A photograph of a modern interior space, likely a library or study area. The room features large windows that offer a view of a building with a glass and steel facade. In the foreground, there is a long, dark table with several colorful chairs (red, yellow, and black) tucked under it. The lighting is soft, with a pendant light hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is clean and contemporary.

# B

BARNARD  
MAGAZINE

SPRING 2010

## THE DIANA CENTER OPENS

Haiti: Alumnae Talk Personally  
John Miller's Journey through Art  
Barnard and NYC Launch "Speed" Mentoring  
Global Symposium II: Dubai

BARNARD REUNION  
June 3-6, 2010

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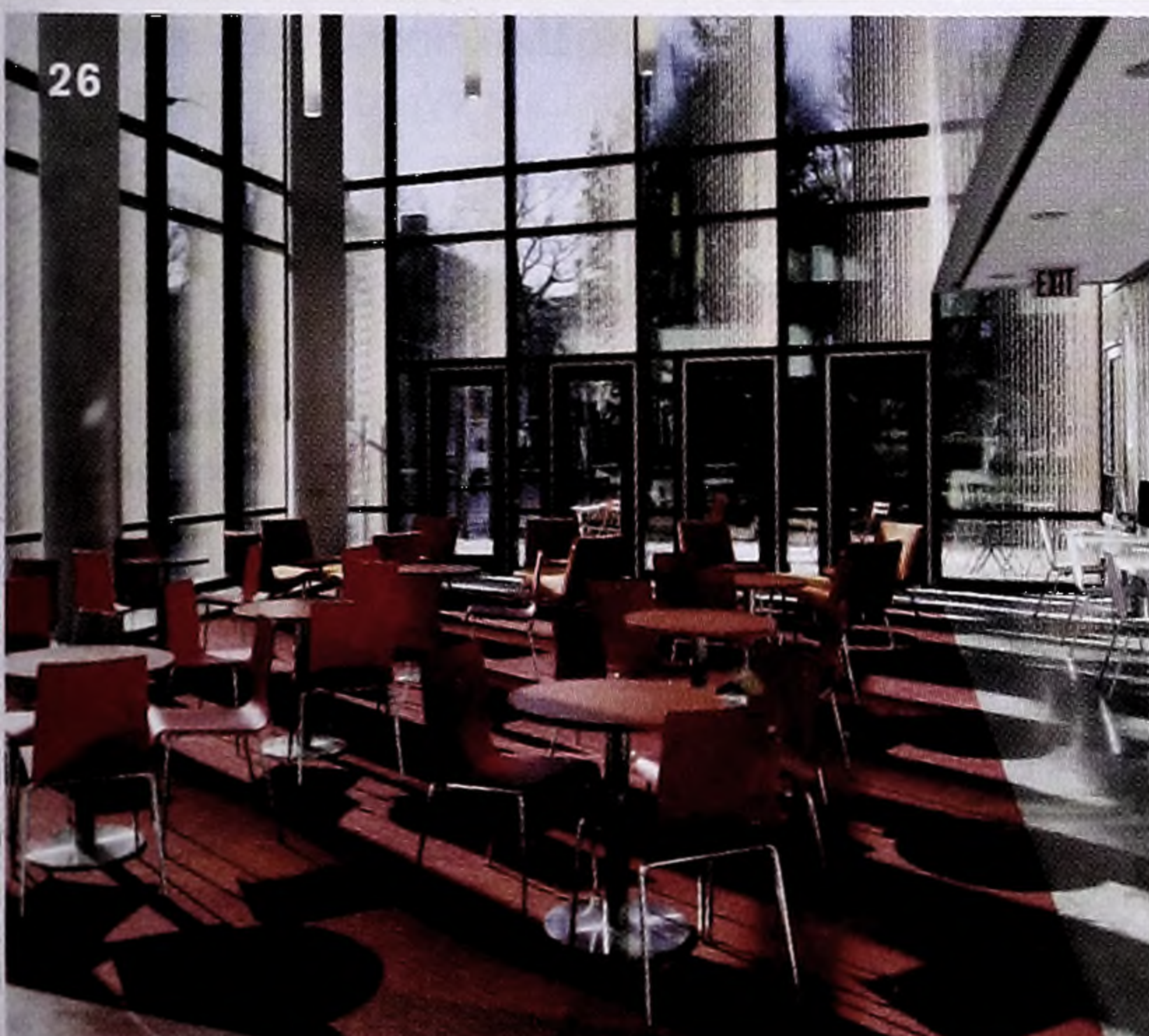
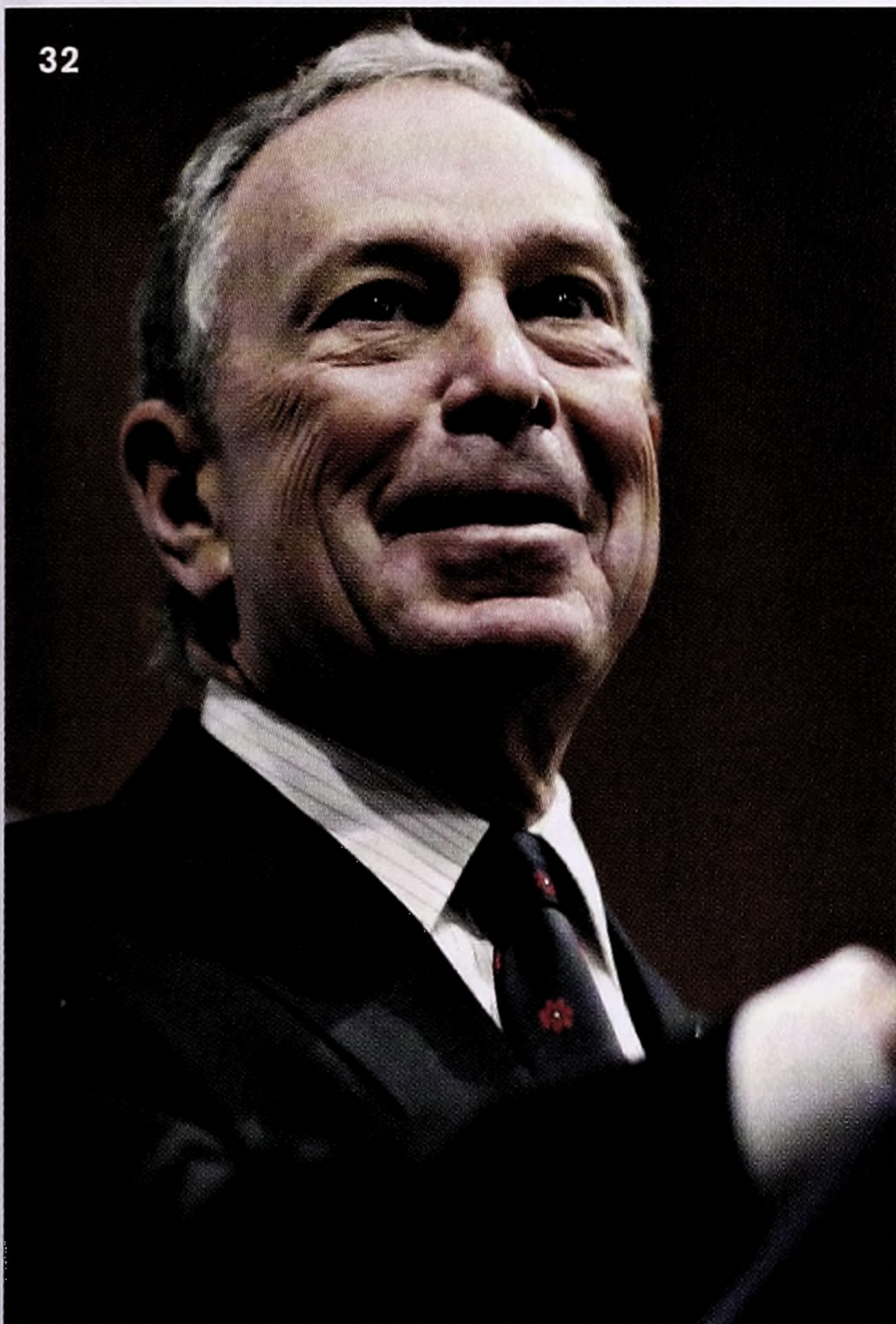
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**B**  
BARNARD  
ALUMNAE

# B

## BARNARD MAGAZINE

SPRING 2010



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### Inflections

I cringe every time a member of the Barnard community pronounces the name of my beloved alma mater as Bar-nard' instead of the correct way, with the accent on the first syllable, as Bar'-nard. I have been waging a one-woman campaign to correct this by asking them to say "H A R V A R D." No one I have encountered so far [accents the second syllable of that name].

Perhaps I am a relic from the days when speech was a required course. However, I feel that Frederick Barnard, Dean Gildersleeve, and Dean McIntosh are all turning over in their graves whenever they hear Bar-nard'. No wonder our students are teased as coming from Barnyard.

—Marilyn Heggie DeLalio '49  
Glen Cove, NY

### Food For Thought

Thank you for your article "Blah, Blah, Blah—Why We Blog", Winter 2010. It is an amazing phenomenon but also a great way to gain new information, recipes, ideas, and more. I was sorry to see you left out the fantastic blog maintained by Katya Schapiro '02. "Second Dinner" at breadbabies.blogspot.com is a witty and informative discourse on cooking and baking, food politics, locavorism, food as a community issue, and life in general from the vantage point of a "20-something" in Brooklyn.

—Sophie Schapiro '10  
New York, NY

Alumnae can submit their blogs on the Alumnae Network: [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu)

### Getting Together

My recent book, *Fight to Survive: A Young Girl, Diabetes, and the Discovery of Insulin*, ... is [about] Elizabeth Hughes Gossett '29, an alumna and former trustee of Barnard.... As a follow up point of connection between this book and Barnard, I was interviewed about the book by Dr. Nieca Goldberg '79 on her morning radio show. We had a delightful on-air celebration of Barnard, both her own experiences and Elizabeth Hughes's.

—Caroline Cox

Associate Professor of History  
University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.

### Global Symposium

I'm writing on behalf of myself, and all alums who may have visited Israel, and have an "Israel" stamp in their passports. The travel restrictions on the official Dubai travel site prohibit us from applying for a visa.

Why do you want the presence of a major woman's college in Dubai, which is on our State Department list of human and women's rights violators? Were you being politically correct by adding a note about Nina Fischman's efforts to create opportunities for Barnard grads in the Middle East, and her own daughter's gap year in Israel (see "*Barnard Around the World*," Winter 2010)? I challenge you to explain the Dubai meeting in the next issue.

—Roberta Berkowitz Barr '56  
Jacksonville, Fla.

*Editors' note: The article is on page 28 of this issue.*

### Mind Over Matter

I was disappointed to read the quote you chose to pull out for the review of *The Girl with the Mermaid Hair*. Of all the lessons we learned from Barnard, surely the most important is that our brains matter more than our looks. To quote "when you get older, the mirror does become the enemy" goes against everything Barnard stands for.

—Cita Stuntz Stelzer '65  
Aspen, Colo.

# BARNARD

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# NOTE FROM DUBAI

Everything in Dubai is tall, it seems, and everyone is from somewhere else. The man who greeted me at the airport was from Bosnia. The cabdriver was Sri Lankan; the hotel clerk, Nigerian. (Yes, I am one of those annoying travelers who ask a lot of questions.) Like the buildings that tower over what was recently desert, the people of Dubai appear almost to have dropped from the sky, hailing from across the planet and now mixed randomly, picturesquely, in this tiny crossroads by the sea.

The country—city, really—is a deceptively complicated place, full of contradictions that reveal themselves slyly. Foreigners comprise 85 percent of the population; they stay for a few years or a lifetime but can never become citizens. There are no bars but many fast cars and clusters of *burka*-clad women sporting Versace handbags and Gucci shoes. It is a city thrown up in a hurry, where Vegas looms across the straits from Iran and exquisite towers mix with new *faux* souks.

We had come to Dubai for our second global symposium, focusing this year on “Women in the Arab World.” Although we have few alumnae in the region, although we had little help on the ground and few local connections, we still packed the ballroom of the Jumeirah Emirates Tower with more than 300 women and clusters of wide-eyed girls—it was a crowd, as it turned out, that didn’t want to leave.

Our speakers were incredible: passionate, polished, and wildly unassuming. From Ahdaf Souief, the world-acclaimed novelist who urged an aspiring young writer to “pick up the pen and just write,” to pioneering surgeon Houriya Kazim, who frankly admitted that halfway through the rigors of surgical training “those kitchen knives started to look really good.” Najla Al-Awadhi told of having to convince the veiled mother of the country’s first female news anchor that it was alright to let her daughter go on air. Rabia Z., who designs high fashion *hijabs* and *abayas*, described the irony of being reprimanded by a local design school for daring to veil women, and Moufida Tlatli, the Tunisian filmmaker, brought roars from the crowd as she explained, half in French, half in English, how she balanced family and a career. “‘I love you very much,’ I tell my fiancé,” she recounted, “‘but I love much more my work. So I go film now *en Algerie*. If you are here when I come back, *c’est bien*. If not, bye-bye.’”

In the United States, feminism has long, and correctly, held that “the personal is political.” In the United Arab Emirates, by contrast, where 70 percent of college students are female but often face overwhelming pressure from their mothers and their aunts not to work, the politics of women’s rights seems distinctly personal; these rights are pushed and prodded by women like Najla and Moufida and Rabia, women who are unafraid to use their own lives as exemplars of the possible. I feel lucky to have met them, and to have introduced Barnard’s legacy of feminism to a region still grasping to define its own.





## The New Barnard Store

### Hours

Monday - Friday 9-6  
Saturday 12-6; Sunday closed

### Phone

212.851.2929

Stop by the new Barnard store on the ground floor of The Diana Center. Choose from a collection of Barnard merchandise: sweatshirts, T-shirts, umbrellas, mugs, notepads, jewelry, and accessories, in addition to a selection of basic art and architecture supplies. Manager Celina Kelly is ready to welcome you.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

While environmental scientists and policymakers struggle to mitigate the effects of global climate change, the devastating earthquake in Haiti and the more recent volcanic eruption in Iceland are sharp reminders of how quickly and chaotically the natural world can change and create havoc in our societies. In this issue, our writer spoke with Haitian alumnae and those with close ties to the island nation; they shared their stories of searching for relatives and finding ways to help an overwhelmed and suffering population. Here on campus, students also contributed aid.

Recognition as an artist has been building slowly for multimedia artist and teacher John Miller. Recently acknowledgement of his talent and contribution to contemporary art has gathered steam, culminating with the appearance of his work on the cover of the January 2010 issue of *ArtForum*, the *sine qua non* of contemporary art criticism. Most wonderful for Barnard is the fact that Miller has been teaching here since 2000; his current courses include photography, drawing, and art criticism.

Long awaited and much anticipated, The Diana Center, named in honor of donor Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55, officially opened on February 3. Already this modern multi-use gem seems like a dear and beloved friend. Students have made it their own—meeting in the student dining room or in Liz's Café, named for Elizabeth Yeh Singh '88; clustering in its lobbies; going to class in its pristine and well-equipped rooms; and shopping in the new Barnard Store, now carrying an expanded line of Barnard-related items. Events take on a new modernity and stylishness in the Event Oval or in The Glicker-Milstein Theatre. Thanks to this state-of-the-art theatre, double the number of students can participate in the College's theatre program.

Barnard College continues to reach out to its New York City community as well as an international one, as you'll read in our stories about the second annual global

symposium in Dubai and the Mentor It Forward program, a joint creation by the College and the New York City Mayor's Office. The College also hosted members of the Commission on Smart Global Health Policy in a panel moderated by Barnard President Debora Spar that focused on maternal and child health care. The report of the commission, organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, is outlined in this issue.

We wish you a wonderful Spring, and look forward to seeing you at Reunion 2010.

— The Editors

### WRITE US

In the face of today's recession, many of us have grappled with changing careers, starting a business, or being unable to find work in a particular field. How have you been affected? We would like to hear from you; please write us at [magazine@barnard.edu](mailto:magazine@barnard.edu), or *Barnard, Vagelos Alumnae Center*, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

# WOMEN LEADING THE WAY

ACTIVISTS PURSUE HUMAN RIGHTS & THE PUBLIC INTEREST

**Persistence, perseverance**—and sometimes plain pestering: these are some of the strategies that helped Mallika Dutt and Jane Golden become successful activists for their respective public-interest passions. Their far-ranging and sometimes feisty discussion about “Women Leading the Way” was part of the festivities celebrating the official ribbon-cutting and opening of The Diana Center on February 3. The panel was organized by The Athena Center for Leadership Studies. As Kathryn Kolbert, the center’s director and the panel’s moderator notes, one of the goals of The Athena Center is to “showcase inspiring women leaders who have used their energies to make the world a better place. Both women have been incredibly creative in their work.”

Dutt is founder and United States director of Breakthrough, an international human-rights organization that addresses issues like violence against women, sexuality and HIV/AIDS, immigrant rights, and racial justice through popular culture, media, community education, and leadership development. The organization runs programs in India and America. Golden is director of the City of Philadelphia’s Mural Arts Program, which has designed and installed more than 3,000 murals throughout the city, transforming local communities and inspiring residents.

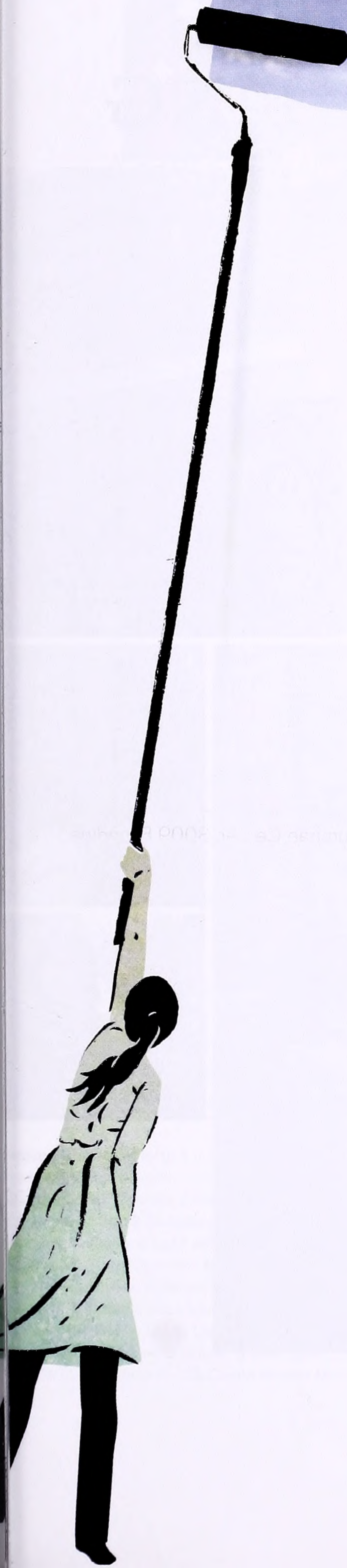
“The underlying philosophy is to articulate women’s rights as human rights,” explains Dutt, a longtime human-rights activist who once worked for the Ford Foundation. She showed several award-winning Bollywood-style videos that were designed to deal with the problems of violence against women and the stigma of HIV/AIDS, as part of public service campaigns in India. “Usually we talk about how culture and religion constrain and restrain women’s rights,” says Dutt. “This all began as an experiment to take cultural experiences and create a human-rights culture. The way that media shapes your life will be absolutely critical to create human-rights solutions.”

Golden, who grew up in a “mural-friendly household where my parents always talked about the art created during the WPA,” was an artist who channeled her impulse for social change into public art projects. She first worked on public murals with teenagers on probation in Santa Monica, California. When Golden moved back East, she started working with teenagers from inner-city Philadelphia as part of an anti-graffiti campaign.

“I could put kids to work,” says Golden. “There weren’t opportunities for [those] who had talent, and interest, in art. What I love about murals is that you have many, many stakeholders; you engage with the community. Murals become a tipping point, turning around communities.... That was my epiphany.”

For both Dutt and Golden, these leadership lessons could be applied anywhere. “Leadership is about you, wherever you are,” insists Dutt. “It’s how you treat everybody. It’s not about violators/victims. Human rights is about where you start as an individual. Leadership is whatever you can do in the space you occupy to bring human rights home.”

For Golden, it’s about “tenacity and perseverance, hope and faith, the determination one has to cultivate.... It’s the kind of courage that has to be summoned, with the patience to understand that it may not be everything you want. Leading is about moving forward no matter what.”



# DIANA CENTER RIBBON-CUTTING

A DAY OF BRIGHT SPIRITS AS BARNARD WELCOMES A  
NEW ADDITION







# NOTED

HAPPENINGS AT BARNARD

## MARCH 23

### EMILY GREGORY AWARD DINNER

On March 23, the Barnard community honored Rachel McDermott, professor and chair of the Asian and Middle Eastern studies department, as the 36th recipient of the Emily Gregory Award. Emily Lovira Gregory was the first woman ever to be awarded the title of full professor at Columbia University. She was intent on creating academic opportunities for Barnard women that equaled those at Columbia College during an era in which women were largely excluded from the realm of higher academia. Sponsored by Alumnae Affairs, McIntosh Activities Council, College Activities Office and the Dean of the College's office, a dinner held in the Event Oval of The Diana Center paid tribute to Professor McDermott for her commitment to the study of comparative religion, her work tracing religious themes across cultures, and her research of Bengal, India, and the Hindu goddess-centered religious traditions from that part of the subcontinent.

## APRIL 8

### CLIMATE WISE WOMEN

The Athena Center for Leadership Studies was the only New York location for the internationally touring panel co-sponsored by Climate Wise Women on April 8. It brought together grassroots activists from across the globe to speak about how climate change has adversely affected their communities. The panel included keynote Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990-97); Constance Okollet, Osukura United Women in Eastern Uganda; Ulamila Kurai Wragg, a journalist in Rarotonga, The Cook Islands; Sharon Hanshaw, executive director of Coastal Women for Change; and Ursula Rakova, an activist from Tulele Peisa in the Carteret Islands. With Kim Knowlton of the National Resources Defense Council and Jean Gardner from Parsons The New School for Design also participating, and Kathryn Kolbert, director of The Athena Center, moderating.

## APRIL 14

### MOVING TOWARD UTOPIA: WHAT KIND OF CITY LIES AHEAD?

Panelists Tom Angotti of Hunter College, Nancy Levinson, editor of *Places Journal*, and William Menking, co-founder and editor-in-chief of *The Architect's Newspaper* gathered in the James Room on April 14, to discuss a new concept of the city: not as a set of independently regulated functions but as a mesh of landscapes, spaces, and policies. Building on the College's Fall 2009 "Rights of Way" symposium, this panel's distinguished group of thinkers continue to address questions of power, health, equity, and ecology confronting and fueling new design strategies.

Full calendar of events at [barnard.edu/calendar](http://barnard.edu/calendar).

**The sun was high** in the sky, and, despite the chilly winds, students, faculty, trustees, staff, donors, and supporters crowded The Millicent McIntosh Terrace to witness a major on-campus event: the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening of the new Diana Center on February 3, 2010. It was standing-room only as President Spar, Board Chair Anna Quindlen '74, Dean of the College Dorothy Urman Denburg '70, SGA President Katie Palillo '10, and ribbon-cutter Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55, for whom the building was named, welcomed spectators and spoke about the process and successful conclusion of the construction. The Diana has earned plaudits from the press, public, and government officials as well as the Barnard community, and the College extends its heartfelt thanks to those whose hard work and contributions made the dream a reality. *(For more photos of The Diana Center, turn to Page 26. Students share their enthusiasm and explore the Center online: [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine).)*

**Photos** (read from left): **1** Jung Hee Hyun '13, class president; Bo Yun Park '12, class president; Katie Palillo, SGA president; Anna Quindlen; Dr. P. Roy Vagelos; official ribbon-cutter Diana Vagelos; President Spar; Lara Avsar '11, class president; Chelsea Zimmerman '10, class president; and Dean Denburg. **2** Diana Vagelos admires her souvenir of the special day. **3** Sunglasses were in order for Vivian Taylor, chief of staff and VP of community development, and communications head writer Beth Saidel. **4** Thumbs up! Stephanie Tarras '10 and Marci Leveillee '10 **5** Diana Vagelos and Anna Quindlen **6** Students stand at the windows to see and hear President Spar. **7** Outdoor seating was provided in The Millicent McIntosh Terrace at the entrance to the Diana. The terrace honors Millicent Carey McIntosh, Barnard's dean from 1947-52, then president until 1962. **8** Lisa Gamsu, VP, administration and capital planning, flanked by Diana Center architects Michael Manfredi and Marion Weiss **9** Students received berets in their class color. Seniors wore yellow: Giselle Leon, Kimberly Wu, Amy Chen, and Sharmin Ahmed with Dean Denburg **10** Dina De Luca Chartouni '82, Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82, and Dr. P. Roy Vagelos.



# CSIS PANEL: GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

A BLUEPRINT TO IMPROVE THE WORLD'S WELL-BEING



Helene Gayle  
President and CEO, CARE



Kay Granger  
House of Representatives (R-TX)



Joe Rospars  
Founding Partner, Blue State Digital



Patricia Mitchell  
President and CEO, Paley Center for Media

**When a woman walks five miles** for clean water, she may not realize the impact she has on global health, but members of the Commission on Smart Global Health Policy do. And they believe it's time for political leaders in the United States to take action and help. U.S. politicians may be focused on health-care reform inside their own borders these days, but the commission believes they should also be thinking globally. Women and children in poor countries need U.S. help to fight diseases and malnutrition, according to a report just released by the commission, which was organized by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

The report lays out a plan of action for U.S. foreign policy, and on March 5, several commissioners joined Barnard College President Debora Spar on campus to discuss the report and the everyday challenges women face to keep their families healthy. Panelists included commission co-chair Helene Gayle '76, president and CEO of CARE, and three commission members: Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX); Joe Rospars, founding partner of Blue State Digital and new-media director of Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign; and Patricia Mitchell, president and CEO of the Paley Center for Media.

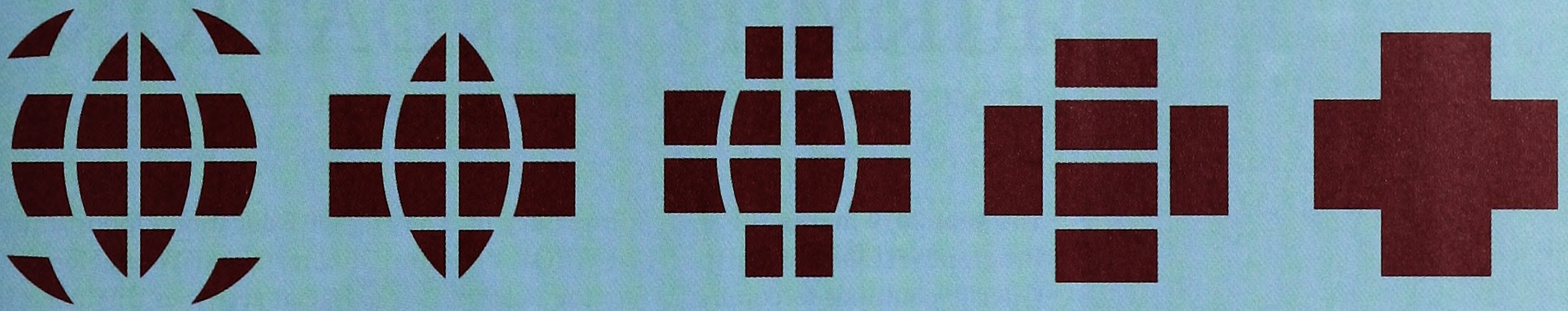
"The U.S. really can do a lot to make a difference in the lives of the world's poorest," Gayle told an audience of professors and health-care researchers. "The world is counting on us. Our role is valued. And it's the right thing to do."

The commission was created by the CSIS in April 2009 with co-chairs Gayle and Admiral William Fallon (ret.). Two months later, they brought together about two-dozen opinion leaders from the worlds of business, finance, politics, and the media to talk about a strategic, long-term U.S. approach to world health. "It was a challenging and daunting mandate," Spar said. The commission worked for many months before issuing the report.

In August, several members traveled to Kenya to see firsthand the progress of U.S. health projects, as well as the challenges they face. The group visited major global-health centers in North Carolina's Research Triangle and northern California's Bay Area. They held conference calls and consultations to discuss the report, but they also sought input from the public. The members set up an interactive Web site, [smartglobalhealth.org](http://smartglobalhealth.org), where people could post questions, personal stories, and photos from their own lives and experiences. "Thousands of people signed on and gave us input," Gayle said.

Sharing information with the public and getting feedback through the Web site was a critical effort for the commission, said member and new media expert Joe Rospars. The effort had to be transparent or it wouldn't be taken seriously. "We tried to actively engage people in that conversation," he stated.

The result of their efforts is a report titled "A Healthier, Safer, and More Prosperous World," published on March 18. The state of health care may vary considerably from Haiti to Sierra Leone, but the report shows how U.S. aid could help them all. The report's plan of action calls for the U.S. government to maintain



In a pilot program, women in rural Afghanistan who didn't have electricity were given cell phones, using them to contact midwives when a woman was having a baby. Complications from pregnancies dropped considerably.

a commitment to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; make the health of women and children priorities; strengthen prevention efforts and the ability to manage emergencies; improve the organization of agencies here in the U.S. and their ability to work together in a crisis; and support the achievements of multilateral institutions.

The U.S. will have to make smart investments that will show tangible results because tough financial choices always have to be made, noted Kay Granger, who serves as the ranking member of the House appropriations subcommittee on state-foreign operations and also serves on the defense appropriations subcommittee. But she has seen infant mortality and deaths during childbirth drop significantly in countries that already receive U.S. aid. "It is sometimes hard to convince people that there is reason to spend money in foreign countries," Granger said.

Getting the commission's message out to the media is another challenge, Paley Center CEO Patricia Mitchell pointed out. She had the difficult task of trying to get the attention of reporters. "That isn't an easy thing to do," she said. "It's a crowded media world." Thanks to technology, things are changing fast. Mitchell talked about how the commission used social networking media to get the word out on its own, instead of just relying on the mainstream press. And she talked about how new technologies are being used to help women in poor countries, even basic technologies such as cell phones. In a pilot program, women in rural Afghanistan who didn't have electricity were given cell phones, using them to contact midwives when a woman was having a baby. Complications from pregnancies dropped considerably. "We know that this can work," affirmed Mitchell.

Audience members had a wide range of questions for the commissioners. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala asked if the commission had thought about simple ways to improve nutrition, such as distributing water purification packets; one goal of the commission members is to explore ways in which local populations would receive the needed tools to address such issues. Another asked about the role businesses should play in improving health care, and Gayle responded that the commission is doing a lot of work with the private sector. A physician from pharmaceutical giant Pfizer pointed out that a big challenge in developing countries is a lack of infrastructure, which makes creating public/private partnerships difficult.

Gayle also talked about the lack of health-care workers in poor countries and how weak governments make it difficult to train more. "It's one of the critical challenges," she said. A doctoral student from Columbia University noted it's even difficult to find some specialized health-care programs here in the U.S.; she is interested in researching the topic of maternal survival, but hasn't been able to find such a program.

Gayle concluded the discussion by noting the commission's work was just beginning; issuing this report was the first step. "We've got to take this to the streets," she said. "We've got to use this as a tool for advocacy and make this a rallying cry."

*Download an audio podcast of the event at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine)*



HEOP students Nana Ankamah '12 (left) and Isabel Araujo '10

# FIRM FOUNDATION

HEOP SCHOLARS GET ON TRACK FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

**The year 2010 marks** the 40th anniversary of The Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) at Barnard and HEOP Program Director Nikki Youngblood Giles is planning to commemorate the occasion with special activities this fall. Giles oversees this entire operation designed to shepherd her students through college and into adulthood. The program is academically rigorous: motivated high-school seniors who are chosen meet the formal academic requirements set by the state (including a minimum score of 620 on the critical reading section of the SAT), and they meet certain financial requirements that make them eligible for the generous grants that the state and the College provide.

The students, often from under-resourced schools, begin with total immersion in college-level work the summer before their first year. They have six weeks to prepare for their new academic environment. They take courses in biology, chemistry, calculus, statistics, psychology, English literature, and writing four days a week. “I had never taken a chemistry class before,” recalls Vanity David, a HEOP Scholar from East Harlem. “I had never taken a statistics course.”

The foundation for her eventual success at Barnard was first laid out during those weeks. “It was like the intensity of finals week, except it lasted for six weeks. When the semester finally began, I found regular classes to be much easier than the summer session.” During that summer, David came to know the staff of counselors who would be there to offer guidance through the next few years. “Everyone at the HEOP office is very friendly and approachable, and it’s great to have a core of people you know when classes begin.” David, 22, is a senior graduating with a major in women’s studies. Since arriving at the College, she has volunteered as an aide at nursery schools and applied to graduate schools for early childhood education.

For Nana Ankamah, 19, a sophomore from Freeport, Long Island, the summer program was “the beginning of a sisterhood.” It also taught her some valuable lessons on time management and balancing work, family, and socializing. “Your first year, you’re very ambitious, and you want to do too much,” says Ankamah, who recently switched from a pre-law to an economics major, but is still “testing the waters.” This year, she’s scaled back her extracurricular activities to serving on the planning committee of the upcoming Women’s Leadership Retreat, where she’ll engage in exercises to encourage women to seek leadership positions. She sings in the Columbia University Gospel Choir and is a Project HEALTH volunteer, helping to link low-income families to needed health and social services. She intends to go on to law or other graduate school studies.

Older students in the program mentor the incoming first-years, and a series of workshops teaches important life and study skills. The program lends out free textbooks and laptops to students, and provides tutors for the students who need them. The graduation rate for HEOP Scholars of 88.2 percent very narrowly lags behind the general graduation rate of 89.3 percent. Illustrious graduates include the novelist Edwidge Danticat ’90 and *CBS Evening News* producer Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews ’81. Ruo Hong Zhai ’03 recently earned a DDS while Isabel Araujo ’10 received early acceptance to Columbia Law School. Twenty-eight scholars entered the program two years ago.

“Education is the great equalizer,” says Giles, “Our students believe that Barnard is the place to get a great education and prepare to do well in life.”



# YOUR IT!

CAROL KATZMAN TAKES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & RUNS WITH IT

**“At Barnard,** IT shouldn’t just be sufficient,” says Carol Katzman, Barnard’s new vice president for information technology. “We need to aim for elegance.”

“Barnard is a top-tier private institution,” explains Katzman, who joined Barnard in September 2009 from Hunter College. Unlike a corporate environment, where efficiency is everything, according to Katzman, “25 percent of the student body is new every year, and they come in with the expectation that Barnard is a current, modern place.” Therefore, says this graduate of Brown and the University of Pennsylvania, “It’s not enough to have an e-mail system that works. Our version of webmail is from the late ’90s. It’s completely competent, but it looks dated. In a corporate environment, that’s fine. But young students see it and say, “Oh, I’ll just forward to Gmail.”

