted scholar of science in ancient Egypt and Greece, with an emphasis on the work of Archimedes and its influence on medieval Europe. Our sympathy goes to Sue, her daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.

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

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

---

**42 Doris Bayer Coster** and **Helen Baker Cushman** arranged a mini-reunion luncheon in October at the Barnard College Club of New York. The location was great, the food delicious, and the atmosphere quiet and conducive to conversation. There were 10 of us in attendance and each wrote a few words about her life:

Doris is busy with gardening, grandchildren, and serving on various boards and committees involved in caring for the aging. Helen is active in various nonprofit organizations. She still works in family archives and keeps up with her six grandchildren.

**Mabel Schubert Foust** lives in Boca Raton, Fla., and volunteers as a



security person at the Church Thrift Shop in Palm Beach. The thrift shop's proceeds have been used to help local Palm Beach County migrants, the homeless, and abused women and children. Mabel writes a quarterly newsletter for the condominium in which she lives. **Elizabeth Alleva Diaz** is active with the American Association of University Women, North Shore branch, and she delights in her great-grandson. **Flora Bridges Harper** spends a good part of every summer in Rockport, Mass. She's on the board of the Rockport Chamber Music Festival. **Lois Voltter Silberman** moved to an apartment near her daughter; however, she's still trying to find items that the movers secreted somewhere. She does volunteer work at a nearby library.

**Glafyra Fernandez Ennis** travels to badminton tournaments and volunteers in the newly developed after-school program at a local middle school. She enjoys teaching badminton to these seventh and eighth graders. **Virginia Rogers Cushing** prepares tax returns for seniors, helps out at a local homeless shelter, and is president of the local square dance club. She and her husband spent two months in Maine this summer, seeing lots of family and sitting on the front porch watching the boats sail by. **Helen Marraro Abdoo** now lives in Oradell, N.J., with her daughter, Jayma, who has been promoted to assistant dean of pre-professional programs and international students at Barnard. Helen enjoys the advantages of living near the big city, like going to plays, concerts, operas, and ballets.

**Joan Brown Wettingfeld** was appointed one of 14 borough historians for Queens District 11 at a swearing-in ceremony in September. She still writes a biweekly history column that's syndicated in 16 *Times Ledger* newspapers.

Many classmates who couldn't

attend the mini-reunion sent regards and some included news items. **Frances Murphy Duncan** moved to a life-care center in Columbus, Ga. She says that all her children helped out and she feels good about the move. She continues to read to disadvantaged children at a local elementary school and is the president of the Columbus Medical Center Auxiliary. **Ruth Heningham Webbert** and her husband, Charles, moved to Westborough, Mass., to be near their son. She says that they are both in good health and physically able to enjoy their new life. **Mabel Campbell** is still active. She's enrolled in several courses at the Riverside Church. She keeps in touch with **Eleonora Boggiano**, who had been struggling to keep a garden despite bad weather and a hungry woodchuck.

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

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

**43 Irene Jones Reinert** writes to tell us about a trip she took with Jacqueline Shadgen Menage '44 around the tip of South America from Santiago, Chile, to Buenos Aires, Argentina. This was a prelude to a more recent cruise to Alaska. I haven't seen Jacqueline since we met at a reception honoring Professor Lorch of the math department.

**Margaret O'Rourke Montgomery** is finishing her two-year term as president of the Long Island Federation of Women's Clubs. The 40 clubs in the district include those in Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. I'm involved with the New Jersey affiliate and salute Margaret and all those who give so much time and effort for charitable and women's causes. After her annual trip to

Bermuda last year, Margaret returned to her home to Maine.

I enjoyed a delightful dinner with **Marilyn Haggerty**. The layout of her apartment in a senior residence was uniquely spacious, showing off her furnishings beautifully. The dinner had been prepared exactly as requested by the residence's chef. It was a memorable meal and visit.

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

**44** Weddings kept **Françoise Kelz** busy this past fall: she attended the wedding of a son of friends on the Kent School faculty. She also went to the wedding of **Alice Eaton Harris'** granddaughter, a recent graduate of Harvard.

What a pleasure to receive an invitation in September to a reception at the American Folk Art Museum in New York celebrating the publication of *Enia's World: The Art of Eugenia Alter Propp*. My delight escalated when I flipped through the book's colorful photographs of **Eugenie Alter Propp's** fabric collages and striking arrangements of collections of bits and pieces, described as art that blends "collage and domestic materials such as fabric, laces, sequins, beads, and buttons." Eugenia's comments are scattered among the pictures, providing a minimal amount of thought-provoking text. One such comment: "I use whatever strikes my imagination. It's not the value of things. It's the putting them together." Her work is photographed in her New York apartment, which I visited at the time of our last reunion. One room, I noted, was devoid of decoration. "Oh," said Eugenia, "that's my husband's den and I don't put anything in there."

The son and daughter of **Jane Nestler Diaz** told us of their mother's passing in September. A native of



New York, Jane lived the past 37 years in Georgia, where she was an active member of her community and the loving grandmother of four. Visitors to her home have commented on her lovely garden, as well as her graciousness as a host. Apart from her responsibilities with the Red Cross, the local garden club, and chapter of the boating club Power Squadron, Jane was a member of the Red Hat Society, the first classmate I know of who belonged to that organization, "where there is fun after 50 (and before) for women of all walks of life." The class extends its sympathy to Jane's family as well as to the families of **Meade Laird Shackelford**, who passed away in August, and **Odette Golden**, who passed away in May.

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

---

**45** Please note that there will a mini-reunion on May 3. Contact me or one of your other class officers for more information.

Age and seclusion are not operative words for this active class.

**Azelle Brown Waltcher**, class co-president, convened the officers and core committee for a planning session in December on what we might plan for a 61st mini-reunion in the spring. The decision and all the important details will reach you by letter. Please plan to come.

In late summer, Azelle was busy at Newport Naval Shelters helping those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Sr. **Marjorie (Wysong) Raphael** experienced the fury of the hurricane season on the island of Haiti, which was hit by two hurricanes, Wilma and Alpha. She and the other Episcopal sisters supplied patients in their care with water, food, and other necessities. Marjorie describes Haiti as an "ecological

nightmare," where the people are chronically angry. She cites the Summer 2005 *Barnard* profile of Dr. Roberta Cohen '60, whose work concerns internally displaced persons. Port-au-Prince is like that, Marjorie says; it has tripled in population over the past decade, and suffers high unemployment as the islands' agriculture becomes less and less sustainable. She feels this problem needs major world study.

Together with my daughter, Suzanne, I hosted a dinner at the New York Athletic Club for the family of the late **M. Dare Reid Turenne**. Rodolfo, Dare's widower, looks great at 91 and revels in the attention of three beautiful daughters, who keep him active and engaged. He sends regards to all his and Dare's friends in the Class of 1945. "I love them all," he says.

**Phyllis Cross Perlo** died on June 6. She was a zoology major and earned a master's in nursing at the Yale School of Nursing. She was a community health educator in local hospitals in Connecticut. Phyllis, who raised four children, was a vibrant, down-to-earth person who filled any room with joy. We send our condolences to her family.

**Sally Mather Gibson** died on Oct. 20. She attended the Spence School in New York and transferred from Vassar to Barnard in her junior year. On campus she was involved in many student organizations. She lived in Dunmore, Penn., where she was a trustee for three colleges in the area. At the time of our 50th reunion she wrote that she enjoyed both her business and home environments. She is survived by her husband, John, and her eight children. We express our sorrow at her passing.

Please send me your news. I'm sure you've found many rewarding ways in these retirement years in which to use the wonderful education you received at Barnard.

Annette Auld Kaicher  
5 Seymour Place  
White Plains, NY 10605  
akaicher@bestweb.net

---

70TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**46** We offer congratulations to **Jean Boeder Wetherill**, who was elected mayor of Beverly, N.J.

---

**47** **Grace Retz Donald** married a midshipman, Douglas Donald, who graduated from Columbia as a mining engineer, and moved with him 11 times, from one mining field to another, in their first nine years together. Douglas functioned as a geologist, and later as an investigator into various gold stocks, which enabled them to settle in New York. They adopted two children. Grace worked for such agencies as the Riverdale Children's Association and the Society for Seamen's Children, which specialized in the placement of foster children. She now works in her church thrift shop, and has two grandchildren and one great-grandson. Gracie remembers with special affection the late **Joan Fessenden Edwards**, the wife of Jack Edwards of Shell Oil, as being "so full of life." Joan died after a series of strokes in 1998.

**Marie Rosati Checchi**, M.D., worked as a cardiologist in Staten Island during her long career, and is the mother of four children. **Sarah Ames Ellis** was with us for only our senior year, having served in the WACS earlier. After Barnard she earned a master of social work at Columbia and a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the New School. She developed a practice that concentrated on couples and adolescents, in which she's still involved. She and her husband have traveled throughout Eastern Europe, where he works with colleges. Sarah has participated in a dig in Israel, visited Africa, and toured the silk route to China. The Ellises have



three children and five grandchildren.

The September 2005 issue of *Columbia College Today* has a photo of **Jean Connors Caldwell** of Springfield, Mass., with her husband, Durham Caldwell (CC '48), at the Fairfield University concert hall with piano master Dick Hyman (CC '48). The article notes that all three took part in WKRC's 1946 Christmas Show in the McMillen Theatre.

**Anne Attura Paolucci** is still active in the Council on National Literatures ([www.annehenrypaolucci.com](http://www.annehenrypaolucci.com)). She announces the appointment of a new director of the Council and of its Anne and Henry Paolucci International Center in Queens. Anne is very busy directing the publication of various works both by herself and by her late husband, Henry.

**Dena Kranowitz Mann** writes that her son Peter was underrepresented in an item in a recent column, having been described as a "tour manager," which he is, in his spare time. He's also chair of the French and Spanish departments at Brewster Academy in Wolfsboro, N.H. Apologies!

Betty Warburton Rizzo  
40 Earle Place  
New Rochelle, NY 10801-2917  
914-636-4205  
[bettrizzo@aol.com](mailto:bettrizzo@aol.com)

## MOVING?

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

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

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

**48** We tried to contact classmates from Hurricane Wilma-ravaged Florida, where people faced 10 days without electricity and hot water, depleted grocery shelves, long gas lines, and sporadic telephone service.

**Marian Riegel Ross** was able to fly north to visit her daughters in New York and Philadelphia when the airports reopened.

We were unable to talk with **Vivette Pascual D'Agati**, in Palm Beach County, or with **Pat Lee Grimm**, on Florida's west coast. We hope they and their homes escaped with minimal damage.

Pride in our Barnard connection was celebrated at the memorable Great Writer's at Barnard conference in November. With **Nora Robell**, **Nancy Ackerson Kowalchuk**, and some 800 others, we had to make agonizing choices among the 22 panels, which featured 75 distinguished Barnard writers. (Did you realize that Barnard has produced eight Pulitzer Prize winners?) We wish you all could have shared in this glorious experience.

Speaking of distinguished alumnae, **Gertrude Neumark Rothschild** tells us she has filed lawsuits against four of the "big five" companies in the solid-state lighting industry for patent infringement involving commercial applications of light-emitting diodes and laser diodes. We trust that she'll prevail. Gertrude was the first woman to hold a named chair on the faculty of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Columbia University.

**Genevieve (Lawrie) Trevor Nomer** fell and broke her hip last spring. This was after her quick recovery from hip replacement surgery. We assumed she must have fallen off her mountain bike. Not so; she slipped on her own sidewalk, slick with mud from rare torrential rains that hit Texas. Once she was pronounced healed, she

hit the trails in September, biking 430 miles in New Mexico and Colorado. She says she feels great.

**Frances Dowd Smith** and her husband, Warren, celebrated the wedding anniversary of their grandson, Robert, in November, hosting 50 immediate family members. Robert signed up for duty on a nuclear submarine, based in Connecticut.

Did you see **Sabina FitzGibbon Philip** on the inside front cover of the summer issue of *Barnard*, with her personal testimonial supporting the College's Athena Society? We also noted **M. Eileen O'Brien** in the Fall 2005 *Athena's Forum*. Eileen, who died in 2004, made a generous bequest supporting a scholarship for Barnard students studying in the arts. Eileen was a great supporter of the arts during her lifetime and was an avid opera buff.

**Pamela Dix Peabody** died on July 11. She is survived by four children and eight grandchildren. She had been a teacher before her retirement. **Josephine Pollock Case** died on Aug. 11. She is survived by her husband, Paul, five children, seven grandchildren, and their families.

Our class sends heartfelt condolences to **Eleanor Thomas Elliott** on the loss of her husband, Jock, on Oct. 29. We have fond memories of Jock, who attended many of our reunions. He and Elly hosted our 2003 reunion cocktail party. Together they generously supported Barnard. We'll miss him.

Frances Jeffery Abramowitz  
10371 Lake Vista Circle  
Boca Raton, FL 33498-6726  
561-488-7132

**49** I've had no success contacting classmates, but I'd love to hear from you. Please write or call with news.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you on Friday, April 28, when we'll hold a mini-reunion at a museum in New York. **Martha Gross Fink** says



a letter with details will be sent to classmates in the early spring. A tour of the museum will be followed by lunch.

I was very sorry to learn of the death of **Rose-Helen Kopelman Breinin** on June 25. Our condolences go to her husband, Goodwin, her two children, and her four grandchildren.

—YDD

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

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

**50** On Oct. 28, a mini-reunion at Rockefeller University was attended by **Rose Sgammato Annis, Vilma Mairo Bornemann-Caraley, Jean Scheller Cain, Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum, Harriet Costikyan, Noreen McDonough Fuerstman, Nancy Nicholson Joline, Mary Louise Luginbuhl Kearns, Marjorie (Peggy) Lange, Irma Socci Moore, Mildred Moore Downs Rust** and her friend Carol George, **Cecile Singer, Myra Koh Sobel, Bernice Fiering Solomon,** and **Roselin (Roz) Seider Wagner.** We were treated to a concert of Baroque music, followed by lunch and conversation.

Peggy spent five weeks in France last summer, two of them on a river cruise from Nice to Paris, and three visiting a cousin in St. Aubin, Normandy. During the year, Peggy keeps up her French by watching French-language TV news broadcasts.

Myra found a new career 12 years ago when Harcourt Brace moved to Florida. Myra, a senior editor, was given the choice of going along or taking early retirement. She opted for the latter, did some freelance editing and then took up oil painting. She has

been in a few exhibitions, and last summer had a one-woman show at the Jadite Gallery in Manhattan.

In September, Nancy and her husband went on a Waterways of Russia trip through Yale University, spending several days in Moscow, then traveling by riverboat to St. Petersburg, stopping at villages along the way. "Between our accompanying professor and great local guides, we learned so much about a country we realized we knew so little about."

Mildred's autobiography, *A Unique Life: An Autobiography Complete with Misdeeds*, has been published by Dorrance. "It's been an exciting adventure," says Mildred.

Our honorary class member **Eva Miodownik Oppenheim** is also an author. Her chapbook of poems, *Things As They Are*, was recently published by Moon Pie Press. Eva did a reading from the book at the Morningside Bookshop in November.

**Elizabeth Bean Miller** and husband "finally made it to Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians. It was a great seven-day round-trip on the Alaskan ferry, *Tustamena*, leaving from and returning to Homer. We were truly fortunate: no storms, lots of lovely scenery, a maximum of relaxation, and no need for Dramamine!"

**Carolyn Ogden Brotherton** spent two weeks in Greece in October, visiting Athens, a mountain village in the Peloponnesus, and the island of Aigina in the Saronic Sea.

On behalf on the class, we send heartfelt condolences to **Christina Lammers Hirschhorn** on the loss of her beloved husband, Howard, in August. She wrote movingly of her last days with him. Chris manages two companies: a vending-machine business and a wholesale beverage business. "It is a one-person office, and extremely challenging."

Sadly, we learned recently of the death of **Katherine Kling Smith**, on April 20, 2002.

—NNJ

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

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

55TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**51 Rhoda Zorn Mahler** enjoys receiving *Barnard* and writes: "The articles are stimulating and often thought-provoking." Rhoda, who lives in Florida, will have a "traditional reunion with four children and their families on Cape Cod" this year.

By now, you'll have received several reminders of our 55th reunion, Thursday, June 8, through Sunday, June 11. The reunion committee, consisting of class officers and other volunteers, has had several meetings and could use more volunteers.

You might consider serving as an officer or as a committee chair, for the next five years. You may also suggest names for the new slate of officers that will be elected at reunion. For further information, you can get in touch with me or with Alice Eckstein '99, manager of regional programs for Alumnae Affairs, at 212-854-2005.

Anneke Baan Verhave  
134 Colonial Way  
Falmouth, MA 02540-4314  
averhave@adelphia.net

**52** Last fall, **Carol Connors Krikun**, her friend Anne Neary, **Claire Delage Metz, Ruth Ryskind Ohman** and I enjoyed a two-day tour of the Berkshires under the auspices of Barnard's Project Continuum. A highlight of the trip was a cocktail party hosted by Carol Mayer Solomon '63 and her husband, Larry.

**Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt** hosted a meeting to plan our 55th reunion.



Present were **Elizabeth (Bettina) Blake, Ruth (Bunny) Mayers Goldhaber, Millicent Lieberman Greenberg, Michela Mitchell Halpern, Marietta Dunston Moskin, Ruth Ohman, Marie (Manya) Kopman Salwen, Elizabeth Bache Shwal, Rosemary Tartt**, and me. The next reunion-planning meeting is scheduled for March 15. If you'd like to participate, please let me know. I'll make sure you're included.

**Delores Hoffman** writes that she retired to Sarasota, Fla., in August 2004. Last October, she took a trip to Alaska with Marilyn Sebald Tanner '47. Delores lives in the same apartment complex as Lillian Kates Kaghan '42 and meets other Barnard alumnae at the Columbia University Alumni Club.

**Jane Lancaster** is another avid traveler in retirement. Last year she visited Burma, Western China, Italy, and Peru.

Still another retiree, **Eunice Messler**, is happily settled in a semi-rural community in Virginia. She's active in an American Association of University Women program in women's affairs. A nurse, Eunice also volunteers at a free clinic and is a Red Cross volunteer.

**Jeanette Di Russo Macero** retired from her professorship at Syracuse University. She continues to live in Medfield, Mass., near her children and grandchildren. She enjoys activities with her family and says she has lots of time for reading.

**Muriel LaCroix-Briand** has not retired, although she has reduced her work schedule. She survived a stroke, fortunately with no limiting consequences, and remains active. The only activity she's had to give up is horseback-riding.

**Rachel Solomon Kruskal** says she's happy being a wife, a mother, and a grandmother. For more than 40 years, she's also been involved in a

local theatre group, as an actress and as a director. Through a program sponsored by her synagogue, Rachel records books for the visually impaired. She used to read on the radio, but the program was dropped due to lack of funding.

Oops, I goofed. **Charlotte Shermer Dubnick** writes that she does not live in Palm Beach, as I had stated in my fall column. Charlotte lives in Boca Raton, which is in Palm Beach County. I apologize to Charlotte and to the classmates I inadvertently misled. Charlotte often attends Barnard Club of South Florida events.

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

**53 Helene Feldman King** passed away in New York last June. She is survived by two daughters and two grandsons.

The Laurie Strauss Leukemia Foundation, founded by **Evelyn Ilton Strauss** and her husband, Herb, in memory of their daughter Laurie, held its 16th annual fund-raising gala at Carnegie Hall in November. It has raised millions of dollars toward finding a cure for leukemia and other cancers.

An article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that **Sondra Matkowsky Napell** won a Jefferson Award for making a difference in the Bay area as founder of the Walnut Creek-based Senior Tutors for Youth. She has earned master's degrees in English and Chinese and a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction. At the age of 50 she became a lawyer. While working on her law degree she clerked for a judge in San Francisco's Juvenile Court and decided to organize a group of seniors to tutor incarcerated youth. She truly has made a difference in many troubled lives.

On Sept. 20, Barnard and

Columbia held the first Jeanne Clery Lecture as part of a series funded by Howard and **Constance Benjamin Clery**. Featured speaker Koren Zailckas' *Smashed* tells the story of her binge drinking from the age of 14 through her graduation from Syracuse University.

