

# B

BARNARD  
MAGAZINE



REUNION 2011

## SPARKING CONNECTIONS

Meet Avis Hinkson '84, Dean of the College  
Literary Lions: Mary Gordon '71 and Erica Jong '63  
Special Section: *Remembrances*





**DEDICATED  
LEADERS**

Avis Hinkson '84

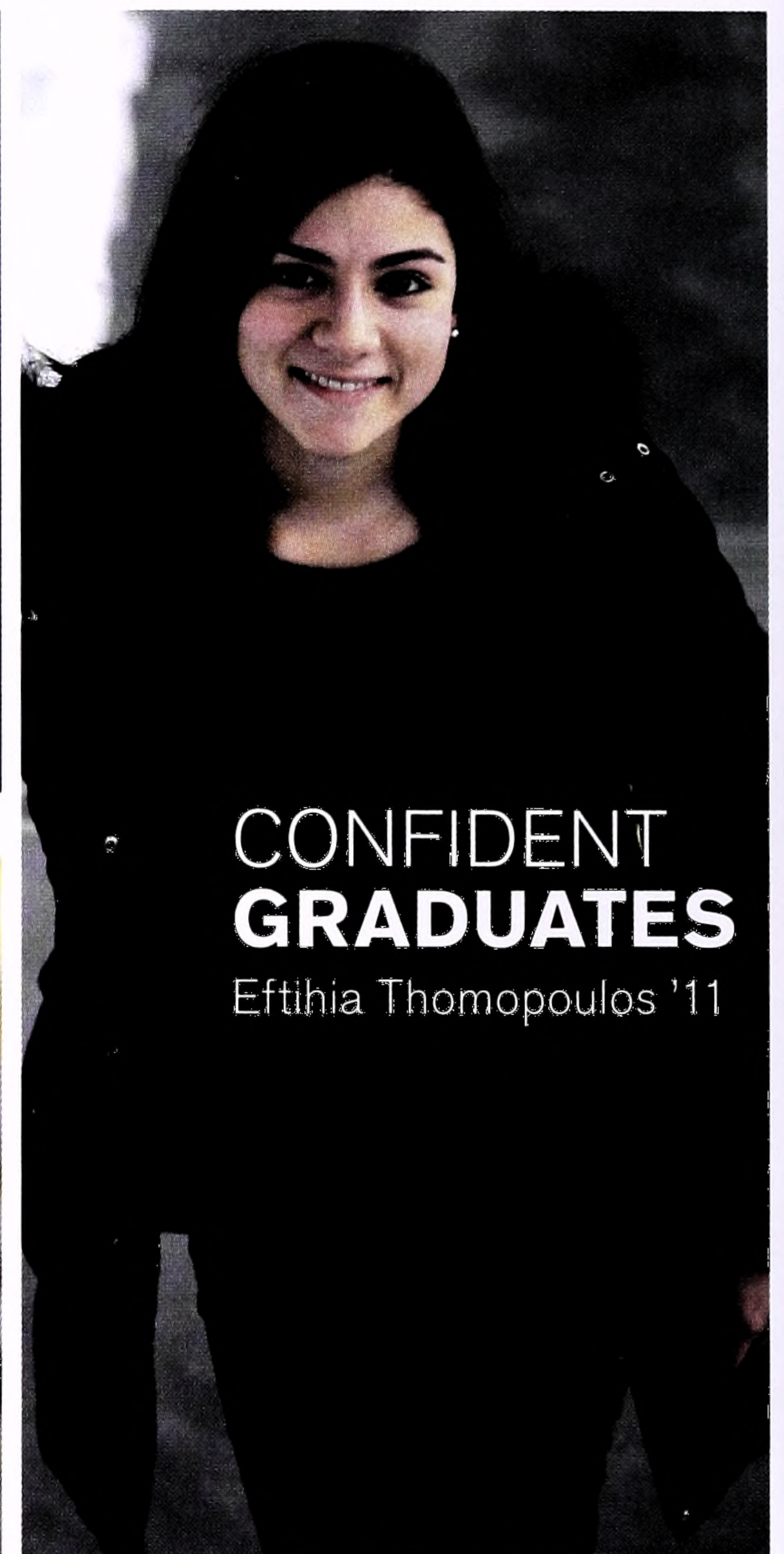


**STRONG  
WOMEN**

Ruth Willner '82



**WE ARE  
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**CONFIDENT  
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Eftihia Thomopoulos '11



**PROUD  
ALUMNAE**

Julie Malyn '09

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# B

## BARNARD MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2011



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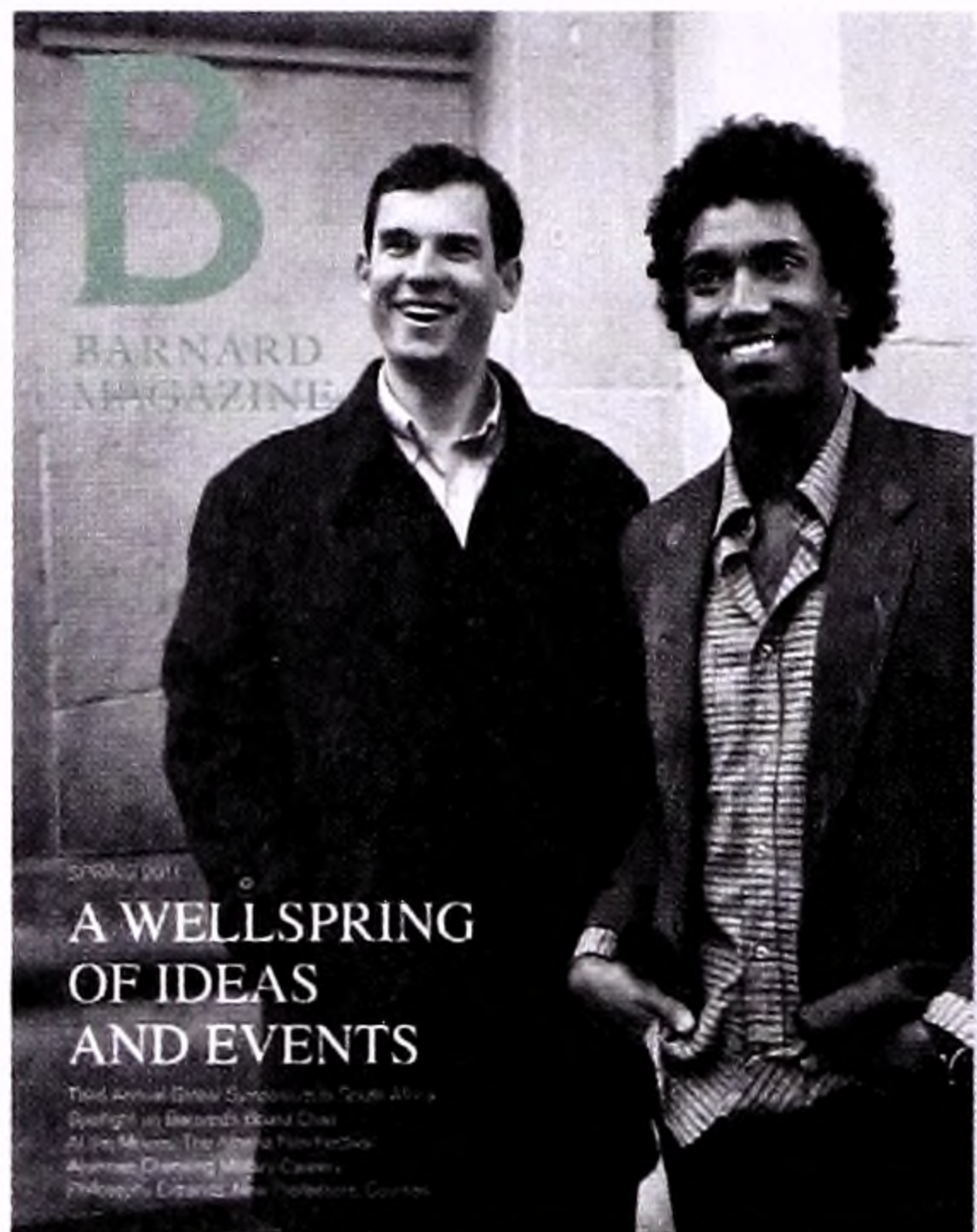
by *Virginia Claire Sprance*

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by *Charlene Schuessler*







## TRANSITIONS

I thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Kitaj's Last Word essay, "Just Do It!" in the Winter 2011 *Barnard Magazine*. Her story regarding a medical internship at age 45 is amazing. Her courage, diligence, and perseverance in pursuing such a noble vocation is truly inspirational and admirable. Thank you for such a wonderful and uplifting article.

Also, President Spar's "A Stacked Deck" illustrates a caring and compassionate viewpoint, which I would like to believe that Barnard women everywhere want to emulate. I am assuming that Tonya's mentor must have seen academic potential in her, otherwise to encourage her to apply with no possibilities for acceptance and success might be viewed as wishful thinking or cruel. After having been encouraged to apply, Tonya, I imagine, will feel discouraged and brokenhearted if denied this opportunity.

Let us not forget that, thanks to Annie Nathan Meyers vision in 1889, many women are grateful to have been given the opportunity to excel in spite of the stacked deck for being female.

—Yolanda Irizarry Giraldo '73  
San Juan, PR

Thanks to Dr. Kitaj for the inspiring and entertaining account of her travails and successes as a 40-year-old medical student. Well done! I'd love to read more about her experiences.

—Marie Cotter '82  
Smithtown, NY

## SALUTES

My mom, Audrey Snyder Harding '38, really enjoys your magazine and, in particular, the Class Notes. The article "Alumnae in the Military" in the Spring 2011 issue also piqued her interest.

Mom served in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) from Jan. 1, 1944 to Dec. 31, 1947, and is registered at The Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C. The mission statement of WAVES was to expedite the war effort by releasing officers and men for duty at sea through their replacement by women in the shore establishment of the Navy, and for other purposes. When she joined, she told her mother that since the family had no sons to serve our country, she'd be honored to serve. When she looks at old photos of that time, she says she is reminded of how pleased and proud she always was to wear that uniform.

While serving in the WAVES, Mom did secretarial work as well as intelligence testing. She later earned her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan under the GI Bill. She said that her experience in the WAVES paved the way for a very rewarding career of helping people.

Thanks for honoring these special women who serve our country.

—Meg Harding  
Midland, Mich.

Thank you for acknowledging an unusual path that some Barnard alumnae take. The women you featured represent us well. I, too, serve in the military; I am an Army Major approaching my 12th year of service. Like the women you featured, I am also scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan and have completed graduate work while in the military (MA, PhD candidate in history, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill). Before 9/11, a Barnard woman in the military was a far rarer thing. For my entire four years in Fordham University's Army ROTC program, I was the only Barnard cadet. As a '99 graduate, my extra years have given me the additional distinction of being a mother to a feisty 2-year-old. While women increasingly serve in combat positions, the military is a decidedly male world. I find that I am supposed to be two people—a soldier and a mother—which makes for almost a contradictory dichotomy. As I prepare to go to war in the coming months, I look at my young daughter and hope that the example I set for her is a good one. I am convinced that we women who serve help ensure that the women after us have positive—and more—careers options and fewer limitations. I hope my daughter also

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# BARNARD

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The contact information listed in Class Notes is for the exclusive purpose of providing information for the magazine and may not be used for any other purpose.