Katzman, who has worked in higher education since 1987, dove into the first few months of her new post with a series of meetings with students, faculty, and staff. “It’s my job to listen to people’s frustrations and translate them into clear directives for my staff,” she explains. Poster boards listing frustrations expanded on during those meetings now cover her walls.

“I basically said, ‘tell me where we need to be’ and let the

answers shape my agenda.”

One of her top priorities is refreshing Barnard’s information systems. “Our networking is good,” she says, “but we need to become more current.” She expects that the College’s calendar and e-mail accounts will be upgraded in the next year. Katzman has also begun to redesign the ubiquitous eBear, the Barnard community’s intranet system, which students, faculty, and staff use for everything from e-mail, to signing up for classes, to payroll and accounting. “Right now,” she explains, “faculty, staff, and students log in to eBear and see different things. It makes for an isolated environment. We are one community. We should all be on the same virtual campus ... we all walk through the same Barnard gates.”

Another of Katzman’s main goals is bringing a pervasive wireless network to campus. “It’s not just about wireless,” she affirms. “It’s a constant ongoing commitment to networking. When we do it right, no one will even notice it. It will just be like air—you expect it and it’s there.”

As for working at Barnard, “I love it,” she enthuses. “It’s the best of all worlds. We have all the Columbia University resources, but our campus is just the right scale. Often, small campuses have limited resources. But we are just big enough to do things, and just small enough to deliver.” She has also been inspired by the College’s unique spirit. “Barnard is just a very exciting place. People here are curious and engaged and interested in changing and thinking, which is very energizing. The atmosphere here gives you the opportunity to be really creative.”

“We are one community. We should all be on the same virtual campus.”

# SHERI BERMAN: BACK TO THE FUTURE



THE CHAIR OF THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT DRAWS ON HISTORY TO ASSESS WHAT'S REALLY NEEDED IN AFGHANISTAN

**In its bid to end** the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, the Obama administration obviously faces a wide range of obstacles. But as Associate Professor Sheri Berman, the chair of Barnard's political science department, sees it, the success or failure of that mission will largely ride on one critical challenge: Can the United States help promote development of an effective central government—and thus create a modern viable Afghani state?

Berman, who joined Barnard's faculty five years ago, has given a lot of thought to the state-building problem in recent years. A specialist in comparative government and European political development, Berman's research initially focused on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when the democratization process in Europe first began.

On closer inspection, however, she saw that fully understanding the origins of that process required going further back in time—namely to seventeenth-century Europe, and specifically to the era of European state-building when, as Berman points out, efforts to create far-reaching, powerful national governments first began taking hold.

“The French case was really the epitome of state-building,” says Berman, whose interest in comparative government dates back to her undergraduate days at Yale, where she received her bachelor's *magna cum laude* in political science. She then

"You need to have a strategy for getting [the war lords] to give up power," she says. "You have to be able to entice them into a deal, and there has to be give and take. It can't be a zero-sum game."

went on to get her master's and PhD in government from Harvard.

Besides chairing Barnard's political science department, a position she took on last fall, Berman also maintains an active teaching load. Her spring classes include a course on democracy and dictatorship in Europe, as well as a senior research seminar in comparative government.

At first glance, the French experience may not seem to have much relevance for modern-day Afghanistan, or for that matter Iraq, where the government is also dangerously weak. But Berman sees important parallels. She notes that France's experience offers some valuable lessons in state-building, and she believes that U.S. policymakers should consider taking heed. "I really thought the debate over Afghanistan needed some kind of historical perspective," says Berman, whose article "From the Sun King to Karzai" was published in the March/April 2010 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. "Obviously, the more cases you have the better informed you are." Much like Afghanistan today, Berman says that before Louis XIV France was also beset by ethnic and regional rivalries and violence, and in the absence of a strong central government, power largely rested with local lords, many of whom controlled their own armies and militias, and weren't about to surrender their authority easily.

The Sun King's regime, however, gave them some powerful incentives, notes Berman, including tax exemptions and lucrative monopolies and state offices. "The government gave out all kinds of goodies," she says. "Most of these warlords were in it for their own interest, and if they're led to believe it's in their best interest to make a deal, they make a deal."

Berman firmly believes that ultimately the same principles will hold for local warlords in Afghanistan, though thus far she notes the Obama administration has focused mainly on the military side of the equation. "It's been all about how to use the troops, and the counterinsurgency strategy," she says. "And that's only half the game." Just as in France, local warlords in Afghanistan will have to be co-opted. "You need to have a strategy for getting them to give up power," she says. "You have to be able to entice them into a deal, and there has to be give and take. It can't be a zero-sum game."

Afghanistan's forbidding terrain will obviously make the job of unifying the country even tougher. And Berman says there's no way of predicting how the process will ultimately play out. But as French history clearly shows, it won't be easy—or quick. "State-building doesn't happen on a five- or 10-year timeline," says Berman. "You're not going to turn Afghanistan into France in a decade."



# MADAGASCAR: REAL & IMAGINED

## Seeing beyond the landscape

**Dr. Lesley Sharp**, professor of anthropology, noticed a trend: Students who opted for study abroad in Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island off the coast of southeastern Africa, contextualized their experience in terms of the country's flora and fauna rather than its people. "I was finding there was no mention of people in the discussion of the students' conservation work," says Sharp. Learning about the people was the very reason anthropology major Severin-Aimé Mahirwe (CC '10) enrolled, "I literally had no conception of Madagascar, especially in relation to the African continent. Other than the animated movie and vague references to rainforests, I had no associations with the island."

By training a medical anthropologist, Sharp first visited Madagascar in 1981 and went on to conduct research there between 1986 and 1995. In more recent years, she identified a need to expand knowledge about the island and designed a seminar that would help students historicize. Her aim was

to "bring people back into the picture and think about global ideas and global needs at the local level."

Key questions guided the development of the seminar: How was Madagascar settled and by whom? How do we talk about Madagascar whose real and imagined image has been framed by misconception? Why is it that we rarely talk about the slave trade in terms of the Indian Ocean? How has the past shaped current environmental policy? This reading- and writing-intensive seminar addresses these questions through five main instructional units—The Making of an Island, Slavery In and Beyond Madagascar, Of Kin & Kind: Social and Other Landscapes, Colonial Encounters and Their Aftermath, and Territorial (Dis)Locations. The course seeks to expand awareness by critiquing the exoticism that pervades accounts of Madagascar and exploring the country's extraordinarily complex social and political history. In addition, by developing

*Continued on Page 71*



## LOVE AT FIRST SITE

ROSA ALONSO '82 TACKLES  
A NEW BUSINESS—HER OWN

**In the last two years**, Rosa Alonso has lost friends, gained 20 pounds, and drained her life savings. But if she's depressed, you wouldn't know it. The Web site Alonso launched in 2008, first as MiApogeo.com, and then re-launched in 2009 as MyLatinoVoice.com, may have consumed her life and money to the tune of nearly seven figures (including loans from friends), but it's also delivered her immeasurable joy and a successful business.

At any start-up, she says, one expects a few bumps in the road. During a wide-ranging conversation recently, in which Alonso poured forth a rapid stream of stories, often interrupting herself with laughter, she returned several times to a single phrase: "I love what I do."

It doesn't hurt her mood, of course, that Alonso believes the nascent business will turn a profit in the near future. She says the Web offers many creative avenues for melding content with advertising. "We've had amazing growth," says Alonso, who is now seeking investors. "You won't see those crazy little ads for all sorts of interesting products that have nothing to do with the audience."

Unveiled on Valentine's Day two years ago, the site "is a labor of love," says Alonso, who calls herself a *NuyoCuban*, a twist on *Nuyorican*, which refers to New Yorkers of Puerto Rican descent. Given her penchant for word play, it may not be surprising to learn that Alonso's most recent corporate job was in public relations and marketing. Her long and varied career has included marketing positions in both media and technology—often with a focus on multicultural and international



Alonso walked into ... Bankers Trust, and announced, "I want to be part of the management training program." At first, the response was, "Who are you?" A month later she was hired.

consumers.

The Web site celebrates American-Latino culture in its many incarnations, with content that is both light-hearted (a recent essay relates the author's obsession with pointy bras) and the political (one article focuses on a new law that requires Puerto-Rican-born U.S. residents to renew their birth certificates). It taps into the diverse voices of American-Latinos, exploring Afro-Latino and gay-Latino issues, and also spotlighting Jarrett Barrios, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. MyLatinoVoice.com includes a navigation bar that transports readers to its sister site—also Alonso's endeavor—WikiLatino, a free encyclopedia of Latino culture and history.

Unlike similar sites, which offer Spanish or bilingual postings, MyLatinoVoice.com provides its content entirely in English, and draws more than 500,000 unique visitors every month. The site targets the fast-growing, youthful population of second- and third-generation Latinos. "You have to take a leap and go ahead and do it," says

Alonso of launching her start-up.

Alonso has relied more on her "can-do" spirit many times in her life. In her mid-20s, she jumped from a budding career in law to one in business, simply by crossing the street. On a lunch break from Proskauer, the white-shoe law firm where she worked as a senior paralegal, Alonso walked into the human resources department of Bankers Trust, and announced: "I want to be part of the management training program." At first, the response was, "Who are you?" A month later she was hired.

Alonso's application to Barnard College followed a similar plot line. She was a new immigrant, with little money, and sadly, her mother had recently died in a car accident. The guidance counselor at her New Jersey high school hadn't even heard of Barnard. In college, Alonso majored in history, took up fencing, and grew active in student government, winning the office of senior class president. "Barnard gave me the encouragement, the tools, the education," says Alonso, who is serving her third term on Barnard's Board of Trustees. *Continued on Page 71*

QUICK TAKE

## JAZZ, REGGAE & RADIOHEAD

SARA HOLTZSCHUE '93

Composer/musician thrives on variety

**When Sara Holtzschue** opens the windows in her Crown Heights home, her neighbors' booming reggae music becomes her soundtrack. Holtzschue, a musician and composer inspired by jazz, poetry, and American folk music, doesn't mind. In fact, she suspects that reggae might be her next influence. "There's been this huge infusion of reggae into my life," Holtzschue says with a laugh. "Everyone's stereo is louder than the next. In the summertime, it's pretty amazing."

Holtzschue, 40, continues to refine and reinvent her music, drawing on her education at Barnard and the New England Conservatory of Music—as well as some tunes she penned two decades ago. At a small New York City venue this spring, she performed "a very eclectic set" that included blues and music by Joan Armatrading and the Southern California rock band Queens of the Stone Age. The evening also featured Holtzschue's "Dark August" with lyrics from a Derek Walcott poem. Joining her for the gig were a classically trained bass player, two guitarists, and a drummer. "I have all these interests, and we're just trying to make sense of the set," says Holtzschue, who loves Bjork, Radiohead, and Beethoven. "I'm not sure it's really working, but it's all music I like. We really careen around the musical universe of songs."

Her new direction is something of a surprise, considering her lengthy involvement with jazz and classical music. As a child on Long Island, Holtzschue was enchanted by "Peter and the Wolf" and knew she'd be a musician.



She studied at Reed College in Portland, Ore., and San Francisco State University before transferring to Barnard after her sophomore year.

There, she was inspired by English professor Mary Gordon, who taught a nineteenth-century literature class that "literally changed the way I look at art," she affirms. "I think there are people in [everyone's life] who help you to home in and focus on the complexity and profundity of a piece of art that opens up a new level of ability to observe art in all its forms. Mary just flung the doors open for me. I'm a ridiculously huge fan."

As a Barnard senior scholar, Holtzschue spent a year writing music. She earned a jazz composition degree from the New England Conservatory of Music and spent the next 15 years composing and playing and singing jazz. In 2007 she recorded a jazz album, *Beneath*, and made it available for sale on cdbaby.com.

"Then, about a year ago," she says, "I decided I didn't want to do it any more. I wanted to take a break. I'm fascinated by people who play music in one idiom for the entirety of their lives. I just want to do other things. I've kind of reverted my 20-year-old self. I'm playing a lot of guitar—badly!—and singing."

One constant in Holtzschue's life is her commitment to teaching. She's an adjunct assistant professor at the City

University of New York, where she teaches four music-appreciation classes. Many of her students who hail from the Dominican Republic, Africa, and the West Indies, rarely leave the Bronx or have much exposure to music other than reggae, hip-hop, or rap.

"They walk in and you say 'classical music' and the light switch turns off," Holtzschue says with a chuckle. "So for me it's a really fun and interesting challenge to win them over." Tom Cipullo, the deputy chair of CUNY's department of art and music, says Holtzschue engages and connects with her students while simultaneously challenging them. "It's unusual that the most popular teacher is the most demanding," he says.

In educating her classes on how to listen to classical music, Holtzschue is also teaching them how to embrace the unfamiliar. "I think the ability to let go of all their preconceptions is critical in creating the person who is able to engage in the world in a way that allows them to be open and accepting to new ideas," she says. "The idea of turning out a complete human being is really critical," Holtzschue insists. "And the process of revealing the connection they do have to this music is transformative in terms of critical thinking and openness to all kinds of art forms."

QUICK TAKE

# BLADE RUNNER

LAURA NAPOLI '01

Los Angeles-based Laura Napoli has parlayed her Barnard fencing years and expertise in stage combat and acting into a versatile career as a stuntwoman/swordswoman/actress. Recent credits include *Celebrity Deathmatch*, *Dead Rising*, *Devil May Cry 4*, and the live-action stunt show *Terminator 2: 3D*. She talks to *Barnard* about how she found her niche.



Photograph by Blake Gardner

**You have a national reputation as a sword fighter. How did you start?**

I began fencing in elementary school, in Englewood, New Jersey, where I grew up. Later I moved more into dancing and acting, although in 11th grade I was in a production of *Romeo and Juliet* that got me interested in fight choreography. At Barnard, I was drawn to fencing again and became an NCAA Division I finalist, as well as attending national stage-combat workshops and continuing with acting.

**What attracts you so much about fencing and sword fight scenes?**

I've always liked physical performance. Fencing is strategic, it has grace and etiquette, similar to ballet—it's not about muscling the other person. Sword-fighting is also exciting to watch and be in the midst of. You get a kind of double excitement in knowing how it makes the audience feel—when you take a swipe at someone and hear the audience gasp.

**Is acting in a stunt show, like *Terminator 2: 3D*, very different from acting in a part with no stunts?**

You need to capture a wider range. You're acting the part, but you also

need to completely capture the technical side, so that it rings true. For example, if you're falling, you have to look like you're not in control, but you have to be in complete control as a performer. If you're doing sword work, you need to watch where the tip of the weapon is going.

**You're making a name for yourself in motion capture, a movement recording process used in computer animation. What attracts you to this area?**

Motion capture is a meld between film and theatre; it also mixes special effects and the actor's performance. You don't have to worry about costumes, just props. You use your imagination, and your work is transformed into animation. There's opportunity for a lot of variety, which I like—for example, in *Devil May Cry 4*, I was the main actress plus two other characters. It's a new niche for actors.

**You also work in acting and improv, videos, documentaries, and sing with a group that mixes sketches and songs. How does it all fit together?**

I really like to do a lot of different

*Continued on Page 71*

# RELEASES

NEW & UPCOMING

FICTION

**DEATH OF A TROPHY WIFE**

by Laura Levine '65  
Kensington, 2010, \$22

**DEAR STRANGERS**

by Meg Mullins '95  
Viking, 2010, \$25.95

**IF YOU FOLLOW ME**

by Malena Watrous '97  
HarperCollins, 2010, \$14.99

POETRY

**THE THORN ROSARY: SELECTED PROSE POEMS & NEW (1998-2010)**

by Eileen R. Tabios '82  
Marsh Hawk Press, 2010, \$19.95

YOUNG READERS

**LITTLE BLOG ON THE PRAIRIE**

by Cathleen Davitt Bell '93  
Bloomsbury, 2010, \$16.99

**THE LOST CHILDREN**

by Carolyn Cohagan '94  
Aladdin, 2010, \$16.99

**VERY LEFREAK**

by Rachel Cohn '89  
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010, \$16.99

NONFICTION

**ISLAMIC TOLERANCE: AMIR KHUSRAW & PLURALISM**

by Alyssa Gabbay '85  
Routledge, 2010, \$120

**THE BURDEN OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS: MANAGING WORKING-CLASS IDENTITIES IN COLLEGE**

by Allison Hurst '92  
Lexington Books, 2010, \$80

**LAST BOY: MICKEY MANTLE & THE END OF AMERICA'S CHILDHOOD**

by Jane Leavy '74  
Harper Collins, 2010, \$27.99

**STATIONS OF THE SCALE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMOIR ABOUT FOOD & SUFFERING**

by Andrea (Machlin) Rosenthal '64  
Rosenpho, 2009, \$21

**ALLEYS & DOORWAYS: STORIES OF QUEER URBAN FANTASY**

by Meredith Schwartz '96  
Lethe Press, 2010, \$13

**RUNAWAY HUSBANDS: THE ABANDONED WIFE'S GUIDE TO RECOVERY AND RENEWAL**

by Vikki Stark '71  
Green Light Press, 2010, \$16.95

Complete listings online at [alum.barnard.edu/salon](http://alum.barnard.edu/salon)



# THE MEDIUM SUITS THE MESSAGE

John Miller gives form to powerfully subversive ideas through a variety of media—sculpture, painting, photography, and others.

**About 25 years ago**, not long after graduating with his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts, John Miller set about painting one picture a day, which, as it turned out, went on for nine months. He emerged from this ordeal, he later wrote, convinced that “the physical transfer of material, pigment suspended in acrylic medium, to the surface of the canvas in slow, even, repetitive strokes, which sealed off the surface of the canvas from top to bottom” amounted not to soul-baring illumination, as the Abstract Expressionists might have it, but to tedious repression. There had to be a better way.

After much trial and error with acrylic paint and modelling clay, Miller devised the perfect brown gunk to slather over dioramas of rustic villages; mod outfits on vacant-eyed mannequins; a lone Styrofoam sphere suspended in space; a higgledy-piggledy heap of worn hardbacks, and so forth.

“The way I started thinking about aesthetics was very much influenced by 1960s politics and Herbert Marcuse’s idea of repressive desublimation,” the thoughtful, seemingly shy, and funny associate professor of professional practice in art history explains in his bare office on the top floor of

the College’s spanking-new Diana Center. (Freud coined the term “sublimation” to explain how we express our baser instincts in socially acceptable forms.) Making art can become a respectable, adult version of the infantile urge to play with scat. Miller used his goopy brown impasto to act out this process of suppression and improvement. “It’s art about art with a psychoanalytic detour,” he says.

Miller has never limited himself to brown—or even to the gold impasto that later superseded it. Part of the pioneering generation of multimedia artists, he doesn’t define himself in genre terms. He doesn’t consider himself a sculptor, a painter, or a photographer, but rather an artist who uses whichever medium best suits “the set of concerns I have at the time.” He has worked in installation, photo, painting, Flash-animated music, and he has played loud electric guitar in art-noise bands. At the College, he teaches photography and drawing as well as a course in art criticism, at which he is prolific and penetrating. But what is consistent is the work’s concern with how art is woven into the social fabric. Miller’s art is intellectually rich, physically undeniable, and, if you allow it to be, hilarious.



Untitled  
1990



The Office Party and the Communist Party  
1991



Everything Is Said #12  
2010

“I saw the brown works,” as he politely refers to them, “as largely psychological and symbolic gestures. I try to cultivate a perverse humor that tempers expectations so the things I’m working with don’t become foregone conclusions. And part of the humor of the brown pieces is how mild and low stakes they are.”

But not everyone found them mild or funny when they first extruded themselves on the scene, in the ’80s and early ’90s. The culture wars were raging and the art world was on edge about displaying the body and its functions. “People would come up to me and say, ‘I hate to tell you, but your work makes me physically ill.’”

The curator of one group show installed his contribution next to a horse-manure painting. Miller re-enacts his horror—“No! No!”—and laughs ruefully. “That was one of the worst moments.” American critics largely ignored him, but some were enthusiastic—“the brown version of Yves Klein,” as one writer put it in a nod to the Frenchman who made his name with a special shade of blue.

For a good chunk of his career, Miller was associated with brown—if he was recognized at all. While friends who mined a similar homespun, mildly perverse and comic vein, such as Mike Kelley, picked up accolades and museum exhibitions, Miller kept on, buoyed up by positive reception in Europe; regular shows at the esteemed Metro Pictures in New York and the Galerie Barbara Weiss in Berlin; and the pleasures and challenges of the work itself. Recognition grew slowly. Then suddenly it exploded.

*New York* critic Jerry Saltz, who 10 years earlier had scratched his head over some of Miller’s work, wrote a glowing review of “The New Honeymooners,” a 2007 show at the Friedrich Petzel and Metro Pictures galleries. Last year, the contemporary art museum Kunsthalle Zürich honored Miller with a comprehensive retrospective that included his “paintings of paintings,” as he puts it, the brown and subsequent gold reliefs and sculptures, as well as a mammoth digitized slideshow of an ongoing photo project he has pursued for a dozen years. And for its January 2010 issue, *ArtForum* made the Zürich show its cover story, with Miller’s

art gracing that cover—the best piece of art-magazine real estate in the country.

“This is the most attention I’ve ever had,” the artist acknowledges. “I certainly don’t take it for granted.” But the quality of the attention seems to matter more. He recently presented his work at the University of Illinois and afterwards, Hamza Walker, associate curator at the Renaissance Society, exclaimed happily, “Your work is really goofy and wacky and messy!” “I don’t think he meant just the brown impasto,” Miller reflects, “but the logic of how things go together. The associations are like opening a big can of worms.”

Take, for example, *The Office Party and the Communist Party*, the disarmingly gorgeous 1991 relief that *ArtForum* chose for its cover—made up of plastic sausages, pretzels, pineapples, apples, turnips, and grapes, plus squashed Coke cans, all rising out of Miller’s signature brown pigment. If you squint, the pretzel and sausage seem to form a hammer and sickle.

Miller spent a year in Berlin on an academic exchange fellowship shortly after the Wall fell. (His wife, photographer Aura Rosenberg, their daughter, Carmen, a junior in art history at Columbia, and he have since made the city a second home.) “The falling of the Wall was idealized at the time,” he recalls. “The resentment toward East Germans hadn’t come up yet.” He wanted to puncture the epic stature of the Communist Party “and bring that together with my experience working as a temp.”

“I temped for 10 years before I started teaching. My longest gig was with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, where I typed and retyped tax manuals. The worst part was the office events. If you were a temp, you didn’t really fit in but you couldn’t really be excluded either, so you’re sitting on the periphery balancing a piece of cake on a paper plate.”

Without being overtly autobiographical, *The Office Party and the Communist Party* catches the vibe of squashed celebration and exuberant tackiness, abjectitude and marshalled enthusiasm, and has caused this viewer, at least, to burst out laughing.

Miller is pleased. “Art is only difficult if you think it is,” he



**A Refusal to Accept Limits**  
2009

"I try to make everything beautiful, at least to me. I figure, if I think it's beautiful, it will take care of itself."

notes. He remembers how one of the very dioramas that made adults nauseous 20 years ago prompted middle school students to get down on their hands and knees at eye level with the sculpture and eagerly investigate its nooks and crannies. "It was at the Whitney Biennial in 1991, and I was cleaning the piece—this landscape with reclining figures, a sort of *Gulliver's Travels* thing that required some maintenance," he recalls. "The kids said, 'Neat! Cool!' It was a gratifying response."

And he is not appalled if you find the work "beautiful." When I blurt out that the massive balls of plastic fruit he made for the Kitakyushu Biennial in 2007 strike me that way, he says, "Oh, thanks. I never wanted to make something that shouted, 'Hey, I'm beautiful.' But I try to make everything beautiful, at least to me. I figure, if I think it's beautiful, it will take care of itself."

**Miller is an appealing** combination of theoretical and cultural savvy, on one hand, and lack of pretension, on the other. He questions the usual truisms about art such as its timelessness and priceless—"Everything has a time and a price," he says—and yet accepts that a work might stir a person in ways that defy explanation, at least for the moment. This incongruity may stem from the divide between where he grew up and where he ended up, as an artist and a citizen.

He was raised in the improbably named Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a bastion of Republicanism. His father, a paint salesman,



**Phantom Existence**  
2008

would take him and his younger brother, now an accountant, on sales calls, rewarding them at the end of the day with sample tins, which they'd use for model planes.

The local art scene was big on regionalist painting, with the nearby Amish figuring largely. "It was kind of nostalgic, not very adventuresome—didn't ask a lot of questions," he points out. Still, by age 13, he had decided to become an artist—"to make things and show them." He drew and painted, did ceramics and made assemblages.

By high school, his parents had divorced and money was scarce. To fund his bachelor's of fine art, he was planning to join the Army. But then Kent State happened, members of Students for a Democratic Society visited his high school armed with Yippie films, and he began reading the underground newspapers. "There was no way I was going into the Army after that."

He applied for scholarships. "The Rhode Island School of Design made the best offer, so I went there." But it was at CalArts, where he received his MFA, that his mind got turned inside out. After a year, he says, "I was so overstimulated, I didn't even know where to begin." But that was the point: suddenly he could begin anywhere.

The teacher who left the biggest impression on him was the conceptual minimalist Michael Asher, best known for a 1974 piece that consisted simply of removing the wall between a Los Angeles gallery's office and its exhibits space. Asher's contribution to the current Whitney Biennial is to keep the museum open for 24 hours a day, three days straight.

"He would just walk into a room and say, 'What are we going to talk about today?'" Miller recalls. "He was willing to sit out a 15-minute silence if need be. He knew exactly what he was doing by doing very little active intervening: he wanted to put students in the position of generating their own discourse, or make students realize that they already were. He was incredibly disciplined."

Miller says he is not that "hardcore" at Barnard, where he has taught since 2000: "Asher's technique presumes that everyone wants to be an artist, but this might be the only art  
*Continued on Page 71*



# THE WALLS STARTED FALLING AROUND US

Six alumnae share their perspectives on the earthquake in Haiti



**On January 12** this year, Sister Marjorie Wysong Raphael '45 was on the second floor of Saint Margaret's Convent in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, when the ground began to shake. An 86-year-old Episcopalian nun, Raphael was preparing to go to chapel with several other women. It was 4:50 p.m. "The furniture shook and everything fell off the walls," Raphael says. "I started running downstairs—the walls started falling apart around us. The stairs were filled with chunks of cement."

The women climbed through piles of rubble and down one more flight of stairs before they reached the parking lot outside the convent. The first shock had lasted just 12 seconds, but it had caused unimaginable damage. Holy Trinity Cathedral, just a few feet away, had collapsed. So had the Holy Trinity Primary School, Music School, Concert Hall and Professional School. In a fraction of a minute, structures in which Raphael and her colleagues had worked and worshiped for decades were reduced to piles of rubble.

Across Port-au-Prince, the damage was tremendous. Thousands of homes were destroyed, along with many government buildings. Roughly 230,000 people were killed. As the world watched, the country worked to aid the wounded and bury the dead. At Barnard, students struggled to comprehend the devastation—then began working together to raise awareness and money for Haiti relief. Like Raphael, many Barnard alumnae were profoundly affected as well.

Yvrose Smarth Gilles '86 was watching a PBS program about the country when she first heard the news. A Haitian native who now lives in Davie, Florida, Gilles has self-published two books about Haiti. She and her husband also run Bookmanlit.com, an alternative source for news about Haiti. "The video said things were finally turning around, that the country was improving. It seemed to imply that this is Haiti's last chance, but it's finally getting somewhere," she recalls. "In the middle of the program, my husband called me and said, 'There has been a terrible earthquake.'"

That same afternoon, award-winning

writer Edwidge Danticat '90 was grocery shopping in Miami with her two young daughters. Chantel Nicolas '07, a graduate student in chemistry, was in an Atlanta movie theatre watching *The Princess and the Frog* when she received a text message from a friend: "Did you hear about the earthquake?"

Dr. Yanick Chaumin-Savary '74 had just returned from a long day at her cardiology practice in Queens. In addition to her medical career, she has spent the last 10 years preparing to build a Haitian stock exchange with her husband, a Wall Street broker. When she learned of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake, her reaction was that of a first responder: "I said, 'They need doctors. I am going to help.'"

#### HAITIAN ROOTS & AN AMERICAN EDUCATION

Prior to the earthquake, Chaumin-Savary thought frequently of Haiti, though her day-to-day efforts were focused on her private practice. Born in Les Cayes, Haiti, she'd attended an all-girls Catholic school. On Sundays, she would tag along on the nuns' hospital visits and play with the orphans she had befriended. Early on, Chaumin-Savary decided that she wanted to be in the business of helping sick people get well.

When she was 15, her father brought her to live with him in Brooklyn. While she only had a few years to polish her English before applying to college, she succeeded in her efforts to gain admission to Barnard. Her advisor, Dr. Grace King, helped her plan her premed course load. Chaumin-Savary attended medical school and, in 1984, started her own practice. Today, her waiting room is graced by a photo album of all her patients. "When you become one of my patients," Chaumin-Savary says, "you join a family."

Like Chaumin-Savary, Gilles was born in Haiti and came to the United States as a child. On a return trip to Haiti in 1986, Gilles gained a visceral understanding of how hard it was for people to survive there—and the extent of the poverty in which they lived. When she returned to the U.S., she began trying to determine how best



The reaction of Dr. Yanick Chaumin-Savary '74 was that of a first responder, "I said, 'They need doctors. I am going to help.'"



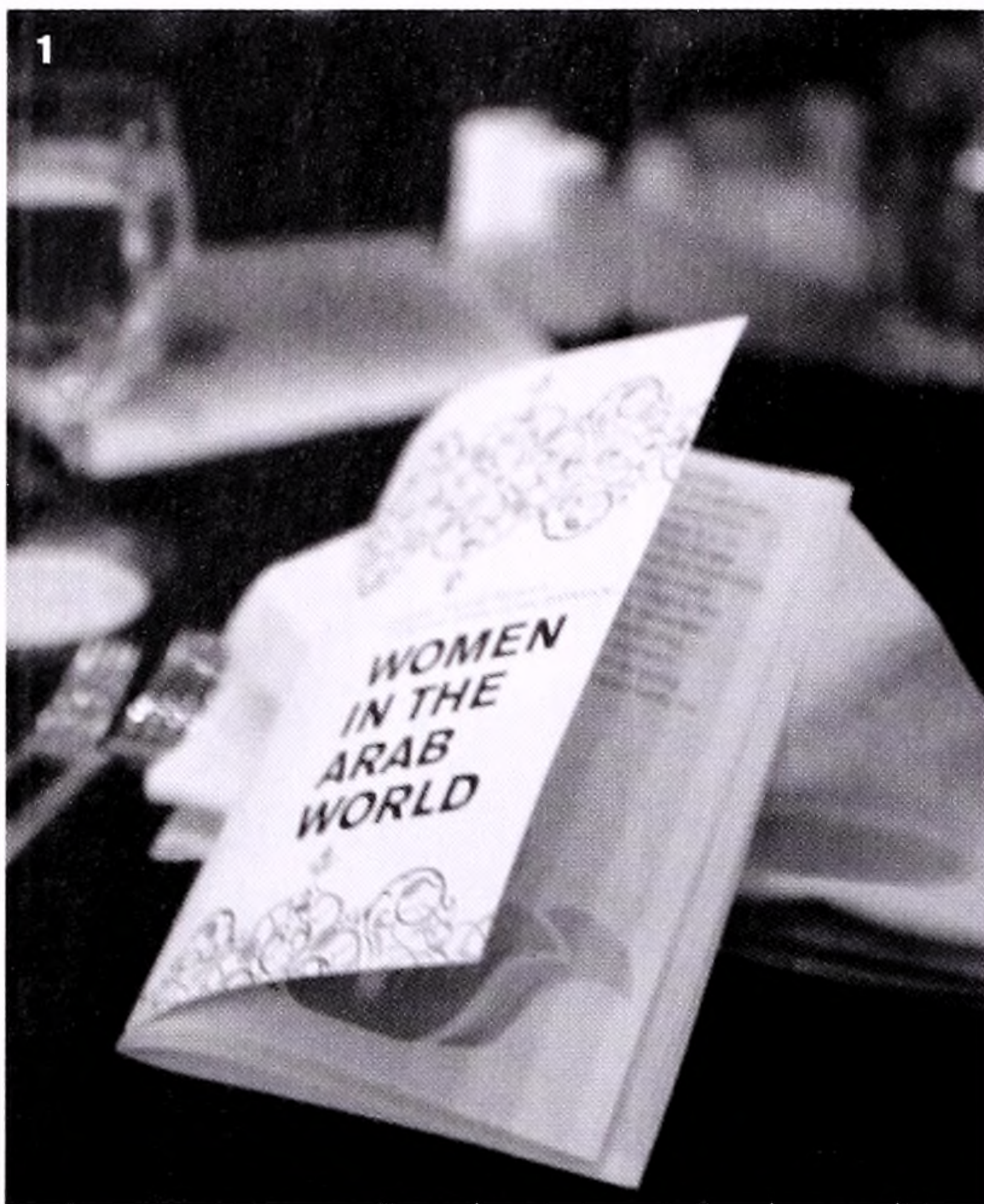
to help her own family and her native country. Her publishing company and advocacy work followed.

Danticat, meanwhile, came to the United States at age 12 with one short story already under her belt. Just a year after earning her degree in French literature at Barnard, she published *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, a novel about a young Haitian girl who leaves her loving aunt behind to live in America with her traumatized and sometimes abusive mother. An acclaimed author whose most recent honor was a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant, Danticat continues to write frequently about Haiti.

Raphael's connection to Haiti came later in life. A Long Island native, she studied religion and philosophy at Barnard and, eight months after graduation, felt the call to religious life. She took her vows with the Sisters of Saint Margaret in Boston in 1951, and then worked in Canada and Boston until the late 1970s, when her order sent her to Haiti.

For the last 30 years, Raphael lived at the convent in Port-au-Prince, where she spent her days in prayer and community service—visiting the sick, helping local women with sewing and other chores and spending time with Haitian women staying at the convent. She also spent two days a week in rural Haiti, where she and a few other nuns provided meals for local children and helped out in any way they could. "Haitian people are very artistic and musical, even though many of them do not have access to great

*Continued on Page 72*



# BARNARD GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM II: DUBAI

A revealing exchange of personal histories and ideas about the future

**“We are bringing together** some of the most extraordinary and accomplished women in the Arab world—women who are at the forefront of finance, health care, literature, film, and nonprofits. Their willingness to share their stories creates a dialogue that will benefit young women worldwide, and that promises an ongoing exchange of ideas,” said Barnard College President Debora L. Spar to approximately 300 accomplished and successful women from the United Arab Emirates and other parts of the Middle East as she opened the College’s second annual global symposium, “Women in the Arab World.” The audience included trustees, alumnae from around the world, and students’ parents. Held on March 15 in Dubai, the half-day program began with a luncheon and introductory remarks from Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald ’81, incoming chair of Barnard’s Board of Trustees and president of Platinum Gate Capital Management. In her remarks, Spar affirmed to all, “I can imagine no better way to inspire young women to think expansively than to give them the opportunity to hear from successful women everywhere. This global symposium is one such moment.”