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

**54** I tried reaching some Floridian classmates to see how they fared the hurricane season. **Patricia Sands Knapp**, who lives in Boca Raton, related how frightening it was when the eye passed directly overhead. Her power was restored after six days, but there were no traffic lights. Patricia's home had minor damage: lost trees, roof tiles, and patio screening. Despite the ordeal, there was a wonderful sense of community. Otherwise, Pat has been very active as vice president of the Brandeis Women's Committee of 2,000 members. She sets up study programs, arranges for speakers, and has brought in classical music concerts. She was also president of Women's American ORT.

I reached **Kathryn Cartisser Couch** of Clearwater, who reports that the storm went "over and under" but did not hit. She's a nurse who's held some interesting positions, including one in the county jail system. There she dealt with prisoners who'd been in fights, had to determine if a prisoner should be screened for a psychiatric institution, and knew every drunk in the county on a first-name basis. She now has "nurse's back," so she's concentrating on getting her book of poetry published.

Up coast, **Florence Muha Cooper** and her husband of Oriental, N.C., lost their RV to the storms because it had a flat tire and couldn't be driven out when they evacuated. Their house, built on pilings because of



their coastal location, is fine. Florence and her family returned to the United States in 1980 after years living in exotic places with the foreign service.

**Joanne Slater**, recalling that I had had an angioplasty, called me for advice and reassurance before getting hers. She's making good progress and more endurance now. Joanne feels Prairie Village, Kan., is the right place to be at this time of her life. She'd like to start a Barnard in Kansas Club because even transgenerational Barnard women have a lot in common.

**Marcia Musicant Bernstein** had a lovely reunion with **Ruth Lerman Fitzpatrick** during her vacation in Nova Scotia. Marcia's husband retired this July after 38 years as a professor at Washington University Law School. They enjoy "the slower pace of our lives."

**Georgia Miller Lambrou** has retired from owning a real estate company in New Canaan, Conn. She enjoys her 11 grandchildren, the eldest just married.

We send condolences to the family of **Jessie Doremus** who passed away last January.

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

**55** The next class luncheon for the New York area is scheduled for March 8 at noon. If you'll be in the vicinity, contact **Jane Were-Bey Gardner** at myblueboat@aol.com, 561-776-7111, or 917-612-4421.

We're sad to report the death last June of **Vita Bogart**. Vita was a retired principal and the former assistant director of the Field Service Unit for Special Education in New York. She served as vice president and a member of the board of the Association for Metro Area Autistic Children.

In response to my request for gold-

en anniversary couples, I heard from **Joan Goldstein Cooper, Eva Nauenberg Faillace, and Norma Haft Mandel**:

Joan and Herb Cooper celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary this past December. They were married in Paris, while Joan was spending her junior year at the Sorbonne. Herb, then in medical school, missed her so much that he flew to Paris over the holiday break and they were married. They have two sons and six grandchildren; the oldest grandchild is a first-year at Wellesley.

Eva writes that she married her high school sweetheart, Hugo Faillace, in New York on Aug. 10, 1955. They have three children: Ricardo, 49, lives in New York with his wife, Diana, and their three children, Monica, 14, Ricky, 12, and Alexa, 5; Michael, 48, also lives in New York with his wife, Soraya, and their baby, who was born in November; and Evelyn, 47, lives in San Francisco with her husband, Paul Dravis, and two daughters, Michelle, 14, and Stephanie, 12. Eva and Hugo live in Barranquilla, Colombia, where Eva is a college and career counselor at Colegio Marymount. They frequently visit the United States. Eva writes that she was able to show **Dawn Lille** around Barranquilla when Dawn was in town to make a presentation at one of the local universities.

Norma and Myron Mandel celebrated their 52nd anniversary on Dec. 20, 2005. They have four children and six grandchildren.

**Louise Cohen Silverman** and her husband, Bob, plan to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in August 2006 with a cruise to Alaska. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Please share your golden anniversary story.

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

**56** **Natalie Twersky Berkowitz** and her husband, Phil, live in Haworth, N.J., but often travel to Napa, Calif., as the two are partners in Frog's Leap Winery. Natalie's looking for a literary agent and publisher for her novel, *Detours*. She takes conversation classes at the French Alliance, writes a wine column for a New Jersey paper, and teaches a wine appreciation mini-course to seniors at Barnard. "The college curriculum seems to have expanded into exciting and thought-provoking subjects. I wish I could start again," she says.

Natalie also shared her thoughts about our 50th reunion. "Sometimes I'm dazzled when I realize how old I am and how many years have gone by. Yet I don't feel any older than I did as a senior in 1956. I know my face belies my perception of myself.

"I remember our fifth reunion, seeing a group of older ladies, probably in their 70s, from what seemed to be the way-distant past, wearing white straw hats with cherries, and gloves. I assume when we come to our reunion, Barnard women of more recent vintages will gasp at the women from the Class of 1956. We will omit the straw hats and orthopedic shoes, but they'll know right away we're not from the Class of 1996.

"We once were on the back page of Class Notes, and our optimism shone through reports of our progress. Many elderly graduates (have we reached that description yet?), who go back decades, may be limited by their frailness, but still seem to be engaged in life.

"Our class is moving steadily towards the front of *Barnard*, but let's fight on 'til the end.

"C.P. Snow, if I paraphrase correctly, said we see the faces of old friends with the faces of their youth. Let's hope that's true next June."

The 20th anniversary edition of **Barbara Florio Graham's** book, *Five Fast Steps to Better Writing*, contains



a new section just for freelancers and an extensive list of resources, information about copyrights (both in the United States and Canada), an article on “disaster-proofing” assignments, and bonus material on creativity and self-publishing. The book’s release was celebrated on Oct. 26 at the National Library in Ottawa, Canada. This is Barbara’s third book under her Simon Teakettle Ink imprint. The first two were *Five Fast Steps to Low-Cost Publicity* and *Mewings/Musings*. Bobbi, who lives in Ottawa, spoke to the Ottawa Independent Writers and the Media Club of Ottawa in October.

Hope to see you at reunion June 8 through June 11.

Kathryn Finegan Clark  
374 Kintners Road  
Kintnersville, PA 18930  
kathrynfclark@alum.barnard.edu

---

**57 Phyllis Raphael** represented our class at the Great Writers at Barnard conference in November as part of the memoir panel, which included Daphne Merkin ’75, Frances Landau Kiernan ’66, and Jeannette Walls ’84. Phyllis, an associate professor of creative writing at Columbia University, is the author of the novel *They Got What They Wanted* and the story/essay collection *Beating the Love Affair Rap and Other Tales*. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *Harpers*, *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Redbook*, and other magazines. She won a PEN Syndicated Fiction Award, and her memoir, *Off the King’s Road*, will be published next year.

**Lorraine Arditti Ganon** writes that **Marion Bachrach Wolfson** died of complications from emphysema; Lorraine and Marion were traveling in Utah with their husbands when Marion got sick. Our hearts go out to Marion’s husband and family. Marion was born in Vienna and survived the Holocaust by escaping to Shanghai, China, with her parents. She immigrated to the United States

in 1947 and later moved to Hollywood, Fla., where she became active in the community. Among the many organizations that Marion helped launch are Temple Solel, in Hollywood, Fla., and the Barnard Club of South Florida. Marion returned to work and became program administrator of Nova Southeastern University’s bachelor of professional management program in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; she retired in 1997. “She will be remembered most for her generous spirit and for the empathetic care, loyalty, kindness, and devotion she showered on the hundreds of friends, relatives, neighbors, and every animal who crossed her path,” reads her *Sun Sentinel* September 2005 obituary.

Lorraine is a psychotherapist in private practice. She and her husband, Larry, have been married for 49 years and have three children: Neal, 47, an attorney; David, 43, who just received his doctorate in music, teaches on the college level; and Marissa, 40, who works in chemical dependency. Their older granddaughter is a freshman at Emerson in Boston, and their younger granddaughter is 11.

**Judith Kramer Greene** reports that she and her husband, Bob, have moved to Worcester, Mass., to be closer to their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Judith also has a son who lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife.

An Oct. 22 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* mentions June Jordan High School, a public high school named in honor of **June Millicent Jordan**. Located in the city’s Excelsior district, the school was founded in September 2003 and is one of several small schools sponsored by the Gates Foundation.

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

---

**58 Marcia Spelman DeFren**, who ordinarily would be writing this column, is taking the trip of a lifetime with her husband, Burt. “We’re taking a 37-day cruise on a 110-passenger boat from Lisbon, Portugal, to South America, stopping in the Canary Islands, Madeira, and the Cape Verdes,” Marcia writes. The cruiser then will sail the ocean for seven days, making its way down the South American coast from Brazil to Argentina. The trip, co-sponsored by the National Geographic Society, includes a daily diet of lectures and films, “a real educational adventure,” writes Marcia.

For 30 years **Myriam Brun Chapman** has been teaching French at the Bank Street School for Children, right in Barnard’s neighborhood. Myriam writes that she has four granddaughters, two in Seattle and two in Minnesota. Her biggest news is the publication of her first novel, *Why She Married Him* (Other Press, 2005; see *Barnard*, Fall 2005 issue). The novel, says Myriam, is “based loosely on some notebooks I discovered my Russian-French grandmother had written about her life in prerevolutionary Russia, to her life as a young woman in Paris at the turn of the 20th century. I was so enthralled by the world my grandmother describes that I translated the notebooks for my children. But I was also intrigued by what she left unsaid. Between the lines about pogroms and politics, hardships and triumphs, family conflicts and love affairs, I felt there was a deeper story that needed to be told. So I decided to give my grandmother a voice by turning her story into a novel. I always wanted to be a writer and it is very gratifying to get one’s heart’s desire when one is old enough to appreciate what it means.” Marcia’s schedule of readings includes one in the Boston area in late April (check [www.otherpress.com](http://www.otherpress.com) for dates).

**Brenda Schwabacher Webster**



is presenting readings from her book, *The Beheading Game* (Wing Press, 2006). It's a reworking of the Gawain and The Green Knight epic as a modern gay love story, Brenda writes. You can look Brenda up on the online directory ([www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum)) for information about readings planned for California, where Brenda lives (her children, Rebecca and Michael, live nearby). Beyond writing and her readings, Brenda returned from a "delightful trip in Burgundy with a stop in London to see friends and theatre."

**Anne Hendon Bernstein** writes that she and her daughter, Lili Bernstein '99, presented their poster on "The Psychodynamic Treatment of Infertility" at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in October. Anne adds, "I am also happy to report that **Elaine Postelneck Yamin** and I stay in frequent telephone contact. She and her husband, Mike, are well."

**Rosian Bagriansky Zerner** was one of the invited speakers at a commemoration of the anniversary of Kristallnacht at Boston's Faneuil Hall. The event was co-sponsored by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Friends of the New England Holocaust Memorial, and the Jewish Community Relations Council. The event included a brief candle lighting at the New England Holocaust Memorial in Boston.

—HRS

Marcia Spelman De Fren  
7744 Spring Creek Drive, Riverwalk  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
[marciadefren@msn.com](mailto:marciadefren@msn.com)

Hannah Razdow Simon  
34 Webcowet Road  
Arlington, MA 02474  
[Hannah.Simon@comcast.net](mailto:Hannah.Simon@comcast.net)

**60 Joy Nathan Stern's** address was listed incorrectly in the reunion book but her correct address can be found on the online directory, [www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum).

**Hallie Ratzkin Levie** happily

announces the arrival of her first grandson, and second grandchild, Jonah Jasper.

**Susan Rubin Suleiman** is taking a break from teaching at Harvard to do research as a Radcliffe Institute fellow on artistic creativity in child Holocaust survivors.

**Judith Zuckerman Medoff** announced in our reunion book that she and her husband were moving from Baltimore from St. Louis, but they miss St. Louis and plan to move back there.

**Minette (Bettie) Switzer Cooper** was awarded the Special Achievement Recognition award by the YWCA of South Hampton Roads in Virginia. Over the past 40 years, Bettie has held leadership positions with a variety of organizations, including Young Audiences, Southern Jewish Historical Society, and the Virginia Symphony.

**Erna Olafson** and her husband have accepted positions at a large church in Tacoma, Wash. Her daughter Elizabeth received a master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

**Linda Kaufman Kerber**, May Brodbeck Professor in Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Iowa, current chair of the department of history, and a lecturer in the College of Law, is one of two classmates who were featured on the Barnard Web site. The Web article reports that Linda is the incoming president of the American Historical Society (see [www.barnard.edu/newnews/news100305.html](http://www.barnard.edu/newnews/news100305.html)). The other alumna featured on the site, June Omura '86, is the daughter of **Emily Fowler Omura**.

With sorrow we belatedly report the deaths of **Linda Hertan Kaufman** on Oct. 28, 2004, and **Marianne Goldner Shapiro** on June 3, 2003.

**Karen Cohn Gubman** writes that Linda, who received her master's in public administration from

Syracuse University, raised three children and was director of development for SUNY Upstate Medical Center. Karen retired in 1998. She lost her battle with colon cancer at 64. "Although not related by blood, we had many years together as close as sisters until her last breath," writes Karen. Linda will be missed.

A press release for Marianne Shapiro's last book, *Higher Learning*, notes that she was born in Budapest and came to the United States at the age of 3. She was a Fulbright student at the Universities of Rome and Florence and received graduate degrees from Harvard and Columbia. She published eight scholarly books

**BARNARD ONLINE  
COMMUNITY**



**JOIN THE VIRTUAL REUNION**

Stay in touch with classmates and other alumnae through the online community. Share your views and personal experiences with other alumnae, find long-lost classmates in the directory, advertise your business or service, and take advantage of Barnard's permanent e-mail forwarding by joining the alumnae online community. Just connect!

[www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum)



and was widely acknowledged as a Dante scholar. She was an accomplished classical pianist, linguist, and art historian. She is survived by her husband, Michael.

*Higher Learning* received rave reviews, and I can't imagine a better way to honor her memory than for us all to buy and read copies.

—SG

Muriel Lederman Storrie  
1422 So. Arch St.  
Little Rock AR 72202,  
501.690.4804, lederman@vt.edu

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

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

45TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**61 Suzy McKee Charnas and Ellen Handler Spitz** participated in the Great Writers at Barnard conference. Suzy has written several vampire novels and a novella and has won several awards. Ellen's newest book is *The Brightening Glance: Imagination and Childhood* (Pantheon Press, 2006).

**Janet Gregory Seery** writes that **Christine Reitlinger Angiel** and her husband, Serge (CC '60), hosted **Genevieve (Gennie) Ramos Acker, Barbara Clarke Garcia-Romero**, and Janet and her husband, Tom (CC '59), on Leros Island, Greece.

Barbara taught Janet aerobic exercises in the Aegean Sea; Chris taught the right way to fold a fitted sheet; and Serge instructed some of the finer points of Greek mezes and wines. "Our first night, we joined in the eating and drinking at a fish festival, where all ages circled in energetic Greek dances. We explored bright-white little chapels with serene dark interiors full of candlelit icons. We day-tripped via hydrofoil to the

Byzantine Monastery of St. John on Patmos. On the first day of school in Leros, we observed the children so clean and beautifully dressed, and moms driving them to school on the motor scooter, the priest blessing everyone in the plaza. We sailed away over the clear azure sea to an island of pure white stones for a swim, and, after that, to the small island of Lipsi for another plate-after-plate lunch, Greek style. We excelled in learning the Greek cuisine."

**Nancy Engbretsen Lind** attended our 20th and 25th reunions but was unable to make it to our 40th. Nancy writes that she and Russ, her third husband, are not grandparents yet. Nancy is a part-time volunteer at the Yaeger Psychiatric Center, working mostly with young adults. Her daughter Susie works at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

I enjoyed catching up with Barbara Garcia-Romero over dinner. We're both happy with our lives now.

In December 2004 Barbara retired from her job as a law-firm administrator and now enjoys volunteering and traveling. She says, "For the past 23 years, I have been a volunteer usher at the San Francisco Opera. I am active in the Altar Guild at my local Episcopal church, and am in the fourth year as director of an after-school tutoring program." Recently she visited Genevieve Ramos Acker in Paris. "As I had not been in Paris in 40 years, Gennie was a great tour guide and didn't even mind taking a ride on the Bateau Mouche."

**Mary Varney Rorty**, her husband, Richard, and I had lunch recently. A friend of Mary's who'd been her student in Buffalo, where she taught philosophy, and his wife joined us. Mary is clinical associate professor at Stanford School of Medicine and is finally adjusting to California, although for a while she missed the life she had built in Charlottesville, Va., where her husband taught while they

were raising their children.

Last February and March **Dena Evans Hopfl** and her husband were kind enough to drive down from New York and stay with me on the Jersey Shore while I cared for my dying mother. Dena's been a wonderful, loyal friend. She has two married daughters, both lawyers, each with two children. One lives in New York and the other in Washington, D.C.

After years of struggle following the dot-com bust-up and the loss of four family members, everything is finally wonderful. I work full time at Hospice of Marin in community relations and I host a radio pod-cast on the Internet, [www.mondoglobo.net/neofiles](http://www.mondoglobo.net/neofiles). It features interviews with people who have a technology or science edge. One of my sons manages the largest solar-energy project in the world in Bavaria and my other son is a world-class potter. My daughter is the mother of two and a full-time lawyer.

Please try come to our 45th reunion, Thursday, June 8 through Sunday, June 11. As nominating chair for the next slate of class officers, I ask that you please let me know if you'd like to be on the ballot that we'll vote on at reunion.

—SHM

Althea Rudnick Glick  
8 Bancroft Road  
Wellesley, MA 02481-5216  
aglick@attbi.com

Sherry Hyman Miller  
332 Richardson Drive  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
sherry@sherryart.com

**62 Penelope (Penny) White Kilburn** celebrated her 65th birthday with her daughter Nell (who turned 40 the same day) at a cooking school in Tuscany, Italy. Penny reports it was wonderful to enjoy so special a time with her daughter. Amazingly, neither gained any weight, despite fantastic meals morning, noon, and night, with plenty of wine.



**Angela Carracino DiDomenico** and her husband, Maury, write: “We returned from our first season in Florida and are so very happy we decided to settle in Bonita Springs. We have enjoyed all the new friends we have made, along with seeing so many of our friends from New Jersey who also spend the winter here. The golf is great—Maury and I bike to the golf course. We also enjoy the private beach that our community has, along with so many activities in the community clubhouse.”

Angela organized a luncheon for New Jersey alumnae in October. In attendance were **Naomi Steinlight Patz, Patricia Klubnik Tarallo, Kathleen Mebus Toth,** and **Susan Tiktin Yemin**, none of whom were able to make it to our 40th reunion. All are excited about our 45th reunion because they now feel they know other alumnae. When we discussed what could make them feel more connected to the College, the class booklet and mini-reunions both interested them.

I viewed **Sheila Levrant de Bretteville**'s artwork at the Arts for Transit exhibit in Manhattan, but enjoyed it much better when I went to see displayed in the Inwood A train station in Manhattan. I wrote asking her if the piece was site-specific and if she had complete freedom in the process. She replied: “Due to the construction schedule I had several years to do the research necessary for this project. Oh, those many train trips up and back ... And yes, I was left on my own to do everything I wanted. I obtained the rights to use ‘Take the A Train’ so that I could cut it into the railing ... I added an image to the original design for the mosaic in the elevator so that it would be more evocative of all immigrants. But that was all in terms of changes from the submitted design. I went to all the shops and bars and met people from all the ethnic groups, who led me to other people of their ethnicity.”

## ALUMNA PROFILE: MARUTA LIETINS RAY '62

### Reconstructing Memories

**R**efrigerators floated. So, too, did furniture—beds, propped against pieces of a house frame, sat atop a bureau; cabinets rested on armoires. It sounds surreal, almost dreamlike, but it was all too real and nightmarish. This and worse was what Hurricane Katrina left in its wake, forcing thousands of New Orleans residents, like **Ieva Ruks Politzer '63**, out of their homes, out of town, out of their lives.

Politzer returned more than a month after Katrina's blow to face the painful realization that those possessions nearest to our hearts are the ones most susceptible to destruction: photographs, books, and letters, filled with stories and family histories. None survived. “Her floor was covered with about four inches of the slime of books and photo albums,” says Politzer's friend and fellow alumna **Maruta Lietins Ray '62**. “To have it all there but reduced to slime, that seems totally perverted and obscene.”