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# GUARDIANS AT THE GATES

When I came to Barnard, Phyllis Ben was one of the first people to greet me. Or, more precisely, she was one of the first people to look me closely up and down, offer a firm handshake, and make clear that my presence on campus was optional. And the options belonged to her.

**Phyllis, when I met her,** was 78 years old. She had been on campus since 1962—a full year, she quickly informed me, before I was even born. Her office was in the guard's booth, but she reigned widely across campus, keeping an eye on students out late, wandering visitors, and leaky pipes. Not to mention untested presidents of course, who might or might not, meet with her approval. So Phyllis kept an eye on me for quite some time. She'd nudge me in the right direction when she discerned I was lost; whisper people's names to me when she saw I didn't know them. And quietly, about a year and a half in, she told me that I was probably doing okay. No guarantees, though, from Phyllis, and no empty compliments. Because she fully intended to reserve judgment.

Phyllis started her Barnard career in a modest way, cleaning hallways and scrubbing bathrooms. She worked as a housekeeper for several years and then applied for a security guard position, figuring that there was no reason why a woman—at a women's college, after all—couldn't hold that job too. She became a full-time guard in the library and enjoyed it, as she later recalled, "immensely." She wrote, "I had contact with the students, and I loved that. They always shared with me what was going on in their lives. It felt very special to know that."

In 1991, when Barnard launched a \$100 million capital campaign, Phyllis donated \$1,000, confessing to a *New York Times* reporter, "It was all I could afford. I wish it was millions." She retired rather wistfully at the age of 80 and remained an on-call guard at the College until her death on June 7. As a fitting tribute, any contributions to Barnard in Phyllis's memory will be directed to student scholarships (please go to [barnard.edu/gift](http://barnard.edu/gift)).

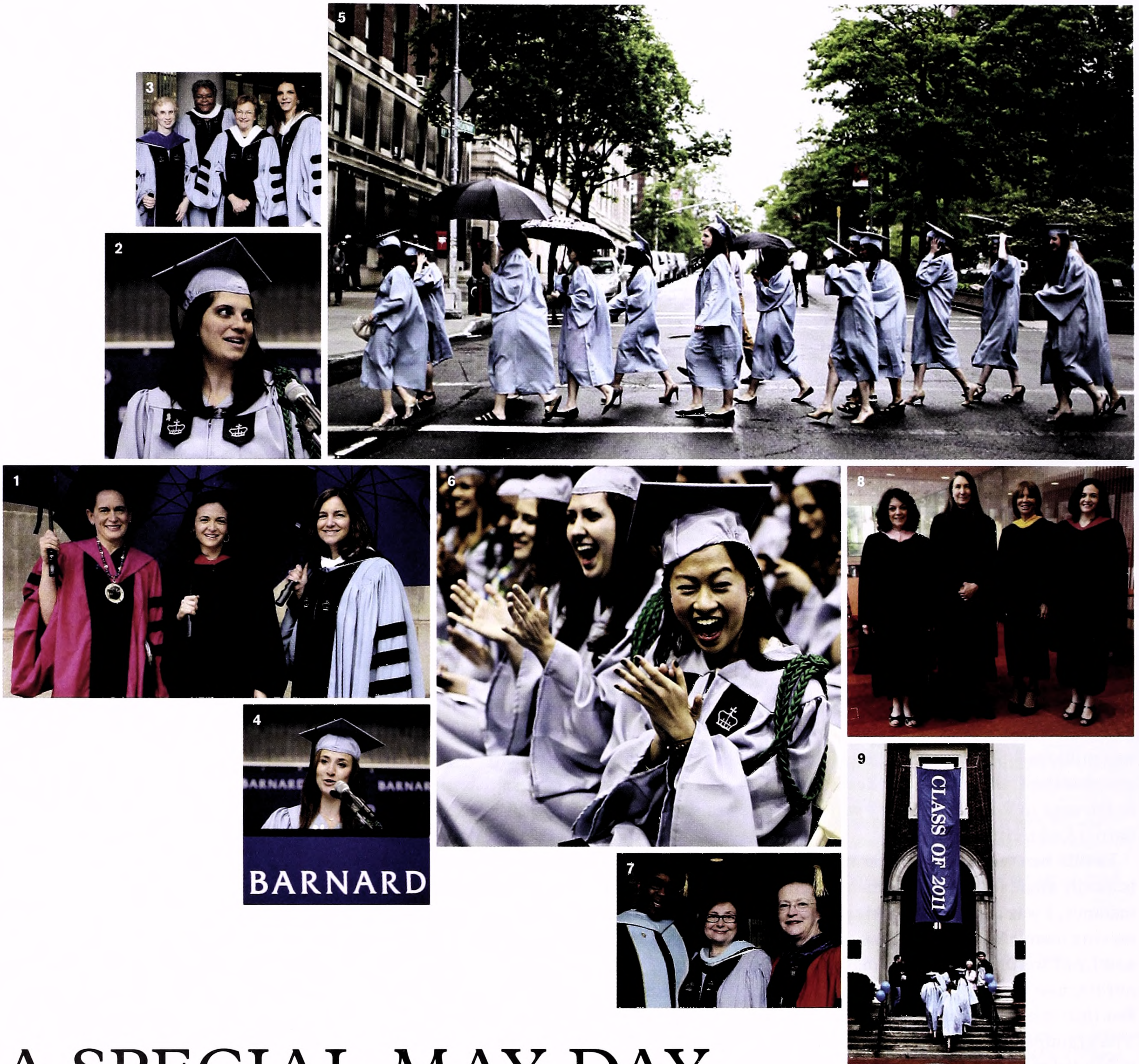
Phyllis Ben was an extraordinary member of the Barnard community. But she is hardly alone in her commitment to this community or its students. Recently, for instance, I was chatting with Marina Bonanno and Margherita Caperson, two long-serving members of our Facilities staff. It was the afternoon before Commencement, and I was fretting over the dismal weather forecast that was threatening to dismantle our outdoor plans. For a few minutes, Marina and Margherita indulged my woes. But then they got more serious. "Look," Marina said, "don't worry about the rain. The grandparents will be happy in [the Levien Gym]. They'll be dry." Then, she reminded me, "More importantly, all the students are so happy. They work so hard here; they work so late; they love their professors so much." "It's their day," she said. "And it doesn't matter where it happens." Like Phyllis, she was right. Like Phyllis, she saw through the pomp and ceremony of Barnard to focus on the core.

Then there's Jeannette Darby, a security guard who volunteers every year to organize the College's contributions to Columbia Community Service. I saw her this morning, waving visitors on to the campus and chatting with an anxious prospective student. And Ray Torres, who was overseeing a drainage ditch yesterday and carefully explaining our dance program to a visitor today. He ought to know. He's the proud parent of an alumna, Class of 2005.

*Continued on Page 53*







# A SPECIAL MAY DAY

**When thunderstorms descended** on the day of Barnard's 2011 Commencement, approximately 600 seniors filed into Columbia's Francis S. Levien Gymnasium. Originally to be held at the General Grant National Memorial overlooking the Hudson River, the warm, dry indoor ceremony proved a welcome alternative for both graduates and audience. President Debora Spar presented the College's highest honor, the Medal of Distinction, to keynote Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook's COO; Sylvia Rhone, president of Universal Motown Records; Roberta Guaspari, music education advocate; and conceptual artist Jenny Holzer. *For more photos and to watch video of Commencement 2011, go to [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine).*

**Photos** (from left): **1** President Spar with medalist Sheryl Sandberg and board chair Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald '81 **2** SGA president Lara Avsar '11 **3** Trustees Joan Sherman Freilich '63, Frances Sadler '72, Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55, and Dina De Luca Chartouni '82 **4** Class President Reni Calister '11 **5** Graduating seniors cross Broadway for the Levien Gym. **6** Applauding keynote Sheryl Sandberg **7** College Dean Avis Hinkson '84, VP of College Relations Dorothy Urman Denburg '71, and outgoing Provost Elizabeth Boylan **8** Medalists Guaspari, Holzer, Rhone, and Sandberg **9** Pre-Commencement at Barnard Hall



## DOCUMENTING THE COMPETITION

LORI MILLER '83

Lori Miller avoids competitive situations whenever possible. But she does like producing documentary films about artists who do compete.

Her latest co-production is *Shakespeare High*, a documentary about high school students from all over Southern California, both privileged and poor, who take part in the Drama Teachers Association of Southern California's annual Shakespeare competition, an event that helped spawn the careers of actors like Kevin Spacey, Mare Winningham, and Val Kilmer. The film premiered at this year's Tribeca Film Festival.

**There are plenty** of privileged over achievers who compete. But the film tends to focus on students from humbler, or sometimes troubled, backgrounds; for example, star-football-player brothers, who grew up in a small California town and watched their father shoot and kill their mother and grandmother.

Whatever their background, all these students are motivated and driven by the joy of acting and a love of Shakespeare. And, that power of theatre to change lives for the better is exactly what Miller wanted to remind policy makers and educators of when she produced the film. The need for more funding in arts education had become a personal issue for her as she watched her own daughter enter second grade in the Los Angeles public school system. "I've



always been concerned about education in our society, even before I became a mom," Miller says. "What's missed by policy makers is that theatre education is a way of increasing literacy, communication skills, and complex thought."

Miller didn't start out making documentary films, having spent years producing commercial feature films, including *Panic* with William H. Macy in 2000 and *Perfect Opposites* with Martin Henderson and Piper Perabo in 2004. She even produced one horror film, 1997's *Campfire Tales*. A few years ago, she decided to tackle more personal projects that might not make as much money, but would tell compelling stories of personal triumph.

Her first endeavor was *They Came to Play*, which was released in 2009, and is currently in distribution. Like *Shakespeare High*, it's about a competition. The film chronicles the pianists who take part in the Fifth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs, hosted by the Van Cliburn Foundation. These musicians have faced heartache and loss, from divorce to drug addiction. Others have simply put their musical aspirations on hold to raise a family or have a stable career that doesn't require constant travel. Whatever their stories, they too have found solace and the power to persevere through the arts and music. "The theme is the joy that music brings to their lives and the healing power that it has for them," Miller says.