Soha Nashaat ’88, managing director of Barclays Wealth, Middle East, introduced keynote speaker Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Khalid bin Sultan Al Qasimi, the UAE minister for foreign trade. As she opened her remarks, she pointed to the fact that in the UAE today women occupy around 30 percent of all management positions, outnumber men in the government sector, handle around 50 percent of the UAE’s small-to-medium enterprises, and manage investments of over 4 billion U.S. dollars. Sheikha Lubna added, “I am proud to say that the UAE is looked up to as a

model Arab state in terms of affording more opportunities for its female citizens.”

But, she continued, “there are still many challenges that we as Arab women have to address and overcome. In many parts of the Middle East, family, cultural, business, and political structures still limit the full development of women’s potential. We need [these] forums ... to erase the popular stereotype of women as the ‘weaker’ sex with limited social roles. We need to encourage young Arab girls to believe more in themselves and have confidence in their ability to achieve and excel.”

In response to questions from the audience, Sheikha Lubna, one of four women serving as ministers in the UAE government, told how, as the economics minister, she had attended a World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong to deliver a speech on behalf of the UAE. She was repeatedly asked, “Where is your minister?” They thought, she explained, “I was his secretary or his office manager.” Others thought she was in the conference room merely to hold his seat. The questions continued even as she arose and began giving her speech.

Sheikha Lubna said, “My team was sitting right behind, I think, ... the U.S. delegation. And these delegates asked again, ‘Why is she speaking? Where is your minister?’” The Sheikha’s team members said, “She is our minister.” In the face of such stereotyping, she believes women must keep a sense of humor, “If you bring humor, people would remember you, would remember you actually are overcoming a stereotype.”

Sheikha Lubna emphasized the importance of education and family to Arab women. Referring to the decision to work or to stay home caring for children, she allowed, “At the end of the day, it really depends on the individual ... or the family. Here, we have extended family that helps a great deal with raising children. In some societies, you don’t.... But I want to remind women, if you choose to stay home and look after [children], that is the greatest job. It is not a job that tells you that you are less than another woman who is in a corporate [position within] an organization.... I don’t want women to feel that they are less than others. It’s a choice—you do what you want.

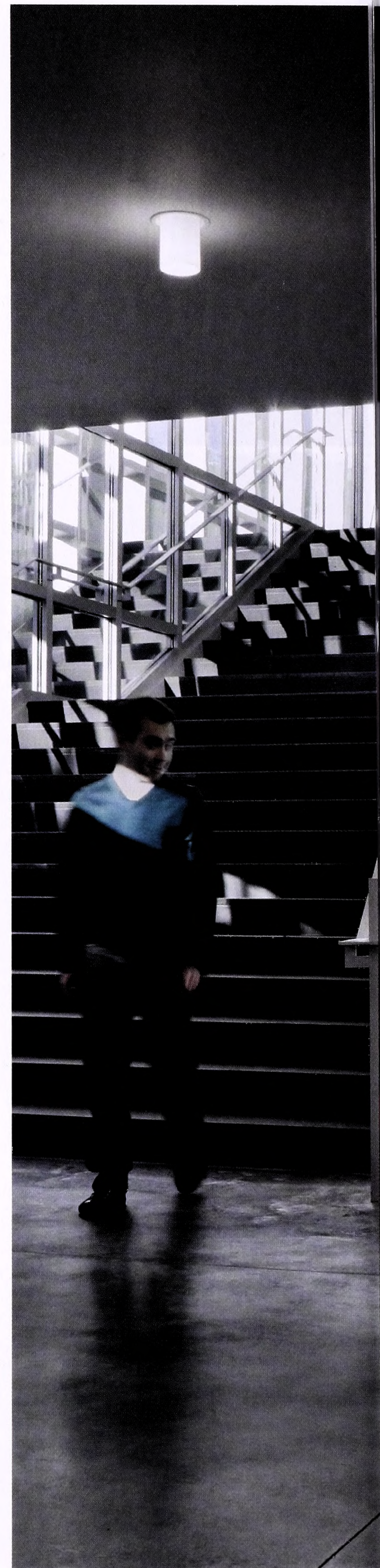
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**Photos** (read from left): **1** Program cover **2** Young Arab women attending the symposium **3** “Voices of the Region” panel with moderator Debora Spar, scholar and critic Samia Mehrez, filmmaker Moufida Tlatli, and novelist Ahdaf Souief **4** Dr. Houriya Kazim **5** Ahdaf Souief **6** Questions were taken from audience. **7** Najla Al-Awadhi, CEO of Dubai Media, and the youngest member of the UAE parliament **8** Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald, President Spar, Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Soha Nashaat, and Prof. Safwan Masri, director, Columbia University Middle East Research Center **9** The ballroom at the Jumeirah Emirates Tower was full. **10** Sheikha Lubna addresses the audience **11** The panel “Conversations on Leadership” included moderator Kathryn Kolbert; Loulwa Bakr, VP, investment banking, Credit Suisse Saudi Arabia; Dr. Houriya Kazim, director, Well Woman Clinic, Dubai; Najla Al-Awadhi; and fashion designer Rabia Zargarpur, known professionally as “Rabia Z.”

# THE DIANA CENTER

Many words have been spoken and much copy has been written about The Diana Center, the first building to be constructed on campus since 1987. Faculty, staff, and students have all watched the process; even alumnae not in the immediate vicinity of Morningside Heights could see the day-to-day, nitty-gritty of construction on the Barnard Web site. Barnard students have embraced The Diana Center and made it their own; the architects, Weiss/Manfredi, have seen their work examined and praised in the press. Generous donors and supporters were on hand as Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55, its namesake, cut the blue ribbon and officially opened this modern marvel (Turn to page 6). Now, we can savor its beauty and awesomeness in this photographic portfolio by Paul Warchol; come see the Diana for yourself at Reunion 2010.

**Lobby** The campus entrance opens to the Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald '81 Lobby on the ground floor.







**Liz's Place** Named for Elizabeth Yeh Singh '88, the public café on the ground floor is the place for snacks and light meals.



**Stairs** Sunlight floods the west stairway.



**Lower Level Lobby** Access to The Diana Center is available from the College's tunnel system. This lobby also serves The Glicker-Milstein Theatre.



**The Architecture Studio** From the fourth floor, the architecture studio has sweeping views of the campus. The studio houses the undergraduate program serving both Barnard and Columbia.



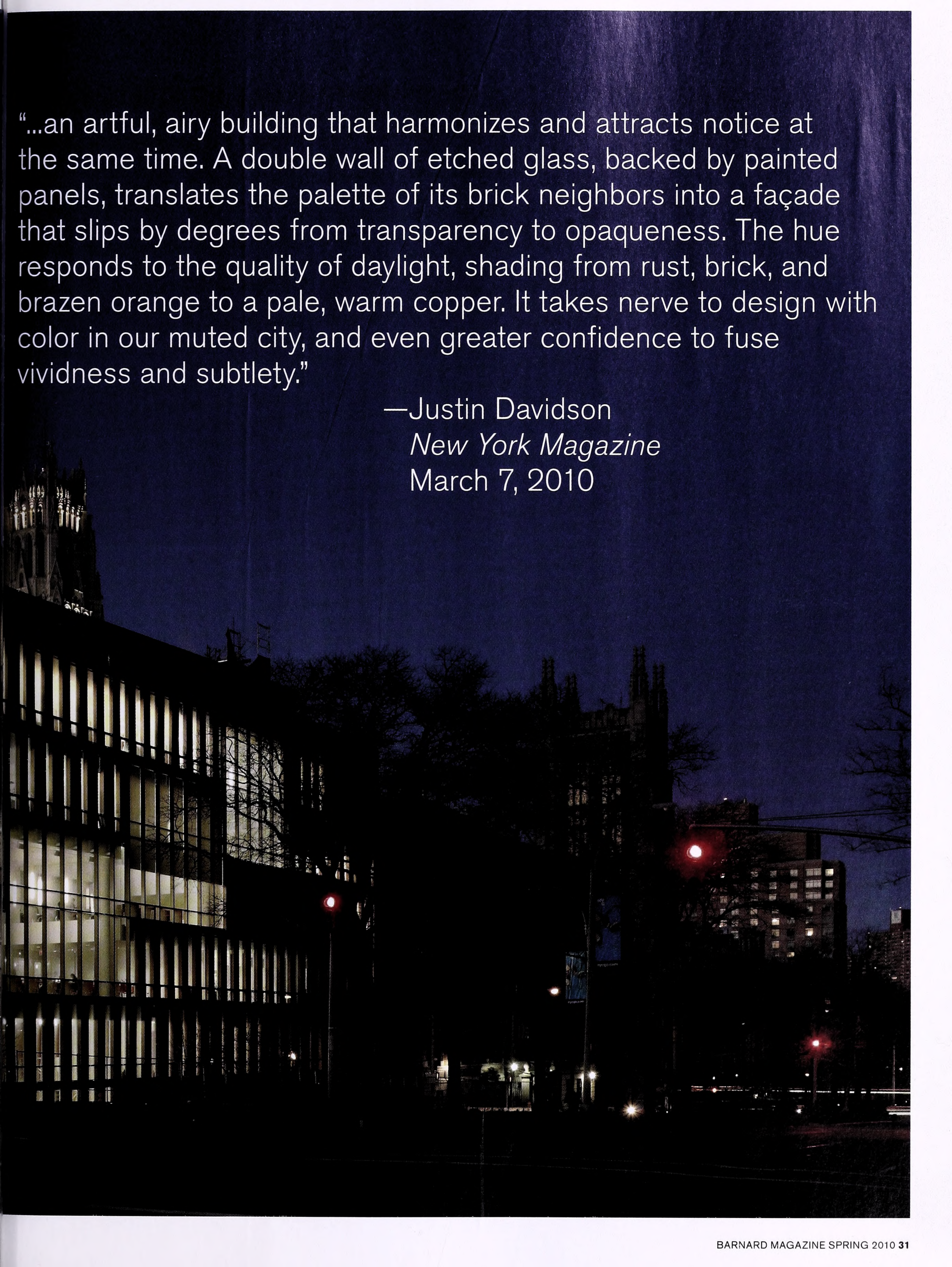
**The Glicker-Milstein Theatre** A state of the art performance facility, The Glicker-Milstein Theatre, named for Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82, offers reconfigurable seating for 100. Enhancing the theatre facilities at the Diana is The Dasha Amsterdam Epstein '55 Theatre Workshop.



**The Event Oval** The wood-paneled, acoustically sophisticated Event Oval is a 500-seat space for large gatherings, public lectures, seminars, and celebrations.

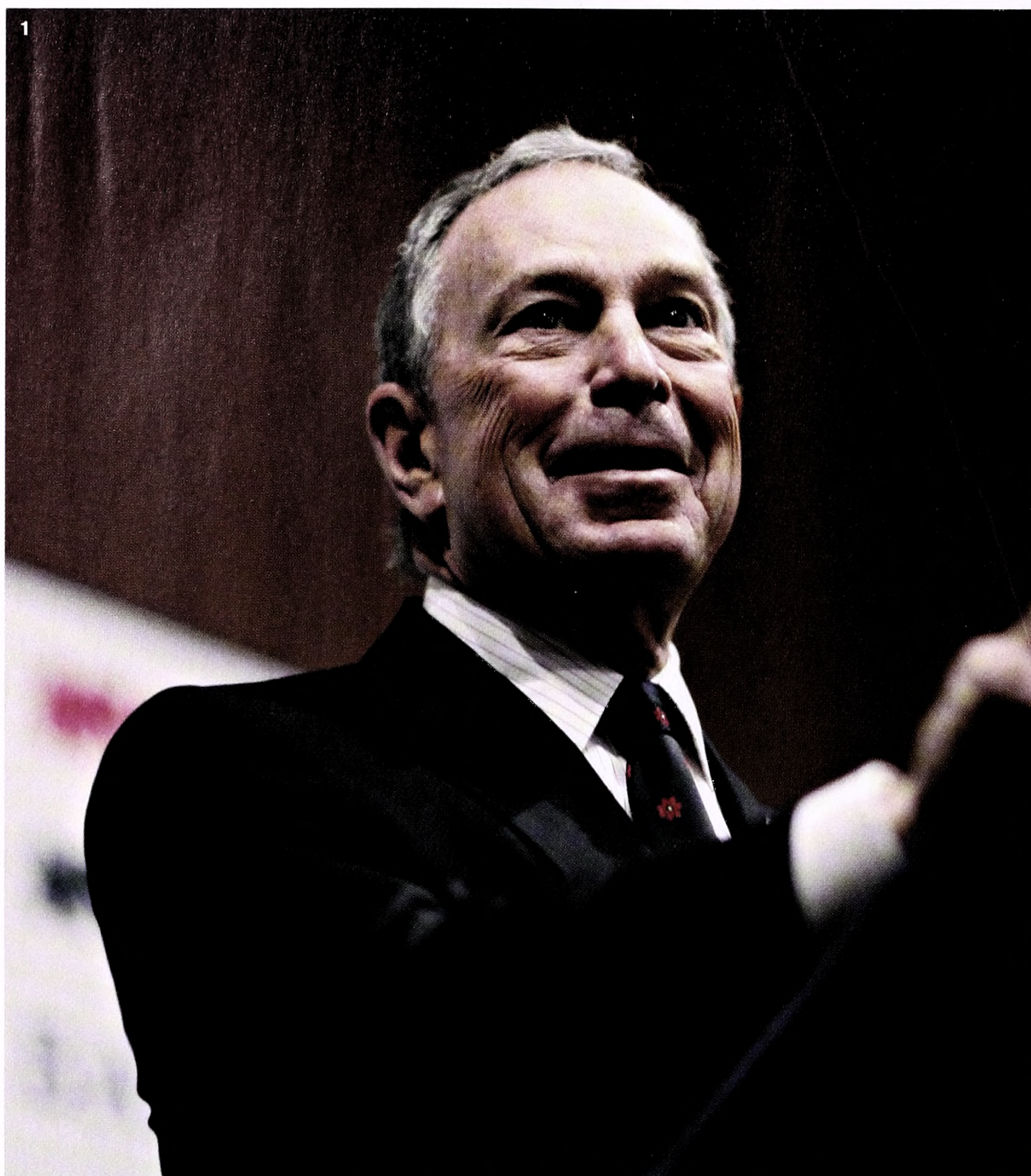






“...an artful, airy building that harmonizes and attracts notice at the same time. A double wall of etched glass, backed by painted panels, translates the palette of its brick neighbors into a façade that slips by degrees from transparency to opaqueness. The hue responds to the quality of daylight, shading from rust, brick, and brazen orange to a pale, warm copper. It takes nerve to design with color in our muted city, and even greater confidence to fuse vividness and subtlety.”

—Justin Davidson  
*New York Magazine*  
March 7, 2010



**Photos:** **1** NYC Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg **2** The mayor with Commission on Women's Issues Chair Anne Sutherland Fuchs and CBS News anchor Cindy Hsu. **3** Mentors and mentees at work **4** Dana Bacharach '13, Alyss Vavricka '12, Anna Steffens '10, and Rachel Wilkinson '10 **5** President Spar **6** Linda Gibbs, NYC deputy mayor for health and human services, interviewed by WNYC-TV **7** Diahann Billings-Burford, chief service officer, NYC Service **8** Columbia Prof. Ester Fuchs, School of International and Public Affairs **9** Artistic Director Virginia Johnson, Dance Theatre of Harlem **10** Lynn Sherr, ABC News correspondent **11** Kathryn Oliver, commissioner, Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting **12** Marlee Ickowicz '10 and Tara Stark **13** First Deputy Mayor Patricia Harris

# MENTOR IT FORWARD

Barnard hosts a major initiative with the City of New York to jumpstart the celebration of Women's History Month

On March 4, The Diana Center was buzzing with the voices of college students and professional women from throughout New York City. The first session of Mentor It Forward, a citywide program created by Barnard College and the NYC Commission on Women's Issues, was about to begin. Fifty accomplished women, all leaders in their fields, had volunteered their morning to advise the same number of eager undergraduates on how to

begin their careers. Mentors were grouped according to their specific fields; each paired with a mentee for eight minutes, a bell signaled when the time was up, then the student would move down one seat to the next mentor for another advice session. Over the course of an hour, the mentors offered individual insight and shared experiences with as many as seven different students.



Before the actual mentoring sessions began, the participants enjoyed a catered breakfast in The Diana Center Event Oval, as they gathered with hundreds of prominent New Yorkers for the official NYC opening event of Women's History Month. The morning was kicked off by Barnard College President Debora Spar, NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg, WCBS News anchor Cindy Hsu, and the NYC Commission on Women's

Issues Chair Anne Sutherland Fuchs. Spar underscored the importance of mentorship and its correlation with success. She told the crowd that the innovative program was designed to bring mentoring up-to-date and advised students to look for a variety of mentors and types of mentoring relationships; urging them to get as much advice as they can and find out what

*Continued on Page 74*



## Spring Forward

To paraphrase a salutation from beloved and retired Barnard administrator Doris Miller: "Hello, beautiful Barnard women!"

I don't know where the time went, but we are nearing the end of another wildly successful academic year at Barnard. Everyone (including me) is looking forward to Commencement and our speaker, Meryl Streep, with great anticipation. Once again, the Alumnae Association will present this year's graduates with a small gift to welcome them into our midst as members. I think that makes it a tradition. As the new graduates return home or venture out into the world for jobs or continued education, please reach out to welcome them into your area and into your workplaces.

Over the past few months, the Alumnae Board of Directors has reviewed our bylaws. I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of Binta Brown '95, who chaired the committee and guided a very thoughtful discussion of these bylaws, and Mark Collins of the College's General Counsel office. The Board also deserves thanks for their insight and input to make the document a living guide for our work.

At this year's annual meeting at Reunion, the Alumnae Association will review our charter. Proposed amendments include:

- updating the purpose clause to reflect that our membership encompasses all alumnae in good standing, although some are not necessarily "graduates"
- updating the number of board members
- clarifying the date of the annual meeting

These changes will ensure that our operation is aligned with the bylaws. I hope you will join us at the annual meeting (*see the notice below for details*) and all the other Reunion events, June 3–6.

By now, those of you in a milestone reunion year have received your invitation to Reunion 2010. Even if this is not a milestone year for you, I encourage you and your guests to attend. It is a great time for classmates to get together and have a mini-reunion or to see The Diana Center and hear from faculty and President Spar about what's happened at Barnard and the exciting plans for the future. Every event I attend on campus leaves me energized by the incredible spirit of the bright, beautiful women of all ages who have attended the College over the years. I look forward to seeing you there.

As ever,  
Frances Sadler '72

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College will hold its annual meeting during Reunion on Friday, June 4, at 11AM on campus. All alumnae are invited and encouraged to attend Reunion. At this meeting, we will hear an update from Alumnae Association President Frances L. Sadler '72, who will also present the Alumnae Association Fellowships for Graduate Study. President Debora L. Spar will present the Millicent Carey McIntosh Award for Feminism, Distinguished Alumna Awards, and Awards for Service to Barnard. After the meeting, alumnae and guests will enjoy lunch and hear the State of the College address from President Spar. RSVP by registering to attend Reunion through Alumnae Affairs. Questions? Call Alumnae Affairs at 212.854.2005 or visit [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu).

## Barnard Book Clubs

Barnard alumnae exhibit a tremendous diversity of interests, careers, and political opinions. However, one thing all alumnae appear to share is a voracious appetite for reading. Barnard book discussion groups have sprung up across the world, from Phoenix to Paris and beyond, to satisfy this need.

Book discussions have long been a staple of regional club activity, and these groups show the true spirit of alumnae clubs—women of all ages and interests, bound by their love of Barnard and their love of literature. The book lists often feature Barnard authors, but the books selected are as diverse as the women themselves. Alumnae read about significant moments in American history and about issues across the world; they read classics and contemporary literature.

In many cases, these book clubs are strongest in the areas that have the smallest Barnard populations, and they are the most consistent form of connection to other alumnae. The Paris group is particularly robust and also serves as an expat outpost. Genevieve Ramos Acker '61, the president of the Barnard Club of Paris, reports, "It has evolved into a networking and support group that shares helpful hints about everything from jobs to adapting to life in Paris, and provides moral support for those who need it."

Discussions are lively and insightful, and made richer by the diversity of Barnard women. Phyllis Edelstein Stern '65, the president of the Barnard Club of North-Central Arizona, says, "As Barnard women, we are not shy about voicing our many opinions, which makes the group a lot of fun. We come from varied professions and span a wide age range, which also adds to the enjoyment of being together in a small group and makes the conversation more interesting. Kind of like being back at Barnard!"

To learn more about a book discussion group or Barnard alumnae club in your area, visit [alum.barnard.edu/clubs](http://alum.barnard.edu/clubs).

### Here's what Barnard clubs across the world have recently read...

BARNARD CLUB OF NORTH-CENTRAL ARIZONA

*The Turn of the Screw*

by Henry James

BARNARD CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

*Frances Perkins: Champion of the New Deal*

by Naomi E. Pasachoff

BARNARD CLUB OF SEATTLE

*The River Why*

by David James Duncan

BARNARD COLLEGE CLUB OF NEW YORK

*Zeitoun*

by Dave Eggers

BARNARD CLUB OF PARIS

*Krik? Krak!*

by Edwidge Danticat '90

BARNARD CLUB OF ISRAEL

*All the Names*

by José Saramago

## Mini Reunion

Many classes stay connected in the years between milestone reunions by getting together at "mini-reunions." The Class of 1963 has a particularly robust calendar of mini-reunion events. In addition to frequent luncheons at the Princeton Club, the class officers arrange special outings. In November of 2009 classmates had brunch at O'Neal's Restaurant near Lincoln Center and went on a guided backstage tour of the Metropolitan Opera House. In spring of 2010 the class is planning mini-reunions at museums in Montclair, New Jersey, San Francisco, California, and New York.



**Members of the Class of 1963 gather at O'Neal's Restaurant to enjoy brunch on November 22, 2009.**

**1** Barbara Solomon Pasternak, Joan Donaldson Lukas, and Sura Rothen Johnson

**2** Joan Sherman Freilich, Anna Zagoloff, Linda Rolnitzky Namrow, Joan Gordon Riegel, Susan Welber Youdovin



## Mind the Gap

On March 24, 2010, Barnard held its first Mind the Gap Day. Students, alumnae, and guests shared the importance of giving back while reaching out to the Barnard campus community. Participants attended class together; at lunch they spoke of the need to support the College every year to "fill the gap" between tuition cost and the true cost of a Barnard education. Students also wrote thank-you notes to donors sharing how gifts to Barnard impact their education.

**In the photo** (from left) Isabella Serrani '13, Daphne Fodor Philipson '69, Mackenzie Salenger '13

## Charlotte Hanley Scott '47

1925-2010



Charlotte H. Scott, professor emerita of commerce and education at the University of Virginia, died peacefully on March 11 at the Westminster-Canterbury Health Center in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was 84. Born Charlotte Anna Hanley on March 18, 1925, in Yonkers, New York, to Charlotte Agnes Palmer Hanley and Edgar Bernard Hanley, she attended Yonkers High School and graduated from Barnard College in 1947. She married Nathan A. Scott, Jr., in 1946, and they moved to Washington, D.C., and later

to Chicago. She worked as an economist for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago from 1956-71, and she served as assistant vice-president from 1971-76. She also earned an MBA from the School of Business of the University of Chicago in 1964. She was the first African-American woman to be appointed a vice-president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Her husband, the late Nathan A. Scott, Jr., was a professor at the University of Chicago from 1955-76 and a priest of the Episcopal Church.

Charlotte and Nathan moved to Charlottesville in 1976 when they both accepted appointments to the faculty of the University of Virginia. They were the first African-Americans to be appointed to tenured faculty positions at the University. She served as university professor of business administration and commerce and senior fellow at the Tayloe Murphy Institute, Colgate Darden Graduate School of Business Administration from 1976-86. From 1986-98 she served with the Curry School of Education as university professor of commerce and education. Her husband Nathan served as commonwealth professor of religious studies and English from 1976-81 and then as William R. Kenan Professor of Religious Studies from 1981-90. He died on December 20, 2006.

Mrs. Scott was active in many community service activities. She served as president of the Women's Board of the Chicago Urban League from 1967-69. She was a member of the Consumer Advisory Council of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 1980-82, and a member of the Charlottesville Advisory Board of NationsBank of Virginia from 1977-83. She was also a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1982-85. Active for many years in the Alumnae Association of Barnard College, Scott served on the board of directors and then as an alumnae trustee. She also served on the governing board of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation from 1993-2004, and on the board of directors of the Charlottesville Community Scholarship program. She was a longtime member of St. Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville. For her many service activities, Scott was awarded an honorary degree as doctor of humane letters by Virginia Theological Seminary in 2006.

She is survived by her daughter Leslie Hunter, her son Nathan A. Scott III, her son-in-law John Hunter, her daughter-in-law Carol J. Scott, her six grandchildren, Priscilla Sampil, Charlotte Ashamu, Emmanuel Ashamu, Elizabeth Ashamu, Nathan A. Scott IV, and Douglas Scott, and her late brother's wife, Shirley Hanley. She was a devoted mother, a perfect grandmother, and loved by all around her.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 10, 11:00 a.m., at St. Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Memorial contributions can be made to: The Barnard Fund, 3009 Broadway, New York, New York 10027.

## ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

The Alumnae Association of Barnard College was established in 1895 to further the interests of the College and connect alumnae worldwide. Learn more online at [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu).

PRESIDENT & ALUMNAE TRUSTEE

Frances Sadler '72

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Ann LoFrumento '77

TREASURER

Helene Kener Gray '88

ALUMNAE TRUSTEES

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Eileen Lee Moy '73

Jeanine Parisier Plottel '54

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THE BARNARD FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR

Carol Cohen '59

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Jami Bernard '78

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Vicki Curry '90

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/ALMA MATERS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nicole Lowen Vianna '81

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/PROJECT CONTINUUM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Reeva Starkman Mager '64

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

Janet Bersin Finke '56

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIR

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Amrita Master Dalal '90

PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

Peri Horowitz '96

REGIONAL NETWORKS CHAIR

Susan Sommer Klapkin '76

REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIR

Nieca Goldberg '79

YOUNG ALUMNAE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Ashley Kelly '04

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Katie Palillo '10

## ALUMNAE AFFAIRS

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

DIRECTOR

Erin Fredrick '01

MANAGERS & COORDINATORS

Vanessa Wolf Alexander

Victoria Londin '79

Maryangela Moutoussis '06

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT

Lauren Glover '09

# CLASS NOTES

## For classes without correspondents, send notes to:

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*Barnard Magazine*  
 Vagelos Alumnae Center  
 Barnard College  
 3009 Broadway  
 New York, NY 10027-6598  
 cnotes@barnard.edu

daughters on the West Coast. I'm excited about the trip because two of my great-grandchildren, who live in Denmark, are visiting my daughter Jill in San Francisco, and I get to play with them for two weeks before I visit my youngest daughter, Nora, in Seattle. There I'll help her celebrate the successful conclusion of a long treatment for breast cancer, as well as her birthday, on Feb. 1, before returning.

Sadly, we have had two deaths. Royal Trust reports that **Florence Hoagland McKerrow** died on June 9, 2009.

**Hazel Levine Tepper** died on Oct. 10. Hazel is survived by two daughters and two sons-in-law, four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. We send our sympathy to their families.

*Nora Lourie Percival*  
 478 Greer Lane  
 Vilas, NC 28692  
 828.297.2828  
 percival@skybest.com

## 38

More sad news has arrived. I received reports of the deaths of **Helen Boyle Galbraith**, **Emily Chadbourne Minor**, and **Shirley Bender Pensig**. Helen died on Sept. 9, 2009; she is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, and two sisters. Emily died on Oct. 30, 2009. She is survived by four children, 12 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. Shirley died on Nov. 2, 2009, and is survived by her son, daughter, and granddaughter. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

*Barbara Lake Dolgin*  
 150 West End Avenue, Apt. 18D  
 New York, NY 10023  
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70th Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 40

A chatty letter from **Margaret Pardee Bates** describes the good life she's enjoying in Carmel, Calif. Despite a few "health issues," Peggy remains active. Last year was a good one, with highlights being her 91st birthday party and her granddaughter's wedding in Colorado. She also enjoys a weekly poetry group and serves on the board of the York School, the board of international advisors at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and the advisory board for the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation. Peggy was honored on Philanthropy Day for her work with the York School.

**Jane Auerbach Gould**, whose death we reported last time, is the subject of an article, "Personal History and Political Change," in the January newsletter of the Barnard Center for Research on Women. I hope you've had a chance to read it, as it describes the beginnings of the Center and the crucial role Jane played in its development. She was the Center's first permanent director.

Sadly there are deaths to report. **Jane King Nally** died on Oct. 5, 2009. She is survived by three daughters and two granddaughters. **Viola Peterson Butzner** passed away on Oct. 16, 2009. She is survived by one son and many relatives, including her niece, Carol

## 33

**Ruth Jacobson Leff's** daughter, Laura, writes in that Ruth passed away on June 25, 2009. Ruth entered Barnard at age 16. She was an honors student and did a double major in history and fine arts. The recipient of a graduate scholarship in art history from Bryn Mawr, she also won a Carnegie Fellowship to study art at the Sorbonne in Paris. She married Hilton A. Leff (CU '31, CU Law '33) in 1937, taught fine arts in New York public schools, and was a hostess at the Stage Door Canteen during World War II. After moving to Connecticut, she and her husband ran a business together before they retired to Hendersonville, N.C., and Sarasota, Fla. Ruth enjoyed gardening, golf, and producing many paintings and sculptures. She is survived by her daughter, son, and four grandchildren.

## 36

I'm submitting this column early, as I leave on Jan. 4 for a month with my

Manson Bier '68. Very belated obituary information confirms the death of **Jean Cotillo Russo** on Nov. 20, 2005. She is survived by two daughters and one son. We send our sympathy to all the families.

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# 41

**Estelle De Vito** had to retire as a child psychiatrist at age 84 because of her health, but she stays busy. She lives in the same building she moved to shortly after her marriage 50 years ago. It's in lower Manhattan, where she's able to move about on a battery-powered scooter. She lives in the penthouse, which has a patio and a garden that she loves. Her three daughters live not too far out of town, and they're planning to celebrate Estelle's 90th birthday this year with a family trip to the Bahamas, as they did on her 75th.

A call to **Elizabeth (Liz) Harris Mersey** interrupted her practicing for a performance at 1 p.m. that very day. When I called again later, she told me that it was for a luncheon after a tournament for the French-Canadian group living at her club in Boynton Beach. They asked her to play some Edith Piaf songs, so she found many she could transpose. You'll recall that Liz was our main composer for the Junior Show. Her club members don't know how lucky they are. She also has produced two novels and about 100 short stories, but only two stories have been published.

There was an interesting article in the Fall 2009 *Barnard* concerning politically active alumnae. **Alice Kliemand Meyer** says that her volunteer work for the Association of American University Women got her involved and led to her winning a Republican seat on the state legislature, which she held from 1976 until 1993. Alice recommends that women wishing to enter politics should first become involved with improvements desired in their community and develop experience that will later produce a network of supporters.

**Athena Capraro Warren**, my co-correspondent, fell recently and wants to let everyone know how important it is to keep an alert button handy. It was during the night, and the local fire department responded immediately. Fortunately, she suffered no serious injury. Athena is rereading *Jane Eyre* for the fourth time and finds it more fascinating each time. She also reports that **Marie Turbow Lampard** has been asked to serve as one of the editors for this year's issue of *Experiments*, an annual devoted to new and unusual Russian art; it will focus on sculpture.

Last year, **Betty Clifford Macomber** traveled with her daughter from Arizona to Maine to visit her brother. Although the airline looked after its passengers well, the necessity of a wheelchair took a great deal of pleasure out of traveling. She insists it was her last long trip.

October 2009 was not a happy month for our class. On Oct. 12, **Jane Rinck** died in Wells, Vt. She is survived by two nieces, three grandnieces, a grandnephew, and two great-grandnephews. Jane was a lawyer who went on to be a writer in later years. Although we were just acquaintances, the similarity of our names (Jane Rinck and **Jane Ringo**) often led to confusion in the mailroom of Hewitt Hall. And on Oct. 21, **Doris Williams Yankee** died in Lake Forest, Ill. She is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters. Doris, our class president at graduation, remained active for some years as class fund chair. She was also on the women's board of Lake Forest College and was one of the 12 members of the resident council of her retirement community. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families. —JRM

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# 42

**Yvonne Coutant Wallach** is leaving her retirement home in Seminole, Fla., and moving to an associated retirement complex, still in Florida but closer to her son. After years as a teacher, Yvonne enjoyed many years of retirement by going to Elderhostels and traveling in Europe. When her eyesight started failing, she found a retirement home near St. Petersburg. My husband, Ben, and I visited her there many years ago.

Last autumn, *The Washington Post* included several articles about the works of **Patricia Highsmith**. Thus inspired I decided to revisit some of the volumes on my shelf of books by classmates.

**Mabel Schubert Foust** and **Glafra Fernandez Ennis** represented our class at the October Leadership Assembly. They report that there will be a new format, so that in the future more inactive alumnae will be included.

**Doris McGuffey Plough** died of congestive heart failure on Nov. 1, 2009, at her home in Bethesda, Md. Doris was in an accelerated medical program at Columbia, graduating in 1945. She traveled to the Philippines and other places with her husband, an army physician. After transferring to Maryland, she worked for 20 years as a pediatrician with the Montgomery Department of Health. She is survived by five children and six grandchildren. Our sympathy goes out to her family, and my special condolences as I remember long hours together in Barnard labs.

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# 43

As **Carol Hawkes** points out in a letter, it was at our 45th reunion, in 1986, that the idea of a class scholarship fund came to fruition. Over the years the fund grew by bequests and gifts to its present value of over \$80,000. However, we have not yet reached the \$100,000 mark that the College requires for such



a class scholarship fund to qualify as a permanent endowment. Many of us have already responded to Carol's letter, but we still need your help in raising more money. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. When I read the profile of the young lady who received aid as a result of our donations, I was amazed. A Long Island native, she's considering a major in neuroscience. Through the Hughes Pipeline Project, she conducted research on species diversity and root traits with Barnard biological sciences professor Hilary S. Callahan. Earlier, she had researched organometallic synthesis at SUNY-Stony Brook. She's the founder of the Net Impact Group at Columbia. As a photographer, she contributed many images to the *Columbia Daily Spectator*. If you're looking for her near campus, you might find her working in the Columbia Music Library or at the Barnard gym.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Marion Bromilow Mendelson**, who passed away in September of 2009.