The damage was doubly devastating. As Latvian refugees in Germany after World War II, Ray's and Politzer's families fled the same country and went to the same refugee camp in the British sector of occupied Germany. The families lost many such possessions; those days, you took whatever you could carry on your back, in your two hands. “You've lost it once, you built up this family history and family memory once more, and it's gone again,” Ray says. “It's shattering.”

News of the loss spurred Ray to act. Ray and Politzer's is a friendship of nearly six decades; their families' bonds were strong, and continued when they all came to the United States in 1950, first living in Brooklyn and then settling in Flushing, Queens. Ray and Politzer both attended Flushing High School and, a year apart, both enrolled at Barnard. Who better, then, to rebuild Politzer's family album? The task would require reaching out to friends, family, acquaintances, former spouses, co-workers, and alma maters. Then, as best as Ray and her family could, they would piece together Politzer's life in photos. “Sometimes there's a bit of detective work, especially when kids come along, or seeing the length of hair or of dresses,” says Ray. A few photos contributed by Politzer's cousins were misdated, so Ray also worked to set the record straight.

This past Christmas Politzer received the first part of her gift: cherished memories restored in a photo album (two more albums should be complete by spring). And because a lot of the things gathered have been scanned and stored digitally, those memories will never be lost again.

—*Dimitra Kessenides*



Ieva (left) and Maruta (right) in Meerback, Germany, 1946

**Marcia Stecker Weller** and her husband, Herb, have eight grandchildren, four boys and four girls, aged from 4 months to 8 years. “I teach part-time at Kingsborough Community College of CUNY and enjoy my work. Herb is retired and is busy studying, volunteering, cycling, and skiing. I occasionally attend a lec-

ture at Barnard and always find it interesting. I'm active in our synagogue and in Hadassah. I plan to keep on teaching as long as I can do it. I have a colleague who kept on till she was 78,” she writes.

Susan Levenson Pringle  
25619 Cordova Place  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263



**63** Throughout August, **Victoria (Tori) Bryer's** artwork, characterized by colorful sweeping curves, hung in the Blackfish Gallery in Portland, Ore. Congratulations, Tori.

**Roselle Kurland** passed away on June 7. In college, Roselle worked on the *barnard bulletin* and after graduating from Columbia School of Journalism, she was a reporter. Later she worked at a settlement camp. Leaving journalism for social work, she acquired her master's of social work and Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. A faculty member at the Hunter College School of Social Work for 27 years as a full professor and the chair of the group work sequence, Roselle also coauthored two books, *Social Work With Groups Third Edition* and *Teaching a Methods Course in Social Work with Groups*. She coedited the journal *Social Work with Groups* from 1990 until her death. Her colleagues attest that her dedication to her students was only surpassed by their devotion to her.

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

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

**64 Edith Carlson Reese** and her husband, Ron, spent six weeks in New Zealand last year. She says they did two weeks in Australia and one week in New Zealand, but wish they had chosen only New Zealand, since there was more than enough scenery, culture, and delightful people to occupy six weeks and leave some significant sights for, hopefully, a next time. "No bungee jumping in our itinerary, but the Tongariro Crossing

was magnifique and, oh, that Sauvignon Blanc!" writes Edith.

**Daisy Breuer Merey**, M.D., of Palm Beach, Fla., has been practicing family, bariatrics, and antiaging medicine for 23 years and is the author of a book on health and weight loss, *Don't Be a Slave to What You Crave*. She finds reassurance in a Latin proverb her father told her, "Ultra posse, nemo obligatur" ("No one is expected to do more than he/she is capable of").

**Brenda Myerson Shoshanna** writes that her new book, *The Anger Diet: 30 Days to Stress-Free Living*, "gets rid of the number-one toxin that destroys your well-being: anger."

For 16 years, **Janet Kirschenbaum Horowitz** has lived in Toronto, where she works for a small nonprofit Jewish organization, which she calls "the Jewish civil service."

An attorney specializing in law and special education, **Miriam Kurtzig Freedman** self-publishes and sells books at seminars she conducts.

"Follow your heart, live your dreams, take risks, don't compromise, drink life fully, love and be loved freely," writes **Victoria Ortiz**, who married her same-sex partner in San Francisco last year after 17 years together. They live in Berkeley, near their son. Victoria is dean of students at Boalt Hall, the law school of the University of California, Berkeley.

To **Lynn Wallerstein Huber**, "the development of a prayer life is the most important ... thing that has happened" in her life. For **Susan Halpern Harkavy**, it's "confronting your own mortality—learning you have a medical condition that might shorten your lifespan." But, she continues, "Life is unfair. Accept it and move on ..." **Carol Berkin's** advice includes, "Don't take yourself too seriously. Watch one bad TV show a week. Don't give up rock 'n' roll."

**Sharon Block Korn** is the new grandmother of Christopher Alexander, who lives with his parents

in Miami Beach, Fla.

Sharon Block Korn  
13567 Mango Drive  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
Sharon\_Korn@alum.barnard.edu

Andrea Machlin Rosenthal  
202 Commonwealth Ave.  
Boston, MA 02116  
andrearosenthal@alum.barnard.edu

**65 Patricia Zimmerman Levine** saw an announcement in the *New York Times* Style section "that **Sara (Penny) Howell Schechter's** son, Matthew, had married. I'm a sucker for the marriage announcements!" The bride was Cheryl Berman '95. "But there's more: I had a call from my son, Daniel, from Montauk saying he had met a classmate of mine, Matt's mother, Penny Howell Schechter, at Matt's wedding. Daniel and Matt became fast friends their freshman year at Columbia and see each other often." So, congrats to Penny, and cheers for the serendipitous connections that Barnard keeps providing.

We must report the passing of two classmates. Dudley Knight, the ex-husband of **Barbara Murphy**, informed us of her passing away on June 1, 1998, in Los Angeles after a long illness. **Susan Redding Thomas** died May 15, 2005. She was an editor and musician and worked for many years for the global board of the Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, John Taylor, a musician and teacher.

Elizabeth and I have been commiserating over the doldrums in which we find ourselves and wonder if it is a universal condition. In Elizabeth's words: "Maybe we should write a column about feeling sad. We have all experienced loss and feeling sad. However wonderful and accomplished we are, it's likely that we have had serious losses, and it's unlikely that we have fulfilled all of our ambitions, or that our lives worked out exactly as we planned



and hoped. We should write something acknowledging disappointments and that wish-we-knew-then-what-we-know-now, let-down feeling; including anything that we have learned from our losses.”

Please send news or thoughts on how you deal with sadness and the doldrums. Send us your e-mail, too, as we believe that keeping in touch will ultimately chase away the doldrums.

Ann Selgin Levy  
82 High St.  
Albans, VT 05478-1534  
ann@littleapplepress.com

Elizabeth Farber Bernhardt  
924 West End Ave., Apt. 53  
New York, NY 10025-3534  
bernhare@yahoo.com

40TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**66** Save the dates for our 40th reunion, Thursday, June 8, through Sunday, June 11. Our growing planning committee includes **Paula Bassoff, Barbara Rubin Cooper, Linda Rappaport Ferber, Bonnie Dickes Fraser, Cheryl Shaffer Greene, Phyllis Shapiro Hantman, Louise Sobin Hersh, Katherine Hoffman, Ruth Feder Krall, Lynne Moriarty Langlois, Susan Weis Mindel, Nancy Tally Polevoy, Diane Raphael, Leah Seltzer Tarlow, Carrie (Lois) Wilson, Janet Levitt Zalkin,** and myself.

Lynne Langlois reports that she has fallen in love with her new cocker spaniel, Peaches. Lynne and her husband recently spent some time in England visiting with friends.

**Barbara Jorrisch**, a certified stress-management counselor, is turning her stress-management workshops into a book. She allowed me to read an early draft, which is full of wonderfully helpful advice. She'll let us know when it's published.

**Dorothy Chen-Courtin** enjoys her work as an independent management consultant for nonprofit organi-

zations. She also loves tending her 250 pots of orchids and photographing them in bloom with her “now old-fashioned” single-lens reflex camera.

**Stephani Cook** is a principal at Verge, a strategic consultancy firm, where she leads the company's strategic and brand positioning practices. This past year Stephani and her colleagues have been working with Barnard on a project to help increase the College's visibility and enhance its reputation.

Our class was well represented at the Great Writers at Barnard conference in November. Among the participating authors were **Delia Ephron, Naomi Achs Gyllenhaal, Dana Jacobi, Frances Landau Kiernan,** and **Eugenia Rich Zukerman.**

Marcia Weinstein Stern  
5 Rural Drive  
Scarsdale, NY 10583-7701  
914-725-4581  
marcia\_stern@alum.barnard.edu

**67** **Carol Reichenstein Christiaanse, Estelle Ruth Haferling, Joan Lerner Johnson, Susan Krown,** and **Catherine Feola Weisbrod** attended Leadership Council at Barnard in November. We started brainstorming for our 40th reunion in 2007, and we'd like your input. As the time approaches, we'll contact alumnae throughout the country to make sure all are included in the planning.

We're aware of how so many of us are dealing with different midlife transitions and hope to address that issue. On that note, please remember to sign up for informational e-mails from Project Continuum: Barnard Women in Transition, a program specifically created to address the needs and concerns of alumnae who are 50 and older. **Annette Stramesi Kahn** is the Project Continuum coordinator.

**Karen Kraskow** completed her master's at New York University's Ehrenkrantz School of Social Work.

## STAY IN THE “BARNARD LOOP”

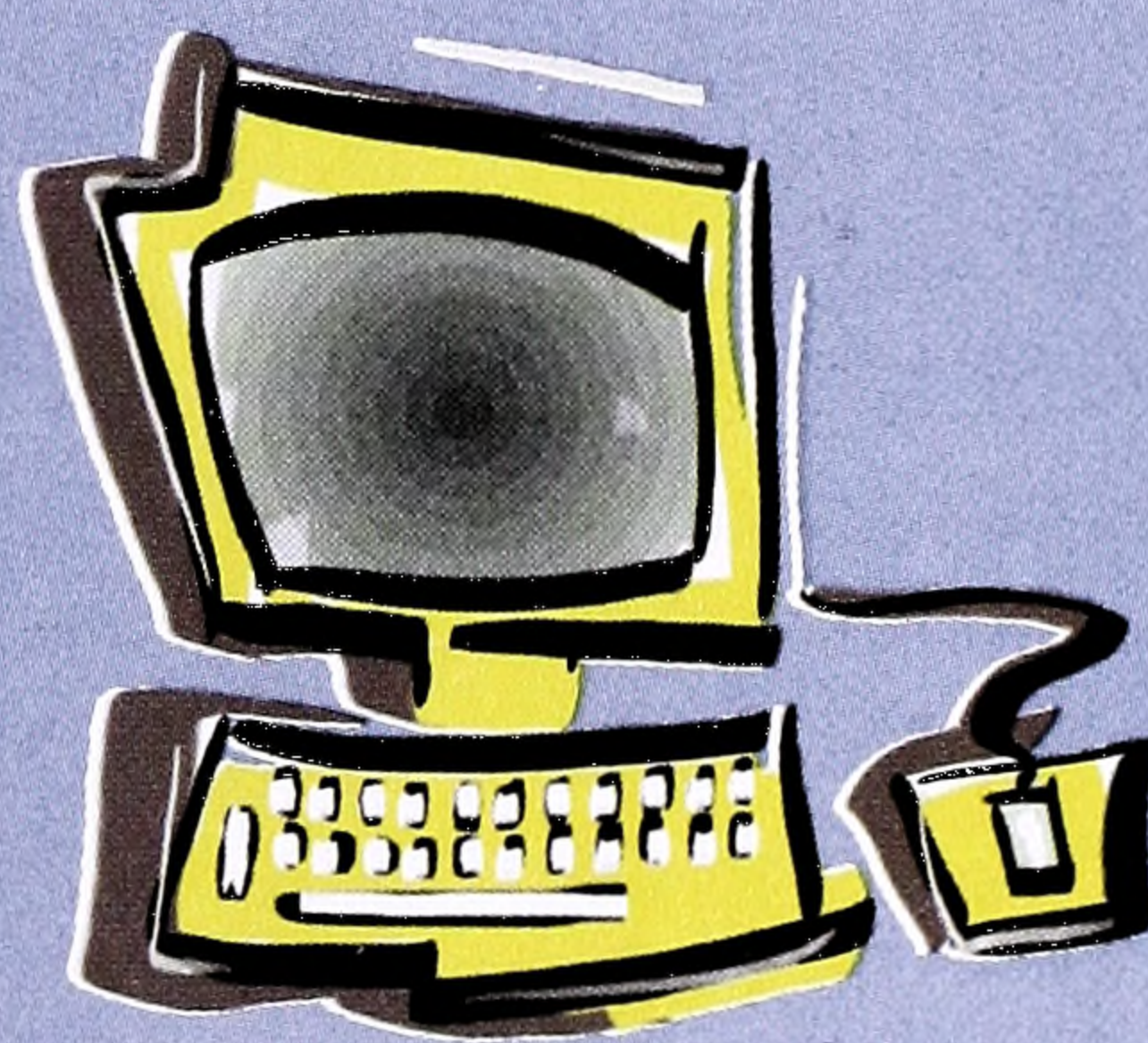
*“What a wonderful newsletter—I feel privileged to be an alumna.”*

*“Keep it coming, I find it interesting!”*

*“Thank you for keeping me in the Barnard loop!”*

In-the-know alumnae stay informed about the College through Barnard Bits & Bytes, a monthly electronic newsletter featuring news and notes about faculty achievements, distinguished alumnae, campus events, and much more.

To receive Barnard Bits & Bytes, visit [www.barnard.edu/alum/intouch.html](http://www.barnard.edu/alum/intouch.html), click on “Alumnae Records Online Form,” and give us your current e-mail address. We'll keep you in the Barnard loop!



She's been a learning specialist for almost 20 years. Her new degree will allow her to expand her work with families of children with learning and other developmental disabilities. Karen has a special interest in teaching reluctant writers and did a presentation on that subject at the International Dyslexia Association Conference in March 2005.

Cathy Feola Weisbrod



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

**68** **Judith Sollosy** writes from Budapest that she was married in 1975 and widowed shortly after. She's been in Hungary for more than 30 years and is senior editor at Corvina Publishing. In addition, she translates novels and plays, most recently Peter Esterhazy's *Celestial Harmonies*. Judy's delighted to be teaching college full time, something she wasn't allowed to do as an American in Hungary during the communist era.

Dr. Tatsuo Hirano writes that his wife, **Beatrice (Bea) Hsia Hirano**, passed away last April. Our sincere condolences go to Dr. Hirano and their three children.

**Sonia Katchian** writes: "Bea was my best friend all through Barnard. I met her when I was living in Reid Hall. She would swish her long black hair and you just had to stare because she was so beautiful. We shared a common experience of having been outsiders in a purportedly homogeneous society—she had suffered as an Asian-American kid when it was definitely not cool to be Chinese. I had suffered as an Armenian-Lebanese transplant into an Appalachian culture. We didn't have to discuss discrimination; it was just understood. Bea and I shared our love of the Beatles when they took over American culture, and we shared a love of northern Renaissance art in Professor Held's great class.

"Bea married and had three beautiful children in California. I kept at my photography career, shifting my base from New York, where I was the first woman staff photographer at the *New York Post*, to Tokyo for 12 or so years. We didn't communicate much during those years.

"Our paths reconnected when I was called to Hollywood to help with the filming of the Columbia Pictures movie *Ali*. That was 2001. Bea was fine then, with no trace of the cancer

that would ultimately take her life. She was working with her husband, a famous acupuncture doctor in Los Angeles, running his office and the workshops he conducted.

"When we e-mailed each other we were usually swapping notes about what was growing in our gardens. Bea was a great horticulturist.

"Then when she was bedridden, I would call daily, knowing that she was bored to tears, not even strong enough to turn on her computer. When Bea's sister phoned one morning, I could not deal with what she had to say. It had not even once occurred to me that Bea might die soon. Our friendship was supposed to last all our lives. She was my only connection to Barnard, and I really miss her."

Thank you, Sonia, for sharing.

Over the Jewish holidays, I attended afternoon services with **Linda Rosen Garfunkel** and her husband, Richard. Linda is one of the officers of the revived Barnard Westchester of Club, in addition to being our class president.

Last June I retired after 35 years of teaching science in Pelham, N.Y. I did what I always did during the summer: presented teacher workshops, sang in concerts, etc. Not starting school the first week of September, however, was very strange—until I got a call from a nearby school district saying they needed a temporary replacement for their seventh-grade science teacher. Everyone on staff was very welcoming, but the schedule was intense and learning a new routine after 35 years was tough.

—ASK

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

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

**69** Contrary to belief that mini-reunions should be geared for New York area alumnae, ours drew from as far away as California (**Stella Ling**), South Carolina (**Sherry A. Suttles**) and Minnetonka, Minn., (**Susan Alpert**), in addition to several New England and middle states. Some reported having lost their sisters recently, others reported caregiving for a remaining parent. Former class president **Margaret (Peggy) Elwert** retired from law practice. **Joanne (Jo) Tuminski Kabak**, **Rosalie Reszelbach**, and **Marsha E. Reichman** were joyously reunited, having worked together at a national health agency some years ago. Three had come to Barnard at age 16. Some are now married with children and grandchildren, some never married nor had children. Most have advanced degrees, high level jobs.

—Sherry A. Suttles, Class President

**70** **Audrey Gale Prager** and I, **Eileen McCorry**, co-correspondents, received so many replies to the broadcast e-mail that was sent that I've had to edit and hold some of the news for the next issue. After 35 years at Harvard, **Martha Mahard** is leaving her position as curator of historic photographs in the fine-arts library and "crossing the river" to take a full-time teaching position at Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Martha writes that her best news is that "after being a single divorcee for almost 35 years, I'm about to get married to the man of my dreams."

**Joan Simon Rongen** lives in Norway and, for the past few years, has been independently marketing art, with a concentration on Norwegian art.

**Elaine Wood Shoben** left the University of Illinois and has taken a job at the University of Nevada.



**Norma Garfen Pressman** is a school psychologist in Delaware. Her daughter Emily received a bachelor's and a master's from Columbia and was married at Columbia. Norma says that was appropriate, since the bride, groom, and parents of both had graduated from either Barnard or Columbia.

**Joanne Bernstein-Cohen** is the executive director of Young Audiences New York, a large arts-education organization partnering with New York City public schools. Her two daughters live in New York and her husband, David, is senior vice president and vice chair of medicine at Maimonides Medical Center and chair of the board of Housing Works.

**Louise Levathes** participated in the Great Writers at Barnard conference on Nov. 6 and writes that she's going to India on assignment for *Travel + Leisure* to immerse herself in the history and culture of fabrics.

**Dora Eisenberg Polachek** teaches French in the department of romance languages and linguistics at SUNY Binghamton. Last year she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the university's award for excellence in international education.

**Jorene Frenkl Robbie** is a reference librarian at the Fordham Law School library. About two years ago she started playing bridge, and it's become her favorite pastime. Her daughter Hillary is a sophomore at Northwestern University.

NYU Press published **Deirdre McCusker Golash's** *The Case Against Punishment* in 2005. She has five grandchildren.

In 2004 **Gail Wolff Smith** was diagnosed with breast cancer. After chemotherapy and radiation, she has made a complete recovery and was given a great prognosis. Last May she took a trip to the United Kingdom and visited with **Anne Hipkens Monk** and her family. They spent

time in a 15th-century old hall.

**Amy Newburger** has been a dermatologist in private practice in Scarsdale, N.Y., for 20 years. The practice has grown to a six-physician group—all women. Amy writes, "It is a blessing to be able to work in this stimulating environment where we have similar goals and great camaraderie." She's also a voting member for the FDA on the Plastic and General Surgery Device Panel at the Center for Devices and Radiologic Health.

**Ana Christina Degens** lives in São Paulo, Brazil. There she has built the Galeria Oeste, which will sell contemporary Brazilian art, including videos, installations, photographs, paintings, and any other form of contemporary art. For her work, Ana visits artists' studios and travels to many cities, including Berlin, Cologne, Düsseldorf, and Venice, for the Biennale.

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

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

35TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**71 Joyce Pollack Montgomery Rocklin** and **Catherine Bilzor Cretu**, our class vice presidents, are the chairs for our 35th reunion in June. We're looking for someone to host a cocktail reception on the evening of Thursday, June 8. If you'd like to host it, please write to Joyce.