Music brought the same joy to Miller's own life. She grew up in a house where classical music was played all the time, and

*Continued on Page 53*

# RELEASES

NEW & UPCOMING

FICTION

### IN THE KING'S ARMS

by Sonia Taitz '75  
McWitty Press, 2011, \$13.95

### DASHIKI

by Florence Wetzel '84  
iUniverse, 2011, \$16.95

YOUNG READERS

### THE NIGHT THE MOON WENT OUT

by Pia Fiedler '87  
PublishAmerica, 2011, \$24.95

### WELCOME TO BORDERTOWN

coedited by Ellen Kushner '77 and Holly Black  
Random House, 2011, \$19.99

NONFICTION

### THE NEXT AMERICAN REVOLUTION: SUSTAINABLE ACTIVISM FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

by Grace (Chin) Lee Boggs '35 and Scott  
Kurashige  
University of California Press, 2011, \$24.95

### BALTIMORE '68: RIOTS AND REBIRTH IN AN AMERICAN CITY

coedited by Jessica Elfenbein '84, Thomas  
Hollowak, and Elizabeth Nix  
Temple University Press, 2011, \$29.95

### COOKING FOR CHANGE: TALES FROM A FOOD SERVICE TRAINING ACADEMY

by Doris Platzker Friedensohn '58  
Full Court Press, 2011, \$25

### SAY NO TO AGING: HOW NITRIC OXIDE PROLONGS LIFE

by Arlene Bradley Levine '75 and T. Barry Levine  
NorlightsPress.com, 2011, \$29.95

### MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS: DARE TO CLIMB THE LADDER OF LEADERSHIP

by Sylvia M. Montero '72  
Front Row Press, 2011, \$19.95

### IN THE WORDS OF WOMEN: THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND THE BIRTH OF THE NATION, 1765 - 1799

by Louise V. (Hunningher) North '62, Janet M.  
Wedge, and Landa M. Freeman  
Rowman and Littlefield, 2011, \$90

### BLOOD WILL TELL: VAMPIRES AS POLITICAL METAPHORS BEFORE WORLD WAR I

by Sara Libby Robinson '01  
Academic Studies Press, 2011, \$59

### THE WAY OF THE HAPPY WOMAN

by Sara Avant Stover '99  
New World Library, 2011, \$15.95

CD

### SOUVENIR OF YOU

by Benny Carter, Hilma Ollila Carter '45, and  
Deborah Pearl '72  
Cdbaby.com, 2011, \$8.99

Complete listings at [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine)





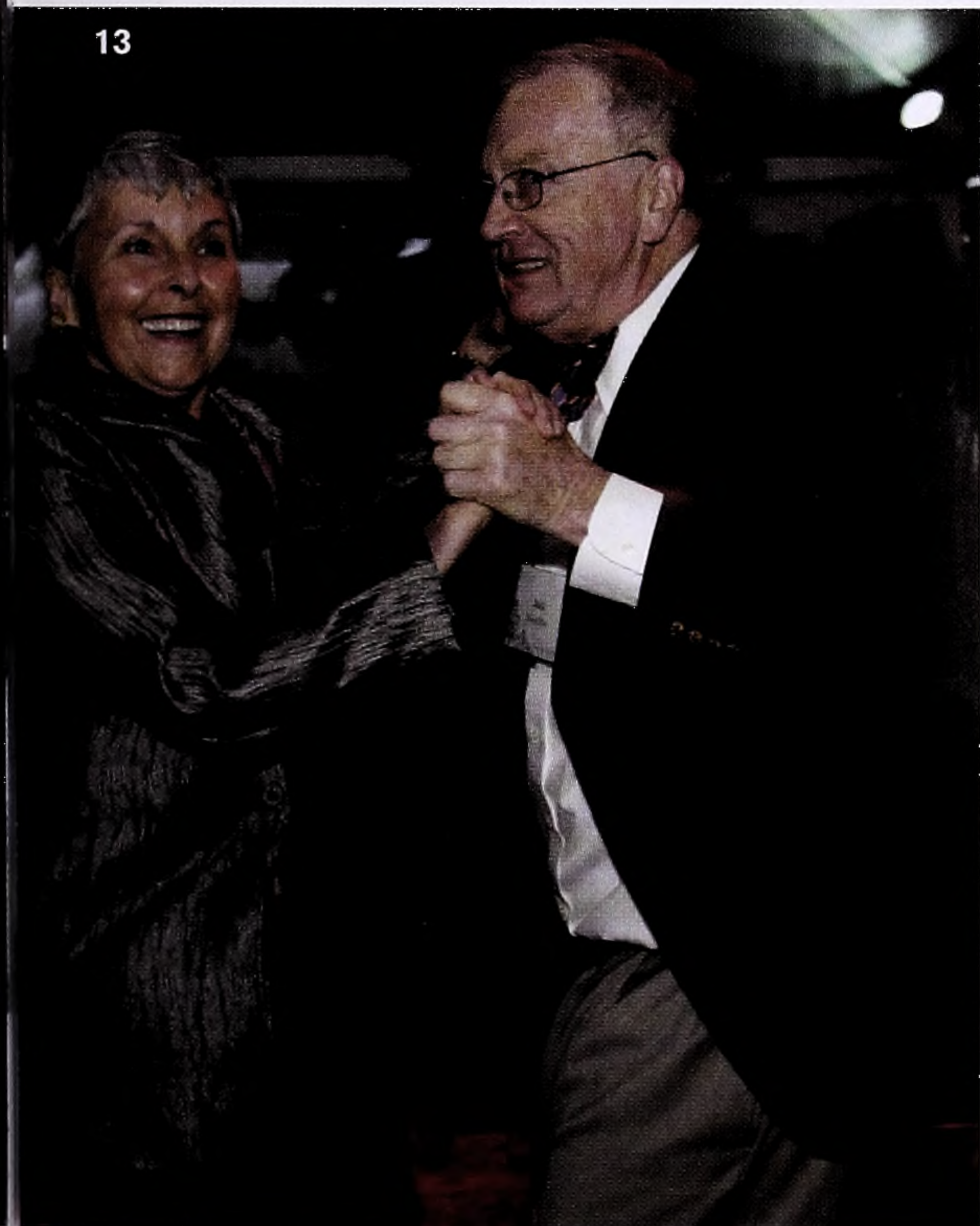


# REUNION REVELS

From June 2 through June 5, alumnae gathered on campus to refresh and reinvigorate their Barnard connections. This year's program featured an array of special events that included Professor Mary Gordon '71, center stage at a literary salon, and Erica Jong '63, who addressed the 50th reunion class dinner. Reunion-goers could choose from live storytelling, panels on women's sports and the state of education in America, and a student dance performance, not to mention class dinners and morning yoga sessions. The Alumnae Association Awards celebrated seven distinguished alumnae, all of whom are featured in this issue. Over the course of the weekend, more than 1,300 alumnae and guests reconnected to each other and the College as they celebrated, caught up, and took to the dance floor.

*For more photos and videos of Reunion, visit [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine)*

Photos (read from left) **1** Colorful Barnard Hall banners set the stage for Reunion 2011. **2** Members of the "Crisis in Education" panel: Augusta Souza Kappner '66, moderator Lee Anne Bell, Megan Robertson Hurley '01, Vanessa D'Egidio '08, Brett Murphy '09, and Joanna Yip '04 **3** Irene Tenenbaum, Andrea Grossman, Ashley Putnam, Talya Bock, and Vicki Kim—all Class of 2006 **4** Lynne Moriarty Langlois '66 and Dorothy Chen-Courtin '66 atop The Diana Center's green roof **5** Cecile Singer '50, Maureen McCann Miletta '50, Irma Socci Moore '50, and Dorothy Memolo Bheddah '61 **6** Dr. Ralph Tanner and Mirella D'Ambrosio Servodidio '55 **7** Sundays are for young Barnard "cubs." **8** Alumnae of Color Dinner keynote Enola Aird '76, founder of Mothers for a Human Future, and Amarilis Rivera '76 **9** Shirley Clark Feldman '51, Mary Jane Williams Mann '51 and her husband, Darwin Mann **10** From the Class of '01: Victoria Slater Giambra, Jaclyn Shumate, Katherine Skibinski, Joanna Dinur, and Anna Skubikowski **11** Relatives of Millicent Carey McIntosh attend the dedication of the terrace named for "Mrs. Mac": Anthony and Eleanor Carey, Rustin Carey McIntosh, Janet McIntosh, Kenneth McIntosh, Margaret Means McIntosh, Joan Ferrante, Louise Carey Courpas, and Constantine Courpas. **12** A cuddly Barnard bear **13** Linda Lovas Hoeschler '66 and her husband, John, parents of Kristen Hoeschler O'Brien '91 **14** Phyllis Shapiro Hantman '66 in a highly speculative jersey **15** Class of '86 members Ruth Raisman, Sandra Shamoan-Watson, Carine LeConte, Harriet Achtentuch Hessdorf, and Monica Blum **16** Rita Gunther McGrath '81, Debora Spar, Carol Herman Cohen '59, and Dueaa Elzin '11





# AGELESS MATTERS

At a 50th reunion dinner for the Class of '61, Erica Jong '63 reflects on hope, empathy, and giving back





**In pairs or posses**, from the other side of the country or down the block, Reunion participants from the Class of '61 knew about Erica Jong—the guest speaker at their 50th reunion dinner. They had read *Fear of Flying*, her breakout novel about a woman on the verge of a nervous liberation, when it came out. Of course they had, said Mary-Jo Kline, enjoying pre-dinner cocktails on the Lehman Lawn with classmate Millie Merian Moseley: “You weren’t allowed to leave your 30s until you did.”

Since *Fear of Flying*, Jong has published historical novels, essay collections, several volumes of poetry, memoirs, and most recently a cliché-defying anthology about sex she edited, *Sugar in My Bowl*, with such illustrious contributors as *New York Times* columnist Gail Collins, novelist Min Jin Lee, *The New Yorker*’s Ariel Levy, playwright Eve Ensler, Daphne Merkin ’75, and Molly Jong-Fast (who weighs in on the joys of not having sex like her parents did).

Some women remembered Jong from college. In Robert Pack’s poetry seminar, Valerie Lewis Mankoff recalled, “She was larger than life: beautiful and brilliant and the teacher’s favorite. We were all envious.”

But whether they had come expressly to hear her or mainly to catch up with friends, there was nearly universal head-scratching over the announced theme of the talk—“agelessness.” Their children had reached middle age, parents had passed away, and there were health issues: How could they possibly pretend that age didn’t matter, and why would they want to? As one alumna asked, “Why do we have to be ageless?”

Jong, invited to speak by Susan Meister, a class reunion committee member, had a similar reaction when she first got wind of the topic, as she admitted before the 200-plus dinner guests enjoying Friday evening at The Diana Center’s Event Oval. Jong wore black trousers, a shimmery black sweater, a black blazer with blazing red cuffs and lapels, and low heels that caused her to quip as she mounted the dais, “I may be ageless, but I can no longer wear stilettos.” She began, “I had no idea what a difficult topic agelessness was until I started to do the research—like a good,

well-trained Barnard girl.”

The room rumbled in laughing assent, as it would throughout the 25-minute talk. Ranging from *King Lear* to Max Greenfield, age 7, gladiator-in-training and Jong’s grandson, she circled around a central paradox: To be free of the constraints of age—like “those who remarry at 85 even though they’ve buried many husbands”—older women must embrace both hope and their own “fleshly decrepitude.” Then they will recognize their roles as “the younger generations’ historians, their boosters, mothers, grandmothers.”