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## 44

Joy abounds as we arrive in May, after an overdose of politics, laced with a tragedy in Haiti. Bloom, all ye late spring blossoms. **Mary Davis Williams** writes about Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the three to four feet of snow in her daughter's yard in Denver at Christmas.

Sensational news comes from **Julia Carson White** in Albuquerque, N.M. On Nov. 5, two hours after cornea-transplant surgery, she opened her left eye to a "new day of brilliant light, and sharp exciting colors, especially green." She also said, "I could recognize people's faces for the first time in years!"

Indomitable, indefatigable **Françoise Kelz** steams ahead with yet another European adventure; three weeks in three neat places. Stay tuned; more later. **Ina Campbell** sends good tidings about two of our Memorial Scholarship

recipients. Elizabeth Tupper '08 (2007–08 winner) is enjoying the conservation biology master's program at Columbia. Jenna Nugent '12, from New Hampshire, is the current scholarship holder. She made the Dean's List in 2008–09 and is enjoying all Barnard's opportunities.

Peggy Foster Oakes '70 sent lovely words about her mother, **Florence Levi Foster**, who died last July. Florence had hoped to attend Reunion, and she was particularly proud that three generations of her family, including her own mother and aunts, attended Barnard.

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65th Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 45

Our 65th reunion is June 3 through 6. **Avra Kessler Mark**, our president, has made exciting plans to make this a very happy occasion. We'll meet for our class dinner in the Vagelos Alumnae Center (formerly the Deanery), where we'll be comfortable and removed from some of the hustle and bustle of Reunion. And Karen Blank, dean of studies, will speak to us. On Thursday, June 3, **Hope Simon Miller** will host her traditional class cocktail reception in her penthouse home on Gramercy Park.

The main theme this year is ATTEND, and bring an escort—spouse, child, or friend. The campus has changed so much in 65 years and there are many new features to see and admire.

**Ruth Carson West**, class vice president, has been contacting classmates to encourage them to attend. Also, Ruth traveled to the West Coast recently and spent a day with Edna Ely Little Irving '44, who lives comfortably in a retirement community.

Sister **Marjorie Wysong Raphael** survived the horrific earthquake and destruction in Haiti. She has served there for more than 40 years and is considered "an honorary Haitian." See the feature on Haiti in this issue for more of Marjorie's story, and for more

recent updates visit [ssmbos.com](http://ssmbos.com). When I learned that Marjorie was safe, I e-mailed classmates quickly. Unfortunately, I only have e-mail addresses for 10 percent of you. Send me yours if you wish to be included.

**Hilma Ollila Carter** has been living in Connecticut since the death of her husband, famous jazz musician Benny Carter. She's busy in the art and music worlds as a board member, attending concerts, and going to Broadway shows. Her new activity is helping Rutgers University raise funds for their Institute of Jazz Studies, which may be named for her late husband. Looking forward to Reunion, Hilma writes, "I must thank Barnard for having prepared me for a successful working life and an equally successful retirement. The demanding education we received and the exposure to a multiplicity of interests serves us for a lifetime." Well said. We who were with you at Barnard 65 years ago agree.

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## 46

**Jane F. Weidlund** writes, "When I sent a Christmas card and note to **Cecile Parker Carver**, I didn't know she had died in September. Soon I received a phone call from her devoted housekeeper (and later full-time caregiver) to tell me of Cecile's death from pneumonia. Cecile never really recovered from a fall when she missed the bottom step of a staircase [and suffered] a broken leg that put her in the hospital.... Cecile was politically acute, an accomplished needlewoman and president of the Embroiderers Guild of America, and an avid bridge player. She had a keen wit and a very dry sense of humor. I enjoyed knowing her and her husband, Jack, an investment banker in New York.... She loved Barnard and served as class fund officer for a number of years."

# 47

Our mini-reunion last October at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was a success, even though it was chilly and rainy. **Lucille Weckstein Plotz**, a longtime volunteer there, was able to drive our small group through the garden so we could enjoy the autumn scenery. **Dorothy Rogers Dewey, Meredith Nevins Mayer, Jane Allen Shikoh, Lucille**, and I enjoyed lunch together and felt it was a great experience.

This year's recipient of the Class of 1947 Scholarship Fund is Elzbieta Jacek '10. She's a neuroscience and behavior major, and she has done much volunteering in the medical field. Elzbieta was born in Poland and lived in Brooklyn before coming to Barnard. She hopes to attend dental school after graduation.

**Emma Flach Herr** lives in northern New Jersey. She's very active in her church as the choir director, organist, and piano accompanist. She's also involved in a church group that helps local families with problems. Emma says she has loved being involved with music, and her daughter is a musician.

**Marilyn Gorman Hopkins** reports from Maryland that she has led a busy life and is now enjoying a quiet retirement. She came to Barnard at midyear during World War II as what Dean Gildersleeve termed "part of the war effort." A government major, Marilyn did graduate work at Yale in Far Eastern studies and foreign relations, and studied Chinese. She held research jobs in foreign relations and worked for the State Department.

**Patricia Mailliard Jones** lives in North Scituate, Mass., but no longer works at her real-estate-appraisal company in Plymouth. She volunteers at the Scituate archives, which has some of the original books owned by Pilgrims, dating back to 1636. Patricia hopes to attend Reunion in 2012. We look forward to seeing her and hearing more about the archives.

**Dushka Howarth** tells me she's ill and bedridden. However, she's still very involved in her writing and has completed a book, *It's Up to Ourselves*, about her family, including her father, George Gurdjieff, who was a writer and a

philosopher. Dushka also told me about some of her activities during World War II, including performing at the Stage Door Canteen. She also volunteered at Columbia's radio station.

**Jean Connors Caldwell** says she and her husband, Durham, received a Friend of Education Award from the Springfield (Mass.) Education Association. They volunteer at an elementary school, working with special-education students and non-native-English-speaking students, including a number of Somali immigrants. —MHC

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# 48

Our class president, **Nora Robell**, represented us at the February ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Diana Center, which replaces McIntosh.

Sadly, the rest of our column is devoted to classmates we have recently lost. **Amalie Mayer Flegenheimer** died on Dec. 11, 2009. She lived in New York City. Before retiring, she was an insurance broker. Our condolences to her husband, Arnold, their two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Thanks go to **Katherine Anne Battley Phipps**, who shares personal reminiscences from the memorial service for **Miriam Elizabeth (Betsy) Peabody Gale**, who died on June 29, 2009. Betsy and her husband, Justin, who survives her, had four children and eight grandchildren. Few of us knew that Betsy served as a pharmacist's mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After Barnard, she pursued graduate studies in social work at the London School of Economics. Her personal faith and commitment to community service were demonstrated by running her church library, leading prayer meetings, hosting marriage encounter workshops,

and initiating self-help programs, such as after-school study sessions and computer literacy. Betsy, who loved music, sang and played guitar. In midlife she learned how to sail, progressing from a starter catboat to a 50-foot sailboat by the time she was 70. Our condolences to her family and friends.

At the funeral service for **Frances Dowd Smith**, Nora Robell and I joined Fran's family, nearly 100 friends and neighbors, and 100 kids from the parish school who knew and loved her. In her last letter to me, Fran wrote, "Lasting friendships are treasures for life." Nora writes: "We have lost one of our most treasured classmates, Frances Dowd Smith, our class vice president, who passed away on Nov. 29, 2009. She is survived by three daughters, two sons, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Fran was devoted to Barnard and to our class, becoming very active from our 50th reunion forward. It was she, being an expert needlewoman as a hobby while watching TV, who embroidered and cross-stitched handsome bookmarks and linen hand towels for our 50th, 55th, and 60th reunion attendees. Her devoted husband, Warren, who predeceased her, crafted blue wooden Barnard bears for our 50th reunion mementos. She came to all our mini-reunions, despite a two-and-a-half-hour trip from Allentown. She also came to New York five times each season to attend the Metropolitan Opera, plus trips to the ballet and museums, encouraging her friends and relatives to enjoy New York City's cultural events. She served as executive secretary to the pastor of her church for more than 20 years. Fran was a great class officer and contributed sound advice at all times with enthusiasm. She was the epitome of a true and devoted alumna. We will miss her."

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# 49

I participated in the Barnard Phonathon in January. I'm a big believer in The

Barnard Fund, and I was pleased to have the opportunity to speak to many of you. At the time we spoke, **Martha Gross Fink** and her husband were planning to visit **June Billings Ingraham** in Sanibel Island, Fla., where June and her husband spend each winter. And the Ingrahams were planning to go on to Australia shortly thereafter. **Dorothy Jean Horsfall Detiere** has enjoyed going to Tavern on the Green for many years and is very sorry that it closed. I spoke to **Loretta Betke Greeley**, who said she was sorry that she didn't major in chemistry, as I did. Her husband, a chemist, then questioned me about my employment history and mentioned that Loretta, even without a science major, had been able to teach science to very bright elementary school students.

**Shirley Cohen Heymann** loves to play bridge and lives in Flushing, Queens, in the house she and her husband bought in the 1970s. **Beth Harding Scheuerman** lives in Wilmington, Del., where I also lived for part of 1952 and 1953. Beth has been there since the '50s and in her house since the '70s. She's thinking of moving to an assisted-living facility now that she's a widow.

I also spoke with: **Alma Schuhmacher Rehkamp**, who lives in East Falmouth on Cape Cod, Mass.; **Annabel Simonds Fielitz** in Pennsylvania; **Sally Graham Jacquet**, a longtime New Yorker; **Patricia Cecere Doumas**, who lives in Wilton, Conn.; and my co-correspondent, **Rosary Scacciaferro Gilheany**, who lives in Hunterdon County, N.J. We're scattered geographically but united in loving Barnard and supporting our alma mater.

**Nancy Hatch Dupree**, founder and director of the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University, was honored in Washington, D.C., first at a large gathering that included Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and senior members of his staff, then at a dinner sponsored by Ariana Outreach, an organization of Afghan-American women.

In December, I visited **Mary Schofield Conway** at her home in Laguna Woods, in southern California. Mary is an active docent at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. She gave me a private tour of the museum and planned many other interesting activities in beautiful Orange County.

Rosary received a letter from **Joan Capp Baggs**, which she forwarded to me. Joan and her husband, Bill, sold their house in Cincinnati and now live in a senior apartment complex in Milford, Ohio, part of the year, and part of the year in Nalcrest, Fla. In spite of health problems, they're both very active.

I received greetings from **Simone Dreyfus**, including a lovely photo of her garden in Provence, France. Medical problems make travel difficult, and she doesn't expect to visit the U.S. again.

Sadly, **Victoria Boothby Ross** died on Sept. 6, 2009. Her survivors include two daughters, two sons, seven grandchildren, and a brother. Our sincere condolences to her family. —YDD

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60<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 50

Chinatown's Peking Duck was the setting for last fall's mini-reunion, enjoyed by **Carolyn Ogden Brotherton, Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum, Jean Zeiger Cunningham, Mary Louise Luginbuhl Kearns, Marjorie (Peggy) Lange, Irma Socci Moore, Isabel Berkery Mount, Cecile Singer, Myra Koh Sobel, Bernice Fiering Solomon, Roselin Seider Wagner, and Florrie Levison Wertheimer.**

**Gloria Litton Del Rio** writes from the Philippines: "Last September we had a terrible flood. Metro Manila and surrounding provinces were badly affected. Water up to one foot entered the house! Received the notice about our 60th anniversary. How I wish New York were not so far away. **Sylvia Mendez Ventura** and I talk often by phone and exchange books."

**Martha Greene Lewis** writes,

"Glad to be well, with another new hip, a pacemaker, and a retina back in place! My husband is 92 and just fine. We have another great-grandchild—two now."

Carolyn Brotherton spent two weeks in Greece in late October, "visiting not only Athens, but a charming mountain village in the Peloponnesus (including a beautiful 17th-century monastery built into a cliff), and the island of Aegina in the Saronic Sea."

**Miriam Scharfman Zadek** appeared in an Aug. 20, 2009, *New York Times* article about "those across ages and faiths who have made their spiritual home where they vacation." Miriam spoke about her synagogue, Seaside Jewish Community, a simple white clapboard building in Rehoboth Beach, Del., where she has a vacation home. The congregation consists of "people raised in all the different branches of Judaism ... and the sermons vary depending upon the tradition of the lay leader conducting them, as there is no rabbi." Miriam read a sermon there on the first anniversary of her sister's death. It was attended by her sister's children, who were born deaf like their mother, along with their spouses. Miriam arranged for a local sign-language interpreter to translate the sermon and says, "It would never have occurred to me to do something so intimate at a large urban synagogue."

We send our condolences to **Marilyn (Lynn) Dodds Russell** on the loss of her husband, Alfred G. "Pete" Russell, last August on Hilton Head Island, S.C., after a long bout with Parkinson's disease. Pete was a World War II veteran, a graduate of Rutgers, an executive at Egan Machinery, of Somerville, N.J., and an avid golfer.

Regretfully, we report three deaths, **Katherine (Kitty) Kling Smith** in 2002, **Sheila Morris D'Aulnay** in 2005, and **Jane Joseph Sylvester** on Oct. 18, 2009. We have no further details. —NNJ

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# 52

**Nada Davies Barry** hosts big family holiday gatherings, travels (this year, to Vietnam and Cambodia), and runs her business of 41 years in Sag Harbor, N.Y. Her Web site, wharfshop.com, includes a picture of her at work.

**Joan Farago Lomont** does volunteer court work in Illinois for victims of domestic violence. She and her husband, who have raised three daughters and have six granddaughters, winter in Santa Fe, N.M., enjoying sunshine, warmth, theatre, and opera.

**Phyllis Baker Langer** and her husband, John, live on a 40-acre farm near Albany, N.Y., where a diverse multitude of children and grandchildren enrich their lives. Phyllis told **Nancy Stone Hayward** that **Ann Miller Lawrence** had arranged the blind date on which Phyllis met her husband. Nancy also reminisced with fellow zoology classmate **Martha Smith Van Tubergen**, who lives in Sugarbush, Vt. Martha enjoys golf and reading.

**Elizabeth (Bettina) Blake** has completed work on two books, a Blake family memoir written by historian Virginia Myhaver, and a collection of Blake Christmas verses from 1927 to 2009. She's healing from a cracked rib or two, which she suffered in a fall at her Boston home. **Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt**, who damaged her shoulder in a fall, is also recovering nicely.

**Joyce Hilleboe Vana** lives in Buffalo, N.Y., and has been widowed twice. She has added a master's degree in public health and a PhD in medical sociology to her bachelor's in philosophy. Her daughter, Christiana Kaier, teaches in the art department at Northwestern.

**Dorothea Ragette Blaine** doesn't feel a day over 21 and, like many of us, is amazed to find she'll be 80 this year. Her law practice is in estate planning, probate, guardianship, and conservatorships, and she studies in a lifelong-learning group at the University of California, Irvine. She enjoyed a recent birding expedition to Moro Bay and the Kern River Valley.

**Nan Heffelfinger Johnson** ventured on a five-week cruise from Dover, England, to Cape Town, South Africa.

She and her husband, Bill, experienced extremes from Morocco and Senegal to Gambia and Togo. They marveled at Ghana's prosperity and at Namibia's extraordinary 1,000-mile sand-dune coastline, and they say Cape Town lived up to their high expectations. Unfortunately, Bill had an emergency triple-bypass operation in December, but Nan reports he's doing well.

**Barbara Heinzen Colby** retired from being a personal secretary. Living in her retirement residence in a college community in upstate New York, she says, is enhanced by adjacent conservation land, which provides opportunity to view wildlife.

Sadly, we must report two deaths. **Monique Younger Proldsorfer** died on Sept. 15, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Starr J. Proldsorfer, one daughter, four sons, and four grandchildren. **Gloria Sudbeaz Miller Stauffer** died on April 18, 2008. She is survived by one daughter, one son, and five grandchildren. We extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

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# 53

We had a get-together in Boca Raton, Fla., with **Anne Schwartz Toft** and her husband, Arthur, and **Joan Hurwitz Ludman** and her husband, Harold. We've all been busy attending local ballet, opera, theatre, and concerts.

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# 54

Congratulations to **Marlene Ader Lerner**, who was honored by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services for the many services she has organized for seniors at her synagogue. She has planned trips, speakers, and other diversions of specific interest to seniors. For this, Marlene was elected to the Senior Hall of Fame of Westchester County. Her induction took place at a luncheon and candle-lighting ceremony, which attracts about 500 people every year. When she isn't working on these events, Marlene helps her husband in his business and does a lot of traveling.

**Judith Scherer Herz** writes that she's sorry she missed Reunion. She had her own mini-reunion in April 2009, when she came down from Montreal to teach the Barnard conference course, "Poets Listening to Poets." This is an English department one-credit course endowed by the late Professor Lucyle Hook. It was great fun, she says, even if it was a little weird standing at the front of the room in Milbank (and the room wasn't all that different from way back when). She's also keeping busy teaching at Concordia in Montreal.

I seem always to end on a sad note. The College sends word that **Ellen Franklin Wagner** died on Nov. 22, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Arthur, a daughter, and a grandson. The College confirmed the death of **Muriel Huckman Walter** on July 24, 2009, via her daughter-in-law, Eva Walter. We send condolences to both families.

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55<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 – June 6, 2010

# 55

Our 55th reunion is June 3-6. An energetic group of classmates have been working on this milestone

celebration. **Barbara Neogy Lapcek** has been meeting with members of the Class of 2005, planning a luncheon and panel highlighting the differences 50 years have made. You won't want to miss the opportunity to hear President Spar speak, to enjoy socializing at a cocktail buffet hosted by **Diana Touliatou Vagelos** and her husband, Roy, or to witness the changes on the Barnard campus, including The Diana Center.

**Barbara Di Micco Salotto** moved from Somers, N.Y., to Avon Park, Fla., but will return for Reunion.

**Florence Kavaler** writes, "After many years of a hyperactive retirement, I have accepted a position as associate dean for research administration, and professor and chair in the department of environmental and occupational health at the School of Public Health, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, in Brooklyn, N.Y. I continue to try my best at acquiring skills as a duplicate bridge player and enjoy living in Manhattan."

Another active retiree is **Lenore Prostick Gouyet**, who taught piano at a conservatory in Paris. During her teaching days, she taught all seven of **Henriette Doll De Vitry's** grandchildren and plans to play the entire Gian Carlo Menotti Suite for Two Cellos and Piano at a memorial concert for Henriette next month. She died in June 2007, and every year on the anniversary of her death a concert is held. The first was in a Paris church, with Yo-Yo Ma playing the cello. The second was held in a church near Henriette's country home, and since then the memorial concert has been at the family's country home. Lenore, describes the piece as "fiendishly difficult." Congratulations, Lenore, on the marriage of your daughter, Beatrice, to Francois Cibot in August 2008. Beatrice is climbing the corporate ladder at Hermès, heading their handbag and luggage departments.

It's a pleasure to announce that **Barbara Silver Horowitz** and her husband, Gedale, are two of the 2010 recipients of the Columbia Alumni Medals. The medal recognizes dedicated alumni for distinguished service of 10 years or more to the university and to its associated colleges. The medals will be bestowed at Commencement on May 18.

In January, **Gisela von Scheven Fort, Barbara Kahn Gaba, Doris Joyner Bell Griffin**, Barbara Horowitz, **Barbara Banner Lieberman, Duane Lloyd Patterson, Marcella Jung Rosen, Carol Held Scharff, Ellen Blumenthal Sehgal**, and Diana Vagelos met for a luncheon in New York.

Finally, I have enjoyed being your class correspondent for the past 10 years. It is time now to give someone else a turn. If you have any interest in taking on this rewarding quarterly assignment, do contact our class president, **Renee Becker Swartz**, at [reneebswartz@gmail.com](mailto:reneebswartz@gmail.com).

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## 56

**Judith Wilson Cox** died last August after a long battle with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Judy was the daughter of a judge, the wife of a surgeon, a pen pal to Harry Truman, and a onetime girlfriend to baseball icon Ted Williams. After Barnard, she married and moved to San Luis Obispo, Calif., where she raised her children. Some years later she divorced and moved to Palm Springs, ultimately settling in San Diego, where she enjoyed theatre, literature, games, and family.

**Debra Ackerman Blum**, also from San Diego, attended the "celebration of life service" for Judy and wrote the following piece: "Judith Wilson Cox lived at the end of the hall on 5 Hewitt, in a suite with **Barbara Cahill Melendez**. I remember Judy as very kind and friendly, exuding a bright and sunny demeanor. At one of our recent reunions, I met Barbara Melendez, who gave me Judy's number in the San Diego area, and [Judy and I] met for lunch. Judy was still all of the above and, in that short visit, gave me some very important advice about one of life's lessons, regarding the terrible pressures of damaging classmates on young academic minds. Judy's grandson's high school in Santee was controlled by some very rough and

dangerous gang members. Judy, to save that young man, moved to San Diego so he could live in the city and go to a better school ... it worked. At the time we met, Judy was still smoking and for me (who had 'no smoking' on my dorm-room door), that was a problem. I'm sorry that those smokes and the resulting COPD cut her life short. I met her children at the lovely service they had arranged ... [none of them were smoking]. Her daughter, who looks like the Judy I knew at school, is just as creative and bright as her mother and is carrying on for the next generation."

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**Lizabeth A. Moody '56**, dean emeritus and distinguished university professor at Stetson University College of Law, was

inducted into the Stetson Law Hall of Fame. One of seven women in her class of 160 law graduates at Yale, Lizabeth became a partner at a prominent Cleveland law firm and was one of the first women rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. From 1994 to 1999 she served as vice president and dean of Stetson Law. Under her direction, Stetson opened the new library and laid the foundation for part-time and international programs.

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## 57

I've counted 20 classmates with Florida addresses, and I bet there are a number of part-timers as well. This really hit home while I was compiling these notes amid a New York cold wave. Coincidentally, we received this note from **Morrisa Jampole McCoy** who was catching up with winter escapees: "**Carol Zudiker Alexander** and **Vera Salomon Stein** and I are having a [get-together] in January in the Fort

Lauderdale area. It is a blessing to have such wonderful longtime friends."

**Iris Robinson Leopold** writes from New Jersey: "After teaching math for 30 years at Livingston High School (18 as math supervisor), I retired. I am now a math adjunct at Caldwell College, also in New Jersey. I mainly teach statistics. In between, I do private math tutoring, including coaching my grandsons, and I am involved in various community activities. I am a trustee of the Livingston Library and active in the local AAUW branch."

**Elisabeth Muller Lockwood** was surprised to hear from us: "Can't imagine how you found me after all these years, but here goes: Married, divorced; three daughters, two married; four grandchildren; worked at a couple of magazines and one, now defunct, newspaper before signing up with the Stamford, Conn., board of education for 25 years. Quit about 11 years ago, went to work for Corporate Angel Network, moved to Cape Cod, and am working part time for the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History as well as for Joan Anderson, author of *A Year by the Sea*. Extracurricular activities: Spearheaded the drive to renovate kids' school, started an after-school program in every Stamford elementary school, served on the Greenbelt and Democratic City committees, president of two PTA's, and on the board of the Boys and Girls Club. Now I can be found lazily digging into the sheer comfort of the golden sands of the Cape."

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# 58

**Ellen Weintrob Schor's** column was mistakenly omitted from the winter issue: Michael A. Burstein, the son of the late **Eleanor Cohen Burstein**,

welcomed fraternal twin girls, Elisheva Meira and Yael Batya. He writes, "Mom had three sons and always told us that if one of us had been a girl she would have named her Elizabeth, for her grandmother. As Elisheva is the Hebrew equivalent for Elizabeth, I'm pleased to have finally given Mom her Elizabeth."

**Yvonne Groseil** has a PhD in anthropology and is teaching English as a second language at the college level. While working on a master's in TESOL, she was curious about the national organization of ESL teachers' emphasis on "professionalization" in much of their literature, and she decided to write her master's essay on this topic. She's now trying to turn it into an article to submit to the *Anthropology of Work Review*, a peer-reviewed journal.

**Reiko Kase Nagura** is a performer of Japanese dance, and goes by the artist name Masatoyo Wakayagi. In October, Reiko, her daughter, who also dances, and her two grandchildren performed a piece called "Chrysanthemum" in a big theatre. Reiko said it was pretty awful because you have to dress in costume and wear heavy wigs! It was expensive, too: You have to tip the wig man, the dresser, and the makeup man (you also get smeared all over in white). All this she explained to Arthur Golden, who found it useful for his novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*.

**Vicki Wolf Cobb** writes for the blog Interesting Nonfiction for Kids (I.N.K.), inkrethink.blogspot.com. Her most recent books for children are *We Dare You!: Hundreds of Science Bets, Challenges, and Experiments You Can Do at Home* and *Marie Curie*, a biography. Vicki says the authors of I.N.K. are launching a new Web site with a free searchable database.

Sadly, **Rosemary Frankel Furman** passed away on Sept. 6, 2009. She is survived by her husband, Richard, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

**Crystie Combothekras Halsted** passed away on Sept. 23, 2008. She is survived by her son, John, and his wife, Ann-Marie Ackley Halsted '89.

I live in the Woodlands Retirement Community in Fairfax, Va., and I'm in awe over the way this place is managed. We're truly being pampered. My decision to move here was made easier by communicating with **Betty Lanier**

**Jenkins**, who lives in a similar place with her husband, Bert, in Ohio. —EWS

Former roommates **Marcia Spelman De Fren** and **Mary Ann Pollack Dubner** enjoyed a few fun-filled days together when Mary Ann visited Marcia in Florida last December. They went to the gym for dance aerobics, attended a lecture on Obama's first year by Florida Atlantic University professor Jeffrey Morton, heard a concert at Palm Beach Atlantic University, had "mani-pedis" at the local salon, attended a David Mamet play, and caught up on news. Mary Ann, who had retired from a career as a psychotherapist, missed it so much that she has taken on three cases just to keep her brain cells working. Marcia edits her community's 40-page monthly newsletter, *River Walk Talk*, and is captain of her senior women's tennis team again this year.

After publishing *Moving to the Center of the Bed: The Artful Creation of a Life Alone* in 2008 (centerofthebed.com), **Sheila Wohlreich Weinstein** now blogs for psychologytoday.com, in connection with the issues in the book.

**Hannah Razdow Simon** is active in the Barnard Club of Boston and in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Tufts University, where she leads and participates in study groups, including one on immigration.

Sadly, we have information on the deaths of several classmates. **Barbara Mann Goodman's** widower, Richard, reports that she passed away on May 20, 2009. Rena Clahr Cochlin '62 writes that her sister, **Isabel Clahr Ford**, died on June 15, 2009, in London, where she had lived for many years with her husband, Keith Robinson. She had retired from teaching due to Parkinson's disease, which was the cause of her death. Finally, an obituary in *The New York Times* noted the death of **Jessica Hobby Catto** on Sept. 30, 2009, due to colon cancer. She is survived by her husband, Henry, four children, 11 grandchildren, and one brother. Our class offers its deepest sympathy to the families of these Barnard sisters. —ARS

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# 59

**Louise Knopp Levine** spends the dead of winter in Florida, where she's a "snowbird" until the end of March. Despite the cold weather, she plays tennis, golf, and bridge at PGA in Palm Beach Gardens. Sounds like a hard life in sunny, warm Florida.

**Janys Adams Harvey Krane** was in the real estate business for 40 years in Chicago. She and her husband now spend half the year in Paris.

**Joan Nagourney Lesser** writes, "I was married a few days after my last final exam, and my husband and I celebrated our 50th anniversary last year. We've had two daughters, one of whom graduated from Barnard in 1982 and another who received a master's from Columbia. In a Malthusian progression, the two girls have provided us with six grandchildren, whom I dote on. While I was washing bottles and diapers (before they were disposable), I earned a master's degree at Hofstra, and when my younger girl went to school full time, so did I. I began a wonderful career teaching English at Hewlett High School on Long Island. I retired when I felt I could no longer correct essays in the wee hours of the morning. So we moved from Long Island to Manhattan, where I have been pretty much a playgirl, indulging in theatre, museums, jazz clubs, etc. Retirement has also given us the opportunity for much foreign travel. My volunteer activities have been mostly political. I've been an ardent Democratic foot soldier in the last three presidential campaigns and am glad to have finally been on the winning side. I also did some work with Russian immigrants until they moved the program to Brooklyn.... I also swim several miles a week at Asphalt Green in New York City. Of course, a mini-biography skips the hard times and disappointments, and there have been those. But in retrospect and on balance, there have been more good than bad these past

50 years, although I'm not sure I always realized this as I was living them." Joan's recollections of 50 years skipping the hard times are in line, I think, with the rest of us.

I sadly report that **Mary Weber Hall** died on Oct. 15, 2009. The source of the information was a research Web site. She is survived by her husband, Robert, and her daughter.

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50<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 – June 6, 2010

# 60

**Joyce Duran Stern** writes, "We moved from our house of 40 years (!) in residential northwest Washington, D.C., to a nearby apartment building. It's only a mile away, but much more urban. We are a half a block from a shopping strip, across from a small university, and virtually on top of the Metro, [which] takes us everywhere.... We moved because, alas, I could no longer handle four flights of stairs. (Aging is tough, but we all know that.) We continue to travel, visiting family and playing tourist. Since my husband, Michael Stern (CC '59), retired, we have focused on American cities like Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, where we do historical walking tours. We also enjoy smaller places like Doylestown, Pa., and New Britain, Conn., where we visit regional art museums to indulge our new passion for American Impressionism. When in town, I work part-time as a senior editor for an education consulting firm."

**Carol Murray Lane** writes: "I've been retired for almost six years, and I am keeping very busy with volunteer work and a family that has expanded to include four grandchildren, ages 3 to 6, who live in Dayton, Ohio, and western New Jersey. Trips to visit them constitute most of our travel, but we have made three trips in the past four years to sail in the Caribbean, most recently to the British Virgin Islands in February 2010. We bareboat charter sailboats,

acting as our own crew: the first time with a 36-foot monohull; the next two times, a 44-foot catamaran with three other couples ... all experienced sailors. Our own boat is a 32-foot sloop, which we sail mostly on Long Island Sound. In June 2009, I was elected to my third full term as a trustee and deputy mayor of our north shore incorporated village, Poquott. Local politics is a revelation!"

Sadly, I have belatedly received news of the death of **Elizabeth Franklin Ponton** on Dec. 13, 2004. I welcome remembrances of her.

So many of our classmates are gone or having mobility issues; it's great to hear from those of you who, like Joyce and Carol, will be at our 50th reunion! As for me, the problem is that from late April through the first week of June I'll be in Oxford, England, where my husband will be a fellow of Balliol College (shades of Lord Peter Wimsey!). Subsequent travel to Scotland will coincide with Reunion. I'm doing my best to dovetail in a trip to New York. I have my fingers crossed (which is making typing this difficult); let me know if you're in England's Home Counties.

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# 61

**Margaret (Margie) Niederberger Dickey's** 70th birthday plan was a trip to Washington, D.C., in April to stay with **Patricia Povilitis Paulette**, along with her husband and several close friends. Pat is a hoot (as they say in the South). She plans to attend our 50th reunion.

**Ina Weinstein Young's** son, Mark Halperin, coauthored the best-selling book *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime*. It jumped to number one on the best-seller list just a week or two after its publication in January.

**Christine Reitlinger Angiel** posted on the Alumnae Network: "For those who remember my boyfriend from Columbia College, Serge Angiel, who then became my husband for 45 years,

it is with the most profound sadness that I inform you of his death in August 2007. I live in New Jersey now and my daughter, her husband, and their 3-year-old daughter, Cleo, live in Berkeley, Calif. They just had their second little girl, Elise, in July 2009, and I was busy babysitting Cleo for that event. Then I went to Greece for two months to see how it would be there without Serge. I was lucky to have a widow friend accompany me, and I found so much love and warmth in Greece that I will continue to spend my summers there. I have become a long-distance commuting grandmother. I now see **Barbara Clarke Garcia-Romero** and **Sherry Hyman Miller** when I go to the Bay Area.... If you live [in the] New York/New Jersey area, let me know; let's meet and catch up."

Batya Schaefer Levin '60 tells us that **Mierle Laderman Ukeles**, a good friend of hers, is an artist with "an intellectual aspect to her philosophy." Mierle had an exhibition, "In the Beginning: Artists Respond to Genesis," Nov. 22, 2009, through Feb. 28, 2010. You can see Mierle installing her exhibit at the Jewish Museum in New York City at [thejewishmuseum.org/blog/?tag=mierle-laderman-ukeles](http://thejewishmuseum.org/blog/?tag=mierle-laderman-ukeles).

**Genevieve Ramos Acker** is the head of the Barnard Club of Paris. She sent us a copy of the club's newsletter and all their events, including book and author discussions, Barnard professors and administrators meeting with alumnae, and social events. She's doing a fabulous job. Contact her via the Alumnae Network when you're in Paris.

Distilled from **Judith Dulinawka Wesling's** Christmas letter: In March 2009 she went to Madison, Wis., to see her grandson Oliver act in a play based on Charles Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*. In May Judith and her husband, Donald, spent two weeks in Rome celebrating his 70th birthday and drinking in Rome's sights—literally. She made it her goal to drink from every water fountain she could find in Rome. In late July, she took her grandsons Malcolm and Eric to visit her childhood home in western New York. In October she made a lightning trip to New York City, attending meetings for the Class of 1961 at Barnard. In November she celebrated her 70th birthday with a family dinner at

an Italian restaurant named Mamma Mia. Donald spent the summer as director of the Clarion Workshop at the University of California, San Diego, a science fiction/fantasy workshop for writers from all over the United States.

**Illa Rocconi de Quintanilla** has created her official Facebook page: EducationUSA Peru.

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## 62

**Joyce Ragen Prenner** is enjoying her new job supervising graduate students who are working as teachers. She's also helping out a friend who's a principal by working with the school's social-studies department.

**Patricia Klubnik Tarallo** has four grown daughters, two of whom have three children each, and all of whom live some distance from her, so Patty's busy helping her aging mother alone. Patty had a problem with her hip but it's healing now. She enjoys going to the opera, traveling, swimming, singing in a choir, and volunteering in a thrift shop. She also enjoys going to Disney World with her grandchildren off-season.

**Harriet Kaye Inselbuch** had successful open-heart surgery on Oct. 28, 2009, followed by a fairly swift recovery and looks forward to traveling in 2010—Hawaii in February, Japan in May, and an Alaskan cruise in August with her Barnard daughter and family. Harriet and her husband, Elihu, celebrated their 48th anniversary on Christmas Eve 2009.