There will be a class book for reunion. If you wish to purchase one, the prepayments will go to **Lee Canossa**, our class treasurer. The page is open format; if you have any questions about submitting to the book, please contact Catherine. **Andrea Polk-Stephenson** and I,

**Julia Hong Sabella**, will be following up on the reunion book surveys. The previous survey is still valid if you put the current date on it.

**Linda Parnes Kahn** has the details on a class gift and class giving.

Watch your mail for the reunion letter, which will have more details.

**Susan Shapiro Metz's** daughter, Becky, has been making inroads on her TV career. Perhaps Susan will give us more news in the class book.

Twelve paintings by **Esther Amini Krawitz** were exhibited in a show called "Two Contemporary Visions" at the Weill Cornell Medical Library in October.

Please send any forum topics for Friday night's dinner to Joy or me. **Dorothy Urman Denburg** is sending me the Barnard song—any singers?

On Nov. 6, I went to the Great Writers at Barnard conference, where **Mary Gordon** and **Ellen Geiger** were panelists. I attended the "Art of Humor and Satire in Fiction" and "Food for Thought: Culinary Writing" panels.

Julia Hong Sabella  
Ravenswood Estates  
9 Oakmont Lane  
Far Hills, NJ 07931-2800  
lionsharejhs@aol.com

**72 Sigrid Nunez** writes, "I have a fifth novel, *The Last of Her Kind* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006). Also, a new edition of my first novel, *A Feather on the Breath of God*, has been published by Picador. *The Last of Her Kind* opens on the Barnard campus in fall, 1968. The story is purely fictional, and the characters are not based on anyone I knew at the time. Nevertheless, those who were there should recognize more than a little as the story unfolds. (Barnard itself makes an appearance.) This year I also launched a Web site, [www.sigridnunez.com](http://www.sigridnunez.com)."

Marcia Eisenberg  
302 W. 86th St., Apt. 8A  
New York, NY 10024-3154  
aefamily@gmail.com



**73** This month's column is entitled "The Philadelphia Connection."

Native Pennsylvanian **Rachelle Levin Kaiserman** lives in Wynnewood, Pa., with her husband, Ron, a real estate developer. After Barnard, Rachelle graduated from law school at Villanova University and jumped into the judicial waters for a five-year swim. Finding the experience somewhat tepid, she gave up practicing law for a job in nonprofit management. Today she spends her time working extensively with Jewish charities and supporting her two kids, Max, a high school senior hoping to study communications at Syracuse, and Shira, a junior at Brandeis. Ron graduated from Brandeis alongside President Judith Shapiro, so I guess Shira's choice of Brandeis over Barnard is just fine.

Rachelle mentioned that she keeps in touch with her two sophomore-year roommates, **Madeline (Mady) Cantor** and **Ellen Fleishman**, who live nearby in Philadelphia (demonstrating the power of the Barnard Experience).

Mady was a dance major who earned her MFA in dance and choreography at the University of Michigan, where choreographer Gay Delange taught. After a two-year stint teaching at Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan., she decided to look for freelance dance work while staying

with her former Barnard roommate and fellow dance major, Ellen, who was living in Philadelphia at the time. Madeline landed a CETA-funded job, among others, and eventually became an associate director of dance at Bryn Mawr, where she has taught since 1989. She bought a house around the corner from Ellen, married a lawyer, Art, and is raising two kids, Tess, 15, and Max, 18, a freshman at Goucher.

Ellen, a native of Boston, went home after graduation and worked for a year at the Boston Hospital for Women in the cervical cancer detection clinic. She returned to New York to study dance seriously and worked at Project Ezra, a program designed to help elderly Jewish people. She was one of several paid employees who organized a brigade of student volunteers. In Philadelphia she obtained a graduate degree from Hahnemann Medical College in movement therapy. Much to her surprise she stayed in Philadelphia, met her husband, Allen Gottlieb, and had three kids: Adina, 25, a speech therapist; and Elie, 21, and Ami, 19, both at Temple University. When the kids were small, Ellen started teaching preschool part time and loved it. She earned a master's in early childhood development and became a director in a preschool in downtown Philly. Today she works for the Philadelphia School District in their early childhood program.

When Ellen moved to Philly in

1975 she immediately called Rachelle Kaiserman and reconnected. When Mady moved there from Kansas, the three roommates were together again. Today Mady brings her Bryn Mawr students into the city to dance for the youngsters in Ellen's classes, and she visits Ellen's students at least once a year to bring the joy of dance into their lives.

A fourth alumna in Philly, who joins Ellen each week for Israeli dancing and services at their local synagogue, is **Sylvia Lifschitz**. She roomed with Mady and Ellen in senior year at Bayit, the Jewish communal house, and spent part of her junior year in Israel with Ellen. She has a Ph.D. in psychology and has worked in marketing research for pharmaceuticals for the past 25 years, using her statistical background to devise models and forecasts to help companies predict the best way to introduce a new drug to the marketplace. Her physicist husband, Mitch Hirsch, a native of Los Angeles and UCLA alumnus, after a career in semiconductor engineering, now works as a patent agent at a law firm. Her son, Josh, 17, is spending a semester in Israel. Sylvia and Mitch will join him in Europe to see Prague and Poland.

Four Barnard women who've stayed connected for over 30 years. I'd love to share more stories like this one, so let me know if you're in touch with alumnae.

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

## PreMed?

If you are applying to medical school or any other health professions school in 2006, please contact either Dean Ani Bournoutian (abournou@barnard.edu) or Dean Jayma Abdoo (jabdoo@barnard.edu) at 212854-2024 by March 1 to discuss your committee evaluation letter.

**74** **Beverly Chen Shrieve**, born in Kingston, Jamaica, now lives in San Francisco. A singer/songwriter herself, her husband, Kevin Shrieve (CC), is a songwriter and guitarist. Their music group, Dream Art Science, released a CD of original music called *Hydrogen Burning*. The



songs are built on reggae rhythms, rock guitars, and ancient Egyptian themes. Those who are interested can check out the music at [www.dreamartscience.com](http://www.dreamartscience.com).

Catherine Blank Mermelstein  
8 Patriot Court  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-3235  
[mermelspot@comcast.net](mailto:mermelspot@comcast.net)

---

**75 Rosa-Alicia Ramos** never left the Spanish department, she just moved across town into the faculty offices at Hunter, where she's a professor with a special interest in folklore.

**Cheryl Feldman Halpern** is chair of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Referring to the heated controversy between those who object to ideological bias in the programming and those who perceive scrutiny as censorship, one press report diplomatically stated that she "has her work cut out for her..." but "Halpern, known for a gentle strength, seems well suited for the task."

**Janet Steiner Reilly**, M.D., lives in Barrington Hills, Ill., and specializes in internal medicine.

**Renee (Gwenn) Miller Menanteau** and her fiancée, William H. Martin III, a field biologist, are building a house on their farm near Harper's Ferry, W.V. Renee, a human resources specialist for FEMA, had her hands full this fall with tragically necessary bouts of disaster-related hiring. She enjoys being a stepmother to Amelia, 20, and Claire, 11, who Renee hopes to steer toward Barnard by means of an arsenal of subtle propaganda techniques—like taking her to visit campus. Renee writes that she "really enjoyed reunion, and it was wonderful to see so many people again, and I would love to hear more from them, preferably before the next reunion."

**Annette Totti Rodriguez** is a learning specialist at the Nightingale-Bamford School in Manhattan.

**Ellen Rosenthal** is executive

director of Conner Prairie Living History Museum in Fishers, Ind. Under Ellen's leadership, the museum weathered a complex legal battle, emerging from its status as a subsidiary of Earlham College and gaining control of its own endowment. Ellen does things with style: According to news reports, she signed the documents making the museum independent with a quill pen in the parlor of one of the museum's collection of 19th-century buildings.

**Wendy Keller Epstein Lynn**, M.D., an assistant clinical professor at NYU Medical School, has been volunteering for the past 20 years teaching residents and medical students. She's also the health officer for her village and maintains a private practice in Rockland County, N.Y. She writes, "My daughter is a freshman at Yale, my son is a freshman at Tappan Zee High School. My husband, Larry, is a 35-year veteran, major-gift fund-raiser for the nonprofit sector.

"Middle age: At 50, my future is more immediate; I chose my life over my breasts, and as a physician and mother I wish all women were given an opportunity to make that choice. I have experienced the death of a spouse and the collateral grief of my children losing a father, and so I take no love for granted."

Diana Muir Appelbaum  
39 Claremont Ave., Apt. 24  
New York, NY 10027  
[dianamuir@aol.com](mailto:dianamuir@aol.com)

---

30TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**76** In an effort to get you excited about our 30th reunion, Thursday, June 8, through Sunday June, 11, here's some news from your reunion committee:

**Naomi Rosenblum Remes** has been organizing special exhibitions at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., for 11 years. Her husband, David (CC '76), is a partner at Covington & Burling in Washington. Their oldest daughter

loves being a sophomore at Columbia. Their younger daughter, a senior in high school, is shopping for colleges.

**Pat Tinto** is director of communications and marketing for the third-largest lobbying organization in New York. She has previously served as a senior press officer for former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, and was a speechwriter for the commissioner of housing under New York Governor Mario Cuomo. One of her sons is about to enter college and the other is a first year in high school. Pat is a former president of the Barnard Club of Connecticut and she's chair of the Regional Networks for the Alumnae Association of Barnard College (AABC). Those activities keep her in touch with **Susan Sommer Klapkin**, Barnard Club of Connecticut president, and **Lisa Phillips Davis**, AABC president.

Lisa, my college roommate, was elected AABC president this year, and she's also an alumnae trustee. Lisa has been a member of the board of education in Chappaqua, N.Y., for eight years, and she's president of the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association. Lisa's son graduated from Williams College in June and now works and lives in New York. Her daughter, Rebecca, is a sophomore at Barnard. Lisa's youngest is a college-shopping high school senior. Lisa and her husband, Steve (CC '76), are looking forward to being empty-nesters.

I was president of the Parent Teacher Student Association at the high school my daughter, Sara, attends in southern California. Sixteen years ago Sara was delivered by **Sandra Caskie**. My son was born 18 years ago weighing 1 lb., and since then I've held part-time jobs or worked from home, writing freelance. It was a joy to see my son graduate from high school and start attending the local community college. My husband works for Countrywide Financial in their risk management



division—a far cry from the career we shared as journalists when we married 20 years ago.

—RGH

Robin Greene Hagey  
3331 Monte Carlo Drive  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
805-241-4488  
wreyeter1004@yahoo.com

Patricia Donovan Petersen  
1931 Lakehurst Drive SE  
Olympia, WA 98501-4270  
patpetersn@aol.com

**77** After working at AIG/Ace for some years, **Deborah Aschheim** was thrilled to join FOJP Service Corp., as deputy general counsel in 2004. According to Debbie, “FOJP Service provides risk management services for United Jewish Appeal Federation Institutions in the New York area ... I am blessed with a chance to combine my legal interests of the corporate/transactional side of insurance with my personal interests in the Jewish and not-for-profit worlds.” Debbie and her husband, Robert Weiss, a gastroenterologist in private practice, live on the Upper West Side. They have four children: Aviva, 19, is spending the year in Israel at Orot College; David, 17, is in his senior year at Yeshiva University High School for Boys; Daniel, 13, is in the ninth grade; and Rachel is in the fourth grade.

Debbie keeps in touch with **Arlene Vogl Lowenstein**, who lives with her husband, Jack, in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., where she owns a travel agency. Her daughter, Tovah, graduated from SUNY-Binghamton in 2005 and started at Columbia’s Teachers College in the fall.

Debbie attended a dinner at which she saw Susan Rosenberg Gurman ’78, her husband, and their three children. Debbie also works with **Ellen Zimmerman**, who lives on the Upper West Side and is the general counsel of the UJA-Federation. In November 2004, while in Israel,

Debbie visited with Shlomo, the husband of the late **Ellen Goldstein Wertenteil**, who died in 2001. Debbie writes, “While life without Ellen is very difficult, he has a lovely and devoted family, and Ellen would have a lot to be proud of.”

Well-known courtroom artist **Andrea Shepard** played the one-day part of a police sketch artist in an episode of the ABC soap opera *One Life to Live*. Andrea had to deliver six lines while drawing. “My Barnard English public-speaking course training came to the rescue,” she writes. Andrea also had a nonspeaking role as a courtroom artist in the 1997 film *Night Falls in Manhattan*.

**Linda Chin Sam** is happy to report that her daughter Kimberly, a first year at Barnard, is enjoying the work, her new friends, and the city. Linda and her husband, Wayne Sam (SEAS ’78), who celebrated their 25th anniversary in August, also have a son, Jeffrey, 21, a college senior, and another daughter, Jessica, 13. They live in Verona, N.J. Linda worked at Citibank for 20 years, and became a vice president working as a software project manager in the corporate financial control department. Rather than move to Florida in 2000 with the company, she decided to take a severance package. “I stayed home for three years and decided to go back to work when college bills were looming,” she notes, opting for “an entry-level job in a totally different field because it was close to home and I thought it would be low-stress.” Linda attended the 50th birthday party of **Florence Fong-Lopez** at the Water Club in Manhattan and writes, “Florence and I met on the first day of freshman orientation and have been friends since. We all danced to the music of the ’70s and ’80s and had so much fun.” Linda wishes a happy 50th to all who’ve reached that milestone and would be interested to hear “what other classmates are doing after their careers ‘peaked.’”

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

**78** I was on campus for Great Writers at Barnard, a dizzying, delightful day of panels featuring 75 literary lionesses. You don’t realize how many prestigious writers Barnard produced until they stampede through the place, frightening young ’uns who are still struggling with first-year English.

Everywhere you looked—a Great Writer! Pulitzer Prize winners: **Natalie Angier**, Jhumpa Lahiri ’89, and Anna Quindlen ’74. Erica Jong ’63. Watch out—there’s Mary Gordon ’71, Edwidge Danticat ’90. There were 23 panels, 1,300 registrants, a sunny fall day, and a box lunch. It was all so intellectually stimulating, I had to take a little nap later.

On my panel, I was pleased to finally meet Alexandra (Alex) L. Kuczynski ’90 of the *New York Times*, whose sly, witty pieces I’d long admired. Finally, someone about whom one could say, “There goes a tall drink of water.”

While in search of **Cyndi Stivers**, now executive vice president at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and a Barnard trustee, I ran into one familiar face after another. There was former dorm mate **Mary Ann LoFrumento**, who once dressed as Dorothy for a campus Halloween party (I still have the photo). There was **Ruth Leibowitz**, whom I often see at my gym.

And there was Mary (Rocky) Larocca ’80, who was shocked to learn I remember the letters she wrote to me at the *barnard bulletin* way back when. As we hit that time of life when short-term memory is in such short supply, it’s lovely to know that, like the Steve Martin drawing in the *New Yorker* of the brain that will always have a place for the lyrics of “Volare,” some memories never die. Rocky now oversees grants at Albert Einstein Cancer



Center.

I also looked for **Merri Rosenberg** but, what with all those Great Writers mowing people down right and left, couldn't find her. However, an e-mail assured me all is well: "We were in England right before Rosh Hashanah, helping our son, Jacob, get settled at Cambridge University. He graduated from Columbia College in May, where he was awarded the Kellett fellowship. He'll be studying criminology this year, and international relations the following year. Our daughter, Ruth, is a sophomore at Dartmouth. Ken Hupart (SEAS '77) and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last December with a short trip to Paris—exactly what this former French major wanted. And while I'm still freelancing, I have recently started a part-time gig at Bank Street College of Education, helping with their media and PR effort."

Merri's also helping to relaunch the Barnard Club of Westchester. "Not only do I get to see **Suzanne Berger** and **Amy Gewirtz McGahan** regularly, but I've met amazing alumnae from the '30s, '40s, through the '90s." For more info, drop her a line at merri\_rosenberg@alum.barnard.edu.

Back in college, **Maria Umali** was so crazy about the Antonioni movie *The Passenger* that she persuaded **Sue Pivnick** and me to see it with her. We've never let her forget that she owes us one for that night. Now, about 30 years later, *The Passenger* has been reissued, so for old times, we went again. I wondered how I'd feel about it now that I'm a film critic.

All of us have moved more to the center: Maria loves it less, Sue and I hated it less. (I still think it's pretentious.) But one thing hasn't changed since graduation: the three of us still get together at least three times a year to take each other out on our birthdays; it's a Barnard tradition.

**Gabrielle Porter Dennison** sadly reports that her brother, Michael

T. Porter (CC '78), died in September after a two-year struggle with cancer. He is survived by his wife and four children, all of Summit, N.J.

Jami Bernard  
148 W. 23rd St., Apt. 1D  
New York, NY 10011-2435  
jami@jamibernard.com

---

**79** News arrived late, but you can read it in the next thrilling installment!

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

---

**80** **Dolores Tropiano** covers arts and culture for *The Arizona Republic* Scottsdale section, while raising two sons, Andre, 4, and Dante, 2. **Preeva Adler Tramiel** recently had an article published in *Judaism* magazine, recalling a trip to Poland with the Tramiel family.

**Maryam Toosie** writes: "I am a senior attorney at Shroock Shroock & Wavan, practicing commercial real estate law." However, she's most proud of her daughter, Avery Kendall, 6, Barnard-bound, competitive figure skater, and student of Japanese, among other things. Maryam says, "I loved seeing you all [at reunion]."

The indefatigable **Cathy Taub** is now a senior vice president at Stribling & Associates in New York.

**Nadia Sadik** writes that she lives in "South Jersey outside Atlantic City with my three children and my husband of 16 years. Still working full time as a pulmonologist—the 'more you do, the more you can do' school of thought. I had been in touch with former professor of zoology Patricia Dudley every Christmas since graduation, and was sorry to hear she died at the age of 75 last September. I'll miss her a lot."

**Audrey Weissman**, M.D., lets us know that she's an internist with a subspecialty in pediatric and adult allergy, asthma, immunology, and sinus disease, in practice in New York, as well

as a regional lecturer for allergy and asthma care. She mentors medical students and residents in the field of allergy and asthma care, maintains multiple Web sites, and hosts asthma workshops for the inner-city population. She's a professor at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital and North Shore University Hospital. She has two sons, Joshua, 12, soon to be bar mitzvahed, and Justin, 9, a hopeful piano virtuoso and the next catcher for the New York Yankees. Audrey writes, "At Barnard I thought that I could do and accomplish everything, but after 25 years what I have learned is if you are fortunate enough to be able to use what you may believe is your G-d-given talent, do it well and hopefully everything else will fall into place. I hope to see everyone at our 50th reunion."

As age begins to claim my eyes and fingers, I'm going for it; I'm becoming a visual artist. I'll let you know how I do, but I'm kind of happy, which is a novel sensation.

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

---

25TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**81** **Evan Kriss** is leaving the *New York Times Magazine*, where she has been a picture editor for more than 12 years, to become photo editor of *The Washington Post*. Before the *Times*, she was in the photo department at *Time* magazine. "This will be a big move in so many ways," writes Evan, who's hoping to connect with other alumnae in the Washington, D.C., area. Evan was born in Japan and lived briefly in Marin County, Calif., but she has spent most of her life in New York.

**Chendy Kornreich** writes from Israel, where she's enjoying life and seeing alumnae, including her neighbor **Susan Lazow Cohen**. They live in Modiin, which Chendy says is affectionately referred to as Israel's "city of the future."



I hope you're marking our 25th reunion, Thursday, June 8 through Sunday, June 11, on your calendars. It'll be great to compare notes about life since graduation.

A few of us are already preparing for reunion. **Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald** has made an amazing and generous offer to match any gift we contribute above \$250, up to \$250,000. **Maria Deutscher, Marcy Goldstein, Trinidad (Trini) Lopez Rodriguez, Marcia Sells, Caroline Stern,** and **Wendy White** are among those helping to plan our reunion festivities and making outreach calls. Five years ago, I met Trini for the first time because she reached out to me, and we became friends.

Diane Goldner  
1037 Bay St., Apt. 1  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
310-365-5865  
dianegoldner@msn.com

---

**82** At her Yale Law reunion, **Andrea Mercado** saw **Julie Boaz Cooper** with her husband, Pat. The couple have three kids, the eldest of whom, Sophie, is a first year at Yale College. Julie and Pat both practice law as partners in different firms in Birmingham, Ala. Andrea reports that Julie looks "unchanged and terrific!"