“We are now the elders who embody memory, and we must share what we know,” Jong said. “We live in ‘The United States of Amnesia,’ a line of Gore Vidal’s I love. I think that of all the problems that afflict our country, our historylessness is the worst and the most dangerous. Many of the battles we fought for women’s rights are now discarded. What do we do about all the young women who say, ‘I’m not a feminist, but...’? We live in a place where everything is forgotten too soon and our history is unknown. We have a job to do.”

But to take on that responsibility—to enter what Jong calls the stage of “generativity”—a person needs a keen sense of empathy. Jong recently revisited *King Lear* in a production at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and made new discoveries. As she approaches Lear’s age, she appreciated that the king only achieves empathy for his subjects and his beloved daughter Cordelia once he is “reduced, reduced, reduced,” she said. “Only in his humility does he find wisdom.”

And perhaps that is the gift of aging, she proposed. “It seems unfair, but only with the decay of our powers do we become humble enough to allow wisdom in. I see that in myself, understanding things I never understood at Barnard.”

But you don’t have to forfeit a kingdom or your mind to gain wisdom. For Jong it sufficed that when her Max announced one day, “Grandma Erica, you love Italy; I have spring break; I need to see the Colosseum,” and they went. She had the time of her life.

“

I think that of all the problems that afflict our country, our historylessness is the worst and the most dangerous. Many of the battles we fought for women’s rights are now discarded. What do we do about all the young women who say, ‘I’m not a feminist, but...’? We live in a place where everything is forgotten too soon and our history is unknown. We have a job to do.

”

Jong emphasized that for it to do any good, humility must be paired with buckets of hope. Still, Jong hit a wall with the as yet untitled novel she is currently writing, in which *Fear of Flying*’s irrepressible and endearing heroine, Isadora Wing, returns. What lifted her out of dark despair was a Hebrew Sabbath prayer. It calls attention to common miracles, one of which, Jong suggested, was “the miracle of getting older and having the miracle of empathy grow younger inside you.” Agelessness suddenly didn’t seem so off the wall.

Skeptics before dinner enthused afterwards. Exclaimed Merian Moseley, “Empathy, hope, giving back—I could relate to the whole thing.” As one of the many grandmothers in the room, Sylvia Elias Elman was touched by Jong’s “intense relationship of sharing” with her grandson, while Aviva Cantor, founder of the pioneering Jewish feminist magazine *Lilith*, appreciated Jong’s reminder that the political battles that her generation had won could be lost if they didn’t serve as “the repository of memory.” Cantor said that the young women she meets “who call themselves feminists  
*Continued on Page 53*





Dean Hinkson with (from left) Carolyn Lei '13, Diana Rastegayeva '11, and Kirstyn Crawford '12



# HOMECOMING DEAN

After nearly 30 years, Avis Hinkson '84 completes a circle, returning to the alma mater she loves so well

**As Dean Avis E. Hinkson** strolled toward Lehman Lawn last April, she was unsure of what to expect. Like most Barnard alumnae, she had heard about the College's Greek Games. But the tradition had been abandoned more than a decade before her time here and it was the sort of ritual that might have prompted eye-rolling among some of her classmates.

When she reached Lehman Lawn on that day this past spring, however, Hinkson couldn't help but be impressed. At the all-new Games, she spotted Millie, the Barnard Bear, dressed in ancient Greek garb dancing beneath the flowering magnolia tree; sophomores and juniors battling in a strenuous tug-of-war; and high school students, visiting Barnard, asking to join the fun. "It seemed holistic that scholars could also take time to engage in physical competition," she recalls. "On what other campus do you see prospective students challenging current students to a tug-of-war contest?"

Hinkson, who took over the reins as dean of the College this February, has finally come home, as she sees it. She has also come home to the East Coast after more than two decades in California, serving in the administrations of four institutions of higher learning, with a final six-and-a-half year stint as director of undergraduate advising in the College of Letters and Science at University of California, Berkeley. Hinkson has returned to a city whose pulse beats in sync with her own, a city in which she grew up, a city with "an energy, a vibe,

a sophistication, a worldview," that Hinkson appreciates and understands.

And, of course, she has returned home to Barnard.

If Barnard is a home that has changed since the days when the once gritty streets of Morningside Heights didn't feature a single sleek coffee shop, when dormitory life couldn't include all students because housing just wasn't available, when Barnard was in the midst of negotiating a contract with Columbia to remain independent, well, that's to be expected, and in some ways, to be applauded.

"What I'm really pleased by is the balance of change," she insists, speaking on a quiet summer afternoon in her freshly painted office, where the ivy creeping up Milbank Hall frames her tall window, and where Hinkson spends many of her weekdays in back-to-back meetings. It is an uncluttered space, with shelves adorned by a few treasures, including a stuffed Barnard bear, a college cup, and a folded banner embellished with the signatures of her classmates, scribbled during Senior Week in 1984.

"I was a student a long time ago," she continues, "but there's enough that speaks to the progress and growth and also enough that feels familiar. Now housing is guaranteed. There's The Diana Center; there's an increase in different kinds of academic programs; there's a diversity of administration and faculty.

"But the faculty and staff are so hands-on, so accessible. I feel like that's what I remember," she says.

The dean of the College oversees

a diverse array of departments, from Residential Life to Health Services. It is a multi-faceted portfolio of responsibilities.

In her first months at Barnard, Hinkson has mainly focused on two initiatives. First, she is exploring "new ways to communicate with students that will decrease the number of college e-mails that are sent, better target specific populations, and reflect greater cohesion between distinct programs and services." Toward that end, she may institute a weekly digest that culls critical information.

Secondly, Hinkson has been working to strengthen the sense of community through the Barnard Circles program, which will be inaugurated this fall. The Circles program will divide the first-year class into more intimate groups or circles, based on floor assignment. Upper class students will serve as big sisters, and activities will be informal and oriented around discussions, such as choosing a major or internship.

Hinkson uses her hands often in conversation to illustrate a point, and animates her features with vibrancy and frequency. When she narrows her eyes it seems to express good-natured, jocular suspicion, and when she widens them it appears to send this message: Everyone is in on a shared joke.

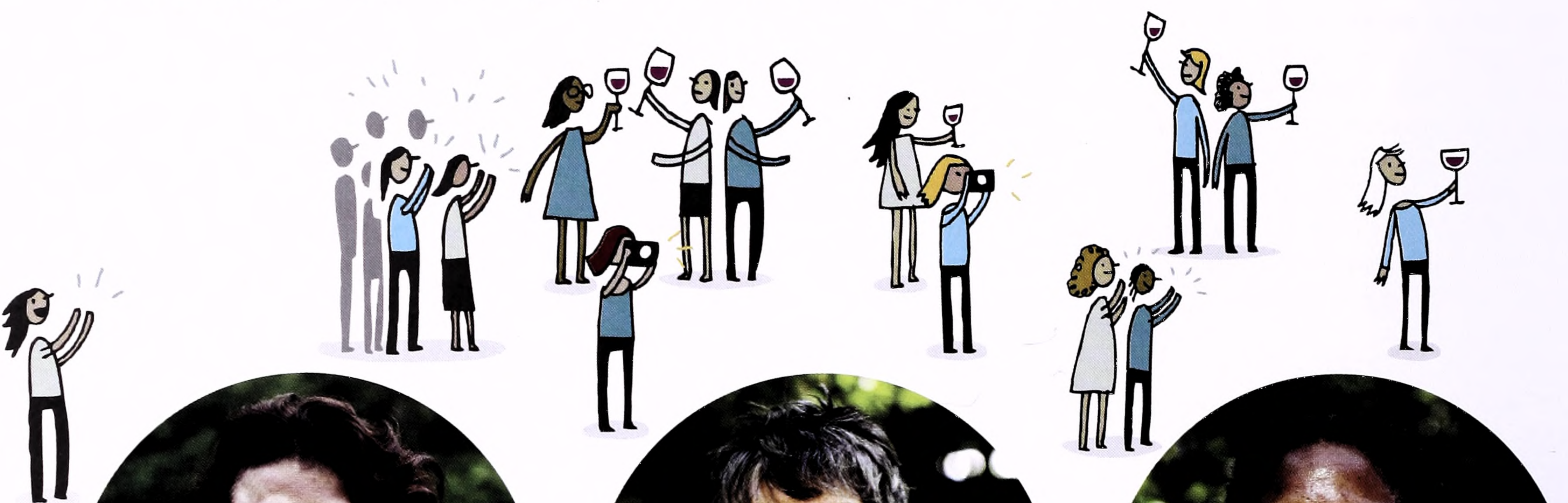
It is a style that communicates: "There's an open door. It says, 'I'm here for you,'" enthuses Aliza Hassine, first-year class president this past year, and sophomore class president this year.

While a student at Barnard,  
*Continued on Page 54*



# ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNERS

Reunion is a celebration of Barnard and Barnard women. During this activity-packed June weekend, the Alumnae Association shines a spotlight on those distinguished graduates who have achieved renown for their professional accomplishments, or those who have dedicated themselves to the College as volunteers. On these pages, we present highlights of their careers and contributions.



WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT  
**Beryl Benacerraf '71**

Developed the genetic sonogram... Original research changed screening protocols for pregnant women... Work in diagnostic ultrasound recognized by the Int'l Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Institute of Ultrasound, Association of Women Radiologists, and the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound... Medical director and president, Diagnostic Ultrasound Associates, PC... MD from Harvard, where she's clinical professor of ob-gyn, reproductive biology, and radiology



MILLICENT C. MCINTOSH AWARD  
FOR FEMINISM  
**Bonnie Sherr Klein '61**

Author and documentary filmmaker, focusing on disability rights after a catastrophic brain stem stroke in 1987... Created radio features about her stroke treatment and rehabilitation... MA from Stanford in broadcasting and film... Emigrated to Canada with her husband as Vietnam War resisters... Director and producer for the National Film Board of Canada... Lifetime achievement award from Women in Film and Television Toronto... YWCA Women of Distinction Award



MILLICENT C. MCINTOSH AWARD  
FOR FEMINISM  
**Claudia Ford '76**

Advocate for improving social and medical conditions for women in the developing world... Director of the Office of International Programs at Rhode Island School of Design since 2008... Founder and director of The Princess Trust... Former program manager and country director for the Asia Foundation... Supervised health and education services at a Rwandan refugee camp... Honored by USAID, University of Witwatersrand, and George Mason University





SERVICE TO BARNARD

**Adair Brasted Gould '36**

Former president of the Barnard Club of Wilmington, Delaware...25 years as class fund chair, renowned for her personal, hand-written thank-you notes...PhD in biology from University of Rochester... Retired professor of biology, University of Delaware...Member of the Genetics Society of America...Expert in Renaissance art, teaching at the University of Delaware's Academy of Lifelong Learning and at the Delaware Art Museum