Rev. **Rayni Roberta Weintraub Joan** writes that in the past decades she has been divorced, raised a son, left New York, changed her name, remarried, moved to California, published an autobiographical novel, gone through some health crises, and emerged well. About 12 years ago, when she was traveling around the country doing consciousness-raising workshops, she became Rayni Joan and it stuck (*rayni* means teacher). Her autobiographical

novel is *The Skinny Adventures of America's First Bulimic*.

**Elinor Yudin Sachse** and her family have been very productive. Her daughter, Marianna, and son-in-law, Nathan Arbitman, had their first child, Elias Liam Arbitman, on Oct. 16, 2009. Her son, Michael, and his wife, Erin, and their daughter, Nora, moved to Washington, D.C., and welcomed Theo Segal Sachse on Nov. 26, 2009. Elinor has a 40-image photo show at the Levine School of Music in D.C., until June 2010. She has also written two books, *Nana and Papa Go to Paris* and *Recipes and Memories*, both available at blurb.com.

On Dec. 8, 2009, **Sally Hess** presented a short dance called Symbolic Action in "Crossing Boundaries," a works-in-process series at laboratory theatre Dixon Place. Sally continues to dance, choreograph, and teach.

**Susan Migden Socolow**, the Samuel Dobbs Professor of Latin American History at Emory University, was recently elected to the Argentine National Academy of History, the first American to receive this honor. Susan is also the author of *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, and she's fluent in French, Portuguese, and Spanish. She and her husband, Daniel, visit New York frequently to see their sons, Ari and Josh, and their extraordinary granddaughter, Sasha. For the past three years, Susan has been learning to be a silversmith, and she hopes to continue writing history and making silver objects when she retires.

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## 63

**K.P. Moseley** writes that she retired from a six-year stint with the State Department in 2006 but still spends time in Africa researching the histories and hierarchies of Saharan oasis towns. Recently she traveled around the Mississippi Delta, pursuing interests in zydeco and the blues. She'll be back in



Africa for fieldwork in Mauritania.

**Jane Ruben Guttman** has also retired, after 20 years in the systems department at *The New York Times*. Her new interest is chelonian husbandry, and she's now a New York State-licensed wildlife rehabilitator, specializing in turtles. She paints wildlife as well and has exhibited in shows.

**Eleanor Weber Dickman** volunteers for the nationwide PJ Library program, which offers free books monthly to Jewish children over a six-year period. With this, family visits, and work for other organizations such as Hadassah and Jewish Family Services, Eleanor keeps busy and tells us that she's content.

**Elizabeth (Libby) Thompson Ortiz** retired from teaching and social work in 2001 and was diagnosed that year with breast cancer, which metastasized to the bones in 2006. She notes the large community of women who are living many years with metastasized cancers. Apart from limited energy due to chemo treatments, Libby reports she's symptom-free. She now does watercolors and is happily anticipating a 62-day cruise to exotic Asian ports. She's also looking forward to being a grandparent.

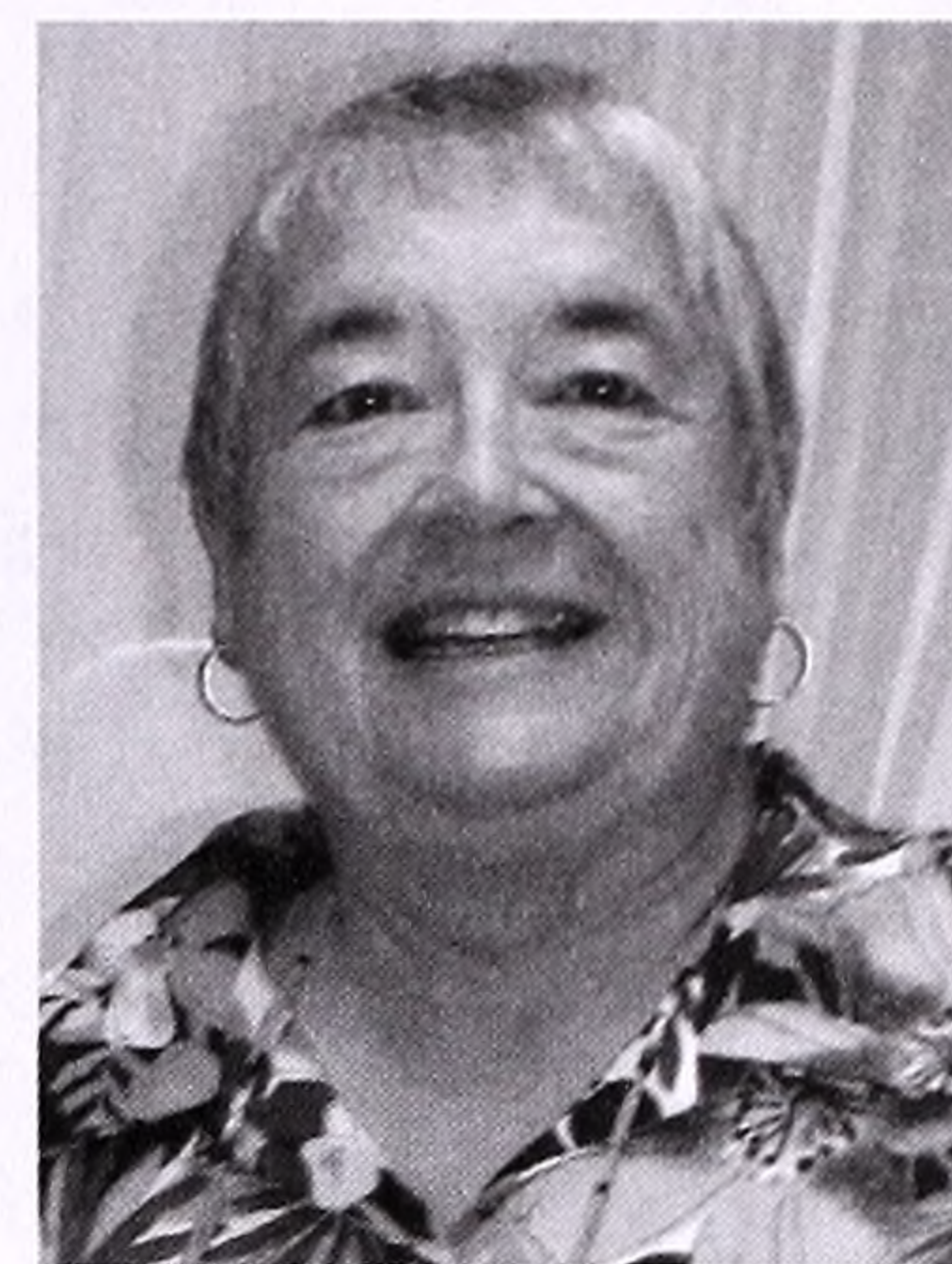
**Loretta Tremblay Azzarone** writes that her "new thing" is yoga. She tries to attend classes several times a week and finds great benefit in them. Recently she traveled to Alaska, where yoga-induced stamina enabled her to take more than 1,000 photos. **Pearl Sternschuss Vogel**, too, writes of travel. She describes a wonderful cruise with her husband around South America as well as plans for a trip with the families of their three children.

**Helen Rauch-Elnekave** has returned to Maalot, Israel, after four years in the United States caring for her elderly parents. Although officially retired, she continues to maintain a part-time pediatric psychology practice there. She loves Israel, but misses her two daughters and four grandchildren in West Hartford, Conn.

**Judith Bennett Wilson** has retired as well, after "a couple of careers (advertising and publishing) and a couple of husbands." She and her husband are leaving their suburban house for an apartment in Providence,

## Staging a Comeback

### Linda López McAlister '61



"I didn't think, 'Oh boy, when I retire I want to get back to theatre,'" says Linda López McAlister '61. "It just happened." A philosophy major, McAlister was active in Barnard's Wigs and Cues; she acted and stage-managed for a few years after graduating, until "I decided it was time to earn a living." Back to philosophy it was, culminating in a doctorate from Cornell and a teaching and administrative career spanning California, Florida, and New York. At first she'd thought of going back to theatre in the summers, but then realized she'd need that time for research and writing. After that, "I never thought about going back for 30 years."

By the early 1990s, she was chairing the women's studies department at the University of South Florida. An only child, she was also caring for her mother, who had Alzheimer's disease. The juggling pointed her to early retirement, and to New Mexico where her mother's Spanish-descended family once lived. Although she and her mother were native Angelenos, "it felt like home."

After several newspaper ads led to theatre positions, McAlister was named dramaturge for a production of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*. In 2006, following a move to Albuquerque after her mother died, she decided to try directing *Copenhagen*, which was coproduced with the National Hispanic Cultural Center. That was the start of Camino Real Productions. Says McAlister, "I provide the play, and they handle the technical aspects." In addition to the Albuquerque production, there were performances in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, linked to Albuquerque on the old Camino Real route to Mexico City. Camino Real also produces adaptations and original works for KUNM's Radio Theatre, with loyal followers also on the Internet.

A founder of the Albuquerque Theatre Guild, McAlister points proudly to its 33 member companies and 150 individual members. "Before joining together, we were all working in a vacuum." She was invited to help develop a health promotion radio drama by and for Native Americans, and, although she says she's happiest as an administrator-director-producer, she keeps her hand in acting by playing patients in medical school videos. Finally, harking back to her Spanish roots, she creates English supertitles for National Hispanic Cultural Center productions of plays by Federico García Lorca and the traditional Spanish operettas known as *zarzuelas*. "It's been one quirky coincidence after another," McAlister says, "and I'm having the time of my life." —*Trudy Balch '78*

R.I., which she tells us is a "wonderful and manageable" city. Judith mentions in her e-mail that this is the very first time she has sent news for this column, and your correspondents encourage everyone to follow her example.

Class officers have begun planning for our 50th reunion, and we hope to hear from you as we look forward to 2013. Please access our class Web page on the Barnard site for more news and photos. —SRS

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# 64

After 22 years in her own practice as a CPA in San Diego, **Sharon Block Korn** is mostly retired, as is her husband. They've been spending a lot of time in Florida with their two grandchildren. Sharon's main project has been editing her son Daniel's book, *Why Diet and Exercise Fail*, in which he presents some interesting ideas about the increasing rates of obesity and how to reverse the trend. "As a result," she writes, "I have lost all the weight I want to lose."

**Daisy Breuer Merrey** has published four books: *Don't Be a Slave to What You Crave*, *The Palm Beach Diet Doctor's Prescription*, and *Beyond Diet and Exercise*, and an autobiography, *First Born in Tangiers*. Her fifth book, *Fit or Fat*, is almost finished, and she's still working full time in internal medicine, bariatrics, and aesthetic medicine.

In anticipation of turning 65, **Ronnie Kaye** returned to school and is now a third year doctoral student at the New Center for Psychoanalysis.

With her husband, **Alicia Sainer** lives in Manhattan, where she conducts an independent psychotherapy practice for adults aged 18 and older. Alicia received her master's in social work from Hunter College School of Social Work, CUNY, where she serves as an adjunct faculty member. "I am extraordinarily fortunate," she writes, "to have found my calling in midlife, combining my experience and expertise in adult education and in mental-health care."

When she got off the plane in Toronto on her return from Reunion, **Janet Kirschenbaum Horowitz** was greeted with the news of the birth of her second granddaughter and went straight to the hospital to meet her. She says, "Probably not too many of our classmates had such a welcome-back gift."

**Suzanne Selby Grenager** is sorry to have missed our 45th reunion but has been deep into editing *In All Our Gory Glory*, her first of several books, which is "all about ... how together we might help heal our hurting world in the collaborative feminine way." She welcomes contact about the book.

**Adele Ludin Boskey** received the Alfred R. Shands, Jr., MD, Award

for "significant contributions to orthopaedics" and in recognition of "the devotion of a significant portion of the professional lifetime to furthering knowledge in the fields of musculoskeletal disease," jointly sponsored by the American Orthopaedic Association and the Orthopaedic Research Society. She holds leadership positions in research and teaching at Cornell's Weill Medical College.

If I couldn't include your news here, look for it in the summer issue.

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## Ellen R. Gritz '64

The Committee on the Status of Women at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston selected Ellen R.

Gritz, PhD, Olla S. Stribling Distinguished Chair for Cancer Research, as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Professional Woman Award. The award honors professional women who demonstrate a pioneering spirit, support women as mentors and as role models and make significant contributions to quality of life and public service.

45<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 – June 6, 2010

# 65

Our last column, as our second term as co-correspondents draws to an end, is also our longest column. Thanks to all who have written through the years.

**Ellen Kozak** writes: "I'm still in Milwaukee ... doing book contracts, copyrights, publishing law, some writing for magazines and newspapers, and some public-radio essays. Book contracts are really my thing—I think I'd draft and/or review them even if I won the lottery and could afford to retire."

**Carol Symonds Worthey**, who lives in Hollywood Hills, Calif., is a composer and a painter. As a composer, she says, "from October to December I

had seven world premieres throughout greater Los Angeles ... Philadelphia, and ... in Florence." And as a painter, "In 2007 I participated in the Florence Biennale, where I won an award, and then had exhibits in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica." Carol is writing a book called *Turning Life Into Art: How a Composer Works*. Her aim is to "enlighten the general music lover on some [basic] principles of the creative process of composers," albeit each composer has an individual approach. Carol has been married for 29 years and has a daughter, Meghan.

We extend deepest condolences to **Beverly Bertiger Weiss**, who writes: "In 2006 my husband and I moved to Hollywood, Fla., from New Jersey. He retired from his job as a director of Avionic's engineering, and I left my job as the head of the math department at the Frisch School in Paramus, N.J. Shortly after our arrival, he became ill and passed away in January 2009. To keep my life full, I now teach and run the math department at a private Jewish high school in Boca Raton, Fla. My children are all happily married... The best is the seven grandchildren who manage to keep me busy." Beverly enjoys reading Class Notes, as many Barnard graduates are her former students. She gets particular joy in writing their letters of recommendations.

**Laura Levine** and her husband traveled from Los Angeles to Laguna Beach to meet with Barbara Grado Devir '66 and her husband, who were disembarking from a Panama Canal cruise. Laura's latest "Jaine Austen comedy mystery," *Death of a Trophy Wife*, came out in April.

**Betty Troderman Howell** writes, "After 35 years and 10 days of living in Montreal, I became a Canadian citizen (while retaining my U.S. passport). I live here with my husband, Paul." Betty has two children. She and Paul visit New York often and think of it as their "American home." After studying in Germany and returning to New York to work, they decided they "needed something different—not least of all, a different head of government (we left just after Nixon was sworn in as president)." They "came to a Canada under Pierre Elliott Trudeau. It is a decision we haven't regretted. I obtained

a master's degree in translation from the University of Montreal in 1977 and have worked as a translator, from French and German to English, ever since. I taught translation at McGill for 15 years." She's very active in professional associations, speaking at conferences about the business of translation and the "déformation professionnelle caused by constant exposure to other people's thoughts and other languages." She's trying to work a little less, and play cello and exercise more. Betty remembers her Barnard years with fondness. "When I moved to Montreal, it was hard to find women with a university education. Now more than half the university students, including the professional schools (except engineering) are women. When I tell my granddaughters what women weren't allowed to do or didn't think they could do when I was their age, they shrug their shoulders and ask me if we had electricity then."

**Elizabeth Faber Bernhardt**

made a business trip to Chicago and had dinner with **Marlyn Grossman**, who grew up in Great Neck, N.Y., but moved to Chicago after graduate school. She's a psychologist and has had the same partner for almost 30 years. Elizabeth reports, "I really felt we were back in college. I could see the young woman and the mature woman simultaneously, and appreciated why we became and remain friends."

Our 45th reunion is upon us! From the reunion committee: On Thursday evening everyone is invited to the home of **Evan Nurick Zimroth-Wollman** for a light supper and to meet with classmates. Friday morning a classmate of ours is being honored—we hope you'll turn out to celebrate her achievements. On Friday evening Professor Serge Gavronsky will speak about his new book. At Saturday's lunch we'll have a professor of architecture at Barnard speak about The Diana Center, the new building on campus, and share with us its design features and its uses. Saturday afternoon and evening we're planning a trip to the theatre and dinner. Afterwards, everyone is invited to the home of **B-J Lunin-Frishberg** and her husband, Dov, for a wine, cheese, and dessert reception and to talk into the night. Columbia's class of '65 will join us after their activities.

We're having a contest to determine the slogan for our class T-shirt and the theme for our reunion. The prizes are a \$10 gift certificate to Tom's Restaurant. Please e-mail your ideas to B-J at [bjlf65@gmail.com](mailto:bjlf65@gmail.com). Winners will be announced at the class dinner. Please visit our class Web page, [alum.barnard.edu/1965](http://alum.barnard.edu/1965) to download and fill out a page to be included in our class book.

Please let us know if you'd be willing to host a classmate for Reunion or if you need a place to stay. Program discounts are available for those experiencing financial difficulties. Contact Vanessa Alexander in Alumnae Affairs for more information, 212.854.2005.

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# 66

Thank goodness for Barnard e-mail blasts. It was great to hear from you! **Alice Rubinstein Gochman** writes how happy she is living full time in Chatham, N.Y. As a tried-and-true New York City girl with a 30-year career on glamorous magazines such as *Gourmet*, she enjoyed fancy restaurants, travel, theatre, and ballet. "Now all I like to do in winter is sit in my lodge-like house, looking out the windows at cardinals, deer, the occasional coyote, and the very occasional bobcat," she says. Alice and her husband, Richard, moved to upstate New York full time in 2004. One great pleasure is the Old Chatham Hunt Club. They are "beaglers," which means they follow the hounds on foot as they get the scent of the rabbits. She says that the rabbits "mercifully always go to ground and then the hunt begins again." They walk for two hours or so over beautiful land and then enjoy a bountiful spread of food and wine at a member's house. She reports that at the end of the season she and Richard were awarded

their "colours"—the right to wear green jackets and have a yellow collar. Alice now has time to paint and do collage work and read. Richard has an enormous train layout and says it's never too late to have a happy childhood. Alice mentions that **Judith Pinsof Meyer** visited her twice and they had a wonderful time. Alice wishes us all health and peace.

**Mary Siegel Bleiberg** is the executive director of ReServe, a private nonprofit group created in 2005 and based in New York City, that matches retirees (55 and older) with part-time stipended assignments in public agencies and private nonprofit organizations. To date, ReServe has placed more than 1,000 people (including several alumnae) in positions in more than 300 agencies. Mary's two children, Kathryn and Nicholas, are each married, have two children, and live in New York City, as does Mary. Her husband, Charles (CC '64), recently retired from the law to devote himself to painting and selling his paintings.

**Annette Niemtzw** is producing Oscar-winner Alan Menken's new musical, *Leap of Faith*. The show begins at the Ahmanson Theatre in Los Angeles this summer and will be on Broadway in late 2010 or spring 2011.

**Faith Holsaert** lives in Durham, N.C., with her partner, Vicki Smith. Faith is semiretired, spending her time writing fiction, working in the community, and being a grandmother to seven. She and five other women active in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s civil rights movement have put together a book called *Hands on the Freedom Plow*, which chronicles the experiences of more than 50 women who worked for the SNCC. It has taken them more than 15 years to compile and edit. The book is scheduled for release by University of Illinois Press in September 2010.

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# 67

**Marian Heimer Block's** big news is the birth of her first grandchild, Jonah Densmore Block, in November. She has given herself some breathing room by recently retiring from clinical practice, leaving only her full-time job as vice president and chief quality officer for West Pennsylvania Hospital.

In the late 1970s, after being a New Yorker for a decade, **Judith Devons** returned to the U.K., where she spent her childhood. She spent 20 years working first in publishing and then for a social-history museum while raising her three sons. Twelve years ago, she remarried, moved to a new home in a new city, and started a new degree. She's now a freelance artist, making screen prints and ceramics, exhibiting her work, and leading workshops from her home studio. She has spurts of incredibly focused work and then periods of relaxed socializing, reading, hiking, and traveling to visit family and friends, mainly in New York and Israel.

**Jane Cummings Roche** writes, "I retired from teaching in September 2005 and quickly discovered that retirement is delicious. In fact, it feels a bit like being a teenager again ... except now I have my own car, can stay out as late—or early—as I please and occasionally someone puts some money in my checking account.... I manage to keep quite busy with eight grandchildren all within a short drive.... When I combine visiting with exercising, reading, playing with friends, and the occasional lecture, museum, concert, or movie, it makes my mid-60s reminiscent of the mid '60s."

**Barbara Kelman Ravage** dropped off her census form at her town hall, where she ran into **Janet Carlson Taylor**. On Saturdays, Barbara volunteers at the Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, alongside **Martha Richman Carroll**. Martha and Barbara attend the same Tuesday morning yoga class. Janet, Martha, Barbara, and **Jane Donnelly Buck** are members of Barnard on Cape Cod, an informal group of 20 alumnae of all ages who get together a few times a year. Jane recently went to a play with Isabel (Belle) Lincoln Elmer '49 and sees Olga

Kahn '68 at a weekly morning coffee group of independent professionals focused on running small businesses in these uncertain times. Barbara's son, Jesse, graduated from Swarthmore in 2004, got a master's in public policy and a second master's in Middle East studies from the University of Chicago, and is looking for a job in microfinance.

**Jessica Lobel Kahn** is professor of education at Chestnut Hill College. She's also involved in a demanding project to create a library for a Philadelphia public elementary school with which the college has a professional relationship. One of her sons recently had successful open-heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. Jessica found the improvements in such surgery impressive. Her grandson, Ben, is almost 3, and Jessica loves being a grandmother. Not to neglect her love of travel, she and her husband took a seven-week trip last spring to Australia and New Zealand.

After a long, painful divorce, **Sarabjit Kaur Zavaleta** is moving into a new phase of her life. Besides renovating her apartment in Manhattan extensively, she has been writing, dancing tango every week, and "doing all that life requires—surviving and living in a good way." Sarab continues to travel, with recent trips to France and India, and she often flies to California, where her three grandchildren live. Her second daughter, Alexis, will be moving to Santa Cruz soon, and her son still lives with her in Manhattan. Sarab plans to develop customized tours to France, India, Italy, and Spain for alumnae and friends.

**Jane Allen Petrick** and her husband, Kalle, divide their time between Coral Gables, Fla., and Woodstock, N.Y. Her "semi-retirement" seems to have gone by the board as her organizational psychologist practice continues and she teaches at two online universities. Her son, Seth Schiesel, is a feature writer for *The New York Times*.

**Merry Selk** has joined the staff of Partnership for the Public's Health, a social-change organization in Oakland, Calif. She shares information, via Internet and print, about communities throughout California collaborating to improve the environment for exercise and healthy foods. Merry's younger daughter, Juliet, is a first-year at the University of California, Santa Barbara,

and her older daughter, Elanna, is a senior at Sarah Lawrence. Merry and her husband, Pasquale, spent a month in Europe and Istanbul last spring, visiting Elanna, who studied linguistics in Florence, Italy, for her junior year abroad.

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# 68

The Alumnae Affairs e-mail blast worked wonders! I'm pretty sure I replied to everyone, but if I missed you, I apologize.

**Barbara Prostkoff Zimmerman** writes, "I'm serving as copresident of the Denver chapter of Hadassah, at a time when nonprofits are struggling to raise funds.... I'm also serving my fourth year as president of the Rocky Mountain chapter of the American Medical Writers Association.... I still have my freelance medical-writing business, but work sporadically when I have the time and when the assignment is a good fit.

"Steve and I are now in Denver over 38 years. We came here with our 9-month-old baby to escape the demands and controls of our families. We are now an immediate family of 15 in Denver and have remodeled and enlarged our house to accommodate everyone! Our daughter, Robin, lives down the street with her husband and four children (ages 10, 7, 5, and 10 months). Our son, Marty, lives nearby with his wife and two children (ages 6 and 5). My mother and brother also live nearby, as does Marty's mother-in-law. We're [frequently] together for holidays or other celebrations. I'm often asked to babysit and I find it hard to say no. My mother is now 92 and [still] aware of her surroundings, but is very frail and demanding. She has full-time help, but wants me to be there often to support her. It isn't always pleasant or easy. I wonder how many of our classmates are finding themselves in similar situations? Steve is still practicing law full time and has similar family issues, but we try to 'escape' to our mountain condo or travel

when we can.... My article 'The New Health Technology,' concerning the bioscience industry in Colorado, was published in the January 2010 edition of *Denver Magazine*...."

From **Alison Hayford**: "I have been head of the department of visual arts at the University of Regina for two and a half years, and since last July I am also associate dean of the faculty of fine arts, while continuing to teach in the department of sociology and social studies, which is where I ended up with my doctorate in geography.... I have grandsons, who live in Minneapolis with their parents, my daughter, Jane, and her husband, Ben Ansell, who are both in the political science department at the University of Minnesota. My other daughter, Meg, recently completed a master's in ecosystems, governance, and globalization at Stockholm University and is now back in Montreal. My husband, Paul Gingrich, has been very happily retired for a couple of years but has returned to work for the University's faculty union for a few months."

**Anne Grant**, in Providence, R.I., has been devoting her retirement to writing about the epidemic of battered mothers losing their children to their abusers in custody courts—a problem she learned of when she became director of Rhode Island's largest shelter for battered women and children in 1988. Some of her recent writing can be found at [littlehostages.blogspot.com](http://littlehostages.blogspot.com) and [blurb.com/books/1119986](http://blurb.com/books/1119986). She contributed a chapter to a forthcoming textbook for the Civic Research Institute.

**Geraldine Pontius** writes, "On Jan. 10, 2010, if you tuned into *60 Minutes*, you might have seen a feature about the Secure Border Initiative. This is the program I have been working on for the past three years, since it started with the contract to Boeing." Another show about the agency she works for is *Border Wars*, a National Geographic special.

**Grace Druan Rosman** was wintering in Sarasota, Fla., when she wrote: "We have bought a condo after renting for many years. I saw **Sheila Moses Wilensky** in Jerusalem last May and we always pick up where we left off the last time.... I spent a Shabbat lunch with her and got to see two of her daughters and five of her many grandchildren. She lives near my

brother-in-law in Jerusalem. I now have five grandchildren."

**Irene Finel-Honigman's** book, *A Cultural History of Finance*, was published by Routledge: "This had been a consuming project for two years and had to be further revised in 2008 to take into account the financial crisis, which I present in a historical context." Irene teaches at SIPA at Columbia in the international finance and economic policy concentration, and lectures on European Union issues. "My daughter, Ana, is completing her PhD in art history at Oxford and lives in Berlin, where she writes for publications on art and fashion. As for so many, this has been a difficult year financially and personally." —ASK

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## 69

**Barbara Pavlock's** book, *The Image of the Poet in Ovid's Metamorphoses*, was named one of *Choice Magazine's* Outstanding Academic Titles of 2009.

Since 2008, **Mary Elizabeth (Manya) Lang** has published her first full-length book of poetry, *Under Red Cedars*, given poetry readings, and continued to write and teach at Southern Connecticut State University. One year ago, she assisted the midwives at the birth of her daughter Rebecca's third child; it was their second home birth together. Manya is considering full retirement at the end of this year.

**Doralynn Schlossman Pines** recently retired as associate director for administration of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She enjoys spending time with friends while she explores new opportunities in the nonprofit world.

**Denise Saldana** is entering her third year of retirement after 34 years of teaching, most of them in the New

Haven public schools. "I'm enjoying a great shift in my life's work. I finally have the time to work on my photography," Denise writes. "My main interest is macrophotography, and I have been working hard at mastering both digital photography and Photoshop. But the best part is getting lost in nature, with my camera as a seeing-eye dog."

**Lynne Spigelmire Viti's** essay, "'I Got the Shotgun, You Got the Briefcase': Lawyering and Ethics," appeared in *The Wire: Urban Decay and American Television*, a collection of critical studies of the 2002–07 HBO series set in Baltimore's inner city.

**Karen Vexler Hartman** splits her time 90 percent in New York and 10 percent in Santa Fe, N.M., where she and her husband, Tom Jaske, go to relax. Karen practices as a leadership development consultant and coach through her business, LearnTech Associates. She's diversifying her client base to include educational institutions (New York charter schools, independent schools, and Barnard's Office of Career Development), strategic alliances with other consultants, the Center for Creative Leadership, and smaller firms, including e-commerce companies. Last fall, Karen attended Rosabeth Moss Kanter's presentation on her book *SuperCorp* at Barnard. Rosabeth is a scholar at Harvard Business School "who pioneered early in organizational behavior—my field of doctoral studies," writes Karen. "I was thrilled to be included so graciously by President Spar at a dinner party where I also met Kitty Kolbert, the director of The Athena Center of Leadership Studies."

**Meredith Sue Willis** has two books coming out this year, *Ten Strategies to Write Your Novel* from Montemayor Press, and *Out of the Mountains* from Ohio University Press. The latter contains stories from her home region, Appalachia.

**Corky Bingley Binggeli** writes that her latest manuscript is at the publisher, and she's working on interior designs for an ice cream store. Corky writes, "In November [2009], I was surprised and honored to receive the Alumni in Practice Award for Interior Design from the Boston Architectural College, where I finally completed my master's in interior design degree in 2008."

**Monique Raphael High** and her husband, Ben Pesta, socialized with Barnard art history professor emerita Barbara Novak '50 and her husband, the sculptor and critic Brian O'Doherty. They're both visiting scholars at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. "It's such a privilege to deepen our friendship," Monique writes.

Please note: The Class Cruise on *Celebrity Solstice* (Celebrity Cruise Line) leaves Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on June 13 for seven nights, with stops in San Juan, St. Thomas, and St. Maarten, and three days at sea. Contact **Linda Krakower Greene** for last-minute reservations, wiselindag@optonline.net.

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**Elaine Clarke Kuracina '69**

recently received the St. Lawrence County of New York Arts Achievement Award for her arts contribution to her

upstate New York community. Her play, *American Muse*, was "selected out of 300 to be produced at the Great Plains Theatre Conference at Creighton University [in Omaha]." In her dentistry practice, Elaine serves the Amish population. She reissued her children's book, *The Elemental Tooth Fairy*, as well.

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40<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 – June 6, 2010

# 70

**Bonnie Fox Sirower** has been making calls on behalf of the reunion committee and reports that we should have a few California classmates in attendance.

**Rebecca Cook** is celebrating the publication of her book with Simone Cusack, *Gender Stereotyping: Transnational Legal Perspectives*, a Spanish translation of which is also in the works. **Marla Shapiro Weiss's** eighth book and second novel, *School Scoundrelle*, is live on her publisher's

Web site. Marla's site is mavabooks.com.

**Janna Jones Bellwin** gushes, "I have finally joined the ranks of grandmothers as my granddaughter, Abby Savage, was born last August. She and her parents live about 15 minutes from me in Connecticut, so I get to help out sometimes with transportation to her daycare and on weekends." Janna works full time in New York City.

**Leslie Freede Oster** retired from teaching high school English and film studies, but now teaches yoga in Westchester, N.Y., and is studying for a professional-level yoga-teaching certificate. She also teaches a film course for a local continuing-education program and mentors first-year teachers in Teach for America. She and her husband, Harry, who recently retired, took a two-safari trip to South Africa.

**Beatrice Skolnik Kriger** has lived in Israel for almost 32 years. She's a Web designer and content manager in the Internet services unit of the Weizman Institute. "As an English major, it's still somewhat jarring to be constantly swimming in an ocean of (brilliant) scientists, but this is where life led me," she writes. Bea and her husband, Jerry, who is a dentist, have five children, ranging in age from 25 to 35, and seven grandchildren, all nearby. She sings with a choir that travels and represents Israel at various functions abroad.

**Ann Appelbaum** writes, "Almost 30 years ago, I accepted a job as counsel to the Jewish Theological Seminary, where I have carved out a wonderful job advising JTS and its several affiliates, including the Jewish Museum. I am also involved in a number of groups of like-minded lawyers who serve cultural and higher education institutions. I have been very lucky in that I continue to love what I do and the people I work with. I wonder how many of my classmates who made their way into legal careers can echo those sentiments." Ann has been married for 28 years to Rabbi Neal Borovitz, a pulpit rabbi in Bergen County, N.J., where they have lived for 22 years. Their daughter, Abby, 25, graduated from Boston University's College of Communication and works for the SNY cable network and an independent television production company. Their son, Jeremy, 22, graduated from the University of Michigan and is awaiting an

assignment from the Peace Corps.

I'm sad to report the death of **Karen L. Kisslinger. Gail Wolff Smith**, a St. Louis high school classmate of Karen's, sent an obituary by Bob Mellman of the *Berkshire Eagle*: "Karen Louise Kisslinger, 61, of Millerton, N.Y., who through teaching and daily example spread the regenerative power of mindful living and creativity, died Nov. 9, 2009, at Sharon Hospital.... An accomplished acupuncturist, teacher, writer, and organic gardener, Karen was also known throughout the community as a skillful musician, singer, dancer, ceramic and visual artist, and poet.... She was very active in the Northeast Community Center (NECC), where she founded the Millerton Farmers Market and taught basic principles of organic gardening and stress reduction to teens through the Summer Youth Farm Project. Previously at NECC, she founded Partners for Children to educate parents in how to support healthy development. She also started NECC's ongoing Monday night 'Community Happy Hour,' which includes yoga, meditation, and chi-kung."

The obituary also notes that Karen wrote the "Way of Life" column for the *Poughkeepsie Journal*, had a radio show called "Time to Relax," was a featured blogger for the *Huffington Post*, and wrote and produced a CD, *First Just Listen: Guided Relaxation and Meditation*. —AGP

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# 71

**Shulamit Beth Kahn** is an associate professor of economics at Boston University. One of her daughters is 24 years old, has a degree in economics

and works for an economics consulting firm in Boston; her other daughter is 19, in college, and considering an economics major. Shu and her husband, who's an economics professor, are on sabbatical in Australia. She's also active on the board of Jitegemee, a school for street kids in Machakos, Kenya.

On Jan. 20, 2010, President Obama designated **Wilma Liebman** chair of the National Labor Relations Board. She was nominated to the board by President Clinton in 1997 and has served on it since then. As deputy director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, she mediated a dispute between Barnard and its clerical employees' union in the fall of 1996. Her interest in American labor history at Barnard led to her career as a labor lawyer. She still enjoys the friendship of **Naomi Levin Breman, Carrie Menkel-Meadow, Vickie Taylor Robertson, Susan Holzman,** and Phyllis Heller Magaziner '70.

"I retired after 36 years of teaching high school biology," writes Vickie Robertson. "I married Philip Jones, also a retired teacher, in July 2009 (after nearly 10 years on my own). We met on an Outdoor Club of South Jersey hike about eight years ago. Both of my girls are high school teachers and Barnard alumnae—Megan '01 and Sarah '04."