**Marie Cotter DeNino's** youngest son is a freshman at New York University.

At the same time Julie and Marie must be wrangling with college tuition, **Renee Silverman** is wrangling with diapers. She announces the birth of her second child, Samuel Adrian ("Buddha Baby"), in June 2005. His big sister, Natalie, 8, is "mostly thrilled" to be a big sister. Renee returned to work to produce a feature documentary, *Camilo Mejia: The Long Road for Disobedience*, about a former National Guardsman who is now an antiwar activist. She hopes to start showing it in film festivals this spring.

Her husband, Sebastian Zimmermann, is a psychiatrist in private practice on the Upper East Side. He treats both children and adults.

**Adina Weiss Sherer** has kids in college, in grade school, and in diapers. Adina married Carl Sherer (CC '78), who is now busy with his law practice in international securities and business negotiations. After choosing a computers major through the School of Engineering because it didn't require writing a senior thesis, Adina now does technical writing.

**Eve (Mimi) Newman Yudelson** and her husband, Larry, have founded a new Jewish publishing house, Ben Yehuda Press, to "fill the niches left open by other houses and publish works that are a bit more textual, spiritual, and eclectic." The Press's first book is *Torah and Company*, by Judith Z. Abrams, which follows weekly Torah readings and includes excerpts from the Oral Traditions. The two-page spread for each week is accompanied by questions for discussion. Eve married Larry, her second husband, when she was "a crazy single mom with three kids." They've since had two more children together.

**Cheryl Pyrch**, a former elementary school teacher, was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in June, making her the fourth openly lesbian candidate ordained to the Presbyterian Church in the United States. Cheryl lives happily in New York.

**Cynthia Miller** works in the integrative medicine program of a Minneapolis hospital. She went to nursing school and, after working in nursing in several settings, began to study Chinese medicine. She's now a licensed acupuncturist and certified Asian body therapist. Cynthia says, "I am really pleased to be able to provide treatment in an acute-care inpatient facility."

**Karen G. Schneider** is completing the master of fine arts in writing program at the University of San

Francisco, in the creative nonfiction track. She's director of Librarians' Internet Index and lives in the Bay Area with her partner, Sandy, interim pastor of the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto.

I received an e-mail from **Susana Fried**, the programs director at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, one of our subtenants at Human Rights Watch on the floor above mine. Susana and her long-term partner, Debra Liebowitz, have a toddler daughter, Micaela.

**Vanessa Baran** lives in New York and works as a fashion and floral stylist. She was in Germany this fall for the Exground film festival, with which she's been affiliated since 1993 when they screened *The Lost Words*, a film she co-produced. Vanessa is in touch with **Laura Ammann Novak** and has worked as a stylist for several Barnard brides, including Candace Lee '00, whom Vanessa met through her sister Victoria Baran '89. Victoria is an architect who worked with the groom, Tom Hickey, who met Candace while he was teaching an architecture studio at Barnard. Several of Candace's bridesmaids were alumnae. Vanessa dropped off a floral arrangement from this wedding for President Judith Shapiro, saying she wanted to share this "Barnard moment."

Maria Pignataro Nielsen  
9 East Rogues Path  
Huntington Station, NY 11746-1909  
212-216-1240

---

**83**

Jamie Miller Nathan  
P.O. Box 2337  
47 Reuven St.  
Beit Shemesh, Israel 99544  
lashone\_hara@hotmail.com

---

**84**

**Mindy Siegel Ohringer** and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 15th anniversary in September. Their son, Noah, is in eighth grade, and last year they celebrated his bar mitzvah,



which was attended by fellow members of Alpha Delta Phi, **Lorraine Levitt Katz**, M.D., and Mark Foladare (SEAS '83). They also had "an intense period of caregiving for our elderly widowed parents."

Mindy is in her second year as PTSA co-president at Great Neck North Middle School, where the policy priorities have been improving parent/school communication, forging partnerships with academic departments to bolster the quality of intellectual life within the school's academic community, and working to make the school a more creative and nurturing place to learn. Along with other members of the PTSA, Mindy created a monthly PTSA bulletin board that is located in a heavily trafficked hallway and is a source of pleasure for students and staff.

Sadly, Mindy now has two close friends fighting cancer. She hopes that all Barnard womenfolk will care for themselves as well as they care for their families and friends.

**Theresa Guins** graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1989. After four years at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx doing a pediatrics residency and chief residency, she moved to Maryland and did a two-year fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Now an assistant professor of pediatrics at Eastern Virginia Medical School, she's also an attending physician in the emergency department at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va. Her professional interests are in the field of emergency medical services. She's chair of the Virginia EMS for Children Committee and represents the American Academy of Pediatrics on the Virginia Governor's EMS Advisory Board. Theresa lives in Virginia Beach with her husband of

10 years, Ross, and their two children, Michelle, 5, and Matthew, 2. Her husband runs a medical-supplies company from home and is a full-time stay-at-home dad.

After five years as an international media strategy consultant in the entertainment business, **Sharon Kahn** was appointed vice president of communications at Rainbow Media's VOOM HD Networks, where she oversees public relations and marketing for a new group of 21 high-definition television channels. She's based in New York.

**Robin Tuverson** lives in Santa Monica, Calif., with her husband, James, a screenwriter, and their daughter, Summer, 9. She writes, "Life is great in the sunshine, and I'd love to get in touch with fellow West Coasters."

**Lisa Maxwell Malik** of Texas writes that she enjoys her many hours on the baseball field keeping score and watching her three boys mature. Lisa continues to practice optometry.

**Amy Morishima McLeod's** husband accepted a job in Silicon Valley, Calif., last year. Amy left her medical practice in New Jersey and they moved to Cupertino, Calif., with their daughters, Mary, 3, and Kelly, 9 months. Amy would love to hear of opportunities around the Cupertino/Mountain View area.

**Donna Looper** is an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law. She and her husband, George Kuney, a professor at the law school and director of their Center for Entrepreneurial Law, enjoy living near campus and among the students. She has finished the first book in what she hopes is a long and successful mystery series featuring criminal law professor Carla Sinclair. "The Junior League of San Diego asked me to donate the right to name a character in the series as part of their fund-raising efforts, which I think might be a good sign."

She's in good company at the

University of Tennessee College of Law—Amy Morris Hess '68 and Iris J. Goodwin '72 are full-time faculty.

**Avis Hinkson** met with **Karen Panton Walking Eagle** while Karen was in the Bay Area on business. They had a great time sharing Barnard stories. Avis can't believe that all these Barnard friendships began 25 years ago.

A correction: **Kimberly Conner** writes that her daughter, Elizabeth, now 11, was surprised to discover that she was listed as 1 year old in our last column. Kim and Elizabeth, our sincere apologies. If only we really knew how to turn back time that easily!

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

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

---

**85 Carine V. Alma** is chair of the department of anatomy and cell biology at Copenhagen University. **Melissa S. Fisher** is an assistant professor of anthropology in the department of sociology and anthropology at Georgetown University. **Patricia Cristina Cassidy** is a clinical psychologist in private practice. She lives in New York with her husband, Kyran (CC '85), and their two sons. **Charlotte Kratt Dean** is an internist in Hyattsville, Md. She lives with her husband and son in the Washington, D.C., area. **Jessica Kasten**, a health policy analyst, also lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband and daughter. **Leora Lanzkowsky Diamond** works part time at Promedica, a women's imaging private practice. She lives in Great Neck, N.Y., with her husband and their three children. **Esther Gold Liesman** lives in Stamford, Conn., with her husband and their two children. She's a manager in



research and development finance at Purdue Pharma, a pharmaceutical company. **Barbara Moss** and her husband celebrated their 10th anniversary last June. They and their son live in Maine, where Barbara is an osteopathic family physician. **Rebecca Prevots'** twin sons turned 1 in September. Rebecca is an epidemiologist at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Both **Aimee Imundo** and **Karen Estilo Owczarski** work in Washington, D.C. Aimee is competition counsel at General Electric. Karen is a part-time intellectual property attorney for the United States Postal Service. Aimee's son is 7. Karen lives in northern Virginia with her husband and their four children.

**Lisa Morgan Bowstead** runs her own business, [www.smalltown-brooklyn.com](http://www.smalltown-brooklyn.com), from her home office. She lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her partner and their son, 9. **Victoria Meakin** owns a privately held electronic payment processing company in New York. She lives with her husband, Dave Feldman (CC '85), and their son and daughter. **Tamar Newberger** is vice president of marketing at a New York software company. She lives in Manhattan with her husband and two children. **Jann Stanley Moorhead** and her husband have been married for 13 years and have two children. **Aileen Herman Cooper** and her husband, Pace (CC '85), have four sons and twin daughters.

November's Leadership Council at Barnard was enlightening and empowering. **Marti Paschal** and I brainstormed a lot over two days. We also caught up with **Susan Frostén**, an assistant professor at Philadelphia University's School of Architecture and Design. Marti shared that **Willow Sanchez** is an attorney at Heritage Network and lives in Texas with her husband and infant daughter.

After Council, I was a panelist with

**Alexa Junge** at the Great Writers at Barnard conference. **Sharon Waxman** was also a participant. Her book, *Rebels on the Backlot*, came out in paperback in January.

A final note: if you hear from a classmate who's been AWOL, let me know and tell them to write me. Let's build a strong network so our 25th reunion can be even more fabulous than our 20th.

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

87

month maternity leave. "Luna's two mommies are just thrilled. She's such a cutie."

Congratulations to Sarah, Claire, and Rose. And now I need to go make those brownies.

Allison Stewart  
171 Mount Airy Road West  
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520-3305  
allison.stewart@jpmorgan.com

Debbie Lynn Davis  
42 Allen Road  
Norwalk, CT 06851-1719  
ddavis@wiley.com

Signe Taylor  
994 New Boston Road  
Norwich, VT 05055  
signe@airs.com

20TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**86 Sarah Gribetz Stern** won the 2005 and 2002 Bronx Council on the Arts' Bronx Recognizes Its Own Awards of \$2,500, each for Excellence in Poetry.

In August 2005, the Attorney General of the United States, Alberto Gonzalez awarded **Claire S. Kedeshian**, a federal prosecutor in New York, the John Marshall Award for Superior Performance, designed to recognize outstanding professional achievement by attorneys of the United States Department of Justice. Claire is an assistant United States attorney in the Eastern District of New York. She has also received the Director's Award from the Attorney General. In June 2001, at the invitation of the FBI and U.S. State Department, Claire traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, to educate Armenian law enforcement officials about anti-money-laundering. Her award-winning recipe for "Barnard Fudge" was published in the April 1985 issue of *Gourmet*. Her family's recipe for Gouvej (Armenian vegetable stew) was published in the April 2004 issue of *Gourmet*.

**Rose Marie Arce** and Maria Rueda announce the birth of their daughter, Luna Maria, on July 2. Rose went back to work as a senior producer at CNN in October after a three-

**88 Carol Schiller** writes with news of herself and several other classmates. Carol lives in Seattle and misses New York, although "the lifestyle here is great for our two daughters, Ariela, 5, and Talia, 2." Carol is a vice president of consumer marketing and licensing at the Professional Bowlers Association, "which has been interesting to say the least."

She often sees **Melissa Rivkin**, her husband, David, and their two sons, Mathias, 8, and Ezra, 5. "Melissa still runs the American School of English in addition to doing a zillion other charitable activities. She is also still the same wonderful, zany friend I met my first day of first year."

Carol attended the naming ceremony of Hannah Grace Pliskin Russak, daughter of Marci Pliskin '83 and Renee Russak, held at Temple Beth Am in Seattle. Hannah and her sister, Isabel, 4, were both formally welcomed into the Jewish community in the ceremony.

Carol also visited with **Sangeetha Madhavan** and her daughter, Kiran, 2, in Boston. Sangeetha has a Ph.D. in demography and teaches at Harvard. For three years she taught in South Africa, where her daughter was born.



She has accepted a tenure-track position at Tulane, so she'll be moving to New Orleans with her daughter and husband, Don, in July.

After 10 years in North Carolina, **Kathleen Flynn** is now a copy editor at the *New York Times* and lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Jarek, and dog, Garth.

**Jennifer McShane**, who lives around the corner from Kathleen, runs a technical recruiting firm, a multi-office real estate business, and a wine bar in Brooklyn, which was written up in the *New York Post*.

**Eve-Laure Moros Ortega** lives in Park Slope with her husband, Christophe, and son, Léo. They married in Paris in 2000. Eve works in film production, mainly documentaries now, and earned a master of arts in cinema studies from New York University. Eve's own film, *Made in Thailand*, about women factory workers organizing labor unions in Thailand, is distributed by Women Make Movies and through an outreach campaign. She's the series producer of the Emmy-nominated PBS series *Art:21—Art in the Twenty-First Century*, which profiles contemporary visual art and artists. In addition, she's vice president of Art:21, Inc., the nonprofit that produces the series as part of its mission to make contemporary art more accessible. This keeps Eve involved in nonprofit management and overseeing the other aspects of the project. The third season of *Art:21* premiered on PBS in the fall.

Eve bumped into **Suzanne Siano**, who also lives in Park Slope, on the train.

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

**89** As you've no doubt noticed, *Barnard* has a new editor, **Dimitra Kessenides**. In a recent e-mail,

## ALUMNA PROFILE: LAURA FLANDERS '85

### She's On The Air



Laura Flanders speaking up; speaking out.

Laura Flanders '85 began her journalism career some 20 years ago in Northern Ireland, where she was documenting the relationship between state violence and domestic violence. She recalls the day in the summer of '86 when she was filming with her Super 8 camera and witnessed a policeman shoot a man with plastic bullets. "You have this illusion that you're protected if you're looking through a lens," Flanders says. Her fearless reporting led to radio jobs, first as cohost of *Contragate* in 1988, and later of *Undercurrents*, both of which broadcast from New York City's WBAI-FM. *Contragate* was an analysis of the Iran-Contra affair, and *Undercurrents* was a broader look at U.S. foreign policy.

In the early 1990s, *CounterSpin* spun off from *Undercurrents*, becoming a stand-alone weekly program produced by the media watchdog group Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, or FAIR. Flanders hosted *CounterSpin*, and was hired as co-founder of the Women's Desk at FAIR. Soon she became sole director. That gig involved a regular column, which, along with her other reporting and interviews, was later compiled in her 1997 book *Real Majority, Media Minority*, about the deleterious effects of sidelining women in reporting. "I've been to Rwanda and Iraq and Palestine," she says. "It's great getting all these stories, but what good is it if there's no place to air them?" That concern is what drives her work today on *RadioNation With Laura Flanders*, which airs weekends from 7 to 10 p.m. on the year-old liberal AM radio station Air America.

In contrast to more combative pundits, like Rush Limbaugh or Ann Coulter, Flanders wants her show to be what she calls a "town square of the air." "My listeners are fed up with the drumbeat of macho bravado that they feel isn't bringing them the truth or making them feel secure," she says. Although her Air America affiliation aligns her squarely with liberal media, Flanders calls herself a progressive. The project of the left, she says, should not be to reclaim the term liberal, but to fully commit to traditionally liberal ideas, like universal health care and a living wage.

It's a project she takes personally, and which informs all her work, from her next book, tentatively titled *What's the Matter With Democrats?* to her plans to build an alternative television network in the United States to provide quality international news with no political agenda. The history and women's studies major credits Barnard with inspiring her to make her voice heard. "What I loved there was that you have a responsibility to use your privilege, the privilege of your education, your standing in the world, and your access to information," she says. "It was the anti-ivory tower college."

—Elizabeth Herr

Dimitra wrote, "Coming back to campus has been a wonderful experience, and helping to produce a magazine that addresses issues of interest to Barnard women will certainly be a nice challenge." She welcomes "any thoughts, ideas, feedback, and suggestions." We wish her great success

in this new undertaking.

**Sorina Suma Christian** reports some happy news: "[On] May 14 ... I married my sweetheart of nine years, Alan Cameron Christian, an Alabama native. We had a cross-cultural Romanian-American wedding involving family and friends from three



countries.” Celeste Cleary ’88 attended and Elizabeth Halo ’90 was maid of honor. The four days of festivities surrounding the wedding included an alumnae gathering, “which was a lot of fun!” After honeymooning in Europe, Sorina and Alan settled in Mobile, where she’s learning to play tennis, doing volunteer work, and participating in her church’s foreign mission program. She’s also earning a graduate degree in English so she can become a professor at the local university—“eventually!” Sorina loved catching up with friends at the reunions she attended, and welcomes phone calls, mail, e-mail, and visitors.

I ran into my own first-year roommate, **Gail Weiker-Krasner**, at a birthday party in the Bronx. Gail teaches at the SAR Academy, where one of her daughters and one of my nephews are preschool classmates. She was sorry to miss the mini-reunion and hopes there’ll be another. We’re working on it!

Sadly, **Quintana Roo Dunne Michael** passed away last year after a long illness. **Tara Polan**, who shared a 616 suite with her during senior year, offers some reminiscences: “Our rooms had a common wall, so we could hear each other’s music. She wore these cool black-rimmed eyeglasses and drank very strong coffee made with a European coffee press (she taught this mystified suburban tea drinker how it worked). She let me call her “Q Roo” (I found out later that I hadn’t invented the nickname—imagine my disappointment!) She had famous friends and went to parties with celebrities, but still slaved over her philosophy papers and her senior thesis on Wittgenstein. She stressed about guys and grades and parental approval like the rest of us. I remember her logging many hours as photo editor at *The Columbia Spectator*, too.

“We lost touch after graduation, but I spoke with her in April during our class fund drive. She was at home

and feeling better then. I joked with her about speaking to her the following spring for the next fund drive. Unfortunately, that was not to be. She was weak from all the infections, and died of acute pancreatitis on Aug. 26. She was 39. I will remember those black-rimmed glasses and the unique timbre of her voice. Sorry I didn’t get to say goodbye, Q Roo.”

Quintana is survived by her husband, Gerry Michael, and her mother, writer Joan Didion. (Her father, writer John Gregory Dunne, passed away in December 2003).

Jennifer Horowitz  
225 W. 106th St., Apt. 6M  
New York, NY 10025-3631  
drjah68@aol.com

**90** I knew it would happen. Since taking over class correspondent duties, I’ve been reunited with a favorite friend, **Juhayna Kassem**. She has earned a medical degree in Haifa, Israel; completed residence training in internal medicine at St. Raphael’s hospital in Connecticut; and completed a fellowship at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, where she’s part of the full-time faculty/staff. She’s happy to be back in New York.

I also had a chance to catch up with **Karenina (Karen) Darmer**, who lives in Sudbury, Mass., with her husband, Jeff Beeler, and two sons: Brennan, who’s in fifth grade, and Christopher, who’s in kindergarten. Karen went back to work at her husband’s law firm, which specializes in personal injury and civil litigation.

Don’t be surprised to get a phone call or e-mail from me. Please indicate “class notes” or “Barnard news” in the subject line when e-mailing me news so your note doesn’t go to the spam folder.

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

**91** Mark the dates of our 15th reunion on your calendar: Thursday, June 8, through Sunday, June 11. Come to the Upper West Side for a few days or at least for an evening.

**Kiersta Kurtz-Burke** was heroic (full disclosure: I’m biased, as she’s a friend) in the aftermath of Katrina. Kiersta and her husband, Justin Lundgren (CC ’91), have lived in New Orleans more or less since college and she worked, before the hurricane, at Charity Hospital, a public facility that took nearly a week to be evacuated. Kiersta remained there with others for the duration. She was very outspoken about the rescue effort and its failures. She came to town to speak at a benefit for the Musicians Clinic of New Orleans, where she volunteers, and was back again in November for a visit from the Big Easy, where she and Justin are crashing at a friend’s until assessments on their place are completed.

**Lisa Sandberg Sang** contacted me to find out about new moms on the Upper East Side who may want to meet up. Lisa had a baby boy, Jordan, in October and went on leave from her job as a private banker for Citibank. If you’d like to congratulate her, please look her up on the online directory ([www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum)).

Please help me make my last few columns as correspondent doozey.

Sara Ivry  
86 Sterling Place, Apt. 3  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
718-398-2550  
sbivry@alum.barnard.edu

**92** **Linda Chang Reals** lives in New Canaan, Conn., with her husband, Jeff, and two children, Alden, 1, and Zoe, 3. Linda returned to Barnard in 2004 to run the new financial literacy program, the mission of which is to educate Barnard women on issues relating to personal finance so that they have the proper tools to make



educated and responsible financial decisions, both during their years at Barnard and beyond.