SERVICE TO BARNARD

**Nora Lourie Percival '36**

75 years of continuous devotion to Barnard...Three-terms as class president... Reunion chair for the 55th reunion...Class correspondent for the past 20 years... Member of the Barnard Fund Committee, as well as contributor since the Fund was launched...Former director of Alumnae Affairs...Former editor of *Barnard Magazine*...Author of the autobiography *Weather of the Heart: A Child's Journey Out of Revolutionary Russia*



SERVICE TO BARNARD

**Janet Bersin Finke '56**

Former chair of the Fellowship Committee... Served on the AABC Board...Former vice president of Barnard-in-Bergen Club... Founding member of Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative...Two terms as class president...Vice president/reunion chair for her 55th reunion...Former class correspondent and treasurer...Caller for Barnard Phonathon...Member of Class Reunion and Reunion Fund committees... Jewish Family Service of North Jersey



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

**Alessandra Comini '56**

Author, lecturer, and university distinguished professor of art history *emerita* at Southern Methodist University...14-time winner as "outstanding professor"...1996 recipient of the United Methodist Church Scholar/Teacher of the Year Award...SMU established Comini Lecture Series in 2005...Expert in German Expressionists... Awarded the Grand Decoration of Honor by Republic of Austria in 1990...Lifetime Achievement Award from Women's Caucus for Art...MA from UC-Berkeley, PhD with distinction, Columbia



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

**Tamar Lewin '71**

*New York Times* writer/reporter since 1982...Contributor to the *Times'* Pulitzer Prize-winning series, "How Race is Lived in America" in 2000 and "Class Matters" in 2005...Columbia Law '74...National reporter on issues such as day care and equal pay...Ground-breaking reporting on sexual harassment and insider trading... Former legal affairs reporter for the *Bergen Record*...Investigative research on behalf of Common Cause... Former Washington bureau chief and managing editor of the *National Law Journal*



YOUNG ALUMNA

**Erinn Smart '01**

Silver Medalist women's fencing, 2008 Olympics...Competitor, 2004 Olympics... Alternate, 2000 Olympics...Second woman fencer to win three gold medals, 1996 Junior Olympics...Captain, Columbia fencing team junior and senior years...Three-time All Ivy League and All American...Five-time U.S. National Champion...Member of Bronze medal team, 2001 Senior World Championships...Columbia Athletic Hall of Fame, 2010...Teacher/mentor, Peter Westbrook Foundation...MBA cand., Wharton School





# THE WRITING LIFE

At her 40th reunion, Professor Mary Gordon '71 leads a literary salon about writing, teaching, and her new novel

**It's the Saturday morning** of Reunion 2011, and the Held Lecture Hall is packed. More than 220 people reserved space for a chance to listen to and watch Professor Mary Gordon work the classroom, and now nearly every one of the large room's 250 seats is filled. Gordon is sharing a story about the world of money—a world she readily admits to not knowing much about, but one that is important to helping an “alternate universe” like Barnard continue to thrive. She describes sitting next to a hedge fund manager at a recent dinner party in California. Making small talk, Gordon asked the finance professional what she thought was a relatively straightforward question: What is the value of money? If we are not on the gold standard, she elaborated, how is it possible to know what money is worth? “The value of money is whatever guys like me say it is,” replied the fund manager. “Then you and I have a lot in common,” said Gordon. “We both make stuff up. I call it fiction, you call it finance.”

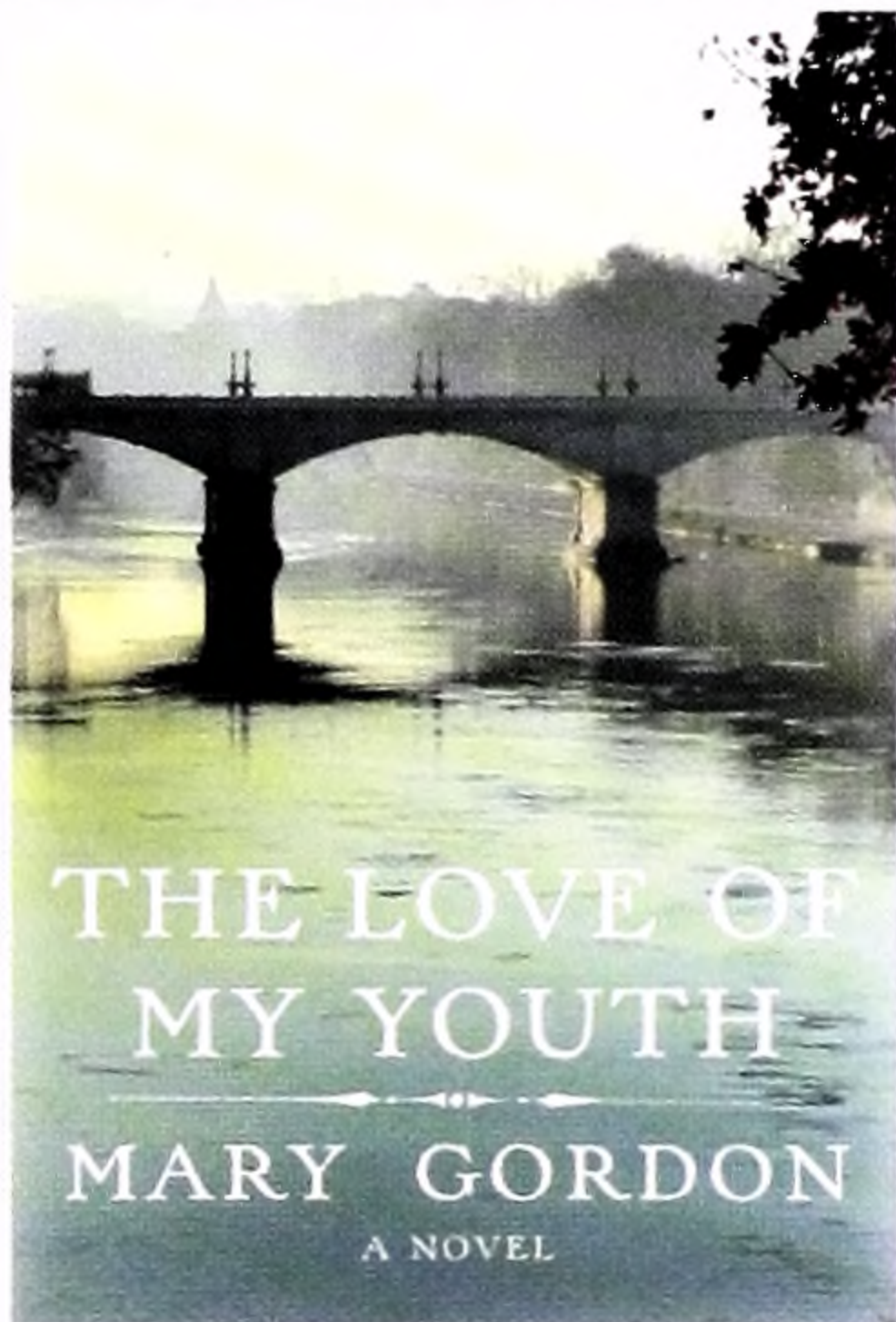
What is not fiction is Mary Gordon's gift for delighting an audience with her intelligent authority, her wise charm. As Millicent C. McIntosh Professor in English and Writing, Gordon is a popular presence on campus for her engaging teaching style, her inspiring reading lists, and her pedigree as a successful working author. The official New York State Author, she has published 16 works, both fiction and nonfiction, beginning with the acclaimed and best-selling novel *Final Payments* in 1978. The combination of literary and professorial skills made her an ideal candidate to lead a different kind of event at this year's Reunion: a literary salon.

“We've had authors speak in the past, but we really wanted something a little more intellectually engaging,” says Erin Fredrick '01, the director of Alumnae Affairs. “Part of the Barnard experience is reading and discussing writings. We thought this would give people a great opportunity to experience what it's like to be back in the classroom.” Gordon celebrated her 40th reunion this year and her latest book, *The Love of My Youth*, published in April, made for great subject matter.

The novel is about a reunion—the reunion of two former lovers, Adam and Miranda. Once a young and devoted couple—sharing everything from first kisses to first peace marches—the two are separated by a traumatic breakup that keeps them apart for 40 years. Both are pushing 60 when the book begins. Both happen to be in Rome at the same time, and are invited to dinner by a mutual college friend. While neither is exactly sure of what is left between them, each is curious about how the other has changed or remained the same.

Moving from present to the past and back again, the story of these two adults is interwoven with events that occurred in the mid '60s and early '70s—their meeting, love affair, and eventual breakup. Gordon says the protagonists are not anything like her, but they are members of the same generation, and she really delves into the cultural and social mores of a young woman in the early '60s. The level of detail illuminates the revolutionary changes that occurred during those turbulent years. One passage from the book, for example, describes the dramatic transformation in

*Continued on Page 54*





# THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT...

But the public education system needs some fixing

**“It’s inspiring that Barnard** decided to have this type of event and give us a forum to honestly talk about the issues that are impacting us as teachers. It gives me hope that the public really cares about the direction of public education,” said Vanessa D’Egidio ’08, one of five alumnae to participate in the discussion “Are the Kids Alright? The Crisis of Education in America” held during Reunion. Moderated by Dr. Lee Anne Bell, professor of education and Barbara Silver Horowitz Director of Education at Barnard, the 90-minute session was a revealing, emotional call to action.

Augusta Souza Kappner ’66, president *emerita* of the Bank Street College of Education, opened the program by providing some perspective on current policy. She spoke about how her daughter, a 12-year veteran of the Oakland, California, public school system, spends much of her own money each school year on supplies and materials. “We hear in the media that teachers are inept and lazy and that they don’t care about whether or not their students are succeeding,” Kappner said. “Teacher bashing has become a kind of national pastime—at least for politicians, businesses, and some foundations. We’re told that if they were any good in the classroom they would be able to close the achievement gap between rich and poor kids, between black and Latino kids and white kids.”