**Kathie Krumm** and **Ayxa Rey Diaz** had a meet-up in San Francisco. Ayxa was at a judicial conference; Kathie was visiting her youngest son at Stanford University. Ayxa is a judge in Puerto Rico. Kathie is management/economic adviser at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. She received her PhD in economics from Stanford.

After 14 years at home raising children, **Mary Lane** returned to work in 2009 as a bankruptcy lawyer at the Los Angeles office of national law firm Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones, just in time for "the biggest recession since the Great Depression."

**Joanna Devaron Reynolds** is "living in Denver post-divorce in a condo I painted various shades of terra-cotta. At our age, I guess that's what passes for a walk on the wild side. Still challenged by my work as a child-welfare researcher."

After 35 years in the aerospace/defense industry, **Basha Yonis** (formerly Beverly Johnson) opted for

early retirement in June, when her huge Army project came under review. Enrolled in the local junior college's paralegal certification program (required in California), she expects to start job hunting by year's end. Her daughter Shifra, who graduated from Mount Holyoke in 2007, is pursuing a master's in oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. Her daughter Naomi is attending Scripps and majoring in biochemistry. After more than a year of fighting with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, she says, "I finally have an amended birth certificate that reflects my name change—from January 1983!"

After **Ellen Leitzer's** daughter graduated from Barnard in 2008, Ellen pursued a lifelong dream of volunteering in Nepal with the U.K./Canadian-based Volunteer Services Overseas as an advocacy adviser to local HIV/AIDS community-based organizations. Trekking in the Everest region last December, she spent an evening chatting with another teahouse guest—Barbara Morgenstern Gallagher '65.

In June 2005, **Rose Spitz Fife's** daughter, Jennifer H. Fife '01, married Anubhav Mathur, who graduated from DePauw University. Jennifer received her master's in informatics and new media in 2008 and works for the Girls Inc. National Resource Center in Indianapolis. Rose's son, David C. Fife, who graduated from Emory College, married Vrylena Olney '04 in 2008.

**Michelle Patrick** is researching her historical novel *Golden Gate* by auditing history and ethnicity classes at Barnard and Columbia. Set in San Francisco in the 1850s, the novel explores, among other things, the fallacy of "race." Shelly is collaborating with Gail Millissa Grant on *HotHouse*, a screenplay about Gail's father—who is Shelly's great-uncle—a civil rights attorney in St. Louis in the 1930s and '40s.

Last September **Sherry D. Walters** had a fantastic time on a Rick Steves (of PBS fame) eight-day tour of Barcelona and Madrid.

Due to space limits, some news will be in the next issue. Full text messages were e-mailed to all on the class list. If you didn't receive it, please send me your current address.

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## 72

Only 90 people from our class have signed up for the 1972 Class Page on the Barnard Web site. We strongly urge you to slog through the sign-up process so that the number of participants can begin to approach the number of classmates for whom we have e-mails, which is more than 50 percent of the class. Getting news out via e-mail and class page will be more timely and fun.

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## 73

**Judy Sollish Caspi** has lived in Israel for 35 years. She's retired from the high school education system, where she was an English teacher for 30 years. She's now a part-time adjunct lecturer in English at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem and at Hadassah College. She teaches reading comprehension skills to Israeli college kids who need to pass a proficiency exam in English by the time they get their degrees. She also co-leads a creative-writing workshop for women once a week in Jerusalem. She has had a few poems published in *The Deronda Review*, a literary journal. She also wrote a book in Hebrew for Israeli adults to learn English. But the most important parts of her life are her four children, four granddaughters, and one grandson.

**Beth Lipsey McCabe** is a writer, creative director, gardener, and budding tai chi practitioner. She lives on a quiet hilltop in Mason, N.H. (shades of Holly House, for anyone who still remembers that wonderful Barnard retreat). She recently spent a year in the San

Francisco Bay Area while her husband, Kevin, worked with a Silicon Valley start-up. Her daughter, Mikah G. McCabe '08, is an environmental scientist with an energy consulting firm in Silver Spring, Md. In addition to the stuff that pays the rent, Beth's working on a novel about teens and parents and is blogging at [cronewars.blogspot.com](http://cronewars.blogspot.com).

In September 2009, **Jane Tobey Momo** became a senior attorney/team leader with the U.S. Department of Education's New York Office for Civil Rights. She's now involved in civil rights enforcement. Previously, she was a lawyer with the New York City Law Department for 25 years, litigating civil rights class actions in federal court. She's been happily married to Larry Momo for 36 years, and they have two sons: Ben, a graduate of Emory University who lives and works in Atlanta, and Lucas, who graduates from Columbia in May.

**Denise Zarn** has been living in Toronto since getting her master's degree in information science from Rutgers. She and her husband, Jim Shenkman, have been married for 32 years. Their three sons are grown—ages 30, 28, and 22. Two years ago, Denise and Jim took a hiatus from their very full-time work—she was a partner at Accenture in health care, and he sold his communications business. They went traveling in Latin America, Europe, and Israel. In the past year, she's done a few stints as an interim executive, most recently as acting CIO of Cancer Care Ontario, the provincial agency responsible for cancer care for the population of Ontario.

After practicing law for many years, **Amy Ignatin Sanders** writes that she switched careers and is now a reference librarian at Ramapo College in New Jersey. Her husband, Alain, an ex-lawyer and ex-journalist, now teaches political science at Saint Peter's College. Her son, Jacob, 22, graduated from Harvard last year and is working at Harvard as a teaching assistant in the chemistry department, planning on graduate school in a year or two. Her daughter, Becky, 18, is a first-year at Brandeis. Amy still lives in the house they bought 25 years ago in River Edge, N.J.

**Melanie Schwartz Maslow** is an associate professor of medicine at the

New York University School of Medicine and chief of infectious diseases at the Manhattan Veterans Administration Medical Center. She teaches medicine to medical students, medicine residents, and infectious-diseases fellows. Melanie's husband, David Tice, is a retired cardiovascular surgeon, also from NYU. Their daughter, Rachael, is a drama major at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and studies at the Atlantic Theater Company.

On a personal note, our son, Adam Hasson Cohen, 26, married Stephanie Beck in October 2009. They went to New Zealand on their honeymoon, and the world is their oyster. —JH

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in Oswego, N.Y., Barbara has had to adjust the geographical map in her head. "During the seven years I lived in New York City, I considered anything north of Westchester County to be 'upstate.' From my current perspective, I live in 'central' New York, and 'upstate' is anything north and northwest of Albany."

**Lydia Li** has been working at Hewlett-Packard for 23 years, doing international marketing and channel marketing, which includes traveling to 35 countries around the world. Lydia's son Kristofer Eng, 22, works for Lazard Capital, and her son Jeffrey is a first-year at UCLA. Lydia volunteers at Stanford University doing Healing Touch energy work for balancing one's energy, body, and spirit. She teaches silk painting and paints watercolors; she sells both silks and watercolors as well.

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**Elisabeth Post-Marner** still has fond memories of studying in the Barnard library with her twin sister, **Carole Post**, and with **Alison Estabrook**, and walking home to Plimpton every night at 11 p.m. Elisabeth attributes her architecture career to the exposure Barnard gave her to art and architectural history. She and her husband, Laurence Marner, whom she met at architecture school at Harvard, live in Pound Ridge, N.Y., in a house they designed together. They have two children, Nell, a senior at the University of Vermont, and Ben, a first-year at Iona College.

Also passionate about architecture, **Peggy Kutzen Wunderlich** loves working as a Realtor. Her husband is an American-art dealer, and they have three children. A self-described eternal optimist, Peggy writes, "I am adjusting to the constant revision of one's habits that comes with aging."

**Barbara St. Michel** and her husband, James Hewitt, built their own geodesic dome home from a kit. Living

## 75

**Anna Therese McGowan** writes from Maryland, where she's a librarian for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She got her master's at Berkeley and worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before moving to Washington, D.C. She takes her holidays in such alluring places as Austria and Ireland, and now that her nieces and nephews have grown up, she visits them, which recently meant two weeks in Japan.

**Ellen McManus** lives in Chicago with her husband and 21-year-old son. She teaches English at Dominican University. Her primary interests are Victorian literature and academic writing, a combination that has led to a current interest in Darwinian thinking, consilience, and interdisciplinarity. When she wrote, Ellen was planning to attend the memorial service at Barnard in March for Jane Auerbach Gould '40, who was the first permanent director of BCRW.

**Joan Silverman McMahan** teaches high school biology and tells us that her daughter is checking out colleges. Joan



lives in New City, N.Y., a perfect location for her active life of camping, hiking, and bike riding.

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# 76

An abundance of news this month, much of it from **Marilyn Merker Goldman**, who reports from snowy Wisconsin, home for 20 years to her and her husband, Robert, a neurologist. Marilyn is a professor of anesthesiology and pharmacology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where she runs a research lab that focuses on lung disease and injury. Their son, Daniel, 25, has a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and is working on a PhD in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. Their daughter, Rebecca, 21, is a geology major at Oberlin College, where her classmates include **Lisa Lerman's** daughter, Sarah Scrag, and **Catherine Wald's** daughter, Nina. Marilyn, who notes that she "never made friends like the ones I had in Barnard," keeps in touch with Beth Falk '77, a psychologist in Westchester, N.Y.; her former study buddy **Felice Zwas**, a gastroenterologist in Stanford, Conn.; **Jean Grosser**, an art professor at Coker College in South Carolina; **Suzanne Moyer Brooks**, a psychiatrist at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Vermont and mother of two teenagers; and Dorothy Glasser Weiss '77, a teacher at the Solomon Schechter School in New York.

Barnard president Debora Spar's visit to San Francisco inspired **Karen Kidwell** to write in. Karen switched from the for-profit to the nonprofit world about 10 years ago, working first at the Magic Theatre and then the Bay Area Ridge Trail. In 2008 she took on a leadership role as executive director of the San Francisco Parks Trust. After living in Silicon Valley, Karen and her husband moved back to San Francisco, where she enjoys tennis and hiking.

**Beth Toni Gelber-Kruvant** went

from attorney to documentary filmmaker. Beth's film, *Heart of Stone*, is about the principal of author Philip Roth's alma mater, Weequahic High School, and his quest to create a peaceful learning environment by incorporating gangs into conflict resolution. The film premiered at Slamdance Film Festival last year, where it won the Audience Award.

**Nancy Matis Dreyfuss** recently opened an office for her private practice as a speech/language pathologist on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, which is close to her home. Her daughter, Leah, is a sophomore at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. An August visit to Washington gave Nancy an excuse to catch up with **Naomi Rosenblum Remes** and her husband, David.

**Jill Whitehurst Robbins** reports on her unsuccessful (and apparently brief) divorce in 1979 from John Robbins (CC '76). They celebrated their 35th anniversary last year and have three kids in college and one in high school (making up is fun to do!). Jill is a project director at Georgetown's National Capital Language Resource Center and a trustee at the National Museum of Language. She also trains language teachers at the George Washington University.

We have two 2009 weddings to report: **Martha Bakos Dietz's** son, Christopher, a New York City police officer, married Catherine Barnes-Domotor on June 27, and **Lisa Phillips Davis's** son, Jason, a student at Columbia Business School, married Maryl Gensheimer on Aug. 15.

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# 77

This news comes via the Phonathon, which was staffed by our class president, **Theresa Racht, Christine Riep Mason**, and me.

**Po-Chun Ng Cheng** works at Citigroup. Her daughter is a teacher and

her son is a student at New York College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Roberta Cooper Axelrod** has been with Time Equities for 28 years in commercial real estate. Her son graduated from George Washington University last June.

**Christina Villa** has been a writer and editor for the United Church of Christ for the past 25 years. Her 18-year-old son is attending Beloit College and her other son is in eighth grade.

**Martha Yepes Small** is a pediatrician in private practice in Bridgeport, Conn. Her son, Alexander, graduated from UPenn and is a second-year medical student at Mount Sinai.

**Wendy Marshall** reports from Bainbridge Island, Wash., that she has worked for the past 30 years as an environmental scientist for the EPA, specializing in keeping drinking water safe. "I started with Carter, then Reagan, and it's been up and down ever since."

**Linda Lutzak** reports that her daughter, Analie, graduated from the University of the Pacific last May and is leaving to teach English in South Korea for a year. Linda plans on visiting South Korea while her daughter's there.

**Beth Wohlgelernter** is the chief operating officer for the Founder's Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

**Sara Merwin** writes that she lives in Port Washington, N.Y., and works at North Shore University Hospital. She's married and has three sons: Matthew, 25, Julian, 22, and Gregory, 18. She received her master of public health degree in epidemiology from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Despite the challenging schedule, she chose to work and attend graduate school part time in order to manage the home front and her boys.

**Stella Chin Leung** has transitioned to a new job as Harvard University's compliance officer, overseeing the university's compliance with equal-employment opportunity and affirmative-action laws. "I left Boston College last summer and have found my new colleagues at Harvard welcoming and collegial. If you are at Harvard or nearby, I'd love to hear from you! I'm in the office of the assistant to the president at Holyoke Center. On the personal side, we've just sent our son off to college last

fall, so we're officially empty-nesters"

**Deborah Anne Waldman** reports that she has been at the same job at the same firm for the past 17 years. She and her family traveled to Israel last year for her niece's wedding.

**Faith Paulsen** lives in Norristown, Pa., with her husband, Barton Sacks. Both of their adult sons, Paz and Seth, are in the New York area. "Our youngest son is in eighth grade at Germantown Friends School.... Back in the late 1970s my parents snapped a photo of my sister, Emily Paulsen '83, brother, Bruce (CC '79), and me with the statue *Alma Mater*. This past Thanksgiving, something like 30 years later, we re-created that photo."

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## 78

I've scarfed up every book by Pulitzer Prize-winner and *New York Times* science writer **Natalie Angier**, but I was late to the party with her last one, published in 2007, *The Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science*. Well, better late to the party than never getting there because I had nothing to wear. *The Canon* does for science what Natalie's previous book, *Woman: An Intimate Geography*, did for the female of the species: It gives you the entire playbook. It's also the most elegant example yet of how Natalie uses her originality and Barnard-quality literary style to make any topic on which she casts her roving eye a must-read.

Best of all, she makes science *fun*, not just a course prerequisite standing in the way of graduation. Her exuberant wordplay brings science out of the lab beaker and into the realm of the senses. Am I a fan? Do I gush? True, I'm an avid reader of lay science and a sucker for such chapter titles as "Probabilities: For Whom the Bell Curves," "Molecular Biology: Cells and Whistles," and "Physics: And Nothing's Plenty for Me." Beyond wordplay, there is also the transcendent. Isn't that why we chose

Barnard in the first place, to confirm that we are each of us made of stardust?

I know, it's unfair to deliver anyone else's news after the Natalie rave. I'd love to give the same treatment to **Judith Schwartz**, MD, but her panel at Barnard ("Project Continuum: You and Your Aging Self: Live Longer, Live Better") is taking place after the deadline for this column. Judith is "a gynecologist specializing in menopause and women's health issues related to aging," according to the panel description, and if that sounds as if I'm shortchanging the event, just think: Judith is made of stardust too!

Mary Ann LoFrumento '77, my former neighbor on 3 Hewitt, is a pediatrician and media personality whose knowledge and calming presence infuses simplyparenting.com, a service-oriented site she launched in 2003. I saw Mary Ann recently at an alumnae board dinner and was impressed by the wide range of her interests and how many of them she actually manages to incorporate into her daily life, all while giving back to the College and community. Best of all (from my point of view as a longtime film critic), she originally studied to be a filmmaker and has put those talents to use by creating professional video content for her Web site. And, oh yes, Mary Ann is also made of stardust.

I urge you all once again to sign up/log in to the spankin' new Alumnae Network, [alum.barnard.edu](http://alum.barnard.edu). It will take time and a tipping point to make the alumnae area a viable social network/resource, but it will be worth it. After all, when you need to locate a stardust-based kindred spirit for any reason (need to hire or be hired, someone to bounce ideas off, someone to post your bail), who you gonna call?

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## 79

I heard from **Irene Fish Gottesman**, who hosted my niece for a weekend over the summer. My niece is friendly with Irene's daughter, Elaine, who's studying in Israel this year and going to Barnard

in September 2010.

**Jean Anthony Galmot** loves teaching math in Chinatown. Her son is applying to college and her 10th-grade daughter is attending the Professional Performing Arts School. Jean will complete her second master's, an MEd in math from City College in May. "I had pelvic reconstruction surgery last spring and can heartily recommend it," she writes. "My mother passed away in September 2009, after four years of being disabled by strokes. She spent half the year with me and the other half in New Orleans with my brother. Being in the sandwich generation has been difficult, but there is great satisfaction in surviving it."

Special mention needs to be made of a gift Barnard received from **Yancey Stanforth-Migliore** in memory of her sister, Jamie Stanforth Shoemaker '75, who died from leukemia in 2000 at the age of 46.

**Melissa Knox-Raab** is teaching American literature and culture at the University of Duisberg-Essen in Germany. Her husband is a professor of American literature and they have three children, ages 10, 7, and 5. Her neighbor in Switzerland, **Ilise Levy Feitshans**, continues to amaze us with her scholarly work—most recently an article on the Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 in the *International Occupational Health Association Newsletter*. Ilise was also invited to attend the Council of Europe's second annual Conference of Roma Women in Athens, Greece, in January, which fits in with her teaching a class on globalization and gender. Also being published in 2010 are two works by **Cristina Garcia**: *The Lesser Tragedy of Death*, a collection of poems, will be published by Akashic Press, and *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, a novel, will be published by Scribner.

**Laurie Weisman** writes about her involvement with the Mobile Memory Project, a touring multimedia art installation created by Roz Jacobs and herself. "I've been working with Jacobs for almost 30 years, documenting her parents' stories. For this piece, we combined our backgrounds in art, video, and education. The original Memory Project is displayed on nine screens and will be at the Holocaust

Resource Center at Temple Judea until October 2010. We started a nonprofit organization to support this work. It's the culmination of all of my years in education, and it's thrilling to be out of the textbook publishing world and doing something self-directed and meaningful."

Consulting editor and freelance writer **Katherine Goncharoff Heires** got married in 2004 to fellow editor David Heires and lives in Manhattan. Last year, she concluded four years as a senior writer and columnist for *The Deal*, where she tracked emerging technology, venture capital, private equity, and mergers and acquisitions deals. One perk of that assignment, Katherine says, was the opportunity to meet and interview technology notables. Currently she freelance edits and writes on emerging technology, start-up companies, and business innovation. Her work has appeared in *businessweek.com*, *Venture Capital Journal*, and MIT's *Technology Review*. She has also launched a blog called VentureKat.

At the age of 40, **Patricia Piecuch Semple** returned to graduate school and received a master of library science degree from the University of Maryland. "I worked as an instruction librarian at the local community college for several years, and recently I left the world of freshmen and sophomores to work with middle- and upper-school students at the Bullis School in Potomac, Md. My husband and I are empty-nesters this year: our oldest son, Tim, majored in computer science and Chinese at the Air Force Academy and served in Iraq in 2007; our daughter, Meg, studied art history at Villanova and is a 'gallerina' in San Francisco; and our younger son, Ben, who majored in communications at Messiah College, graduated last May and had his first day of work the very next Monday. My husband, Bruce, is still with IBM; we celebrated our 31st anniversary this year." —DNS

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30<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 80

You have laid your plans for Reunion and are buzzing in from far and wide. (Wider than I ever intended to be, oh, glorious half-century metabolism!) Let me whet your appetite for mutual admiration with the tale of **Rumu Sarkar** (who entered with the Class of 1981 but graduated with our class). Her latest book, *International Development Law*, has been published by Oxford University Press. This textbook details the legal challenges faced by developing countries and advanced nations in dealing with global poverty. Her previous textbook is *Transnational Business Law*, and *A Fearful Symmetry: The New Soldier in an Age of Asymmetric Conflict* will be released by the time you read this. (Possibly by the time I finish typing the title.) Meanwhile, Rumu serves as senior legal advisor to CALIBRE Systems, a defense consulting group based in Alexandria, Va., and she's a visiting researcher and adjunct law professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Previously (while staying out of my column) she has been the general counsel for the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, general counsel for the Overseas Basing Commission, assistant general counsel for administrative affairs for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and a staff attorney with the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), after starting out as a litigation associate with two Wall Street law firms. After Barnard, Rumu received her law degree from the Antioch School of Law, and her master's of law as well as a PhD in philosophy from Newnham College, Cambridge University. I tell you what, if she comes to Reunion, I'll let her have some of my bonbons. (You don't suppose it's the bonbons and not the birthdays, do you?)

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## 81

**Ann Koschel van Buren** is on sabbatical from a teaching job and happy to be working on her poetry and writing. Now that she's free from the constraints of her usual schedule, she's been finding great things to do, spending a lot of time in the mountains of southern Italy, exploring food traditions and the culture of the village where her mom's family is from. She's also enjoying yoga, intellectual conversations with her grown kids, and lots of good concerts that her husband, Tom (CC '81), puts together as the folklorist for ArtsWestchester.

**Rita Gunther McGrath** coauthored *Discovery Driven Growth: A Breakthrough Process to Reduce Risk and Seize Opportunity*, which is a guide for executives who want to grow their companies while reducing risk. *BusinessWeek* named it one of the best innovation and design books of 2009. *CIO Insight* also named it one of the top books for 2009.

**Ann Turobiner Dachs**, director of Barnard's Pre-College Programs, writes, "I feel an obligation—nay, privilege—to direct your attention to our wonderful summer programs for rising high school juniors and seniors!" She notes in particular an architecture program, which will be offered in the new Diana Center. Anyone who wants more information can go to [barnard.edu/pcp](http://barnard.edu/pcp). "Hope to see you and your children (the Pre-College program is coed) in June/July," says Ann.

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# 82

I'd like to dedicate this column to the memory of **Susanna Shields**, who passed away on Oct. 17, 2009. She is survived by her mother and her sister, to whom we offer our sympathy.

**Maria Pignataro Nielsen**, who directs the global human-resources department at Human Rights Watch, was asked to join the international board of directors for InsideNGO, a professional organization that exists to strengthen operational leadership in the international nonprofit sector.

With more than 15 years of experience producing films, such as *Mad Money* starring Diane Keaton, **Wendy Kram** launched L.A. For Hire (la4hire.com), an entertainment consulting firm for screenwriters, filmmakers, production companies, advertising agencies, and anyone in media and entertainment seeking Hollywood contacts and expertise on advancing their projects. The company is designed with the current economy in mind, providing individuals and businesses with the expertise of a seasoned Hollywood executive, without expensive overhead.

Recently retired, **Caroline Halama Ford** and her husband, Roger, spend their winters in the Scottsdale, Ariz., area. She hopes to learn to play golf.

**Eileen Tabios's** 19th poetry book, *The Thorn Rosary: Selected Prose Poems 1998-2010*, was published this year by Marsh Hawk Press.

**Lois Gimpel Shaukat** and **Carolyn Band Mehta** both spoke at the memorial service for Deborah Paiss '81, which was held at the International House.

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# 84

**Linda Ravin Lodding** writes from The Hague, Netherlands, to tell us that she

just signed a contract with a publisher for her children's picture book, *The Busy Life of Ernestine Buckmeister*, which will be in bookstores by 2011.

**Carolyn Hochstadter Dicker** celebrated the bar mitzvah of her son, Shimshon, in Cherry Hill, N.J. "It was a great Shabbat and weekend! Shim did a superb job! It was wonderful to celebrate with my Barnard friends, and I missed all those who live too far to make it."

Living in Los Angeles with her two boys, 7 and 9 years old, **Maureen Kedes** runs Vertex Communications, her public relations firm. She also hosts the radio show *PR Insider* on Voice America's business channel; for more information visit prinsider.biz.

**Wendy Dubow Polins** is an architect and writer living in Swampscott, Mass., with her husband and children. Her daughter Sophie, 18, is in her first year of college, and her daughter Rosie, 14, has started high school. She has taken a leave of absence from design to work full time on her book *Fare Forward*.

**Naomi Barell** writes that her daughter, Noa Memphis, will be celebrating her bat mitzvah. In snowy Vermont, the family has added two Icelandic sheep and a guard llama to their menagerie of rabbits, chickens, a cat, and four kids. Naomi has a growing business of private Jewish learning for kids who don't like the traditional setting of Hebrew school, and she'll be leading four b'nai mitzvah soon. Her culinary expertise has expanded to include apple butter and hard cider, and she's raising kosher, organic, free-range turkeys.

**Patricia McSharry Sevastiades** reports that her 10-year-old son, Demetri, had brain surgery to remove a small benign tumor in December 2008. He was out of the hospital within two days, and she writes that there is a less than one percent likelihood of it regrowing. His six-month and 12-month checkups were consistent with this prognosis. "So we are grateful. Minnesota has proven a good place for our family," writes Patricia.

While busy with Alexander, 6, and Arielle, 2, **Barbara Sibley** published a book of recipes from her childhood in Mexico, *Antojitos: Festive and Flavorful Mexican Small Plates*, written with Margaritte Malfy and Mary Goodbody.

Barbara's two restaurants in New York, La Palapa and Cocina Mexicana, serve the recipes contained in her book.

**Georgianne (Georgie) Gould Moss** enjoys living in Princeton, N.J., with her husband, Peter, and their sons, Andrew and Danny, who are 9 and 6 years old respectively.

**Robin Lichtenfeld Tuverson** lives in Los Angeles with her husband and daughter. She's been touring with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, chronicling their journey for a documentary.

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25<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 - June 6, 2010

# 85

Our 25th reunion is right around the corner and the theme is *Remember, Restore, Renew*. It's been wonderful reconnecting with the classmates on our planning committee. Recently, I had lunch with **Katherine Sinsabaugh**, our class president, and **Bernice Clark Bonnett** to discuss a reunion event at Macy's. Bernice was promoted to senior vice president of merchandise marketing of Macy's corporate marketing department in 2007. She was featured in the February 2010 issue of *Black Enterprise* magazine as one of the 75 most powerful women in business.

**Tamar Krongrad** lives and practices corporate law in Tel Aviv, Israel. She's happily raising her two boys, Nadav and Yair, 7 and 2 years old, respectively.

I asked you to write to me about any pre-1985 alumnae who may have inspired you, and any post-1985 alumnae whom you admire. **Kavita Malhotra** sends some beautiful thoughts about former Barnard dean of disabled

students Julie Marsteller '66, and about Kavita's niece, Gayatri Malhotra '13, daughter of her sister, Sandhya Malhotra '82. Of Dean Marsteller, Kavita writes, "I learned from her that while we may face many hurdles in life, the only limitations to reaching our goals are those we place on ourselves." Of her niece, Kavita writes, she's "a warm-hearted, generous young woman with amazing talents that range from playing the sitar to writing medical research." Gayatri also tutors students in math and SAT preparation.

In January, I had coffee with Carole Paynter '83, whom I hadn't seen since she graduated. She was instrumental in getting me involved in activities at Barnard, particularly BOSS (then known as BOBW) and the Barnard-Columbia Gospel Choir, of which I eventually became the musical director. And I attended the Zora Neale Hurston ['28] Festival of the Arts and Humanities in Eatonville, Fla., where I presented a paper, *Between Science and Fiction: The Cultural Complex, Tension of Opposites, and Development of Personality in the Life and Work of Zora Neale Hurston*. Zora has had a prolonged influence on me, my writing, and my doctoral work.

I've also met many awesome younger alumnae, and I'm particularly proud of Vanessa Anderson '07 and Courtney Keene '07. When I spoke at a BOSS meeting in November 2005, Vanessa expressed an interest in a career in entertainment publicity. After graduation, she became a publicity coordinator for several entertainment publicists, and soon after that started her own successful public relations firm, AM PR Group, in Los Angeles. Courtney, after working for Echoing Green, an organization committed to social change and providing funding to groundbreaking social entrepreneurs, is now program assistant at the Council on International Educational Exchange study center in Central Dakar, Senegal.

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## 86

I look forward to years of sharing class news with you. I live in Atlanta with my husband, Roland Matthews (CC '84), chair of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine. Our two boys are Remi, 13, and Omari, 11. I work at the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, focusing on family philanthropy. I served as cochair of the Council on Foundations Family Philanthropy conference.

**Yvrose Smarth Gilles** sends her greetings. She and her husband, Jerry Max Gilles, MD (CC '85), live in Davie, Fla. Jerry is practicing medicine and Yvrose is teaching and writing. They have two children, Tayina, 15, and Jarad, 10. Yvrose and Jerry have published two books about Haiti (bookmanlit.com).

**Nancy Gorman Dougherty** lives in Maplewood, N.J., and has an architecture and design firm by the name of Studio 1200 in Short Hills, N.J. "We just moved our office and it has been exciting! We are working on some nice restaurants, some hotels, and some modern residential projects. I would love to hear from my fellow architecture students from Barnard," she writes. "I have two children, Paul and Kerri, ages 11 and 14. My husband, Jay, is a video editor at Saatchi and Saatchi and spends all of his free time singing with one of his groups, or 'garage sailing.'"

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## 88

**Kat Stein**, after many years in New York, moved with her family to Philadelphia. "It's a great blend of the good parts of the city, with fewer of the inconveniences. Plus, New York is wonderfully close by. My husband is the founding principal of an innovative public magnet high school here, and we have two boys: Jakob, 5, and Theo, 3," she

says. "I had been senior vice president of corporate communications at the Sci Fi Channel in New York, but this newest chapter in my life is focused far more on balancing the joys of family with the joys of work, and I am currently the director of public relations for the local science museum, the Franklin Institute."

Kat also contributed these updates: **Gabrielle Myers Torello** is a publicist in television and has two sons. **Carolyn Mostel Weiser** is a high school teacher married to a doctor in Connecticut, and she has three daughters (one of whom is looking at colleges already). The founder of the BC Musical Theatre group, Carolyn still directs theatre in her spare time.

**Bella Kachkoff Zubkov** lives in Glastonbury, Conn., where she has been practicing dermatology for more than 13 years. She's married to Alexander Zubkov, who is a dentist, and they have a 15-year-old daughter, Micaella, and a 10-year-old son, Julien. She and Micaella visited Barnard, and Bella's happy to report that it's on Micaella's list of potential colleges. Bella and Alexander practice yoga, and she enjoys cooking.

**Mary S. Burns**, PhD, has written a research paper, "Pilates for Dancers: Training, Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation and Recovery, A Survey and Analysis," which presents the results of a cross-country survey of professional dance schools and their utilization of Pilates/core-strengthening techniques within the required weekly syllabus, as well as the noted changes in the authors' students since studying Pilates with her.

On a sad note, **Sandra Adelstein** notified us of the passing of **Sylvie Myerson**, who died as a result of an epileptic seizure on Nov. 10, 2009, at the age of 43. She is survived by a husband and two young children. "Sylvie was my first-year roommate at Barnard. I can truly say that she loved Barnard and she loved New York. Although she was very different than me in temperament, I knew that she could be trusted with anything close to my heart. She was very intelligent, had a great sense of humor, self-awareness, and an ability to empathize with those less fortunate. I will always remember Sylvie, and I thank Barnard for giving me the opportunity [to know her]."

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## 89

Maybe Twitter and Facebook mean we're doing a better job of keeping up with each other, so we don't feel the need to keep up through Class Notes, but come on, Class of 1989, throw me a bone from time to time!

In addition to our law practice, my husband and I decided to open eVOLUTION Resale & Consignment in Woburn, Mass. We're selling upscale women's clothing, accessories, shoes, and jewelry, as well as furniture, housewares, and antiques. We also feature local jewelry, handbag, and accessory designers. It's a fun distraction from the everyday grind of law practice, although this two-job business is a bit of a challenge. As president of the Barnard Club of Boston, I'm thrilled to report that we'll have NPR's Susan Levitt Stamberg '59 as the keynote speaker at our annual dinner at the Colonnade Hotel on May 24.

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20<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3 – June 6, 2010

## 90

I have two updates via the Class of 1990 Facebook group. **Heather Thompson Cavalli** reports that she's in her fifth year as director of college counseling at the Hyde School in Woodstock, Conn. Recently, she became a deacon at her church, was elected to the Democratic Town Committee, and was nominated for the NEACAC board, a regional professional association of college admissions counselors. In

addition to her job, she also provides independent counseling and writes a college-counseling column for the local newspaper. Her children, Francesca, 12, and Luca, 10, are thriving as day students at the Rectory School. Heather says that she's trying to make it to Reunion this year.

**Anya Bernstein Bassett** is planning to attend Reunion and looks forward to seeing everyone. For the past eight years, Anya has been a senior lecturer and director of undergraduate studies for social studies at Harvard. She organizes the academic advising program, works with students who want to do something unusual or need additional support, leads the junior and senior tutorial programs, and teaches and advises students. She and her husband, Jon Bassett (CC '88), live in Newton, Mass., with their two children: Ben, 13, and Sarah, 10.

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## 91

**Melinda Eades** is a lawyer at Munger, Tolles & Olson in Los Angeles, and she says she had a busy year with two federal trials, two small children, and one great husband.

**Mary Claire Chung** lives in Lisbon, Portugal, where she's the CEO and founder of touch2give.com, which is a socially conscious company for responsibly manufactured independent and niche fashion and jewelry brands. Five percent of their commissions go to philanthropy partners.

**Yael Dubroff Laifer** is opening Westchester's first (and only) Tasti D-Lite in New Rochelle, N.Y. Since she moved out to the suburbs and missed Tasti D so much, she decided to open one. The youngest of her three daughters started first grade this year, so the timing was right.

**Natalie Langston-Davis** is a pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at Montefiore Children's

Hospital, Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She also writes about three of her best friends: **Samantha Lecca** is senior vice president of video production at Sony, and she has a gorgeous 13-year-old son. **Joyce Theobalds-Abernethy** is an associate general counsel in the New York City Comptroller's office. Natalie is the godmother of Joyce's daughter, Tyler, 4, and her daughter, Lena, 2, is the goddaughter of Linda Martin (CC '91), an orthopedic surgeon and new mother to Christian Louis-Pierre.

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## 92

**Maria Vallejo** returned to New York having accepted a position at Sarah Lawrence College in the advancement department. She lives in Bronxville.

You're encouraged to join the Barnard College Class of 1992 group that was created on Facebook by **Jeanne Rhee Dechiario**. Postings may be reproduced in future columns.

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## 93

The e-mail blast service provided by Alumnae Affairs yielded more updates than I could include in this column!

**Atoosa Behnegar Rubenstein** is taking a break from the media industry to raise her daughter, Angelika McQueen, born in August 2008.

**Jennifer English** is on hiatus from a career as an Internet consultant so she can raise her two children, Madeleine, 3, and Andrew, 1. She and her family live in Vancouver, Wash., and spend time with Amie Carrie, her husband, and their two children, Conor, 3, and Kieran, 1.