**Sharmila Shetty** is in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, working as a health delegate for the American Red Cross in the tsunami recovery program.

**Lisa Lam** was an interior designer before she got married. She writes, "My husband, Jim Simon, an architect with Gensler in New York, and I got married in October 2003. Within a week, Jim was transferred to Tokyo for a project and I went with him. We spent the past two years living and working in Tokyo. We just moved back to New York this fall." Lisa attended the wedding of **Simone Leung** and Michael Saunders in London in December 2003. "Michael and Simone were transferred to Hong Kong a few months after their wedding at about the same time Jim and I moved to Tokyo. Another alignment in our lives is that Simone and Michael just moved back to London, right around the same time Jim and I moved back to New York. We are very curious as to where life is going to take us all next."

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

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

Class Web site: [www.tigerminx.com/bc92/](http://www.tigerminx.com/bc92/)

**93 Tamara Cohen** is featured in the Jewish Women's Archive online exhibit about Jewish women and the feminist revolution, based on her work as a Jewish feminist writer, activist, and educator. **Miriam Sirota** is a vice president at the Corcoran Group, a real estate agency in New York. She lives with her partner, Rob Cohen, and their six cats in an 1870s brownstone in Brooklyn that they renovated themselves. She's

fully enjoying life—her "work, the arts, animal rescue, and the pursuit of antiques and sweets."

**Brooke Wirschafter** has lived in Los Angeles for the past six years with her husband, Jonathan Golub, and their three sons, Leo, Ezra, and Judah. Four years ago, she left her position as managing editor of the *Digital Coast Reporter*, an Internet industry magazine, when she decided to be a stay-at-home mom. She's on the board of her synagogue, Ikar, which was founded by Rabbi Sharon Brous, a Columbia College alumna. Brooke enjoys the fact that the synagogue focuses on local and international social justice issues so much that she co-chairs their Social Justice Committee.

Teaching keeps me quite busy, as does my dissertation work. Unfortunately the mini-reunion we had hoped for this fall didn't happen, but we'll try again in the spring. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out.

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

**94 Ellen Wolintz-Fields** writes that she's serving as the first full-time Conservative rabbi and educational director of a congregation in northern Illinois. She was instrumental in helping her congregation purchase its first synagogue building in Grayslake, Ill., making it the first synagogue in the Village of Grayslake. She's the vice president of the Chicago Regional Rabbinical Assembly, and will be its next president. She and her husband, Jonathan, live in Gurnee, Ill., with their daughter, Cameron Elizabeth, 2.

**Nancy Soleymani** married Marc Jay Badner on Sept. 10 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. In attendance were **Joy Gamerov Kleeger**, **Sandra Liu**, **Alexandra Luchow**

## BARNARD'S SUMMER IN NYC PROGRAM

Barnard's Summer in New York City Program offers young men and women the opportunity to learn like a college student, explore career opportunities, build leadership skills, and take advantage of NYC's resources. The program is open to students who will have completed the 10th and 11th grade by June. To learn more about this great opportunity, go to [www.barnard.edu/pcp](http://www.barnard.edu/pcp), or call 212-854-8866.

**Rosenberg, Erin Rossitto**, and **Indira Smith**. Alexandra introduced Nancy to Marc.

Nancy also shared the news that Alexandra had her third boy, Jack, in April. Erin had twin girls, Josie and Sam, in July. Sandra's son, Nate, just celebrated his first birthday, and Sandra and her husband, Tim Chen (CC), had a beautiful party for him at the Garden City Hotel in July. Indira joined Latham & Watkins in Los Angeles in October.

**Ichiko Sudo** and her husband, Jay, had a baby named June, in March 2004. Ichiko just returned from an EarthWatch expedition doing paleontology in central Mexico. She's vice president of debit at MasterCard International.

**Aliya Hasan** writes that she's in the second year of her gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. She had a baby girl, Farah, in March 2005.

**Jennifer Zahn Spieler** is senior reporter for *The Sitting Duck*, an independent newspaper in Washington



State. She interviewed former United Nations Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter last spring when he came to her city of Olympia, Wash. In addition, she's busy with her sons, Kai, 5, and Torsten, 3.

**Amy Reneker Buckley** gave birth to a son, Ciaran David, on July 22. Ciaran is the first child for Amy and her husband, James. The family lives in London, where Amy's on maternity leave from her job as a project manager for the IT consultancy firm Agilisys, and James is a director for Baring Asset Management.

**Nelly Sta. Maria-Stadler** is in Pittsburgh, where she's a lecturer in the University of Pittsburgh psychology department. She teaches intro classes of more than 300 students and really enjoys it.

**Lauren Green** had her third son, Charlie, in May. She and her family moved to Wilton, Conn., three weeks before he was born. He joins his two big brothers, Sam and Jake. Lauren is home with her boys and they keep her very busy. She saw **Julie Steiner** and her beautiful baby girl, Emma, this summer.

**Basheva Genut** moved to Israel in 2001 and is a media advisor to Israel's foreign minister. She and her husband, Gilad, celebrated their daughter Arielle Sadie's first birthday in November. They moved to Ramat Aviv from a small rural village and it's been a welcome change to be closer to a city. She also writes that Ronit Fields '93 just moved to Tel Aviv from Chicago, and it's been great to see her.

Last April, **Lisa Lustgarten Byala** founded an executive search business, Byala Search LLC, based in New York serving the nonprofit and education sectors, and she already has a national client roster.

**Amy Hassinger** has a new book coming out, *The Priest's Madonna* (Putnam, April 2006). For more info check [www.amyhassinger.com](http://www.amyhassinger.com).

**Jennifer Fiore** received master of

fine art in photography from the California College of the Arts in 2000. Since then she has been exhibiting her artwork, doing freelance assignments and recently co-founded a boutique stock imagery agency called the Art Bureau.

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

**95** Here's the remaining reunion news: **Fariha Sarij**, an internist at Northshore University Hospital, is married and has a son, 2, and twin girls, 1. **Staci Abramsky Risman** earned her master's in public health and works as a project manager in cardiac research at the NYU School of Medicine. She's married to Mark Risman. **Kristen Driscoll** has been back in New York for three years and is now teaching yoga and taking film classes. **Alexandra (Alexa) Sita** has been working at a cable network, where she met her husband of three years, and in the music industry at a major record label. She resides in Los Angeles, where she's a screenwriter. **Rachel Sobel** earned her master's in public health while working full time in clinical research on lupus at the Hospital for Special Surgery. She now works at Pfizer as an epidemiologist in drug safety and is pursuing her doctorate part time. She's married to Doruk Erkan and lives on the Upper East Side. **Jocelyn Rubin** pursued a career in opera following graduation. She now subsidizes her music with a job at Pfizer as a grant coordinator.

**Elizabeth Kotlyarevsky Weiner** has worked in finance since graduation. She went to business school, where she met her husband. They have a son, Gabe, 3, and live in Brooklyn. **Mouraneth (Raneth) Yok Heng** graduated from Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine and is

finishing her residency in family medicine at Texas A&M, Scott & White. She plans to join the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine in La Jolla, Calif. She married Veasna Heng in June 1995 and they have a daughter, Ani Lissette, 1. **Alissa Heyman** is working on her master of fine arts in poetry at Sarah Lawrence College. Previously she was a children's book editor at Penguin Group USA. **Alla Shapiro Finn** pursued her graduate studies at New York University and received a registered dietician license. She has two sons, 5 and 2, and lives in New Jersey. **Vanessa Hargrove** completed her master's in education at University of Boston and lives in Waltham, Mass. She teaches at Fox Hill School in Burlington, Mass., and enjoys teaching and inspiring children. **Galina Vainblat Brodsky** is married to Steve Brodsky and they have two sons: Adam, 5, and Ethan, 4 months. She bought a day care center called Wee Kids in Mansquan, N.J. She'd love to hear from classmates. **Carmencita San Miguel** married Declan Roche in January while in New York en route to Canberra, Australia, where they now live. She's working on her Ph.D. in international relations at the Australian National University. **Gail-Ann Bradshaw Krieger** lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Jeffrey Krieger. She continues to make jewelry for Girls Against Boredom and has designs in four episodes of *Jewelry Making* on the DIY network.

**Asali Solomon** was one of six recipients of the 2005 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award. This award is given annually to early-career women writers who demonstrate excellence and promise. She's a fiction writer and is working on her first novel, *Disgruntled*. A collection of her short stories is forthcoming from Farrar Straus & Giroux in 2006.

**Amita Umanikar** is a research and planning associate at St. Francis



College in Brooklyn Heights, N.Y., and is seeking a new position involving health policy or research. **Sarah Kaufman Josephson** writes: "I just love hearing what everyone else is up to." She edits video for ABC News and lives in Brooklyn. Her son, Asher Miles, was born last winter and **Giovanna Blackston** attended his birth. Giovanna lives in Tel Aviv and has started her own company, called Head-Nod Brand Planning (head-nod.net).

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

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

10TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

96

Samantha Nicosia Rowan

310 E. 23rd St., Apt. 5H  
New York, NY 10010  
646-602-1727  
sam\_nicosia@hotmail.com

**97 Catherine Stikeleather** finished her master's degree in occupational therapy at Tufts with a focus on hand therapy. She lives in Newton, Mass.

**Roselyn Farren** is working on her doctorate in English literature and is beginning work on her dissertation, which will investigate the impact of the Protestant value of companionate marriage on early modern English literature. It's going slowly right now. She and her husband, Steve, welcomed their second child. They have a girl, Miryam, 3, and a boy, Boaz, 1.

After three years of marriage, **Minerva Baez Read** and her husband, Ivanovich, welcomed their first son, Jeremy Daniel, on Sept. 7, 2004. Minerva is still working for Barnard in the Office of Financial Aid. **Yulian Ramos**, Jeremy's godmother, has

started a master's at the New School in International Affairs.

**Risa Chopp Butbul** was promoted to creative development director of my firm (a real estate public relations agency) and has also returned to school to pursue a master of business administration—her Barnard education earned her a merit scholarship. She completed her real estate sales-associate license. In her free time she travels with her husband.

**Kathryn Drabinski** is working on her dissertation in the rhetoric department at the University of California, Berkeley. She lives in downtown Oakland with her girlfriend, a Ph.D. candidate in ethnic studies. They engage in urban vegetable gardening, knitting, and dissertation angst.

After three years in Paris working in the curatorial department at the Fondation pour l'Art Contemporain, **Vanessa Critchell** returned to New York a year ago and has been working with Claudia Altman-Siegel '95 at Luhring Augustine Gallery. She's a project manager and works with the secondary market. On July 2 in the Cap d'Antibes, France, she married Tyson Daugherty, an entrepreneur in Internet gaming.

**Andrea Lane Stein** and her husband, Glenn, welcomed their first child, Andrew Oliver Stein, on Jan. 24, 2005. **Helene Kornsgold** reports that she's in her fifth year of Rabbinical School at Jewish Theological Seminary and is also studying for her master's of Jewish Education at the Davidson School for Jewish Education.

After five years in the financial and educational world, **Elizabeth Githens** entered the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in 2002. She spent one year of her two-year master's program studying in Bologna, Italy, and the second in Washington, D.C. In May 2004, she returned to New York and now works

at the Goldman Sachs Foundation, a foundation with an educational and international perspective. She'd love to connect with alumnae in the foundation sector.

**Melissa Edmands Marsh** married Roger Marsh of London on May 30, 2004 in Santa Fe, N.M. Melissa has successfully transplanted Roger to the United States and they live in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Roger has worked for years in IT consulting but has taken the relocation as an opportunity to begin a career in screenwriting. Melissa's working for an interior design and business consulting firm in Manhattan called DEGW.

**Amanda Li Hope Friedman** is pursuing her interest in jewelry design and architecture, and lives in London. She's become quite involved with the Barnard Club of Great Britain and holds a position in the club.

In October 2004, Melissa reports, her best friend, **Marisa Beatty**, closed the doors of the much-loved Williamsburg Art neXus (WAX). It had been operating as a dance and theater performance and rehearsal space serving the community as a non-profit organization in Brooklyn for more than five years. Marisa's taking a deserved break to tour Europe. Upon her return, Marisa's planning to continue working on WAX as a virtual organization for arts advocacy, focusing on dance and performance.

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

**98 Brenda Baer Ruditzky** and her husband, David, had a baby boy in July 2005. They live in New Jersey. Brenda graduated from New York University with a master of business administration and works in brand management.

**Amanda Stein Enneking** married Tom Enneking in September



2003. They welcomed their first child, Matthew Benjamin Enneking, in June 2005. Amanda lives in Cincinnati where she's in her fourth year of a clinical psychology doctoral program at the University of Cincinnati. She writes, "Between school and work, home renovations (which we're largely doing ourselves), and, of course, motherhood—I'm definitely keeping busy."

I'm enjoying my graduate program at Teachers College in art education/museum studies. In addition to working full time and taking classes, I'm interning in the education department at the Rubin Museum of Art in Chelsea, which is dedicated to Himalayan Art (most of the collection is Tibetan). If you're in town, please visit it.

Just a reminder—please be as generous as you can when donating to The Barnard Fund. The more participants we have from our class (regardless of donation amount), the better.

—SS

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

Abby Dye  
1633 Bedford Lane, Apt. 7  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
abbydye@alum.barnard.edu

---

**99** Courtney Kjos was selected as a history instructor for the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. She'll attend graduate school this fall.

Jenny Lee  
350 W. 43rd St., Apt. 23D  
New York, NY 10036  
917-304-9137  
212-333-6415  
barnardclass99@yahoo.com

---

**00** In June 2004 Priscilla Ashamu married Mohammed (Sam) Dinah Sampil. It was a four-day affair held in Conakry, Guinea, where they live. Over 300 attended the ceremony at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Priscilla is a certifying officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Sam works at the International Bank for Commerce and Industry of Guinea.

Andrea Macari married Dylan Mitchell, a New York-based divorce lawyer. Andrea earned a Ph.D. in clinical and school psychology and is now a professor at Suffolk County Community College.

Last July, Nicole Trepicchio Monat married Jeffrey Monat, a Wharton graduate. Marisa Brahms was a bridesmaid and Elizabeth Sosnov '02 attended. The wedding took place in New Jersey, where Nicole and Jeff grew up. The two now live in Chelsea, and Nicole just started her first year at Columbia Business School.

In another July wedding, Raphaelle Steinzig married Michael Goodwin (CC '99) in California. Raphaelle completed a history master's at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Marisa Brahms lives in New York and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2004. She works in litigation at Stroock, Stroock, and Lavan.

Anna Gavin is the University of Pennsylvania Law School's faculty events coordinator. In May, Jessica Wells won second place in the Fish Publishing One Page Story Prize, judged by Dave Eggers. Consequently, she was invited to read her story, "Vanilla," at the West Cork Literary Festival in Ireland. "My first public reading!" she writes.

Sabrina Wu moved back to New York from San Francisco and is helping teach inner-city children about nutritional foods in her new position as senior coordinator of CookShop Classroom. "My interest is in issues of food, justice, and politics. And that's how I approach what I do in terms of increasing access to

healthy foods for low-income people and neighborhoods and communities that don't have the same access."

Rachel Spector lives in Brooklyn and is completing her second year at CUNY School of Law. As a graduate fellow she receives a full tuition fellowship and stipend. Rachel spent last summer in a small Mississippi town advocating for workers'-rights at poultry processing plants, and she hopes to practice workers' rights law and/or environmental law. She urges alumnae who want to pursue public interest law to consider CUNY, "which is the only public law school entirely devoted to public interest law and is very affordable."

Elissa Harel, moved from New York City to Ithaca to start her first year at Cornell's Johnson School of Management. Anyone with questions about business school and the application process can contact Elissa.

Abigail (Abby) Weitzenfeld Ansart now lives in France with her husband, Jean-François, and son, Alexandre, who turned 1 in February. She's working on an urban planning and town management master's at the Urban Planning Institute of Paris.

Your co-correspondent, Bianca Jordan, lives in Manhattan and works hard in the publishing world. she just returned from a vacation in Italy, which proved beautiful in the autumn weather.

Rachel Grundfast moved to Baltimore, after nine years in New York, to be the manager of individual support for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

After graduation, Denise Mishiwiiec worked for the ACLU for a year but took a job teaching at a university in the Czech Republic. "I lived abroad for three years: about a year each in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Moscow."



She did a lot of traveling, including six months in England and “an amazing month” in Kyrgyzstan volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, building houses and interpreting. Now in Bloomington, Ind., Denise is in a dual master’s program at Indiana University, studying at the Russian and East European Institute and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. “I study Central Asia and the Caucasus, and also economic development, policy analysis, and civil society. I want to work for a development or humanitarian organization in the former Soviet Union when I’m done here.”

Denise is also community outreach coordinator for Americans United for the Separation of Church and State on campus.

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

Sherri Kronfeld  
30 Newport Parkway, Apt. 408  
Jersey City, NJ 07310  
201-963-2151  
shkronfeld@hotmail.com

5TH REUNION: JUNE 8-JUNE 11, 2006

**01 Sarah Walker Caron** and her husband welcomed their son, William Michael Caron, on July 30 in Danbury, Conn. She says he loves listening to *Baby Einstein*, hearing his dad whistle, and eating.

In May, **Alison Joseph** received her master of arts in Jewish studies from Emory University. She moved from the South to the West Coast to pursue a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible at the University of California, Berkeley. She looks forward to reconnecting with alumnae in the Bay Area.

**Aimee Sklar** graduated from New York Law School in May 2004 and since September 2004 has been employed by the New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel in the Family

## ALUMNA PROFILE: PURVA PANDAY '98

### Leader of the Pack



Research skills developed in college have helped Panday in her work.

**P**urva Panday '98 is on a mission: to empower girls from low-income and poverty-stricken communities to rise above the often low expectations set for them so that they can make a positive impact on the world.

As acting executive director of The Lower Eastside Girls Club of New York, she strives for this every day with the nearly 300 girls, ages eight to 18, who attend any of the club’s four locations throughout Manhattan’s Lower East Side.

The club administers programs that inspire and challenge girls to pursue their dreams, consider careers they’ve never before thought of, and view themselves as future leaders in society: girls can develop and nurture an interest in the arts, athletics, cultural pursuits, and life skills. “Creating fire in the bellies of girls,” is how Panday, 29, describes her mandate.

The club currently is engaged in a capital project to raise \$20 million for a green facility on Avenue D—a structure whose energy sources, building materials, and operations are healthier for the people in it and for the environment—that will serve as LEGC’s headquarters. “What’s also unique about the building is that it will be a teaching tool for the community,” Panday says. “It’s really an exciting time to be here.”

It can be taxing, too. “For me, it’s the challenge of balancing managerial issues with keeping my finger on the pulse of the girls’ lives,” Panday says. The traits and characteristics she developed while at Barnard—self-assurance, assertiveness, confidence—are ones she’d like to pass on to the girls.

After receiving her bachelor’s degree (she majored in Asian and Middle Eastern cultures), Panday, who grew up in New Jersey, earned a master’s degree in early adolescent education from Bank Street College of Education. She planned on working in the nonprofit world, and did, spending about three years as the director of advocacy at Girls Incorporated of New York City. While in that job, she learned of the Lower Eastside Girls Club and became a supporter. Then, in January 2005, LEGC hired Panday as chief operating officer. Within months, she was asked to step in as acting executive director.

Panday’s motivation for working in nonprofits is the opportunity it provides her to focus on social justice issues and to help young women. “If we can create a better society for women,” she says, “things are going to be better for everyone.” —Debbie Harmsen

Court Division, as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in Queens Family Court where she prosecutes juvenile delinquents. She reports that she’s fortunate enough to be working with several alumnae, including Alexandra Standish '98.

**Lauren E. Alexander** is the communications assistant for the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on sexual- and reproductive-health research, policy analysis and public education.

**Marsha Corchado** enjoys her job as client-relations manager for an Immigration Investment Visa Program. This fall, she completed her second triathlon and volunteered as an assistant youth instructor at Lighthouse International, working with visually impaired teens on creative and career-related projects.