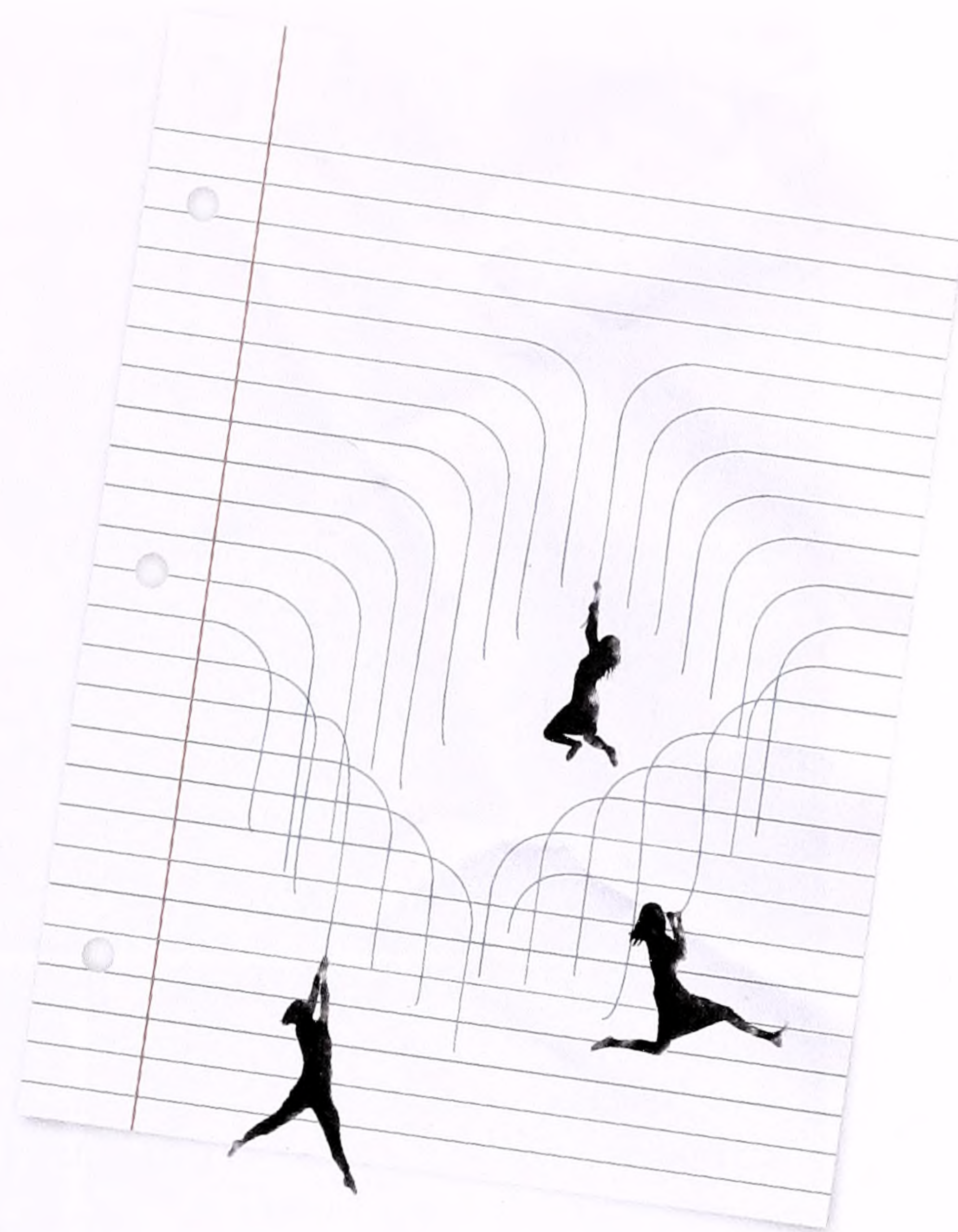
Public school classrooms have become a revolving door for teachers with many departing soon after they arrive. Students have less than a 50 percent chance of getting a teacher for math or science that

is actually prepared and licensed in one of those fields. In international comparisons, the United States ranks 29th out of 40 countries in science and 35th out of 40 in math. Finland ranks first in science and second in math using programs adapted from previous U.S. models.

According to Kappner, racial and economic inequalities are exacerbated by a number of factors, such as funding public education by property taxes. A crucial thing for all public school students is high-stakes testing, which focuses on English and mathematics. “As testing becomes more and more important, the curriculum begins to narrow,” Kappner said.

Indeed, the four teachers on the panel have witnessed how standardized testing has shaped a child’s daily learning experience. Each of them also shared how motivated she feels by her students and how that motivation keeps them returning to the classroom in the face of frequent frustrations. “They have few advocates in the world that actually listen to what they have to say. School is one of those places [they’re heard],” said Joanna Yip ’04, who teaches 11th and 12th grade English at International High School in Brooklyn.

D’Egidio, who teaches at an independent school, sees herself as an agent of change. “What keeps me teaching is being able on a daily basis to impact the students that I work with,” she said. Brett Murphy ’09 has taught at three schools in four years, leaving one school that focused exclusively on test preparation and another where it was discovered student scores had been altered. Now teaching social studies at Sunset Park High School in Brooklyn, she added, “A



movement toward something that is fairer and more just is what keeps me [going].”

Schools have become politicized and teachers have to fight to deliver a quality of education they believe in.

Megan Robertson Hurley ’01 teaches high school English in Arkansas. She noted the difference between preparing kids to get into college and providing them with the skills to complete college. “Kids are not asked to think critically until 11th grade,” she said. Kappner agreed with this, saying many kids are not being taught how to analyze information, which will be essential to success in college.

Bell asked each of the panelists: What would make it easier?

Murphy said qualified and caring school administrators, noting that her current school is the first one where “I don’t walk into school and think that there are going to be five things that go wrong every day that have nothing to do with my classroom.”

D’Egidio declared that equity should be a priority. Yip would like more time to teach her students, who are all new immigrants. Hurley pointed to high quality leadership. *Continued on Page 54*



# Shaping the Future

Ellen V. Futter '71, president of the American Museum of Natural History and Barnard president from 1980 to 1993, and Barbara Novak '50, renowned art historian and Barnard professor *emerita*, received the College's highest distinction, the Frederick A. P. Barnard Award, on May 6 at this year's annual scholarship dinner and auction. The event raised a record-breaking \$2.2 million. Stressing the focus on education, President Debora Spar said, "The evening benefits and celebrates the remarkable young women of Barnard who strive to shape a bolder, better future for themselves and the world." Scholarships in varying amounts went under the auction hammer exclusively, as opposed to the various luxury items in the programs of previous auction dinners.

Actress Greta Gerwig '06, who appeared in the indie-hit *Greenberg*, and the big budget remake *Arthur*, served as mistress of ceremonies. Athena Scholar Marjorie Dugan '11, a recipient of support from the Alan L. and Jacqueline B. Stuart Scholarship Fund and a human-rights and psychology major, reiterated the importance of scholarship aid to all the students who receive it. Taline Aynilian '03, head of sales and specialist in Orientalist art at the British-owned auction house Bonhams, urged audience members to raise their hands to contribute to scholarship funding.

Karen Fleiss '68 who endowed the Barbara Novak Professor of Art History Chair presented the award to her, defining the impact Novak had on American art, "as one of its premier historians"; her scholarship "not only changed this field of study, [but] literally defined it." Although an economics major, Fleiss attributed her own appreciation of art to Novak's art survey course.

Nancy A. Garvey '71, the second award presenter, reminded the audience that 1969 marked the year Neil Armstrong landed on the moon and Futter arrived at Barnard, saying, "With all due respect to space exploration, for [Barnard], Ellen's landing made all the difference." Under Futter's leadership, Barnard became a fully residential institution, embarked on a capital campaign, and negotiated the agreement between Barnard and Columbia that kept Barnard an independent institution.

For more photos, go to [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine)

**Photos** (read from left): **1** Brian O'Doherty and Barbara Novak **2** Diana Touliatou Vagelos '55, Lisa Sprung Cohen '80, and James Cohen **3** Gabrielle FitzGerald and Binta N. Brown '95 **4** Greta Gerwig, Marjorie Dugan, Cheryl Glicker Milstein '82 P14, Debora Spar, Ellen V. Futter, Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald '81, and Taline Aynilian **5** Maria Baibakova '07 **6** Helene Finkelstein Kaplan '53 and Virginia Bloedel Wright '51 **7** Ira and Ingeborg Rennert P93 95 **8** Suzanne Vega '81, Judith Shapiro, and Suki Kim '92 **9** Nina Weissman Fischman '86, Carolyn Ferrara P12, and Sheryl Layne P13 **10** Philip Milstein P14, James Dow and Lucille Zanghi P10, and Elizabeth Boylan **11** Elaine Schlozman Chapnick '61 P93 and Patricia Harrigan Nadosy '68 **12** Members of the Class of 1963: Loretta Tremblay Azzarone, Joan Sherman Freilich, and Pola Auerbach Rosen **13** Elise Alberts Pustilnik '53 and Louise Finkelstein Feinsot '53 **14** Anna Quindlen '74, P. Roy Vagelos, Diana Vagelos, Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum '50, and Gerald Krovatin **15** Avis Hinkson '84 **16** Jonathan and Sheryl Layne P13, and Joseph Ferrara P12 **17** Nancy Garvey **18** Lloyd Blankfein and Laura Jacobs Blankfein '75 **19** Karen Fleiss **20** Frances Sadler '72 **21** Constance Hess Williams '66 **22** Toby Milstein '14, Shelly Layne '13, and Gabrielle Ferrara '12











## Across the Generations, Barnard Women Make a Difference

Sometimes a good place to view your own world is from a distance. So I am writing my first letter to you as AABC president from northern Haiti where I have been working on a medical mission for Hands up for Haiti, providing much needed care for the children of Cap Haitien.

Far from New York City, working in a country with limited resources and multiple challenges, where education is such a precious commodity, it might seem difficult to reflect about Barnard and the needs of the Alumnae Association. But I just have to look across the table and see Erin Moore '06, who traveled with me to Haiti to film our medical mission. Erin and her partner, Dan, created Goodeye Video, a company that shoots videos for nonprofit organizations. During the past few years, the pair have made many videos for the Barnard Web site. She and I met through the Alumnae Association as we collaborated on a project for Leadership Assembly.

Erin represents the Barnard woman of the millennial generation: bright, creative, and dedicated to making a difference in the world. Three decades earlier, when I attended Barnard, my generation was equally bright and creative and dedicated to ensuring equal opportunities for women. Barnard has graduated women who have made a difference in their communities, their professions, and in the world. No matter what year you graduated, all alumnae share what Barnard has instilled in us—the belief that we can reach our own personal goals and that we can accomplish anything.

Erin and I are a few decades apart in age, but we have our Barnard history in common; our collaboration is an example of how the AABC can enrich your life by providing opportunities to make connections with other alumnae. One of my tasks as vice president over the past three years was to work on the strategic plan for the AABC. Our mission statement clearly states, "The purpose of the Alumnae Association shall be to further the interests of Barnard College and to promote a spirit of fellowship among its alumnae." This is one of the reasons that I am honored to serve as president of the AABC.

We now have a detailed strategic plan that outlines how we will achieve our goals. One of my tasks as president will be to work with our board to execute these plans and to measure our progress. The goals of the AABC are clear: serving and supporting Barnard students, enhancing the ability of the College to raise needed funds, offering a variety of programs and activities of interest to alumnae of different ages and backgrounds in a variety of locations, and strengthening the leadership skills of our volunteers, enabling them to organize, lead, and inspire other alumnae.

I look forward to the next three years and hope to serve the 20,000 members of the Alumnae Association well. "*Men anpil chay pa lou*," which in Creole means, "Many hands make the load lighter." I hope you will join me and support the AABC as we face the challenges ahead.

All my best wishes,

**Mary Ann LoFrumento '77**



## Fellowships for Graduate Study

Each year the AABC Fellowship Committee selects outstanding Barnard alumnae, chosen through a rigorous application and interview process, to receive fellowships for graduate study. These grants are generously funded by the Edith and Frances Mulhall Achilles Memorial Fund.