**Rebecca Shulman** had planned to become a ballerina but became a well-known tango dancer instead. She has performed and taught at festivals throughout the country and has been teaching tango for Dance Manhattan for 15 years. Rebecca welcomed her daughter, Lila Jemsea Seren, in November 2008.

**Deborah Jo Appelbaum** had her third child, Jonah, in June 2009. He joins his big sisters, Talia, 8, and Mira, 6. Deborah and her family, including her husband, Ed Mitre, live in Rockville, Md., where Deborah works as a speech pathologist, after switching from a career in educational policy.

**Elicia Lisk Blumberg** and her family greeted her new son, Eitan Lev, in January 2010.

**Heather Tamm** moved to Colts Neck, N.J., with her husband and two kids. She's a stay-at-home mom but plans to return to her career in psychiatry in a year or two.

**Jennifer Cohen**, her husband, and their daughter, Shoshana Danielle Peck, 4, welcomed a second daughter, Aviva Zipporah Peck, on Labor Day of 2008. They now live in Washington, D.C., after three years in Chicago.

In March 2009, **Emily Roth** and her husband welcomed their son, Joaquin, who brings even more joy to their life in Hollywood Hills, Calif.

**Aimee Saginaw** recently made partner at McLaughlin & Stern, where her litigator practice focuses on employment law, constitutional law, mediation, and commercial law.

**Sara Holtzschue**, vocalist and composer, was selected for airplay on a program called *Women of Substance Radio*. You can hear her at sarasong.com or womenofsubstanceradio.com.

**Caroline Ceniza-Levine** coauthored *How the Fierce Handle Fear: Secrets to Succeeding in Challenging Times*, published in March by Bascom Hill Books.

**Cathleen Bell's** second young-adult novel, *Little Blog on the Prairie*, came out in April from Bloomsbury. Written with

our *Little House*-obsessed generation in mind, it's the story of a modern 13-year-old who sneaks a cell phone into family-frontier camp. Cathleen lives in Brooklyn with her husband and children: Max, 6, and Eliza, 4.

**Sun Min** is back at Barnard as the media relations director.

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## 94

**Alicia Katznelson Broth** loves teaching preschool to 4-year-olds. She lives in Baltimore, Md., with her husband, Jason, 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, and 11-year-old son, Noah. "I cannot believe that I already have two preteens! It was so wonderful to have **Jennifer Bernstein, Pamela Eng, Kim Leopold Harrison, Kelly Ko, Rachel Rapp Kosowsky, Aliza Berkovits Rosenblum, and Suzanne Takahashi** join us for the celebration of Jocelyn's bat mitzvah last summer."

**Tara de Jesus-Dargan** married Gevian Dargan (CC) on June 14, 2008. "In attendance at the wedding were **Linda Chen, Elizabeth George-Cheniara, Natasha de Silva, Evelyn Kwon, Preeti Kansal, and Mary Koshy**. I have a 7-year-old son and a baby girl who was born on Sept. 11, 2009. I work as a pediatrician in Chicago."

**Nicole Griggs** is a fourth-year PhD candidate at Columbia in the department of art history and archaeology, specializing in Gothic architecture.

**Virginia (Ginger) Wade** has lived in Hamburg, Germany, for more than four years. "I came here from Los Angeles in 2005 to finish the post-production of the independent film I produced, *Rockin' Romeo & Juliet*, and I decided not to go back. Since then, I've become an entrepreneur, running a small English school and doing translation work. I've moved away from film production for the time being ... and nowadays I'm focusing more on making music with my new band and working on my writing."

**Ellen Schwartzman** has been living in Costa Rica since 2002. She runs her own educational consulting firm and is finishing her dissertation for her doctorate in communications.

As of last November, **Sonia Kim** is managing director, heading up product development, for Standard & Poor's Global Credit Portal.

**Adrienne Gibbons-Oehlers** has been living in Springfield, Ohio, for five years, after working as a dancer on Broadway and with the Rockettes for 10 years. "Now I'm a stay-at-home mom to Madeleine, 4, and my twins, Ben and Evie, 3," she writes, "I've traded dancing for running this year, completing two marathons. I've been happily married for 12 years to Steve Oehlers, whom I was dating back [in college]."

**Bronwyn Miller-Udell**, a Miami-Dade County, Fla., judge, writes: "My husband, Maury Udell, and I welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Miles Jacob, last December." She's also busy with volunteer work, as the chair of the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami women's committee, and on the boards of the Jewish Volunteer Center and the Greater Miami Jewish Federation Agency support committee. She and her family took two holiday trips, to Punta Cana and Brazil.

**Nancy Soleymani Badner** lives in Manhattan with her husband, Marc, and their children Remi, 3, and Jack, 2. She's a clinical psychologist seeing patients part time in her private practice.

**Patricia Flaherty Pagan's** short story "The Seating Plan" was published in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: True Love*.

**Laura Geft Adam** is working in book development at Time, Inc. She lives in New York with her husband and 8-year-old daughter.

**Carolyn Cohagan's** first novel, *The Lost Children*, was published in February by Simon & Schuster. It's a dark fantasy adventure for children aged 8 to 12. For a schedule of readings, visit [thelostchildrenbook.com](http://thelostchildrenbook.com).

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# 95

Congratulations to **Nerissa Balkarran** on the birth of her daughter, Deena, in April 2009. She writes that Deena keeps her busy and she hopes to catch up with classmates at Reunion.

For 10 years, **Dorothy (Dory) Dabrowski** has been living in San Francisco, where she works in inventory management at Williams-Sonoma, Inc. On Oct. 17, 2009, she married David Barnard in a ceremony in Larkspur, Calif. Samantha Hardy (CC '95), Jenny Kim (CC '95), and **Heather Schlisserman** were in attendance. She writes, "I'm in the process of taking my husband's last name, which means that my new name will be Dory Barnard! That certainly gives all my old 'Barnard' T-shirts, mugs, etc., a whole new meaning."

**Gail-Ann Bradshaw Krieger** and her husband, Jeffrey, welcomed their daughter Alexandra Lesley on Nov. 2, 2009; she joins her big sister, Eleanor, 1.

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# 96

**Monica Mehta** and her husband, Anand, welcomed their second daughter, Alisha Mehta, on Dec. 1, 2009.

**Ericka Schnitzer-Reese** reports that she and her husband now have two children, Harrison Sterling and Charlotte Isadora. Ericka and her family live in Chicago. "I'm staying at home with the kids, which is by far the hardest job I've ever had!" she writes, adding, "I've had some wonderful visits with **Stefi Geraci** and **Amy Blumenfeld** and

their adorable families this past year, and **Arpita Patel Pitroda** is like an honorary auntie to my children. I had a lovely lunch with **Emily Burg** last summer as she passed through Chicago on her cross-country adventure, and it was wonderful to catch up with her."

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# 97

When you read this, I'll be done with maternity leave and back at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. My second son, Jonah Elias Durbin, was born two weeks late, on Nov. 17, 2009. Being a working mom can be rewarding, but there's nothing nice I can say about pumping. Jonah gets his breast milk, but I get frustrated and sick of "Mother's Milk" tea. Alas.

In other news... **Eileen Doyle Brigid** graduated with a doctor of pharmacy degree from Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of California, San Diego, in June 2009. She's now in a clinical oncology fellowship, a joint program between Pfizer and UCSD. She got married in June 2008 and writes, "I knew I had the man for me when we decided to hike our brains out as a honeymoon in Yosemite National Park. He did Half Dome, I made it all the way up until the really scary part and stopped about 200 feet from the summit." She also says that her sister-in-law, Monica Pozzuoli '98, has two sons and is a pediatrician at a clinic in Ossining, N.Y.

**Kathryn Kees Hanley** and her husband, Liam, have two sons, Patrick and Christian. She's staying home to raise them, and she sends along a ton of Barnard news: **Alexandra (Lexi) Dwyer** is married to Ernesto Muñoz. They just had a baby girl named Daisy, and Lexi

works at Condé Nast. **Elizabeth (Lisa) Tolin** is married to Mark Kennedy and works at the Associated Press. **Lisa Nahley Lombardo**, is in school, is married to Dan Lombardo, and has two children, Jack and Evan. **Selena Grados** is married to Khalid Benslimane and has a son, Jake. She works for the Segal Company. Finally, **Vanessa Richards** is married to Torrey Martin and works as an assistant district attorney in the Manhattan DA's office.

**Rebecca Brown** has been promoted to policy advocate at the Innocence Project, where she works in state legislatures around the country to pass laws to prevent wrongful conviction and compensate the wrongfully convicted.

**Martina Brosnahan** lives in Manhattan and just took a position as assistant general counsel at American Realty Capital Advisors, LLC.

**Jennifer Do** received a master's in organizational development from the University of San Francisco. She has two sons, Gregory Nguyen, 1, and Timothy Nguyen, 6.

**Ester Agas** had a big year in 2009. Her baby, Natasha Rachel, was born in June, they moved from Sydney to Melbourne, and Ester went back to work at Deutsche Bank. "Not too many working mothers on the platform, unfortunately," she writes.

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# 98

After living in Milwaukee and Washington, D.C., and completing a master's degree in social work at Smith College, **Nada Michael** moved to Jersey City, N.J. She works at North Star Academy in Newark, where she provides holistic support services to graduates as they transition to college.

**Aditi Nerurkar** is a physician in an integrative-medicine fellowship at Harvard, focusing on mind-body medicine.

**Diana Nikkah** is married with a young son, Jean-Luc. She lives



in Manhattan and works for the KinderShield Agency, which does nanny background checks and caregiver investigations and evaluations.

**Rosa Maria Battista**

**Chiacchierarelli** lives with her family in Newton, Mass., where she works as the compliance officer for a large physicians' practice. She's married and has two boys, Mattia and Elia. She's in touch with **Sheera Gefen Greenberg**, who recently had a baby girl, Alana. Rosa also tells us that **Jen Eun Jung Lee** and her husband, Dan, and her son, Max, welcomed her second son, Miles.

**Thurka Sangaramoorthy** received a master of public health degree from Columbia in 2002 and her PhD in medical anthropology from the University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley, in 2008. Her dissertation looked at the impact of HIV/AIDS in the Haitian community in the U.S. After working as a research associate at UCSF, she started her postdoctoral fellowship in sexually transmitted diseases research at the Centers for Disease Control. She lives in Atlanta with her husband, James Cerwinski, and son, Gyan.

**Courtney Greene** is delighted to be back in a women's college, thanks to her new job as associate director of annual giving at Wellesley College.

In Brooklyn, I just bought my first apartment, a sunny and quiet one-bedroom on Ocean Parkway, a few minutes away from my sister. I'm hoping this translates into more quality time with my 2-year-old nephew, Karim.

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# 99

Last June **Deborah Grossman** married Cara Jeiven, who's a chef at Superfine in Dumbo, Brooklyn, and drummer for the band Bambi. Debbie is still a senior editor at *Popular Photography*, and she's working on an MFA in photography at the School of Visual Arts. **Carolyn**

## All the School's a Stage

Tessa Derfner '94



When Tessa Derfner studied theatre at Barnard, members of a production would rotate jobs—actors worked as lighting technicians; directors did stints as stage managers.

Now that she is a theatre teacher at Public School M094 in Manhattan, she sees the value of engaging with a production in multiple ways. It's doubly important to do that with her students—all of whom have some degree of autism. In addition to finding a job for every student, Derfner works with the other faculty members to design an integrated curriculum around each year's play. This year, it's *Honk!*, an adaptation of *The Ugly Duckling*, which will be performed in June at Brooklyn College and Columbia's Teachers College. The school's productions of *Annie* and *Willie Wonka* were staged at Lincoln Center.

Educating students with autism requires an innovative approach, Derfner says. "I'm a very verbal person, but it's pointless to communicate that way with the students because many of them are non-verbal," she explains. "But their visual sense is often very developed, so I stage pictures for them with my body." Much of her instruction is aimed at getting the kids to communicate and interact with each other both on- and offstage. "In a dance number, these students might do a couple of steps with everyone else, and then will do their own thing," Derfner says. Autistic students often have superior musical abilities, and the productions have strong musical elements in order to showcase these talents. "We're more kinesthetic and physical in our theatre productions than other schools might be," she adds.

Theatre has always been a part of Derfner's life. Her mother is an arts administrator in Juneau, Alaska. When Derfner was in the sixth grade, a play she wrote, *Rumors*, was produced at a local theatre. After Barnard, Derfner spent a decade in theatre, including being a theatre manager for the Jim Henson Foundation and Lincoln Center, and a tour manager for singer Diamanda Galás. By 2006, she was ready for a change. After earning an MFA in creative writing from the Vermont College for Fine Arts, Derfner looked for a job that would give her time to write and set her sights on teaching.

She assumed she'd be assigned a regular classroom in the public school system, but during her interview, a panel members suggested she teach theatre, given her background. "I had no idea there was such a thing," Derfner says. In her first year at M094, Derfner applied for a grant from the Schubert Foundation to launch a musical theatre program in the school. Musicals are now a mainstay.

"Theatre lets these students use a part of their brains that they don't get to use in other parts of their day," Derfner says. "It helps them to problem-solve and the more they can problem-solve in creative ways, the more they can generalize that skill into real life." —*Ilana Polyak*

**Hanson** lives in Harlem with her husband, Erin Fitzpatrick (CC '99), and 1-year-old son, Seamus. After working in publishing, she has finished her first novel and is seeking an agent and publisher. She's also working as a staff writer at amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research.

Last August in Florida, **Elysha**

**Hammerman Shainberg** and her husband, Elliot, gave their 3-year-old son, Benjamin Eric, a brother, Jacob Amiel.

**Courtney Kjos Short**, who teaches history at the United States Military Academy at West Point, gave birth to Olivia Paulette last August.

**Lori Anderson McGee** and her husband, Patrick, moved to a new

home in College Park, Md., with their two children, Sheila, 5, and John, 3, last summer. Lori is an evaluation coordinator for the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Namrata Kothari-Jain** writes from Delhi, India, that she's enjoying bringing up her 5-year-old twins.

After studying translation in Budapest, Hungary, for a few years, **Rachel Miller** returned for a master's in library and information science at Rutgers. She works as an archivist at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan, translating poetry and prose on the side.

**Naomi (Eun Young) Choi** is working on her PhD in political science at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Angela Wan** received a master's degree from Harvard in regional studies in East Asia and a law degree from Duke. She was married last September on Long Island.

**Ekta Vig Sikder** and her husband, Arnab Sikder (SEAS '98), had a baby girl last August, Eva Mira.

**Marte Towle** has been working in marketing in the luxury industry for Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and the Four Seasons. Marte is completing her MBA in international luxury management at Essec business school in Paris.

**Melanie Cruz** played Coonass Blooze and Gilligan's Island in the world premiere of Judi Ann Mason's play, *How Katrina Plays*, and she was in the Doorpost Film Project's second-place-winner *La Premiere*. She also booked a role on *The Young and the Restless*.

**Tamar Prager** is in Columbia University's entry-to-practice program at the school of nursing, specializing in adult and geriatric medicine. She recently completed a memoir about coming out in the Jewish community, which she hopes to publish.

**Laura Ackerman Sack** welcomed her daughter, Rebecca Adele, in September 2009. She says that she and her husband will catch up on sleep when Rebecca goes to college.

**Dana Lande**, of Laurel, Md., has celebrated her 10th anniversary with Avi Meyerstein (CC '99) and the third birthday of her twin daughters, Ellie and Noa. Dana is CEO of Dayna Designs, which designs and manufactures jewelry for the collegiate and NASCAR markets.

**Kate Bittinger Eikel** lives in

Washington, D.C., and works for the Government Accountability Office, focusing on financial-market issues. In addition to receiving a master's in public policy from the University of Chicago, she continues to row on and off, and last year got fifth place at the Head of the Charles Regatta in the Club 8. Two years ago she married a fellow rower in D.C., with several Barnard and Columbia friends in attendance.

**Emily White** reports from Los Angeles that she started her own design firm, Layer, and is teaching a design studio at the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

**Sunita Pradhan** is the operations manager at Schools-On-I-Net and works at Guru, an eco-friendly designer label.

**Abigail Susik** received her PhD in art history from Columbia last May and is now a postdoctoral teaching fellow at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss.

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10<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 00

On Aug. 29, 2009, **Kate Garroway** married David Roth on a working farm in Scarborough, Maine, not far from where she grew up. Kate writes, "We were planning to be married outside, but Tropical Storm Danny touched down in Maine on Aug. 29, so we moved everything under a tent and were married on the dance floor. Everyone pitched in to make it work and the day felt very special and communal, if a little wet and cold for August." Stephen Del Percio (CC '00), a childhood friend of Dave's, was an usher. Jessica Roake (CU '03) held a corner of the chuppah. "I've worked at Danspace Project for four years, currently as development manager, which involves organizing an annual gala and managing individual giving programs." She has performed and choreographed since graduating, appearing at Dance Theater Workshop and other New York venues, and most recently dancing in the Philadelphia Fringe Festival last September with

long-time collaborator Colleen Hooper.

**Taren Spearman** is a candidate for a master of laws degree in international legal relations from IE Law School in Madrid, Spain. The program began last September and ends in July, when she hopes to continue in IE's exchange program for a semester at Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo, Brazil.

**Natasha Smith** gave birth to Nathaniel Tanner, on Sept. 18, 2009.

**Sonia Van Dyne** is practicing as a midwife in California, at both Kaiser Walnut Creek and Highland hospitals. "I serve a diverse population of patients and love all of them and their little ones," she writes. "As a Barnard woman, however, it is frustrating to see the sexism inherent in the medical world—especially in the realm of women's health. As a midwife, I'm trying to chip away at that daily..." She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area, with Sean Braden, a nurse practitioner she met in school.

**Trina Sears** married Ryan Holt in Zihuatanejo, Mexico. "It was a beautiful ceremony at sunset on a garden terrace, overlooking the bay," she writes. **Ogechi Iwuoha, Azra Jaferi, and Jessica Myers** attended the weekend event.

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## 01

**Carrie Lee Teicher** is receiving her MD this May from the Sackler School of Medicine in Tel Aviv University.

**Erika Swanson Willis** is in her fourth year of a PhD program in clinical psychology at UC, Berkeley.

Last year **Kala Maxym** traveled to Chile, Botswana, Spain, and the U.K., but is back in New York and working full time to launch her new company, the Opera Insider ([theoperainsider.com](http://theoperainsider.com)). It's the first online community for opera lovers from both sides of the curtain. She continues to sing opera as well.

**Jennifer Barsky Reese** got her PhD in clinical psychology from Rutgers in October 2008. She also completed a clinical internship at Duke University

Medical Center and began an American Cancer Society-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins in 2009 to study sexual relationships of colorectal cancer survivors.

**Hadas Kushnir** completed her PhD in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota. She's in Washington, D.C., doing a short-term policy fellowship at the National Academy of Sciences.

After getting a master's in social work from Hunter College, **Mara McLaughlin** moved to the mountains of North Carolina for two years. Finally, she followed her heart and her family and moved back to Minnesota after 12 years away. She works for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities.

On Dec. 22, 2009, **Miriam Mathless** married Nosson Abrams, an attorney in New York City. At the wedding were her good friends **Suzanne Balsam**, **Razelle Holtz Weinstein**, and **Aliyah Vinikoor**. Although she couldn't attend, **Lisa Segev Lotwin** sent best wishes.

Congratulations to **Heather White Godfrey**, who gave birth to Myles on Sept. 7, 2009. He was 9 lbs. 6 oz.

You may have seen **Laura Napoli** as the mom in the Comcast commercial "Action." She's performing as Sarah Connor in the Universal Studios live-action stunt show *Terminator 2: 3D*.

**Amber Ludwig** is a PhD candidate in the department of art history at Boston University.

**Moushumi Mehta Brody** and her husband, Alfie Brody, had a baby girl, Rania Anjali, on June 11, 2009. She was named after Rania, the Queen of Jordan, and Moushumi's sister, Anjali Mehta '05.

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## 03

In January, **Keren Simon** returned from a three-week trip to Israel with her boyfriend, who has a lot of family there.

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## A Portrait of an Artist

### Julia Westerbeke '03

California and New York are major arts hubs, and Julia Westerbeke has a foothold in both. Originally from the Bay Area, Westerbeke, majored in art history with a concentration in the visual arts. While at Barnard, she interned at New York galleries and artists' studios including that of Jeff Koons. After graduation, she wrote art listings for *Time Out New York* for a while.



But she went back West for an MFA at the University California, San Diego, which she completed in 2009, and to establish herself as an artist. This past fall, Westerbeke had a solo show at Compactspace, a gallery in downtown Los Angeles, and an installation at San Francisco's de Young Museum in December. A group show at the Oceanside Museum of Art capped off the momentous year. "California is amazing for emerging artists because galleries are so open to showing you right off the bat," Westerbeke says.

For the show at the de Young, Westerbeke teamed up with fellow artist Clare Parry to create *The Deluge*, a series of boxes that contained Dr. Suess-like objects. The pair worked on the piece as visitors toured the museum. They could ask the artists questions and learn about the work. "It's rare that you get to interact with visitors this way," Westerbeke says.

At Compactspace, Westerbeke's show, *Alien Organic*, used her signature materials of burned Styrofoam and hot white glue to create sculptures that are both recognizable and unknown. A piece might look like a moth one moment and an extraterrestrial being the next. "It was taking the language of science fiction and overlaying something familiar on top of that," she explains.

Westerbeke's sculptures are large in scale, but they are fantastical forms with filigree and lace-like finishes. She points to various artists as her influences. One is Eva Hesse about whose organic, minimalist paintings of the '60s Westerbeke says, "you want to touch them but you can't." Another is Petah Coyne, who creates dream-like sculptures from common objects like dried flowers and chicken wire. Her earliest influence, however, was her mother, Eileen West. West is a fashion designer who creates lines of lingerie and housewares. The fabric and lace is referenced throughout Westerbeke's work, but hers are made from resin-coated paper and burned Styrofoam.

The next chapter of Westerbeke's career takes her back to New York where she is looking to join a studio collective in order to be part of an artists' community. She is also applying for artists' residencies around the country.

—Ilana Polyak

## 04

**Rosa Sanchez** is in the last year of her PhD course work in Spanish literature at the University of Virginia. She'll write her dissertation when she's back in New York. Her first translation of a Dominican short story is being published in the journal *Sargasso* this spring. Rosa reports that **Michelle Perna** and **Hsiao-Yu (Sherry) Huang** both married recently.

**Nubia DuVall** has been involved in a joint art project with her husband. The art show was for the Global Citizen Project series and premiered on Jan. 9.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Nofi** married Ted Berg on July 18, 2009. **Catherine (Cat) Chung** and Caroline Chung '05 were in attendance, as well as many people from the Toddler Center—**Catherine Golding-Cremoux**, **Gena Khelemski**, **Tovah Klein**, and **Karina Trujillo-Sanchez**. Liz is in her first year of medical school.

After graduation, **Yael Julie**

**Fischer** worked for Danny J. Boggs, chief judge of the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, former Senator Hillary Clinton, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, and former Ohio State Treasurer and current Ohio State Attorney General Rich Cordray. She has also worked for elections in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and in Virginia and Ohio. She graduates this May from Columbia's law school. Last summer, she worked in Afghanistan at a nonprofit organization dedicated to rebuilding the country's infrastructure through agriculture. She plans to continue the project next year. —MML

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5<sup>th</sup> Reunion June 3–June 6, 2010

## 05

**Sara Woldin Fieldston** celebrated her marriage to Brett Fieldston (CC '06) at the Yale Club of New York City. Sara and Brett tied the knot at New Haven City Hall on Nov. 19, 2007, but celebrated with family and friends on Aug. 8, 2009. Alumnae in attendance included **Noa Besner**, **Naomi Dabi**, Amy German '77, Marian Blank Horn '65, **Jaclyn Loo**, **Rebecca Rubin-Schlansky**, Lauren Seideman '09, and Nandini Sur '07. Sara is in her third year of study for a PhD in United States and women's history at Yale University. Brett, who graduated from Yale Law School, is an associate at the law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell.

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## 06

**Alexis Whittaker** graduated from Villanova University College of Nursing, became a registered nurse, and is now

in the family nurse-practitioner program at Boston College.

**Kristina Janson** is earning her master of education degree in curriculum and instruction at Penn State.

**Danielle Fein** is a law student at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

**Jessica Conquest** lives in Los Angeles and is getting her master's in clinical psychology at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

**Lora Lithgow Dever** is studying education policy and management at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and will graduate this May.

**Irma Khoja**, a student at the University of Miami School of Law, received the 2009 Kirk Hass Humanitarian Scholarship from the Florida Bar.

**Elana Horowitz** writes from Vancouver, where she worked with the official ticket agent and hospitality provider for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

**Tamara Schechter** received her master's in art history and archaeology and is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU.

**Ashley Putnam** lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn, with a few Columbia alumnae. She worked on the Obama campaign in Altoona, Pa. She's now with America Works, which helps individuals living on food stamps and welfare find employment and become self-sufficient. Ashley celebrated New Year's with **Erin Boatman**, Mariel Frank '07, **Vicki Kim**, **Maryangela Moutoussis**, **Marjorie Yang**, and Camilla Zhang '07.

**Brett Bell** is a first-year medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

**Shira Zinberg Sandel** graduated with honors from the New York School of Interior Design in May and had her second son, Solomon, in June; his older brother, Max, is 4 years old.

**Theresa Dean** graduated from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Monica Finley** began an accelerated nursing program at the University of Maine and is studying to be a family nurse-practitioner.

**Lauren Joyce** graduated with her MFA in literary nonfiction writing from Columbia's School of the Arts, writing division, in 2008. In October 2009, she attended the marriage of Meghan Hagberg '01 and Efecem Kutuk.

**Kim West** writes that after a year of advocating for her brother, Beresford, who is severely autistic, she and her family successfully had him transferred to a new group home, where he's happy, healthy, and safe.

**Sarah Zimmet** began course work for the MA/PhD program in historical archaeology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

**Zeah Venitelli** is a second-year medical student at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Amy Shebar** now has a master's in urban policy analysis and management from Milano The New School for Management and Urban Policy.

**Andrea (Andi) Grossman** visited **Elana Slobodien** in Brazil. They spent a week in São Paulo and the weekend of New Year's in Rio de Janeiro, and "enjoyed mangos and drank açai smoothies every single day!"

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## 07

**Jenna Beatrice** is finishing her second year at Fordham University School of Law, concentrating on human-rights law, specifically women's rights. For the spring semester, she was selected to be a part of the Walter Leitner Human Rights Clinic and will be working to aid grassroots organizations in Sierra Leone, concentrating on eliminating violence against women.

After receiving her MFA in choreography in 2009, **Sydney Mosley** moved back to New York to join the dance community with performances for VIA Dance Collaborative and Brooklyn Ballet. She's also on the faculty for Brooklyn Ballet and teaches all the dance programs at the Grosvenor Neighborhood House YMCA.

**Kate Lincoff** won her "dream job" at Active Travel, a nonprofit business in Boulder, Colo. They provide runners, cyclists, and swimmers with the routes, maps, statistics, and significant cultural information necessary for successful

experiences all over the world.

**Lauren Silver** and **Jenny Ronis** both graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law this May. They are also both research editors on *Temple Law Review* this year.

**Meredith Picard** is a second-year law student at Brooklyn Law School, and she won an internship in the New York deputy general counsel's office at the Screen Actor's Guild. On her first day, she learned that **Danielle Moriber** was the legal intern who held the position last semester. As she toured the office, she ran into Bernadine Goldberg '04 who works in the policy and strategic planning department.

**Elizabeth (Liza) Eaton** is pursuing a master's degree at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. She loves living in Dublin and studying literature again.

**Chantel Nicolas** is pursuing a PhD in chemistry at Clark Atlanta University. She's of Haitian descent and glad to report that her father and brother in Haiti are ok. She asks those reading this to please contribute to the relief efforts.

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## 08

**Chantal (Remi) Sowemimo-Coker** finds herself the gatekeeper of the *Psychological Journal* entries gate. She serves as the editor and writer of several articles about procedural justice, child-sex offenders, police, and others. She looks forward to representing New South Wales State Dragon Boat Racing team at the national competition.

**Cathaleen Kaiyoorawongs** lives in New York City and works at the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

**Emily Kramer** just moved back to New York after a year of working at a bookstore in Ohio. She's now a hostess at Caravaggio, a brand-new modern Italian restaurant on the Upper East Side, and she's finishing her first novel.

**Ashley McClellan** married Marcus E. Ohlheiser, Jr., in a small wedding surrounded by her family and close



“Ever since I was a little girl I knew I’d go to Barnard. My mom, Class of 1927, and my aunt, Class of 1934, adored it as I did. Barnard gave me enthusiasm for learning, respect for hard work, and many, many dear friends. **It’s time to give back—so more women can reap the benefits of Barnard.**”

—Carol Salomon Gold '55

### LEAVE A LEGACY!

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**BARNARD**  
ATHENA SOCIETY

friends, on Sept. 8, 2009 in Crestview, Fla. Her maid of honor was her dear friend **Andrea Robbins**.

**Twyla Ruby** is a curatorial assistant at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art.

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## 09

**Emily Bickford** has started her own greeting-card company, EmmyBo Originals (emmybooriginals.co.uk).

**Eva Peskin** has been an assistant to the producers of the *Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, a multimedia theatre event as part of the Under the Radar Festival. She's also working for Kaplan Test Prep as an SAT teacher and for MenuPages, ensuring online content quality. Off the clock, she has been collaborating with Barnard and Columbia alumni to make new, original theatre.

**Kateri Benjamin** lives in Brooklyn and is a book publicist at HarperCollins.

**Nicole Economou** lives in Boston and does research at the Center for Women's Mental Health at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Nicole Donnachie** has moved to London and started work at a digital-media company, writing advertisements and planning online search campaigns for the government. She also appeared as an extra in the English National Opera's winter production of *Messiah*.

**Alexandra Loizzo** is in her second semester of graduate school. She feels very lucky to have received a fellowship from Fordham University, where she's in a two-year master's program in English. Her favorite part of school is working in the Writing Center, where she enjoys helping students with their personal statements for graduate programs.

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# In Memoriam

- 1929 Edith Krejci Bulson,  
Feb. 15, 2010
- 1931 Frances Kyne Regan,  
Feb. 2, 2010  
Barbara Mitchell Uniker,  
Dec. 16, 2009
- 1932 Elvira De Liece Burke,  
May 30, 1999  
Marguerite de Anguera,  
Jan. 19, 2010
- 1933 Therese Werner Kohnstamm,  
June 24, 2009
- 1934 Beatrice Scheer Smith,  
Dec. 26, 2009
- 1936 Marie Grant Krumdieck,  
Jan. 28, 2010  
Helen May Strauss,  
Jan. 10, 2010
- 1938 Alison Irvine Brown,  
Dec. 27, 2009  
Patricia Emery Mansur,  
July 10, 2009  
Nancy Fraenkel Wechsler,  
July 27, 2009
- 1939 Rose De Bitetto Dudek,  
Dec. 17, 2009  
Elaine Hildenbrand Mueser,  
Nov. 28, 2009
- 1940 Eva Spitz Blum,  
May 2, 2009  
Ruth Brand Struhl,  
Dec. 20, 2009
- 1941 Lois Berberich,  
Feb. 19, 2010  
Mary Ewald Cole,  
Dec. 25, 2009  
Mary Colbeth Korff,  
Nov. 29, 2009
- 1942 Elinore Jacoff Tunick,  
Jan. 30, 2010
- 1943 Margaret Schloss Hochman,  
Oct. 14, 2009
- 1944 Helen Cahn Weil,  
Dec. 23, 2009
- 1945 Frances Hitch,  
July 16, 2007
- 1946 Margeret Powell Lowe,  
Jan. 14, 2010
- 1947 Marie Rosati Checchi,  
Jan. 25, 2010  
Marjorie Davis Hayner,  
Aug. 4, 2009  
Elaine MacKenzie Hill,  
Nov. 18, 2006  
Ruth White Levitan,  
Dec. 28, 2009  
Charlotte Hanley Scott,  
March 11, 2010
- 1949 Margaret Friend Secor,  
Dec. 31, 2009
- 1950 Patience Dalhouse Bannister,  
Jan. 1, 1986  
Erica Wollner Clayberg,  
Jan. 28, 2010  
Dorothy Clark Culver,  
July 6, 2004  
Alan Dingman,  
Sept. 15, 2005  
Virginia Clark Griffith,  
Aug. 29, 2006  
Mary Deane Marshall,  
April 5, 2006  
Eunice O'Donnell Perlman,  
Nov. 29, 2006  
Lois Clapp Sweet,  
Jan. 2, 2001  
Dolla Cox Weaver,  
July 11, 2001
- 1951 Candace Benjamin Owen,  
Feb. 9, 2010
- 1956 Nancy McDaniel Barden,  
Feb. 1, 2010  
Eda Simpson Burne,  
Dec. 20, 2009
- 1957 Margot Shap Zobel,  
Jan. 29, 2010
- 1960 Alice Fleetwood Barteel,  
Feb. 7, 2010  
Rochelle Stoller Hyman,  
May 1, 1981  
Sylvia Solomon,  
Nov. 15, 2007
- 1961 Mary Solimena Kurtz,  
Aug. 6, 2009
- 1964 Rosanne Haydock Mahler,  
Dec. 18, 2009
- 1973 Hattie Taylor Spence,  
Jan. 6, 2010
- 1975 Linda Sherman,  
Feb. 5, 2004
- 1988 Jonna Espey,  
Aug. 29, 2009

# An Opportunity to Succeed

**Torchbearers speaker honors great-grandmother who lost her chance at higher education**

**Nina Shaw '76 believes** everyone deserves the opportunity to make something of themselves. She made the most of hers: After piecing together her Barnard tuition from a combination of scholarships and student loans, she enrolled in law school and began a career as an entertainment lawyer. Today, Shaw is a Hollywood power player representing movie stars such as Jamie Foxx and Laurence Fishburne through the law firm she cofounded, Del, Shaw, Moonves, Tanaka, Finkelstein & Lezcano. As busy as her schedule is, she accepted an invitation to speak on behalf of donors and friends at Barnard's Torchbearers 2010, the annual gathering of scholarship, internship, and fellowship donors and their student recipients.

Speaking to the Torchbearers audience about her own background and the importance of giving back, Shaw noted that she wouldn't have been able to afford her undergraduate studies without scholarships. As a result, she decided to offer current students with financial needs the same kind of assistance she received. Shaw has established two: The first, the Mary Catlett Hardy Scholarship Fund, has helped pay for the Barnard education of a dozen students since the 1998–99 academic year. The second, the Nina L. Shaw '76 Residential Scholarship Fund, will begin supporting recipients soon. "I have a very keen sense that financial aid made the difference between the life I led and the life I'm living now," she says.