**Elizabeth (Rickey) Bevington** is a television news producer at WFSB TV the CBS affiliate in Hartford, Conn. She also enjoys



being a radio announcer on WNPR Connecticut Public Radio and would like to hear from other journalists. She often visits **Charlotte Rogers**, whom Rickey says is starting her Ph.D. in Spanish at Yale. **Mary Politi** lives in Providence, R.I., doing her pre-doctoral internship in behavioral medicine at Brown Medical School. She received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, specializing in behavioral medicine, from George Washington University.

**Kayla Rosenberg** is in her third year of law school and is interning in the legal department at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation promoting national community development. Kayla reports on several other alumnae: **Milena Perez** works in publicity at HarperCollins, and **Maria Kassimatis** bought her first

apartment on Long Island. **Jordanna Coelho** is a genetic counselor for the St. Luke's-Roosevelt consortium and is studying for her board exams. **Sophia Valiotis** passed both the New York and New Jersey bars and celebrated with a vacation in Greece. **Hee-Jung Hwang** works for Wells Fargo Bank in Seattle while earning her master's in public administration at night.

**Laura Napoli** moved to Los Angeles, after working in New York and New Jersey for a few years as both an actress and as a faculty member (stage combat) at the Public Theater, the master of fine arts programs at Columbia and New York University, Stella Adler Studio, and at biz kids n.y. Her most recent L.A. acting credit is performing motion capture for two leading characters and several sup-

porting characters in a major video game to be released next year for the Xbox 360. She also joined the rock/theatrical group the Incredible Dollface and worked on their last two albums. Laura would be happy to hear from alumnae in the L.A. area.

Keep in touch via the online directory at [www.barnard.edu/alum](http://www.barnard.edu/alum). I hope you've marked your calendar for reunion, Thursday, June 8, through Sunday, June 11. Nominations for class officers are being accepted. If you're interested or would like to nominate a friend, please contact our nominating chair, Alison Joseph.

Erin Fredrick  
22-25 47th St., 2nd Floor  
Astoria, NY 11105  
[efredrick@alum.barnard.edu](mailto:efredrick@alum.barnard.edu)  
202-494-5912  
[alumnae2001@yahoo.com](mailto:alumnae2001@yahoo.com)

## I N M E M O R I A M

### Marion Bachrach Wolfson '57

Marion Bachrach Wolfson, 70, passed away on Sept. 15, 2005. Co-founding president and a major force behind the 2004 reorganization of the Barnard Club of South Florida, Marion will be missed by many.

Born in Vienna, Austria, she immigrated to the United States in 1947. Marion was an active student at Barnard and a

recipient of the Junior United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Service pin.

Marion married Robert Wolfson in 1957. They settled in Florida in 1970, where she was very involved in the Jewish community. In 1997 she retired as the school administrator of the bachelor of professional management program at Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fla.

The Barnard Club of South Florida has named its political lecture series in her honor. Marion is survived by her husband, three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1924 Edna Trull Bird, Jan. 2, 2005            | Florence Kotzian Strateman, May 1, 2005        | 1949 Janet Mora, Aug. 24, 2005               |
| 1929 Ruth Lounsbery Lucas, Sept. 14, 2005     | 1941 Greta Eisenmenger Neelsen, April 8, 2005  | Jean Neely, Sept. 25, 2005                   |
| 1930 Agnes Slawson Wilkin, Oct. 26, 2005      | Alice Peterson Shamsey, Aug. 8, 2005           | 1950 Nancy Gullette Post, Sept. 28, 2005     |
| 1931 Julia Poliakov Mansvetov, Sept. 14, 2005 | 1942 Charlotte Gordon Kirschner, Nov. 25, 2005 | 1951 Harriet Dyer Reed, April 25, 2005       |
| 1934 Marie Bouchard, Sept. 16, 2005           | 1943 Helen Sheffield Aronstam, May 1, 2005     | 1952 Elizabeth Heed McLane, March 3, 2005    |
| Rose Maurer Somerville, July 6, 2005          | Jean McLain Lawson, Oct. 10, 2005              | 1954 Judith West Sheldon, July 20, 2005      |
| 1935 Mildred Kreeger Davidson, Sept. 24, 2005 | 1944 Monica Wyatt Burnham, Aug. 18, 2005       | 1957 Marion Bachrach Wolfson, Sept. 15, 2005 |
| Jean Jacobson Strong, Oct. 30, 2005           | L. Nestler Diaz, Sept. 12, 2005                | 1958 Sheila Barry Bausano, Jan. 24, 2005     |
| Violet Hopwood Sudekum, Oct. 21, 2005         | 1945 Sally Mather Gibson, Oct. 20, 2005        | Doriane Kurz, Oct. 19, 2005                  |
| Geraldine Trotta, Oct. 12, 2005               | Grace Cutting McGrath, Sept. 1, 2005           | 1959 Suzanne Gamwell Zezza, July 24, 2005    |
| 1936 Estelle Abrams Siegel, Oct. 9, 2005      | 1946 Doris Carrington, Sept. 25, 2005          | 1963 Barbara Watson Day, Aug. 2, 2005        |
| 1938 Adelaide Murphy Evans, Nov. 14, 2005     | Evelyn Hoffman Hurley, Aug. 3, 2005            | 1967 Lynn Mitchell, Nov. 30, 2005            |
| 1939 Jeannette Stokes Thulin, Nov. 27, 2005   | Susan Weaver, Sept. 46, 2005                   | 1969 Bobbie Rhodes, Feb. 25, 2005            |
| 1940 Margaretta Grevatt Doty, Oct. 17, 2005   | 1947 Condict Freeman Hyde, Sept. 4, 2005       | 1973 Lila Rosen Garten, Sept. 20, 2005       |
|   | 1948 Laura Adams Eastman, Sept. 23, 2005       |  |



02

Nadine Haobsh  
147 E. 81st St., Apt. 4E  
New York, NY 10028-1854  
646-342-3608  
nadinehaobsh@gmail.com

03

**Stephanie Louie** lives in New York and has spent the past two years working at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York but has accepted a job in risk management at Goldman Sachs. Between jobs she was able to spend two weeks in northern Italy and two weeks trekking across Scandinavia.

Stephanie still dines with **Amy Kong, Sandy Hsu**, and Daisy Szeto '04 in the city. Stephanie and Sandy had a fantastic time in Washington, D.C., visiting Constance Moy '02.

**Tamar Palgon** married Brian Weinberg in March 2005. She's a computer systems administrator and network engineer in Westchester, N.Y. Tamar also began pursuing photography and maintains a daily photo journal at [www.pixelopera.com](http://www.pixelopera.com).

**Abigail Clay** completed her master of education at the University of Oregon in August 2004. She teaches math at Centennial High School in Portland, Ore.

**Alya Kashper** lives in Moscow and works at the Federation of Jewish Communities as a director of special projects. In this capacity, she's seeking American support in the fight against the spread of genetic diseases in the Russian-Jewish community.

**Danielle Tuller** spent three months in Bogotá, Colombia, working on quality-of-care research with a small sexual- and reproductive-health organization called Oriéntame. Before she left for Egypt in a few months, she was invited to Houston by **Ngoctram (Tram) Nguyen** to help her and her organization, Boat People S.O.S., which provides hurricane relief services to Vietnamese-American evacuees.

**Sarah Kelly** works in production

for Bloomberg TV and lives at the "nexus of the universe"—1st and 1st in Manhattan—with **Stella Grizont**.

**Kate Jurgel** was promoted at Grey Healthcare Group. She lives in New York with her sister, Erica Jurgel '05. Kate has taken up rollerskating and is planning her next trip to Europe.

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

04

**Alison Cool** lives in Brooklyn and is in her first year of a Ph.D. program in sociocultural anthropology at New York University, studying the cultural implications of the correlation between the use of assisted reproductive technologies and the increased likelihood of multiple births.

**Sarah Bolger** took part in her first professional play and shot a commercial for Commerce Bank. She's also a freelance casting associate at Downstairs Casting. Sarah lives on the Upper East Side and stays in touch with several friends from Barnard.

**Nubia Duvall** works at an English social club in Taipei called Chit Chat Club. She's the supervisor and head host, (they call themselves hosts not teachers). She's also been on MTV Asia for the *Chit Chat MTV Show!* which teaches viewers in Taiwan the lyrics (and slang words) of popular Western songs. She writes, "I think it's pretty cool because it's a new way for people in Asia to learn English. The classes are all conversation-based and there is always great interaction. We also host parties for our members."

After graduation **Yael Fischer** moved to Louisville, Ky., to work with the chief of the sixth circuit Federal Appellate Court. She now lives in Virginia and worked on the governor's race where she helped elect a Democratic governor in a

traditionally Republican state.

**Altoon (Tunie) Hamway** married Evan Deutsch (CC '05) on July 4. They live in Elberon, N.J.

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

05

**Melissa Thompson Libby** married Oliver Benacerraf Libby on Oct. 9, 2005, at the Rainbow Room in New York. **Hope Bryant**, Olivia Cory, **Dana De Orchis**, Danielle Fein '06, **Rachel Ginsberg**, and **Clare Yang** were in attendance. The groom's mother is Dr. Beryl Benacerraf '71 and his grandmother is Annette Dreyfus Benacerraf '43.

**Colette Seter** started her master's in clinical psychology at Teachers College after interning, volunteering, and sight-seeing over the summer in Armenia. "Life after Barnard is easier living with **Elisabeth Garrett** and **Erica Schieferstein** in Spanish Harlem, and with **Jennifer Viola, Mari Candelore, Gina Costagliola, Ashley Hamilton, Karin Isaacson**, and **Anil Foreman** as neighbors." She misses **Nancy Linthicum**, who's in California, and **Elizabeth Curtis**, who's in Washington, D.C.

**Victoria (Vicki) Cuellar** is the assistant to the artistic director at East Bay Center for the Performing Arts in Richmond, Calif. She plans to travel and work in a community in Veracruz or Oaxaca, Mexico, and/or Bahia, Brazil. **Rebecca Eskreis** had her first article appear on [forbes.com](http://forbes.com). She produces video news segments and reports for the Forbes Web site.

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



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

## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE

### President and Alumnae Trustee

LISA PHILLIPS DAVIS '76

### Alumnae Trustees

MARGARITA (ARI) BROSE '84  
JANET WILLIAMS HELMAN '56  
NANCY KUNG WONG '62

### Vice President

MYRNA FISHMAN FAWCETT '70

### Directors-at-Large

MARCIA ZYLBER GORDON '77  
LILLY WEITZNER ICKSON '88  
WENDY SUPOVITZ REILLY '63

### Treasurer

ELIZABETH YEH SINGH '88

## CHAIRPERSONS, STANDING COMMITTEES

### Barnard Fund

SUSAN LADNER '73

### Bylaws

MONIKA KRIZEK GRIFFIS '83

### Careers

EILEEN LEE MOY '73

### Communications

DANA POINTS '88

### Fellowships

JUDITH DAYNARD BOIES '59

### Leadership Council

LYNN ROTHSTEIN '78

### Regional Networks

PATRICIA TINTO '76

### Reunion

DEBORAH NEWMAN SHAPIRO '79

### Young Alumnae

JYOTI MENON '01

## ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

### Vice President for Development and Alumnae Affairs

CAMERAN MASON

### Director of Alumnae Affairs

ROBERTA WATERSTONE ALBERT '92

### Senior Associate Director of Alumnae Affairs

VANESSA CORBA '96

### Manager of Regional Alumnae Programs

ALICE ECKSTEIN '99

### Manager of Reunion and Leadership Council

ERIN FREDRICK '01

### Project Continuum Coordinator

ANNETTE STRAMESI KAHN '67

### Financial Fluency Planning Coordinator

CHRISTINE SHIN '84

### Manager of Recent Alumnae and Student Programs and Multicultural Alumnae Programs

EBONY WIRESINGER '04

## ELECTIONS

The nominating committee of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College submits for your consideration the following slate of candidates. One person has been named to fill each of the positions on the AABC board of directors that will become vacant on July 1, 2006. Six candidates have been nominated to fill three places on the nine-member nominating committee. A postcard ballot can be found in the back of this issue. Completed ballots should be returned to Alumnae Association of Barnard College, Vagelos Alumnae Center, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-6598, postmarked no later than May 1, 2006. Results will be announced at the annual meeting of the AABC on Friday, June 9, 2006.

## CANDIDATES FOR AABC OFFICERS

### ALUMNAE TRUSTEE

Eileen Lee Moy '73



Eileen, who graduated with a degree in economics, received an MBA in finance from New York University Stern School of Business in 1978. A former managing director and former chief operating officer of global treasury with JPMorgan Chase & Co., Eileen chairs the careers committee of the Alumnae Association and is a trustee of the AIG Strategic Fund of Funds. Eileen is married and has one daughter.

### CAREERS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Rebecca Amitai '79



Rebecca graduated from Barnard in 1979 with a degree in economics. From 1978 to 1986 she worked for Data Resources Incorporated, an econometric forecasting and consulting firm. In 1983 she received her MBA from Columbia Business School. In 1986 she moved to Morgan Stanley, where she remained until 1995, working at the equity and derivatives desk. She then moved to Spear, Leeds and Kellogg to help build the firm's institutional equity business; she became

a partner there in 2000. That same year, when Goldman Sachs acquired the firm, Rebecca was made a managing director. She left GS in 2005 and is focusing on volunteer work. Rebecca first joined the Alumnae Association's careers committee in 2003. She is married and has three children.

## REGIONAL NETWORKS CHAIR



Myra Greenspoon Kovey '65

Myra, a history major at Barnard, graduated from the George Washington University Law School in 1971. She practiced with the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now the Department of Health and Human Services) until 1973; from 1973 to 1999 she practiced at the Federal Communications Commission. Myra is a longtime board member and president of Barnard-in-Washington. She also chaired the Education Committee and served on the board of Temple Micah in Washington, D.C. Myra is married and has two children.

## DIRECTOR AT LARGE/ PROJECT CONTINUUM CHAIR



Pola Auerbach Rosen '63

Pola earned a master's and a doctorate degree from Columbia University's Teachers College, and became a teacher and supervisor in the New York City public school system. She also has served as assistant professor of special education at the City University of New York. In 1995, Pola founded Education Update, an award-winning monthly newspaper covering issues, people, and events in education from preschool to graduate school. Pola has served as chair of the AABC's Leadership Council Committee and of The Barnard Fund Committee. She also has volunteered with the New York Academy of Science, the American Jewish Committee, the New York Botanical Gardens, and the Advisory Council of Teachers College.



## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Linda Sweet '63



An art history major at Barnard, Linda began her career at the Brooklyn Museum. She has taught art history and museum education at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Bank Street College, and Lesley College, and served as dean of the Department of Public Education at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In 1984 Linda became a partner with Management Consultants for the Arts, representing museums, historical organizations, state arts agencies, and other arts-related organizations. She specializes in planning, board development, organizational analysis, and executive searches for top management and professional personnel. Linda obtained her master's degree in art history from New York University and serves as president of ArtTable, a national organization for women in the visual arts. She is a member of the collections committee of New York University's Grey Art Gallery and of the AABC Leadership Council Committee.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Alice Finkelstein Alekman '62



Alice, a mathematics major at Barnard, has been a math teacher, an assistant vice president of funds management, and head of the mortgage originations department for New Brunswick Savings Bank. Currently she manages S.L. Alekman Associates, Inc., a consulting business founded by her husband. Alice is her class networking chair and has served as class correspondent, class fund chair, class treasurer, and a phonathon volunteer. Other volunteer commitments include lobbying for the League of Women Voters and serving as a member of her local school board and as a president of Temple Beth El in Chicago. She is married and has three children.

Catharine Allen '70



Catharine earned a master's in public administration from Pace University in 1984, and a master of science in social work from Columbia University's School of Social Work in 1987. A licensed master social worker and a member of the National Association of Social Workers, she is certified by the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Catharine is a social-work supervisor at Abbott House in Irvington, N.Y., and serves as treasurer of the Barnard Club of Westchester. She is a former member of the board of Barnard Business and Professional Women. She has served on the boards of the College Club of White Plains and the Westchester Trails Association.



Amy Guss '85

Amy, who graduated from Barnard with a degree in foreign area studies, received her JD from CUNY Law School in 1991, and obtained her LLM from NYU Law School in 2000. Amy is an associate at New York's Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke and is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Trusts and Estates Law section and of the New York State Bar Association Charitable Organizations committee. She is fund chair for her class.



Michele McCarthy '93

Michele majored in American history, with a concentration in Civil War and Reconstruction history. She earned her JD from Seattle University School of Law in May 2000. While in law school, Michele was a member of the Moot Court board and won Best Oralist in the Western Region Fredrick Douglass Moot Court Competition. She was admitted to the Washington State Bar in October 2000 and until May 2003, when she returned to New York, she worked as a public

defender at Northwest Defenders Association in Seattle. She served as vice president of the Barnard Club of Seattle. Later, Michele was admitted to the New York State Bar; she now is an associate at Mintzer Sarowitz Zeris Ledva & Meyers and specializes in insurance defense, with a focus on general liability and labor law. Michele serves on the AABC Leadership Committee, has volunteered for New York Cares, and, every Thursday morning, tutors first-, second-, and third-grade students in reading.



Maryann Quinn '82

Maryann earned her MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. Her work experience includes seven years at Merck & Co., Inc., and a stint in equity research at Bankers' Trust/Alex. Brown & Co. She is a former director of new product planning and a former senior manager in strategic planning at Pfizer Inc. Maryann is currently senior marketing manager in the Worldwide Anti-Infective Group at Pfizer. She served as president of Barnard Business and Professional Women for 2004-05 and has been on the board for three years.



Merri Rosenberg '78

A French major at Barnard, Merri earned a master's in French and Romance philology from Columbia University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and an MS from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. Merri is a freelance writer and editor whose work regularly appears in *The New York Times*, *Education Update*, *Barnard*, and other national and regional publications. She is president of the Barnard Club of Westchester, class networking co-chair, and Barnard Alumnae Admissions Representative interviewer. She also has served as class vice president.



**PRESIDENT'S PAGE**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

**JS:** We support other groups in what they're doing, and try to show them how our mission is theirs.

**JRS:** How do women in leadership affect politics in general?

**JS:** You can see it on campus, where I function on both sides of the street. When women make a decision, they stand firm and take action, but the process they go through to reach that decision is much more inclusive and comprehensive. There's always a chance that something could be overlooked when a woman isn't in the room. I worked on the Wesley Clark presidential campaign and it was usual for me to be the only woman present. The things these guys wouldn't think of.

**MF:** I see an enormous divide between people affected by laws and people making them. For example, a lot of politicians think they're teaching people a lesson by cutting education programs for prisoners. But women in office are often more likely to see the social ramifications of that policy.

**JS:** We've never had a female mayor or governor of New York, and that needs to change.

**JRS:** What do you see yourselves doing after graduation?

**MF:** I'm not sure, but I have to have a positive effect on people's lives. I expect to attend law school in a few years, after seeing more of the world. A goal of mine is to become a judge.

**JS:** I'm applying to law school and to Teach for America. I want to understand the crisis in education. And I want to understand life in other parts of the United States. I'm much better prepared to talk with various communities, especially Evangelical Christians, after visiting three churches a week in Mississippi last summer.

**JRS:** Have you prepared worthy successors to take over your leadership roles at Barnard?

**MF and JS:** We have.

**LETTERS**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

**Archival Images**

Michael Morgenstern's illustrations accompanying the feature "Mind, Body, Spirit" in the Fall 2005 issue incorporated images that are part of the Barnard College Archives. We appreciate the contributions and support of archivist Donald Glassman and his staff.

**THE COMPANY**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29**

the play themselves, rehearsing in an unair-conditioned basement in the West Village in August. The cast included a former Miss America and a two-time Tony Award nominee. "It was," as Kerrigan puts it, "a hot mess."

"It was huge and unwieldy and academic and crazy, and some parts of it were just horrible," she says. *The Woman Upstairs* appeared in the 2004 New York Musical Theatre Festival, and the Birth of a Musical (BOAM) Festival in Boston. It received a generous review in *The New York Times*. In a six-month flurry, Kerrigan and Lowdermilk penned three more musicals, two of which will receive Off-Broadway performances in 2006. "It's objectively very fast," Lowdermilk concedes of the pace.