### 2012-2013 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

Applications and additional information for the 2012-2013 fellowships are available online at [alum.barnard.edu/fellowship](http://alum.barnard.edu/fellowship). Completed applications are due by Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Questions can be directed to Alumnae Affairs at 212.854.2005 or [alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu](mailto:alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu).



### ASHLEY COHEN '06

PhD candidate in English at the University of Pennsylvania...Completing a critical edition of *Lady Nugent's India Journal*...American studies major...Studying English, Hindi, Urdu, and Persian texts about the eighteenth-century British Empire in the East and West Indies



### SARAH HINES '01

PhD candidate in Latin American history at the University of California at Berkeley... Researching dissertation on the history of water use and related conflicts during the twentieth century in Cochabamba and La Paz, Bolivia... MEd from City College of New York...MA in history from UC-Berkeley...Former New York City public high school social studies teacher



### LILA FEINBERG '07

Centennial Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, and *summa cum laude* graduate...Working on her MFA in dramatic writing from Columbia...Playwright and actress: *Heirloom*, her one-act play, received the Audience Award at the Emerging Female Playwrights Voices Festival...*Monkey Bowl*, based on her first year at Barnard, had a staged reading at an off-Broadway theatre...At work on a theatre commission about relational medicine



### AURORA MACRAE-CRERAR '07

Third-year doctoral candidate in ecology in Dr. Brenda Caspar's lab at the University of Pennsylvania...Working with the National Science Foundation Partnerships for International Research and Education's Mongolia Project...Research focus on the consequences of global climate change and land-use pressures in the grasslands and surrounding ecosystems of northern Mongolia



### ALEXANDRA MURPHY '03

Doctoral candidate in sociology and fellow in the joint degree program in social policy at Princeton...Conducting dissertation research on suburban poverty...Prepping her dissertation for publication as a book...Research supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the American Council of Learned Societies





## Honored for Service

In recognition for her outstanding service to Barnard and the University community, Lisa Phillips Davis '76 P07 received a CAA Alumni Medal at Commencement 2011. Davis has been an active member of the Alumnae Association of Barnard College since her graduation in 1976, and just celebrated her 35th reunion. Perhaps best known for her leadership as AABC president from 2005–2008, Davis also served as president of the Barnard Club of Long Island (1984–1987), class president (1996–2001), and vice president of the Alumnae Association (2002–2005), where she was instrumental in launching the Alma Maters group for alumnae mothers as part of a broader outreach to

alumnae at different life stages. She was an alumnae trustee from 2005–2009 and has given generously of her time as well as her resources to the College. In addition to being a loyal donor to The Barnard Fund and establishing an internship fund, Davis has made gifts to The Diana Center that have helped provide opportunities to build the campus community. This past year, she was class reunion gift chair and a member of the AABC awards committee.

Davis is executive director of the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association and has served on the Chappaqua Board of Education and several not-for-profit boards. She and her husband Stephen (CC '76, CLaw '79) are the proud parents of Jason (CBus '10), Rebecca '07, and Hilary. Davis's alumnae service will be recognized at a gala dinner in October at the annual Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) Assembly's gala dinner.



## On a mission in Haiti

Erin Moore '06 (left), a principal of Goodeye Video, which produces videos for nonprofit organizations, and new AABC president and pediatrician Mary Ann LoFrumento '77 recently traveled to the devastated island. LoFrumento was part of a medical mission for Hands Up for Haiti; as a volunteer, she helped provide sorely needed care for the children in the town of Cap Haitien. Moore accompanied her to document the relief effort.

### 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  
Mary Ann LoFrumento '77

VICE PRESIDENT  
Terry Newman '79

TREASURER  
Helene Kener Gray '88

ALUMNAE TRUSTEES  
Judith Daynard Boies '59  
Myrna Fishman Fawcett '70  
Frances Sadler '72

BYLAWS CHAIR  
Lois Lempel Weinroth '63

BARNARD FUND COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Daphne Fodor Philipson '69

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE  
Barbi Appelquist '98

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/ALMA MATERS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Mew Chiu '95

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE/PROJECT CONTINUUM  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Reeva Starkman Mager '64

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Kimberlee Halligan '75

LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Merri Rosenberg '78

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Rosalind Gordon '62

PROFESSIONAL AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Peri Horowitz '96

REGIONAL NETWORKS CHAIR  
Susan Sommer Klapkin '76

REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Patricia Tinto '76

YOUNG ALUMNAE COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Pam Wiznitzer '07

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
Jessica Blank '12

### 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

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
Carly Sorscher

PROGRAM MANAGERS  
Stefanie Landsman  
Maryangela Moutoussis '06  
Susan A. Seigle '67

ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR  
Faith Rusk '10

DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT  
Stephanie Neel '10



# Remembrances

Reunion and Commencement—these are yearly reminders of milestones and transitions. We thought it would be fitting at this time to also remember those beloved faculty members, generous supporters of the College, and cherished alumnae and friends who have passed away in the last year. Following are a few tributes to some of those whose absence diminishes us, even as their enduring legacy remains an integral part of Barnard.

## DR. HELEN M. RANNEY '41

From the rural farm country of New York's Finger Lakes, Helen Ranney, who was raised in upstate Summerhill, where her father was a dairy farmer and her mother taught in a one-room schoolhouse, took her curiosity, sharp intelligence, high standards, and indomitable spirit to the highest levels of her chosen profession.

Ranney succeeded in becoming a renowned hematologist and expert in sickle-cell disease. She was the first woman to be the chair of the medical department of a major medical school, the University of California at San Diego, a position she held for 13 years. Even as a professor *emerita*, Ranney continued to consult with pharmaceutical companies.

Ranney knew what she wanted and was undeterred when Columbia's medical school rejected her because she was a woman. She pursued work in one of Columbia's hematology labs as a technician, where she impressed the professors to such a degree that when she reapplied to Columbia, they admitted her. Despite the discrimination and difficulties Ranney endured in the process of building her career, she didn't complain. "She didn't like to waste time," recalls Alesia Ranney-Marinelli, one of Ranney's two surviving nieces. "Complaining was an incredible waste of time."

The doctor also had strong opinions and rigorous standards. Her well known sense of humor could have a sharp edge to it. "You wanted to please her," says Ranney-Marinelli. "You wanted to be held in high regard and earn her respect. She had a low tolerance for people who didn't work to the best of their abilities." When the two of them argued politics, one of Ranney's passions, "It was brutal," says Ranney-Marinelli. "She was liberal; I'm conservative."

She loved her *Dobermans*, the movie *Dr. Strangelove*, and was a devoted friend and mentor, says her niece, who still treasures the teddy bear and stuffed lamb that her late aunt gave her when she was a little girl, even if most of the doctor's gifts tended toward the instructional. "Even play was supposed to be educational," says Ranney-Marinelli. "She liked to learn and remained a sponge, soaking up facts, information, and ideas even at 90. You could talk to her about anything—a wonderful aunt. For the last 20 years, she was very much a friend. I still miss her, and think of her every day."

## BARBARA SILVER HOROWITZ '55

Barbara Silver Horowitz, who died last January, cared deeply about her family and Barnard. The College was central to Barbara's life. As a Barnard first-year, she met Gedale Horowitz, the man who would become her husband, at a tea dance in the James Room. He was then a senior at Columbia College as well as a first-year Columbia law student, and what began that day would go on to last a lifetime.

"Barnard mattered to her," says her daughter, Ruth Horowitz '83. "When I was

## Alumnae

Helen Marraro Abdoo 1942  
 Joan Leff Abelson 1946  
 Ann Aldrich 1948  
 Joyce Alessandrini 1950  
 Ann Bushnell Bailey 1949  
 Trudy Balch 1978  
 Francoise Dearden Bartlett 1958  
 Margaret Pardee Bates 1940  
 Jane Flickinger Beer 1940  
 Edith Belsjoe 1951  
 Rae Reibstein Berger 1957  
 Shelley Bernard 1975  
 Elizabeth Bonwich 1994  
 Edith Bornn Bornn 1945  
 Marjorie Nettleton Bosco 1941  
 Diana Shapiro Bowstead 1960  
 Jane Petetin Bradshaw 1943  
 Marguerite Dressner Brown 1934  
 Jennette Zang Burnett 1944  
 Maud Brunel Cabell 1942  
 Louise Salet Cameron 1942  
 Mary Rhodin Carey 1938  
 Ruth Stevenson Carpenter 1941  
 Judith Loeb Chiara 1952  
 Marina Diterichs Christman 1947  
 Ruth Walter Crook 1937  
 Paulette Crowther 1979  
 Marie Bell Davis 1937  
 Emma Foulkes De Hart 1940  
 Doris Kanter Deakin 1949  
 Astrith Deyrup 1944  
 Sondra Berger Dickler 1949  
 Theresa Haimes Drucker 1935  
 Pat Campbell Dunbar 1947  
 Patricia Warburton Duncombe 1944  
 Grace Jackson Dworetzky 1950  
 Claire Miller Einhorn 1939  
 Mildred Mangelsdorff Elsner 1934  
 Betty Caslavka Esch 1946  
 Anne Mathews Farr 1946



accepted into the College, my mother and father were excited. My mother gave me her class ring.” Barbara and Gedale were strongly committed to the idea of women’s education and specifically the importance of a Barnard education. In fact, education was Barbara Horowitz’s chosen profession. Raised in Brooklyn, she earned graduate degrees from Teachers College and Brooklyn College, and went on to be a teacher and elementary school guidance counselor.

Barnard was the beneficiary of her endless generosity for more than half a century. She and her husband funded Barnard’s distinct and distinguished Centennial Scholars program in 1984. The program, now known as the Barbara S. Horowitz ’55 and Ruth E. Horowitz ’83 Centennial Fellows Program, provides funding and faculty mentorship to entering and first-year students in preparation for an independent senior project. The Horowitz family also provided much-needed support for faculty recruitment; contributed to The Diana Center, where the senior architecture studio will be named in Barbara’s memory; steadfastly gave to The Barnard Fund; and endowed the Barbara Silver Horowitz Director of Education Chair in 2004. Barbara and Gedale Horowitz were each recipients of the Columbia University Alumni Medal at the 2010 Commencement.

Time and again, Barbara Horowitz’s philanthropy was motivated by her abiding love of the College and her devotion to its students. In an interview (see video on YouTube under Columbia Alumni Medalists 2010 Horowitz), she said, “We don’t need the recognition. We just do it and enjoy it.”

Barbara’s dedication to Barnard extended to hands-on volunteer work as well. She was a member of the Barnard in Long Island Club and of the AABC Nominating Committee, and served as class president at two different times, including her class’s 50th reunion with its record-breaking attendance. When it came to her alma mater, she always knew how to make a difference.