## Honoring a Dream Denied

The first scholarship Shaw endowed is named for her great-grandmother, Mary Catlett Hardy, whom she would visit in Charlottesville, Virginia, during childhood. "...A spectacular woman—tall and soft-spoken, with a southern accent," recalls Shaw. "She was a professional seamstress, but was actually more like an artist. She made the most beautiful clothing you could possibly imagine. We read *Vogue* ... going through it line by line, and she would often copy clothing she saw there."

Shaw's great-grandmother spoke about growing up in the South at a time when many African Americans had few opportunities for education. "In my great-grandmother's time, if you were a colored person, you had to leave town to get a



high school education," she says. "There was no black high school in Charlottesville until 1926."

Mary Catlett Hardy persevered, eventually enrolling at Oberlin College and working side jobs to pay her tuition. When her father fell ill, however, she had to return to Charlottesville and give up her dream of a college education. "She spoke of Oberlin like it was the city on the hill," says Shaw. "She was a great leader and had a great intellectual curiosity, but her formal education ended when she was just 17 years old. It is truly the tragedy of her life." That dream cut short was the motivation behind the scholarship Shaw established in her great-grandmother's name.

## A Shot at Success

Shaw grew up in Harlem and the Bronx with two brothers and two sisters. Her mother worked at the post office and later at the motor vehicles department; her stepfather was a New York City Housing policeman, who drove a cab part time. "My parents were always very clear that they wanted me to achieve far more than they had," says Shaw. "We were going to be this incredibly successful generation. It wasn't a question of *if* you go to college, it was *when* you go to college."

Shaw attended the now-closed William Taft High School,

where she picked up important life skills both in and out of the classroom. “It was a tough school, with a small group of high-performing students,” she says. “Every day at Taft was a valuable lesson in diplomacy and independence, and how to get along with a very diverse group of people.”

And though she praises her teachers at Taft, the public school’s curriculum lacked the breadth that many of her Barnard classmates enjoyed in high school. As a result, she struggled to keep up with the coursework during her first year at Barnard. Rather than give up, Shaw approached one of her English professors and asked for help. The professor drew up a list of all the books she should have read in high school. Shaw read them over the course of her first year, while juggling the other assignments required for her classes. “I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to [Senior Associate in English] Quandra Prettyman,” says Shaw. “From that point forward, Barnard remained challenging—but I felt I could understand the references in class.”

She believes that experience is a perfect snapshot of Barnard: a professor taking the extra time to provide a student with the tools needed to succeed. “There was a tremendous emphasis on self-realization,” she says. “It’s the idea that you should find a path and find a passion. Barnard was such a supportive environment in that sense.” She continues, “It was tough in my era. We were the first group of African-American women to go to Barnard in any numbers. One of the reasons that I’m still connected with the College is that Barnard ultimately embraced the challenge of that era.”

### Supporting the Next Generation

When Barnard approached her about endowing a scholarship, she was still paying off her student loans and just establishing her law career. “It was a huge gift that required sacrifice,” she says. “But I remember hearing a former Barnard trustee say, ‘When you really believe in something, you have to dig deep.’” Since the 1998–99 academic year, the Mary Catlett Hardy Scholarship Fund has provided annual support to a student who qualifies for financial aid without additional qualifications or restrictions. Shaw says that she considered limiting it at one time, but decided against it. “My great-grandmother was a woman who couldn’t get an education,” she says. “I felt I needed to keep it open to all women, because who am I to judge who needs more help to achieve their dreams?”

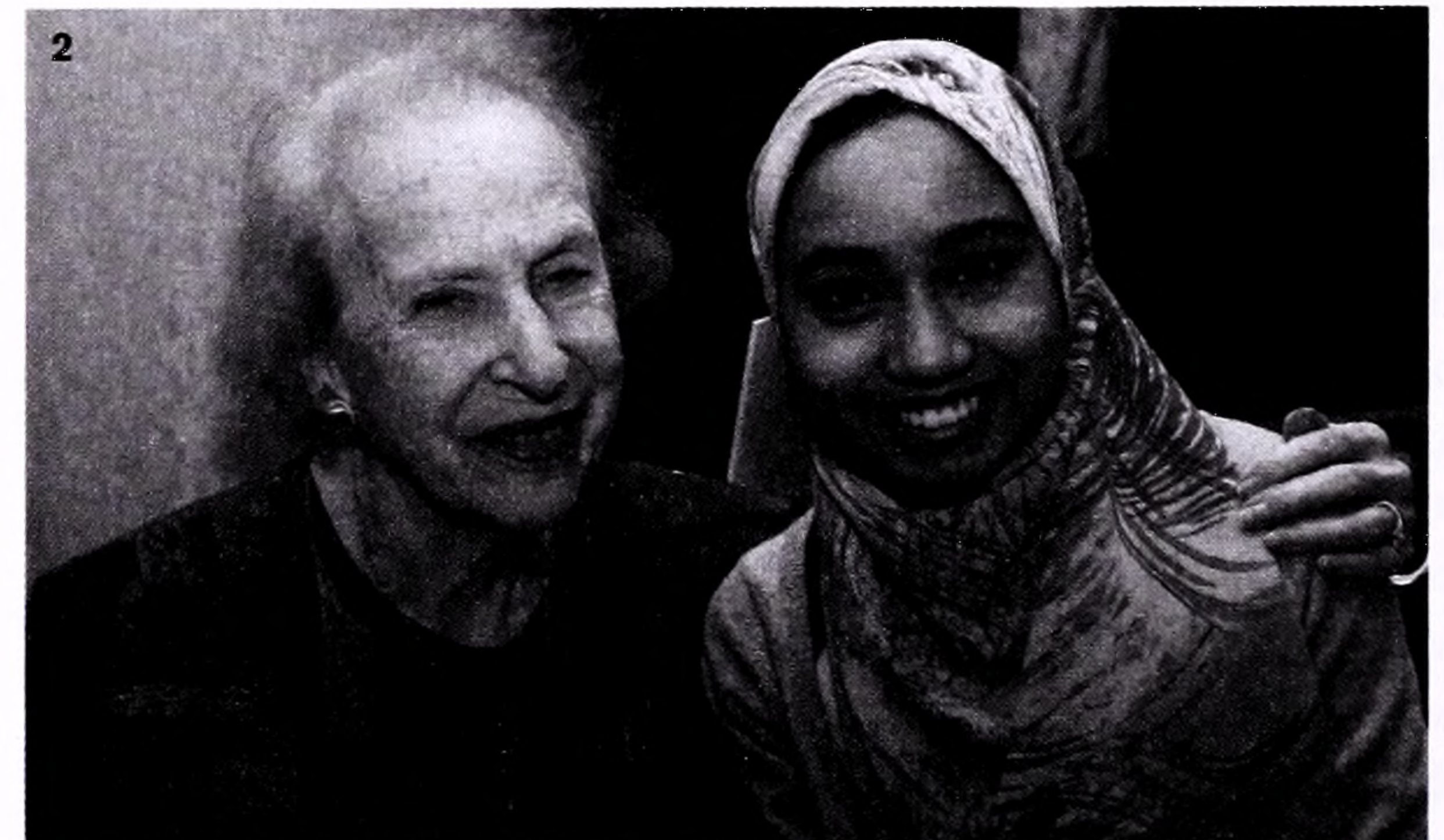
The 2009–10 recipient of the scholarship, Stephanie Neel, is grateful for the support. Neel grew up in Los Angeles, and originally came to New York to attend NYU as a dramatic-writing major before transferring to Barnard in her sophomore year. She had friends who were attending Barnard, and she quickly realized that she preferred the College’s flexibility and cross-disciplinary approach. “The faculty at Barnard is so encouraging and so motivating,” says Neel. “There really aren’t limits for what you can do here.”

Neel is now a senior and art history major with a focus on contemporary photography. Her thesis examines how women have appeared in fashion photography during three distinct periods, and compares those portrayals to the feminist literature of the time. Coincidentally, she spends much of her time looking through issue after issue of *Vogue*—the magazine that helped Shaw and her great-grandmother pass the hot summer days.

### Giving Back

After graduating from Barnard, Shaw attended Columbia Law School and entered the field of entertainment law. She continues to break new ground as one of the first African-American entertainment lawyers in the business—and one of the first women to squarely establish herself in a profession traditionally dominated by men.

Shaw’s second scholarship, the Nina L. Shaw ’76 Residential Scholarship Fund, eventually will support students who live within commuting distance of the College. “I often felt as a commuter that I was a little outside of the College community,” she says. “You really need to be immersed in college life, and to the extent that this scholarship allows you to live on campus, it enriches that experience.”



**Other scholars and donors from the Torchbearers’ event:**

1 Pauline Piskin Sherman '64 and Joyce Shin '13

2 Helen De Vries Edersheim '47 P '85 and Sharmin Ahmed '10



## SYLLABUS: MADAGASCAR

Continued from Page 14

an understanding of its unique location in the Indian Ocean, which is often seen as its source of isolation, students fulfill course goals as described in the syllabus: “to appreciate Madagascar’s relevance within contexts that extend beyond its ocean borders” and “to grapple with questions of why the Indian Ocean arena is so frequently neglected or overlooked.”

The seminar is structured around a series of texts, such as Maurice Bloch’s seminal work *Placing the Dead: Tombs, Ancestral Villages, and Kinship Organization in Madagascar* and the timely *Endangered Species: Health, Illness and Death among Madagascar’s People of the Forest* by Janice Harper. One of Sharp’s own books is required reading. In *The Sacrificed Generation: Youth, History, and the Colonized Mind in Madagascar*, she examines the historical consciousness of Malagasy youth and how they reflect on the past. Young people drew on the past as a means to understand their current predicament in an impoverished and isolated country, where themes of enslavement, forced labor, and wartime conscription in the colonial era provided ways to understand the origins of contemporary problems. Another of Sharp’s books, *The Possessed and The Dispossessed: Spirits, Identity, and Power in a Madagascar Migrant Town*, which is focused on her early research on spirit possession, is optional reading.

Slavery was a major force in shaping Madagascar’s history, and students spend the first half of the course thinking and rethinking the terms “slave trade” and “diaspora.” The Malagasy people are traditionally mobile, and many have been displaced. Student Christine Maloney ’11 comments, “Urbanization has instigated a Malagasy diaspora, and I think it is easy to forget how big the island actually is and how penetrating the inevitable social effects of moving away from one’s homeland can be.” Taking a critical approach to terminology challenges the misconceptions surrounding Madagascar, from the romanticized myth of the peasant to overpopulation, to environmentalism as a new phenomenon. Sharp notes that colonial records echo Madagascar’s contemporary concerns to protect its

forests, “We’re repeating history without even realizing it.” Understanding the country also means understanding the Malagasy way of thinking. Although the people are certainly focused on daily survival, “Malagasy people are also focused on death,” says Sharp, “and the money they accumulate is often invested in tombs. You invest in the place where you’re going to be buried so you might one day become an ancestor.” Alexandra Ingber ’12, a seminar member, says she finds the concepts of ancestral ties and kinship fascinating to discuss in terms of Madagascar and how they differ from other African cultures and religions.

The Madagascar seminar is open to any undergraduates, although most students are Africana studies or anthropology majors. Maloney speaks about the importance of the course: “With so many foundational ideas and theories to grasp in undergraduate work, it is a treat to take a truly specialized class. I think Barnard offers unparalleled access to some of the best professors and researchers in the anthropology field, and I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to take a class in Professor Sharp’s area of expertise.” Sharp allows her students to formulate their own conceptions of Madagascar, “I do go in with a lesson plan, but generally don’t go into class with preconceptions of what we’re supposed to be doing with the material. Everyone does not have to reach the same conclusions by the end of the class. This is what makes a seminar such a wonderful experience—each year you teach a class, very different things can happen.”

### SALON: LOVE AT FIRST SITE

Continued from Page 15

In addition to Barnard, Alonso’s father has had a tremendous impact on her gumption, her readiness to take risks, she says. “He never raised me with the idea that you’re a girl, therefore you cannot...,” says Alonso, her voice trailing off. “If he were changing the door lock, he would call me over to learn how it’s done.”

Alonso’s father, who owned a successful furniture company in Cuba,

remade himself when the family fled to Spain during the Cuban Revolution. Seven years later, when the family arrived in New York City, he began again, knocking on the door of a plastic upholstery shop in Washington Heights. “He drove me,” says Alonso, noting her luck in having someone in the “household like that—with those powers of will and resiliency.” These days, she steels herself with the same determination, and tells aspiring entrepreneurs: “You have to feel it in the pit of your stomach that you will succeed. If you don’t believe in it 1,000 percent, then, when the valleys come, you will quit.”

### SALON: BLADE RUNNER

Continued from Page 17

things! I think the notion of juggling came from my Barnard years—balancing an academic course load and fencing. It taught me to be efficient and resourceful, to do my research, and to be an entrepreneur. I’ve had the most fun choreographing my own stuff. When I played Francisco in *Hamlet Shut Up!* with the Sacred Fools Theater Company, of which I’m a member, I was rolling around in a shark suit, fighting Hamlet. I got to put my own spin on the choreography. You know what moves you do well, and you put all that into your performance.

### THE MEDIUM SUITS THE MESSAGE

Continued from Page 21

class this person is going to take and they want to learn how to draw.” Miller is committed to maintaining a non-authoritarian presence, however, because he considers it essential to artistic thinking. “Some students get angry if you don’t present yourself as an authority, but I think that’s something that has to be worked through.”

In the photography class I observed, in which students took turns presenting works-in-progress while the rest of the class commented and asked questions,

his remarks were spare and took their lead from how the presenter was characterizing the images. He told one student about an essay she might find helpful and offered some technical tips about digital printing to another. He never passed judgment on the work. When the discussion of one set of photographs had run its course, he exclaimed, "Thanks a lot!" and the next presenter lay out her goods. The class ambience was serious yet relaxed. The women were looking and thinking.

"There is a weird thing that happens when you make art," Miller said later. "Almost everyone gets into it because it's fun in a way. And then it gets professionalized. What was fun becomes a job. And most people embrace that, because it means their work is being embraced. But it does create some paradoxes; what you started as pleasure becomes work, and inevitably you start thinking of it as work."

The students may take their fun very seriously, but it was clear they were having fun: a curious, probing kind, like Miller enjoys.

*John Miller's solo show of new paintings inspired by crying scenes on reality TV, "The Totality of Everything That Actually Exists," runs through June 15 at the Galerie Barbara Weiss in Berlin.*

*"The Grottesque," a collaboration with Richard Hoeck, appears at Galerie Johann Widauer in Innsbruck, Austria, through July 15.*

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## THE WALLS STARTED FALLING

*Continued from Page 23*

education," says Raphael, adding that she "fell in love" with the country and its people long ago. "They have lived courageously for so many years."

### AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

In the hours after the quake, Raphael's world turned on its head. She spent three nights in a tent on the football field next to Saint Peter's College—which had collapsed during the earthquake—along with 1,000 other displaced people. They survived on a little rice and a bottle of water a day. A

week later, she was finally able catch a plane to Boston to join her sisters at the convent, where she plans to stay. "I love Haiti and I would go back if I thought I could be useful," she says. "But at my age, I might get in the way. I think it's time that the younger ones take over."

Danticat, who is 41, spent hours on the phone, being interviewed by *The Wall Street Journal*, National Public Radio, and other prominent media outlets. "I couldn't go to Haiti [right away] because I had a little baby, so that's what I could do," she says simply.

Danticat also wrote a piece for *The New Yorker*, an obituary for her cousin Maxo, who died when his house collapsed. Twenty-three days after the earthquake, Danticat got a last-minute seat on a relief plane and visited the site where Maxo died and was buried. "The people who got burials of whatever kind were lucky," she says. "You were sad for the dead, but you were also sad for the living."

Chaumin-Savary was on the ground in Haiti quickly, along with 25 other doctors and a slew of medical supplies donated by local pharmacies and hospitals. "The international community went above and beyond when it came to giving supplies," she says. "But Haiti needs more than supplies—we need to incorporate Haitian workers into the rebuilding efforts."

That's Chaumin-Savary's motivation for establishing a stock exchange in Haiti. Though the building housing her Haiti offices collapsed, she is determined to move forward. "The principal idea is to issue bonds," she says. "There are lots of Haitians in the world community who could invest in the long-term prosperity of their country rather than just sending cash."

### BUILDING—AND REBUILDING—COMMUNITIES

Back in the United States, Facebook provided critical connections for some alumnae, who used the social networking site to track down friends and family. Nicolas, the graduate student, spent three days wondering what had happened to her father and brother. "I realized that I had to prepare myself for the possibility that my father had died. I was in my first semester at

Clark Atlanta University, and I thought if my father did die, he would want me to finish my studies," she says. "So I stayed in classes and continued working." Her brother soon called to say that he and their father were fine.

Gilles and her husband were similarly fortunate: Though a few relatives were injured, they all survived. "Events in Haiti became the focus of our lives after the quake," she says, noting that traffic to Bookmanlit.com tripled in the wake of the disaster.

After the earthquake, Gilles continued to use Facebook to build a community of journalists, activists, and artists. She has gone from updating her Web site monthly to working on it daily, and recently added a memorial for the dead. "I felt it necessary," she says, "since the government is burying them without much ceremony or respect."

At Barnard, students mobilized quickly to aid the struggling nation. The Caribbean Students Association and the Haitian Student Association launched a campus-wide coalition, There Is Hope Campaign, to coordinate relief efforts and generate discussion and collaboration. Since January, the campaign has raised approximately \$8,000 and coordinated a number of fund-raising and awareness events.

As Haiti continues to recover from the devastation, both Danticat and Helene Gayle '76, CEO of CARE, the humanitarian organization, believe it is critical that relief efforts focus on women and girls. And, they hope, Barnard alumnae will help lead the charge. "Women and girls are the change-makers in society. If you help them, you help everybody," says Gayle. CARE, which has been active in Haiti since 1954, had nearly 150 staffers on the ground at the time of the earthquake. They immediately transitioned to emergency response mode, reaching nearly 300,000 people in Haiti by mid-March. "Women and girls are among the most at risk now," says Gayle. "They are vulnerable to violence, to sexual violence. We need to make sure they are not forgotten about—now, and going forward."

And that choice is ... a belief in yourself, a belief in your family.”

Barnard College’s long history of excellence in leadership, and the literary output by its alumnae, were the inspirations for the other panels that afternoon. “Voices of the Region” tackled issues facing women in the Arab world through the arts: film, literature, and literary criticism. The discussion, moderated by President Spar, featured scholar and critic Samia Mehrez, filmmaker Moufida Tlatli, and novelist Ahdaf Soueif. The panelists explored how the arts and literature expanded women’s voices and experiences.

Professor Samia Mehrez emphasized that gender is embedded in everything we read and write. Arab writers continually use language that reflects their experience; for example, their history of colonization or discrimination and thus, she concluded, gender studies and translation studies go hand in hand.

Tunisian filmmaker Moufida Tlatli, speaking in both French and English, told stories of how she continually had to “combat” her family, to go to school and university, and to become a filmmaker. “My father said ‘no’ at each stage,” she declared. Hard work, the experience she had gained as a film editor, and the grief she felt after the death of her mother helped her complete her second film, *La Saison des Hommes*, which has met critical acclaim across the globe. When asked what’s next, she replied, “I’m not looking to plan the next film. When things come from my heart, the next film will come.”

Award-winning Egyptian novelist Ahdaf Soueif, author of *The Map of Love* (shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1999 and translated into more than 20 languages), attributed her great success to the influence of her mother, an English professor who moved the family to England, when as a woman she was unable to obtain a position teaching at a university in Egypt. The result was that Soueif spoke Arabic, but first learned to read in English. Her other strong influence came from her nanny, Azita, who told wonderful stories that taught the young girl to imagine and believe, and to understand the power of words and the importance of vivid characters.

As the director of The Athena Center for Leadership Studies, I moderated the second and final panel, “Conversations on Leadership,” which examined the changing face of women’s leadership across the region, and the great strides that Arab women have made in this part of the world. The panel included extraordinary women—all trailblazers in their fields. Each talked personally about how they achieved their success.

Investment banker Loulwa Bakr, who has held a number of investment banking positions in Saudi Arabia, explained that as the first woman trader in Saudi Arabia, she was often met with hostility and silence when she entered the trading floor. But now, said Bakr, women’s participation has been normalized. Today she walks inside the trading floor and sees both women and men working side by side. She did caution that it is important for us not to make generalizations about women in the Arab world. Depending on their country or community, women have remarkably different experiences. Saudi Arabia is not the same as Dubai, Oman, or Qatar, she added.

Dr. Houriya Kazim, the first female surgeon in the UAE, left it to study in England and the United States, returning to England for additional medical training when she realized the need for surgeons in the UAE. Starting a medical clinic for women in Dubai, Kazim continues to specialize in breast and reconstructive surgery for women with cancer. It took more hard work to achieve her goals than she ever imagined. And her journey was not without personal sacrifice. Since marriages are generally arranged, if one does not marry young, it is virtually impossible for a woman to marry an Emirati. Dr. Kazim did marry an American when she was almost 40, and was older than most of her peers when she started her family.

Federal National Council member Najla Al-Awadhi, one of the first women in the UAE parliament, its youngest member, and CEO of Dubai’s government-run cable-television channels, eloquently reiterated Kazim’s observation that success comes in part from hard work. According to Al-Awadhi, families may be both a source of personal support and an impediment

to success. She spoke about one of her employees whom she wanted to promote to be an on-air reporter. This young woman’s mother didn’t want her daughter to be on television because the only women the mother saw on TV were not culturally acceptable. To overcome this resistance, Al-Awadhi met the mother to convince her to allow her daughter to appear on TV. “Think about that,” she said. “I bet Katie Couric’s boss never had to meet with [her] mom, before Katie accepted a position on television.”

Rabia Zargarpur, known as “Rabia Z.,” followed her passion for fashion design and trained in both the U.S. and France. A video presentation of her award-winning designs all incorporated the *hajib* and other traditional Muslim dress. She emphasized that she could stretch the cultural limits of her faith, but only so far. She believes Arab women needed ways to express themselves consistent with their conservative culture. As moderator, I was delighted and impressed with the open exchange of personal histories, and how these ideas sparked enthusiastic responses from the audience, particularly the younger women who had attended.

This symposium was the second in what has become an annual Barnard event, enabling the College to become better known around the globe, to attract international students, and to advance our understanding of women’s leadership in differing cultures. Barnard’s first global symposium, honoring Kang Tongbi, the first Chinese woman to study at Barnard early in the twentieth century, took place in Beijing, China, in March 2009 ([barnard.edu/womenchangingchina](http://barnard.edu/womenchangingchina)). It brought together four renowned Chinese women leaders—a media mogul, an acclaimed author, an award-winning filmmaker, and an advocate for women’s rights—to share their inspirational stories with young women of the region. The success of that event inspired Barnard to continue examining the role of women and women leaders in other regions of the world.

*The Dubai Symposium was presented in partnership with Barclays Wealth, Platinum Gate, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank,*

*Economic Zones World, Aramex, the University of Southern Maine, and Higher Education in Development in association with The Columbia University Middle East Research Center and DIFC Centre of Excellence. The Barnard Global Symposia will continue in spring 2011 in Africa.*

*Watch symposium highlights, see photos, and read more coverage at [alum.barnard.edu/magazine](http://alum.barnard.edu/magazine).*

## MENTOR IT FORWARD

*Continued from Page 33*

works for them. Spar recalled some of the influential mentors she encountered over the years as she rose through the academic ranks, from older academics who supported her every move, to two colleagues who were so tough on her that she didn't see them as mentors until years later—when she realized they were the people who would never let her fail.

"A city is only as strong as the health and success of its women," said Mayor Bloomberg. The speed mentoring program was, as he described it, a way to link college students to "a certain caliber of professional whom they've never had access to before," in a format that would accommodate the busy lives of those professionals who might not otherwise have the time to mentor young women. "Our aim here is to create a pipeline that will produce leaders and pioneers," said Bloomberg. And in the midst of so many bright women, the mayor, known for his flashes of wit, went on to observe dryly, "Academically, I was one of the members of the class who made the top half of the class possible."

"How many people here have tried speed dating?" asked Cindy Hsu, invoking a popular analogy for the "speed mentoring" program about to begin. "I've tried it, and I'm just going to tell you: we're going to have much more effective results today."

"Needless to say there won't be much time for small talk," observed Anne Sutherland Fuchs, chair of the women's commission, which worked with Barnard College Communications and NYC Service (a mayoral program that links volunteers with the organizations

that need them) to coordinate the event in observance of Women's History Month. "The mentees will just have to dive right in and start peppering the mentors with [questions on] how to succeed," she advised.

For the sessions, mentors were divided into four groups: health, medicine, science and technology; law, public service, and government; finance, business, communications, media, and marketing; and nonprofit, education, art, and culture. Among the mentors were Marianne J. Harkin, a director at NYU Langone Medical Center; ABC News correspondent Lynn Sherr; First Deputy Mayor of New York City Patricia Harris; former Vice-Chair and CFO of Con Edison Joan Freilich '63; Jemina Bernard, executive director, Teach For America, New York region; Dean of Admissions Jennifer Gill Fondiller '88; Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Professional Practice in Architecture and Chair of the department of architecture Karen Fairbanks; and Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women and Interim Associate Dean of Faculty Diversity Janet Jakobsen.

Each undergraduate had been pre-assigned to a category based on her interests. At each eight-minute interval, Vivian Taylor, chief of staff and vice president for community development at Barnard, rang the bell, calling, "Mentor it forward! It is time to move!"

The 50 undergraduates hailed from the colleges participating in the Mayor's College Challenge Program, a citywide initiative (of which Barnard is a part) to encourage college students, faculty, and staff to make a positive impact by volunteering in the community. The mentees went on to become mentors themselves, starting on April 17 at the NYC Young Women's Volunteer Summit where they met with high school students to advise them on what to expect when they get to college. "We're going to take this program around the city. We want to have it in every borough and every neighborhood," said Sutherland Fuchs.

After the event at Barnard, both mentors and mentees agreed that the event had exceeded their expectations. "I thought it was great. The sessions were easy and smooth, and all the women were really articulate and gave great advice," said Dana Bacharach '13, from Portland, Ore. For Anna Steffens '10,

one the best things the mentors were able to convey to her was a stronger sense of confidence about the future. "One mentor assured me, 'Don't worry, you're going to get a job; it's going to happen. Put all your energy into enjoying yourself and cultivating your passion.' It was really great to have that boost of confidence from someone who had been there."

"It was awesome," concluded Diahann Billings-Burford, chief service officer of NYC Service. "I was really impressed by the caliber of [both groups].... Our city's greatest resource is its people."

## LAST WORD: SETTING MY OWN SEQUENCE

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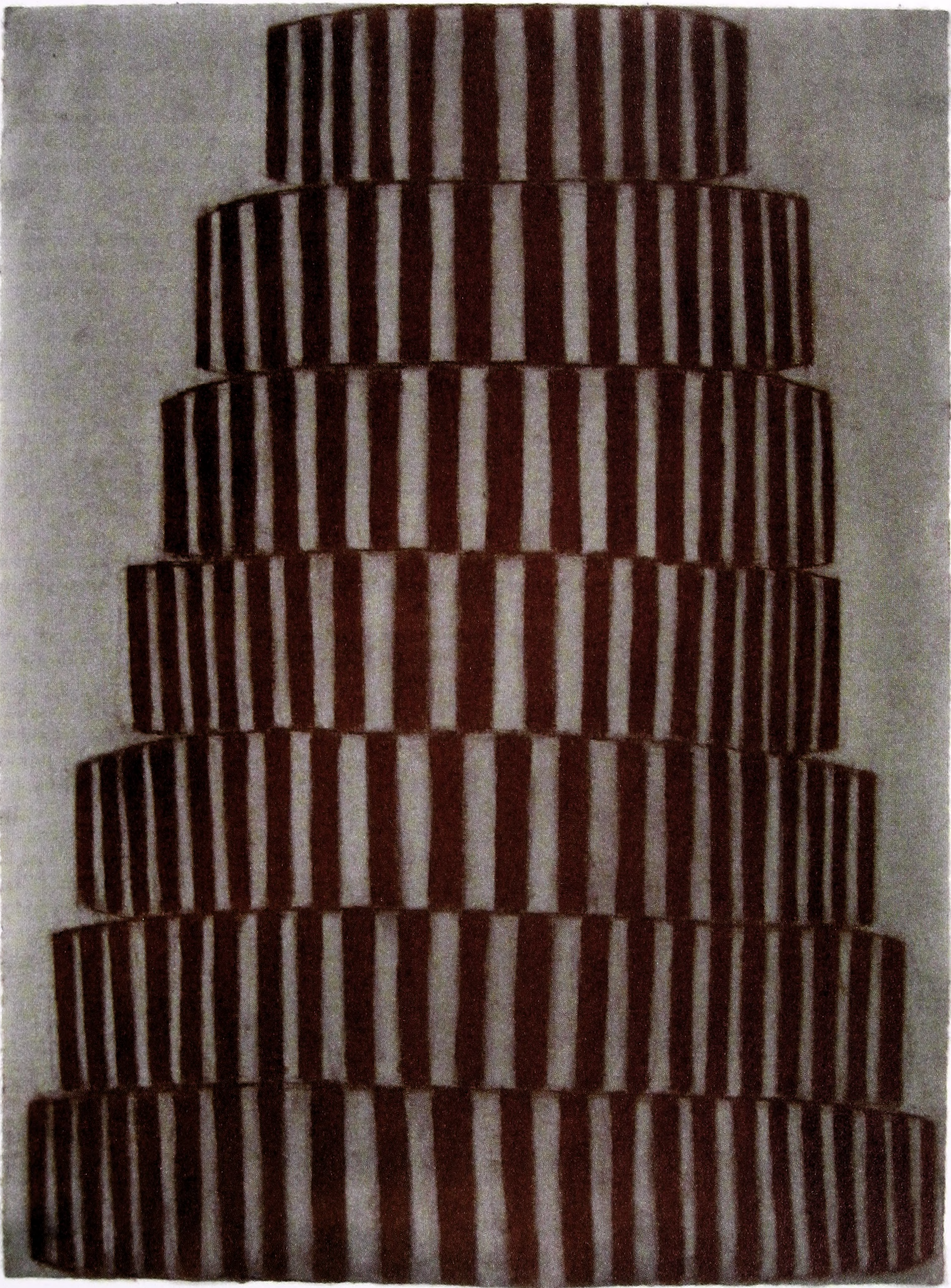
believed anything but my own ambition is required to pursue my professional aspirations when the time is right.

A college, understandably, celebrates its most successful graduates, those who are recognized for professional achievement, academic excellence, and more. I write this piece simply as a gentle lifting of the hat to the rest of us, in the midst of professional and personal lives, just perhaps less print-worthy and with quieter purpose.

Next fall my youngest child will begin kindergarten and I will begin a new sequence, one rippling with possibility and expectation. I am approaching 40, not 25, yet I feel very much as I did at graduation 15 years ago. I now have a family, a dog, a house, but certain questions are the same. What will I do? Who will I be? My mind is gleefully awlirl.

### LAST IMAGE: CALL FOR ENTRIES

Do you have an amazing photograph or work of art that you would like to share with fellow alumnae? Please send submissions to David Hopson at [dhopson@barnard.edu](mailto:dhopson@barnard.edu).



# Setting My Own Sequence

The “Save the Date” postcard for my 15th Barnard Reunion startled me last June. Fifteen years?! Soon a letter arrived asking for nominations from our class for various awards—professional achievement, academic excellence, feminism... I laughed when I read it—a laugh embodying both humor and humility, with me standing at the kitchen counter waiting for pasta water to boil, and my kids, then 3 and 6, sitting at the table munching carrots. Although I wouldn’t—couldn’t—nominate myself, no one else could either. With the letter’s innocent request to celebrate my classmates, I would acknowledge my utter *lack* of professional accomplishment since graduation.

I didn’t plan it. From 1994 until 1998, I was immersed in the working world: My first job out of Barnard was at a nonprofit cultural center, with amazing people and a steep learning curve; the second was copy editor of a national magazine, my “break” into publishing. But I was miserable there, and 18 months later, four years into my working life, I left to work part time at two more magazines and to freelance as a copy editor. My quiet desire to edit more substantively and write did not compete with the fact that copyediting was paying my bills and I was enjoying the freelancer’s lifestyle. And my personal life was thriving.

In these same years, I fell in love, adopted a dog, and co-signed a mortgage. In 1999, my future husband and I sublet our apartment and took a detour from our working lives for six months to drive across the country with our dog. We married the following year. (Indeed, I fulfilled the women’s-school joke of yore: I got my MRS, marrying a man with those very initials.)

In 2002, I had my first child. Still freelancing, I had an easy segue into stay-at-home motherhood. My second child was born in 2005. I have continued to freelance, just enough, I often joke, to keep my brain from complete atrophy.

Professional achievement? Does copyediting a college course catalogue during my kids’ naptimes count? Academic excellence? My avid listening of NPR in the car does not apply. Feminism? I’ve got that one covered. My husband did 50 percent of the diaper changes and does 90 percent of the dishes. (Some MRS!)

Still, this Barnard grad has no choice but to acknowledge that, professionally speaking, the last 15 years have yielded nothing notable. Through the prism presented by last year’s milestone reunion, I see where those years have gone and the realization is not a self-deprecating one. I am okay with it. For now.

Before I had children, I read in the pages of this magazine an article about women who take a number of years out of the workforce to raise their kids to school age and then return, even a decade later. “Sequencing” (Fall 1999), it was called. This word appears during my inner dialogue, and I have always appreciated, sometimes clung to the concept, that what I am doing has been given a name. I am in the throes of completing an eight-year sequence. As I see it, professional achievement is still out there, waiting for me, mine if I want it.

One of the earliest things I remember learning about my mother was that she was one of five women in her medical school class of 1968. Her parents had wanted her to be a teacher, and she hid her plans from them until she received her acceptance letter, scholarships, and was as good as on her way. She had wanted to become a surgeon, but was discouraged, and instead chose psychiatry. She still tells us, wistfully, about her impeccable sutures, a skill that went unrealized but for her gender. Growing up, I had no notion of what I could or could not do based on gender. Accomplishment was simply up to me, not as a girl, not as a woman, but as a student, a person, a member of society. To this, my four years at Barnard added constant reinforcement. Such an ingrained understanding has allowed me the freedom to be comfortable in my choice of focus these past years, as I have never

*Continued on Page 74*



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To me, giving back to Barnard is non-negotiable. Even as I was paying off student loans, I have made a gift every year since graduation, because I know that many alumnae and parents did the same for me when I was here 10 years ago.



**Jessica Wells '00**

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It's important to me to support Barnard every year because it meant so much to be able to attend the College starting in the late 1920s. I want to help make that possible for students today—in 2010.



**Elberta Buerger '31\***

\*Elberta turned 100 years old last month—and clearly still loves Barnard.

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