Kerrigan is tall and lanky; Lowdermilk is stocky and of middling height. Onstage at the Kaufman Center, where three songs from their latest play are about to be showcased in the "Bound for Broadway" concert series, host Liz Callaway calls the duo up to talk about their songwriting process. "So you're *together together*?" she asks them at one point. "No, no, no. Not at all," they deny, practically speaking in tandem. They have, however, tied their lives and fortunes together. And at the ages of 23 and 25, respectively, Brian Lowdermilk and Kait Kerrigan, songwriting duo, work in the theatre without day jobs. They harbor a reasonable expectation that they'll never have to get them. They were chosen out of six teams invited to compete for an adaptation of the children's book *Henry & Mudge* for a TheatreworksUSA production. Their recent work, *The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown*, is slated to arrive in New York next fall or winter.

"I guess the thing that I liked about

**"WE MUST HAVE A PASSION IN LIFE."**

—GEORGE SAND (1831)

**HOW HAS BARNARD HELPED YOU FIND YOUR PASSION, CALLING OR LIFE'S WORK?**



WAS THERE A PARTICULAR PERSON, PROFESSOR, MENTOR, ROLE MODEL, CLASS, CONVERSATION, INTERNSHIP OR "AHA" MOMENT HERE THAT HELPED SET YOU ON YOUR WAY AND MAKE YOU THE WOMAN YOU ARE TODAY?

IF YOU'VE GOT A BARNARD VALENTINE TO SHARE, PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR STORY TO [PASSIONATEMINDS@BARNARD.EDU](mailto:PASSIONATEMINDS@BARNARD.EDU) OR CALL 212-854-2037 FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN A NEW INITIATIVE BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.



Kait,” Lowdermilk says, “is that she was really doing things instead of just talking about doing things, like other people our age.” Lowdermilk and Kerrigan share eerily convergent tastes in music and books, and film and plays, but most of all, they are both people impatient to assume the world. “I’ve never understood the whole twentysomething attitude,” she declares. “I don’t know why you would ever put off doing something for tomorrow that you could have done yesterday.” They also have no hesitation about being commercial songwriters. Their eventual goal is Broadway. “It’s about entertaining people, isn’t it?” says Kerrigan. “It just never made sense to me to do work that only a handful of people were ever going to see. I want to reach as many people as I can.”

### ACT III

Midway into the first act of *Cambodia Agonistes*, the PanAsian Repertory Theatre’s “masterpiece musical,” as Tisa Chang ’63, founder and artistic director of the well-established nonprofit company, puts it, a woman’s jailers dump a bucket of charred and dismembered baby dolls onto the stage floor. A dancer kneels among all those destroyed bodies and begins to sing to one of them. “I’ll plant you, you’ll see. You’ll grow again. You’ll see.” The scene is a recall; in fact, the woman is in an alleyway in America. She is clutching a baby doll that she snatched from a garbage bin to her breast and won’t let go. The dismembered dolls remain onstage through the entire act.

The juxtaposition of genocide and show tunes is a striking, arguably even a tasteless one. But government-sponsored slaughter and rape has become one of the tasteless facts of the 21st century. Confronting it may require violating some rules of decorum. A scene of stylized sexual sadism seats a Cambodian

dictator on a golden toilet bowl from which he tries to break the spirit of the play’s protagonist, a Cambodian dancer. The dictator comes off as ruined and crazed—and weirdly charismatic. It’s a disquieting play that deploys a full range of artistic techniques, Buddhist and Western themes, for example; an orchestral score replicated on a computer software program to accompany traditional Cambodian dance. The healing that comes at the end manages to avoid mawkishness—people do, after all, endure incredible brutality and heal. “Ernest Abuba, the playwright, was heavily influenced by Antonin Artaud and the Theatre of Cruelty, and he uses many nontraditional techniques,” says Chang. “In order to tell such a horrific story, we had to go to the ultima of theatrical expression.”

“We call it our ‘masterpiece musical’ because we want to assert that we have our own masterpieces, work that is not confined to an identity category, but work that is of universal significance,” she continues. After college graduation, Chang had an active career as a dancer and actress on and off Broadway before founding the PanAsian Repertory Theatre. It was the first of its kind on the East Coast, and remains among the most important incubators for new works by Asian-American playwrights.

Chang’s own star turn in the theatre came in 1977, playing a Vietnamese bar girl opposite Al Pacino in David Rabe’s *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel* at New York’s Longacre Theatre. The plays of those days offered few opportunities for Asian-American actors, and the good parts that surfaced for women tended to be prostitutes. “That’s the commercial stage for you,” she says. “Not that it wasn’t great to play those roles, but when you look at the range of talents out there, there were many other things we could have been doing.”

They’ve been doing those things ever since. In the process, the theatre has helped to change the conditions that made its creation necessary. One of the company’s many associates who has gone on to have an impact on the theatre is Mia Katigbak ’76, who acted at the PanAsian and then in 1989 founded the National Asian-American Theatre Company, which produces Western classics with all-Asian casts.

Some of the initial energy that drove the PanAsian theatre in the wake of the Civil Rights upheaval of the 1960s has leached away, Chang concedes. Fundraising is a continual struggle, and the theatre would like to find a permanent home. “But the one thing that we never lack for is the tremendous artistic energy and talent in all facets of production. There is still so much for us to explore.”

### EPILOGUE

Up on the fifth floor of Milbank Hall, Shawn-Marie Garrett has much more to say about the state of the theatre, speaking with the authority of one who has immersed herself in the record of theatre’s golden ages. She talks about the pernicious, persistent dominance of the Stanislavsky technique at acting conservatories, the spurious professionalism of much training, the corrosive and affectless irony that afflicts the underground stage, and the co-optation of the experimental stage’s restless vitality by mega-corporations. But then she sounds a different note. “I do think that despite all of the obstacles, and all of the difficulties, in fact, precisely for this reason,” she begins, “this creates an atmosphere where the pressure is so intense, that at times something just bursts right through; I have this image of something bubbling up, a geyser erupting up out of the ground, with the plates of the earth creating a pressure that actually facilitates the creation of something new and astonishing.” ☒



**THE WORKSHOP**  
**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23**

music, including an internship with the famed Shakespeare Santa Cruz festival. So in college, she wanted to branch out. “The major is too practical for me,” says the 20-year-old. “I knew I’d spend a lot of time in the theatre department, but I decided to major in film studies because it’s more theoretical.” Like Freeman-Lynde, she took a work-study job to learn technical skills like lighting and sound design.

Lieberman’s philosophy about studying theatre at college is to head to the classroom for theory and the workshop for practice. “I think you can really learn tech by doing it,” she says. In the spring of 2005 she took lighting design with Harry Rosenblum and worked with him as assistant lighting designer for *The Maids*, Jean Genet’s play about two maids and their mistress, directed by Barnard’s Denny Partridge, Alice Pels Professor of the Theatre. A week later, when the department of ancient studies and classics produced *Iphigenia at Aulis* in the same theatre, Lieberman was the lighting designer.

The Barnard experience she’s most likely to recall in the future is transforming Barnard’s gym into a stage for the United States premiere of *Tierno Bokar*, adapted from a West African story about a Sufi sage in Mali who struggled against intolerance. Renowned director Peter Brook directed the production while he was in residence at Columbia University last spring.

“I only got to help out over spring break,” Lieberman remembers, “but the level of professionalism and the experience of being around such a famous director was incredible.” Barnard joined with Columbia and the Harlem community for symposia and workshops relating to the performances.

“Theatre is special because it happens

**ADVOCACY THEATRE**

*By Mia Havel '06 as told to Barnard*

I transferred to Barnard in 2004 because I wanted to be in New York City, and I wanted to study theatre at a liberal arts college. Last spring, I took senior lecturer Amy Trompetter’s alternative theatre lab. It was an incredible experience: we adapted scripts written by prison inmates from a maximum-security prison in Ulster County. Amy had taught a class there the previous summer. She makes a real impact with her style, which involves puppets. She worked with the inmates to create scripts based on classical works, then she brought us some of the scripts to use in class.

The inmates came from many backgrounds—Hispanic, African-American, Vietnamese, Native American. We didn’t know why they were in prison, but we knew their crimes ranged from fraud to murder. Even though their voices had been stifled, they were able to express themselves in a positive way. Their views of society were reflected in the scripts.

We produced the plays around the city. The audience discussions following the plays raised interesting questions about society and our prison system—is it simply about punishment, or should we seek something more?

This opened my eyes to many issues and got me interested in political science; I wound up taking four graduate-level courses. Now I’m applying to law school. Studying theatre can be a very humanizing education. I believe it fits well with working in law, because theatre can bring people together and identify problems, and it can propose solutions.

in one place at one time,” Lieberman says. At Barnard, she lends her talents to such live, electric moments more often than she feels she would at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, whose theatre program she and several of her schoolmates had considered. “A small department [like Barnard’s] allows you a bigger role,” she says. “At NYU it’s harder to stand out. I know everyone at Barnard. I get a professional environment and an intellectual environment.”

Lieberman’s plans for 2007 reflect her youth as well as her interdisciplinary inclinations. “I’ll either go into film or theatre,” she says. “I haven’t decided which. I’m interested in working in production, or maybe screenwriting. I’d like to do an internship in film this summer ... I’ll make plans from there.”

These students fulfill the theatre department’s mission to provide a working lab for innovative theatre in a college setting. Their engagement in the process of making theatre—in public schools, prisons, and unconventional spaces—more than the product that may result on a traditional stage, reflects what is only a growing trend.

Theatre editor Steven Leigh Morris wrote recently in *L.A. Weekly* about what he calls a “fundamental transformation” in American theatre. “In the next decade, the term ‘community theatre’ may no longer be disparaged as representing something at the bottom of a hierarchy of which Broadway is the pinnacle,” he wrote. Broadway will still exist as a venue for the big blockbuster shows. Meanwhile, committed, energetic theatre students like those at Barnard will help restore what Morris aptly names theatre’s “original function of uniting and validating communities.”

Just as soon as they get through finals. ☒

*Jessie Royce Hill '96 is a freelance writer based in New Haven*



**ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF BARNARD COLLEGE**

*This is the ballot prepared by the Alumnae Association of Barnard College (AABC) nominating committee. No independent nominations have been received. Vote for your candidate by marking an "x" in the circle to the left of her name. Ballot must be marked no later than May 1.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*(Vote for one candidate for each office)*

Alumnae Trustee (4 years)

Heleen Lee Moy '73

Leadership Council Chair (3 years)

Rebecca Amitai '79

Personal Networks Chair (3 years)

Syra Greenspoon Kovey '65

Director At Large/Project Continuum Chair (3 years)

Debra Auerbach Rosen '63

Leadership Council Committee Chair (3 years)

Linda Sweet '63

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 years)**

*(Vote for three)*

Alice Finkelstein Alekman '62

Catharine Allen '70

Amy Guss '85

Michele McCarthy '93

Maryann Quinn '82

Merri Rosenberg '78

Members of the AABC nominating committee 2005-06: Katherine Sinsabaugh '85, chair; Frances Jeffery Abramowitz '48; Barbi Appelquist '98; Debra Rubenstein Dunn '63; Florence Federman Mann '55; Frances Sadler '72; Marcia Weinstein Stern '66; Claire Tse '78; Jessica Wells '00







## THE PRODUCER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

And he said, "Well, you put some money into it and who knows." The play ran for more than three years, and that was my producing start.

I met another colleague, Emanuel Azenberg, through Styne after *Same Time, Next Year*. We wound up doing a few plays together, including *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

**B:** What do you look for in a play?

**DE:** I always go by the written word. To me, the written word is really the most important. If you have a good script, and you can turn around and give it to someone you respect—who doesn't just want a big name, a big star—and if it's something they feel really good about and it says something, that's what I look for. Look at what George Clooney is doing right now, it's called awareness. He's making the public aware—through film, through his writing, and through his directing—of what's happening in the world today. He's doing political plays, essentially. That, to me, is the best theatre—social statements with emotional impact.

**B:** Do people want social statements today?

**DE:** Most people go to the theatre to have a good time. They pay their hundred dollars and see a show that is very entertaining, like *The Producers* and *Hairspray*. There's nothing wrong with that, if that's what they choose to do. They want to see the big names. But that's not what I'm interested in; I want to find new names.

**B:** Share some of your most memorable theatre moments with us.

**DE:** I got a call to attend a reading of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production of *Orphans*, directed by Gary Sinise. So, I got on the plane to Chicago, where Steppenwolf is based, and there was Bernie Jacobs, president of the Shubert Organi-

zation. I asked him, "Are you going to see the same play I'm going to see?" I knew that if the Shuberts loved it, Steppenwolf would go with them. I loved it—it had all of the dramatic elements it should have, and Gary's direction made the work so eclectic, electric, and brilliant. The Shuberts decided to do it, and I was annoyed, so I went skiing to burn off some steam. It's disappointing when you see a play that you like a lot and you know that the competition is someone you can't compete with. Then, I got a call from someone at Steppenwolf asking me if I would go back to New York to do this play. It fell through with the Shuberts—they wanted to put it on Broadway. I thought it had to be done in a small theatre, because of the freneticism and the intimacy that show needed.

**B:** The considerations are different, then, depending on where it opens.

**DE:** Yes. When I took it to London, we put it in a small theatre outside of London, in the Hampstead Theatre. It won a Laurence Olivier Award, and then we moved it to the West End after it had the affirmation. So that's why you have to keep in mind, even today, all these shows that are opening downtown, and off Broadway, if they get great reviews, they'll want to move to a theatre on Broadway. If you have the ability to do a show and to do it off Broadway, then you can see what the response is. Now there are shows that really should not be moved. I felt that way about *Driving Miss Daisy*—they were smart enough never to move it. There are shows that should stay where they are. But what happens is you make much more money if the show works on Broadway.

**B:** Are there any other discoveries you'd like to share?

**DE:** Quite a few years ago, a friend was in town and said, "Dasha, I want to go see something ... something new." And I said, "There's something at the theatre at St.

Peter's Church and it's about puppets." So we went to see this show and it was by this girl we'd never heard of before named Julie Taymor—the show was *Juan Darien*. I went backstage later and I said to Taymor, "I just think you're a genius and stars are going to fall on your head. I wish I could give you something to do but I don't know what." So we sort of stayed in touch. Then one day, I got an invitation, and it said, "You were right and stars did fall on my head. Please come to the opening of *The Lion King*."

**B:** There's one thing we haven't touched on. How has it been as a woman working on Broadway, producing? Is this a fair question today?

**DE:** I think it's a fair question. If you're good, you're good. I think that it is a big boy's club and they're skeptical. You have to prove yourself more.

**B:** Do you believe the theatre is in as much trouble as many say it is?

**DE:** In the last three years, I've been disillusioned by the lack of new voices and by the costs. The costs have escalated to such a point that it's very frightening to a producer to take on something new, because it has to have the affirmation of success before it opens. And it's very rare that you get a play or musical that is set. It takes at least three or four months to build. I will not do another revival. You can't produce on your own today because the costs are so high. It's institutions, like Clear Channel and Disney, that can produce.

**B:** What are you working on now?

**DE:** I'm very involved with New York Stage & Film, which is run by Liz Timperman at Vassar. It has the most wonderful summer program for writers, and they do new plays. I want to do some lecturing. I really have to sit down and write a book. And there's also a play in the back of my mind. ☒

*Robin Cherry is a NY-based freelance writer.*



# Good News For Old Girls

**W**hile the women's movement of the 1970s focused on equal opportunities for younger women of those days, its byproducts have enriched life for women of my age and generation in ways unforeseen and much appreciated.

One impact women's liberation has had on my life—I am an 86-year-old New Yorker—is that it has freed me from the increasing reliance on cosmetic surgery, and from fashion meant to constrict and compress the female body. Seniors today aren't imprisoned, as my grandmother was, in corsets or, as my mother was, in girdles. Instead, we're free to stride forth in jeans, shorts, even a T-shirt. It was while I was dressing recently, putting on a pair of pants and a turtleneck, when I recognized how liberated I felt not having to fuss with skirts and stockings.

Today, physical beauty no longer is the primary criterion by which a woman is judged. What also counts is accomplishment and life experience. Older women's laugh lines and silver hair have morphed from being a source of chagrin to one of self respect in that they are signs of sophistication and maturity.

Women enjoy greater longevity because of the women's movement, which has encouraged us to pay attention to and promptly report physical and emotional symptoms to our doctors. As more women have become doctors, the treatment of conditions faced by our gender has improved and increased, and various women's health initiatives are working to bring about radical changes in the medical care we receive.

Older people are no longer set apart by being addressed only by a title and a last name. Contemporary mores of using first names for everyone, even on first acquaintance, came as a shock to some older folks, yet the egalitarianism implicit in this practice has much to recommend it. It denotes familiarity and acceptance rather than distant regard and with today's world perpetually set on fast-forward, seniors need to keep up and stay

involved with it. Difficult as this may be, it is self-energizing.

Today, many young people are genuinely curious about what life was like in "the old days"; the senior, in answering their questions, may find validation for what she has learned throughout her life. As the novelist Storm Jameson wrote, "I am too old to be mortified by failure." Today's senior, then, should report honestly on what's been learned from past mistakes. When thus encouraged, she may talk at length, but she may also be a better listener than before. For the detachment that naturally accompanies aging is today combated by the

women's movement's emphasis on sisterhood.

Although the need for role models subsides as we age and the people older than ourselves pass on, it remains in vestigial form. When I, for one, receive my copy of

*Barnard* I read the notes from the diminishing number of classes ahead of mine. These are filled with evidence that continually reinforces Elizabeth Kübler-Ross's observation that people facing death don't think about the money they earned or the power they wielded; what really counts at the end is whom they loved and were loved by.

That is an aspect of life that the women's movement of the 21st century has come abreast of and which benefits older and younger women alike. I happily applaud it, as I watch the young mother of two of my 13 great-grandchildren put her career on hold with the full support of her husband and the delighted response of her daughters. May her daughters experience the same freedom in choosing their paths. Whether that path mirrors their mother's or leads them to the White House, this ghost of a grandmother will look on with delight and approval.

---

*June Bingham is a working author and playwright.*

We welcome Last Word personal essays (600 words maximum) for consideration. Submit copy to [magazine@barnard.edu](mailto:magazine@barnard.edu), or to *Barnard* magazine, Vagelos Alumnae Center, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.



*I* WENT TO THE REUNION  
WORRYING I'D KNOW NO ONE.  
INSTEAD, I MET WOMEN AS WARY AS I,  
WOMEN WHO WONDERED IF THEY  
WOULD REMEMBER ANYONE. OR, MORE  
ACCURATELY, IF ANYONE WOULD  
REMEMBER THEM. THE ANSWERS  
WERE YES, AND YES AGAIN.

MARY JO MELONE '74, FORMER METRO COLUMNIST FOR THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES



# Reunion 2006

## June 8-11

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 1-800-869-5061  
OR VISIT ALUM.BARNARD.EDU/REUNION2006

### Barnard Seeks a Director of Alumnae Affairs

Barnard College is seeking a Director of Alumnae Affairs. The Director will be responsible for developing and implementing all alumnae programs, recruiting volunteer leadership, and planning and overseeing reunions and other special events. The Director manages a staff of seven, works closely with the board of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College, meets regularly with committees in the evening, and travels as needed to meet with alumnae throughout the country.

For additional information about this position and about working at the College, visit [www.barnard.edu/hr](http://www.barnard.edu/hr). Send letter with resume and salary requirements to Employment Manager, Barnard College, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027-6598. Fax: 212-854-2454. E-mail [hr@barnard.edu](mailto:hr@barnard.edu).

*Barnard is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from members of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.*



**BARNARD**  
[www.barnard.edu](http://www.barnard.edu)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO JOIN  
IN THE BIDDING AT BARNARD'S

S p r i n g P a r t y &  
A u c t i o n  
2 0 0 6

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006  
6 : 3 0 P M - 9 : 3 0 P M  
THE PUCK BUILDING, NYC

H O N O R I N G

D A S H A E P S T E I N  
TONY AWARD-WINNING PRODUCER

J O A N S N I T Z E R  
DIRECTOR OF BARNARD'S  
VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BARNARD'S  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 212.290.1393 OR E-MAIL [AUCTION@BARNARD.EDU](mailto:AUCTION@BARNARD.EDU)  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT TICKETS, AUCTION ITEMS, AND ONLINE BIDDING, GO TO [GIVING.BARNARD.EDU/AUCTION](http://GIVING.BARNARD.EDU/AUCTION)