Among her many other philanthropic ventures, she served as a board member of the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Jewish Museum. According to Ruth Horowitz, “She enjoyed contemporary art and Judaica, and she had a very good eye.” No matter what she participated in, says her daughter, Barbara was serious about her commitment. As a board or committee member, “She read everything and was prepared.” And because she cared so much about her family and her work, she was always willing to express her opinions. She wanted to make things better.

In addition to her husband and daughter, she leaves a son, daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, and a son-in-law.

Barbara Horowitz meant so much to so many and her legacy on campus and in the wider community will long be remembered.

### **PROFESSOR IRENE TILENIUS BLOOM**

What does it mean to be a good human being? That was the central question that animated Irene T. Bloom’s scholarly and personal life. Bloom retired from Barnard in 2002 after a distinguished career that culminated as the Ann Whitney Olin Professor *emerita* of Asian and Middle Eastern cultures.

Bloom was a committed pacifist, Quaker, and vegetarian. On a global scale, she manifested goodness by her abiding involvement with human rights. With Professor Peter Juviler, Bloom was a cofounder of the human-rights program at Barnard. When she moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, after her retirement from the College, Bloom taught courses on human rights in East Asia at Harvard. Two of her students included former leaders of the Tiananmen Square student movement.

On a more intimate level, Bloom, a resident of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York,

Jane McCown Fern 1948  
 Barbara Hewson Fernandez 1950  
 Edythe Weiner First 1935  
 Argentine Black Fisher 1945  
 Joan Breon Foth 1952  
 Marion Rosenberg Friedman 1920  
 Eleanor Galenson 1936  
 Denise Hahn Galperin 1942  
 Bettina Vander Woude Garber 1936  
 Lorraine Billitzer Gastwirt 1964  
 Cynthia Gerstner 1990  
 Dorothy Schubert Gilbert 1938  
 Helen Gleason 1986  
 Josephine Diggles Golde 1934  
 Marcia Walder Gottlieb 1960  
 Harriet Hanley 1945  
 Mary Heeren Hanser 1937  
 Miriam Shapiro Harris 1955  
 Jane Stewart Heckman 1941  
 Dorothy Height 1933  
 Louise Morse Herrick 1942  
 Louise Preusch Herring 1940  
 Louise Schwartz Horowitz 1953  
 Barbara Silver Horowitz 1955  
 Candace Howard 1976  
 Mary Susen Huber 1944  
 Margery Smith Hubert 1935  
 May Edwards Huddleston 1945  
 Anita Ginsburg Isakoff 1947  
 Roberta Kinstler Jaeger 1963  
 Sylvine Barer Jerome 1973  
 Stephanie Kruse Johnson 1953  
 Ann Dawson Johnson 1960  
 Gertrude Clarke Johnstone 1932  
 Anne Anderson Jones 1953  
 Templeton Mossman Jones 1960  
 Naomi Letsky Kahn 1940  
 Shaheena Karimi 1999  
 Florence Kelly 1970  
 Nancy Kerr Ketcham 1945  
 Harriet Hirschfeld Keyserling 1943  
 Bettina Liebowitz Knapp 1947  
 Nancy Cahen Knopka 1947  
 Taube Levine Korn 1980  
 Elaine Landis Koster 1962  
 Selma Lieblich Kramer 1930  
 Eleanor Bowman Kursch 1940  
 Doris White Kurtz 1950  
 Marion Kwartler 1976  
 Jane Hoyt Lamb 1940  
 Evelyne Hirsch Lang 1955



during her Barnard years, was generous, gentle, and selfless to both colleagues and students. She often brought home-baked cookies to share with her classes.

A Swarthmore alumna who earned advanced degrees from Columbia under the direction of recognized educator William Theodore de Bary, Bloom was groundbreaking in her scholarly research, introducing English readers to neo-Confucian thinkers in her first book, *Knowledge Painfully Acquired*. Throughout her career, she always worked to translate the philosophical ideas of the academy to new generations of scholars, students and general readers.

Even as she suffered from the Parkinson's disease that ultimately ended her life, Bloom tried to "live the disease from a distance, watching it, as would a Confucian sage," said Professor Rachel McDermott during her tribute remarks last October. Bloom continued to live with the same grace and philosophical fortitude as she always had.

Survived by her beloved husband, daughter, and brother, Bloom is much missed by her family, colleagues in the Asian and Middle Eastern cultures department, and her students.

*With thanks to Rachel McDermott for her gracious contributions*

### PROFESSOR ALAN F. SEGAL

Alan F. Segal, retired professor of religion and Ingeborg Rennert Professor of Jewish Studies, was more than an accomplished scholar. Popular as a teacher, his classes were regularly oversubscribed, a tribute to his engaging style and dedication to his students.

For Samantha Gonzalez-Block '08, a former student and religion major who spoke about him at Reunion's Memorial Service, Segal "inspired students like myself to become almost addicted to the Segal style of teaching. He changed my career path—my life really, and I wasn't the only one." Many of his former students, from both Barnard and Columbia (where he regularly supervised doctoral candidates), have gone on to distinguished academic careers of their own.

An alumnus of Amherst College, Brandeis University, and Yale University, Segal had been a member of Barnard's faculty since 1980. His academic career was distinguished by an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion. His books included *Rebecca's Children: Judaism and Christianity in the Roman World* (1986), a seminal work in studying Judaism and Christianity in tandem, at the tipping point of when these religions began separating from one another. Another significant work, *Paul the Convert: The Apostolate and Apostasy of Saul the Pharisee* (1992), explored the concept of "conversion and the standing of Paul within first-century Judaism." And *Life After Death* was widely regarded as a masterpiece.

Segal had other admirable qualities. "He had a tremendous capacity for friendship," recalls Barnard trustee Judith Daynard Boies '59, who audited three of his classes and became friends with Segal and his wife, Meryl. Another striking characteristic, says Boies, was that his interests weren't limited to Biblical scholarship. "He was equally interested in the oddities of the French language," she says. "He was a lover of food, wine, and good company."

Above all, Segal was a *mensch*. Gonzalez-Block, echoing many who had been fortunate enough to encounter Segal, concluded that "Professor Segal, wherever you are, we miss you, we love you, and we thank you from the depths of our hearts. Yours is certainly a glorious life after death—for you have undoubtedly left a rich and profound footprint on this campus and the world."

He is survived by his wife, two sons, a daughter-in-law, as well as other family members, and generations of inspired students.

*With thanks to Elizabeth Castelli for her gracious contributions*

- Ruth Rosenberg Lapidés 1947
- Marilyn Gold Laurie 1959
- Soo Jin Lee 1992
- Edna Fuerth Lemle 1937
- Malvina Leshock 1945
- Alta Goalwin Lewis 1947
- Kirsten Eilertsen Liebhaber 1956
- Betty Kirschner Lifton 1948
- Erica Rosenzweig Lindenstrauss 1955
- Elisabeth Little 1945
- Susan Israel Mager 1958
- Maxine Rothschild Male 1931
- Angela Manzo 1972
- Mildred Lazarus Marcus 1949
- Karin Zuckerman Matitya 1989
- Jane McAdams 1971
- Adeline Pope McConnell 1944
- Patricia McKenna 1977
- Ingrid Menken Menken w1979
- Mary Donovan Meyer 1935
- Louise Moberg 1950
- Mary-Rita Hennelly Monroe 1951
- Patricia Lambdin Moore 1941
- Adelaide King Newburger 1938
- Dorothy Oak 1918
- Sylvia Gaus Oleksak 1942
- Joan Brown Olesen 1959
- Dorothy Botwen Parker 1936
- Helena Percas-Ponseti 1942
- Mary Peterson 1987
- Joan Gilbert Peyser 1951
- Carol Koehler Pforzheimer 1931
- Belva Offenberglain 1937
- Andree Powell 1947
- Sigrid Dueland Prentice 1948
- Lenore Oppenheim Provisor 1934
- Natalie Sperling Prudden 1930
- Grace Huntley Pugh 1934
- Helen Ranney 1941
- Barbara Carver Ready 1971
- Joyce Lasky Reed 1952
- Phyllis Kenner Robinson 1942
- Pura Rojas 1975
- Deborah Levitt Ron 1979
- Gertrude Neumark Rothschild 1948
- Claire Rouse 1938
- Mary Pituck Rupp 1949
- Marion Hellman Sandalls 1938
- Elaine Engelson Schlanger 1945
- Winniefred Drackett Schumacher 1945
- Ilze Klavins Sell 1974



**JUDITH P. SULZBERGER**

A pioneering physician, member of *The New York Times*' Sulzberger family, and generous philanthropist, Judith P. Sulzberger, along with her three siblings, donated \$5 million to Barnard in honor of their mother, Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger '14. The gift was designated for Sulzberger Hall, the College's fourth on-campus residential building. The structure, which opened in the fall of 1988, created the Quad and enabled Barnard to become a fully residential college. Sulzberger also funded a center for genome studies at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A graduate of Smith College and Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, Sulzberger worked as a pathologist, AIDS researcher, and then focused on genetics. She had a long-standing interest in public-health issues, as well as in genetic research concerning autism, and Asperger's syndrome.

Sulzberger served on the boards of the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Rainforest Alliance, the Health Sciences Council of Columbia University, and the Pasteur Foundation.

**JOSEPH H. FLOM**

A trustee of Barnard from 1983 to 1993, Joseph H. Flom was a corporate attorney who helped build Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom into a powerhouse law firm. Flom knew he wanted to be a lawyer from the age of 6. A graduate of Townsend Harris High School, he enrolled in City College's night school, but joined the Army in World War II and never graduated from college. That didn't stop him from being admitted to Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Flom was also a generous philanthropist to Harvard Law School and supported other programs, such as Urban America, a development fund that invests in economically depressed areas. He "adopted" a sixth-grade class of 80 Harlem students to cover their college tuition, supported programs at City College, and served as a trustee for the New York University Medical Center, and as the mayor's representative on the board of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. At Barnard he was chairman of the Committee on Barnard-Columbia Relations, and served on the Joint Barnard-Columbia Trustee Committee as well as the Committee on Budget and Finance and the Committee on Corporate Giving.

Anne Johnston Sessa 1936  
 Doris Dewis Shallcross 1938  
 Joyce Levy Shane 1963  
 Virginia Shaw 1938  
 Margaret Podell Shulman 1948  
 Arlene Propper Silberman 1949  
 Alice Moolten Silver 1957  
 Katherine Simon 1947  
 Catherine de Bary Sleight 1973  
 Marian Vans-Agnew Smith 1948  
 Judith Coplon Socolov 1943  
 Dolores Cooper Sonne 1947  
 Carol Dodson Spengler 1962  
 Quintard Steele 1966  
 Joan Steiner 1965  
 Elizabeth Thompson Stevens 1940  
 Lisa Stewart 1980  
 Helen Petritis Stratigos 1950  
 Edith Greenbaum Tanenbaum 1943  
 Linda Vought Taylor 1956  
 Anne MacDonald Thomas 1949  
 Julia McNeely Vance 1933  
 Betty Martin Viereck 1951  
 Margaret Schneider Voight 1949  
 Miriam Grunberger Wallach 1970  
 Bettine Kinney Wallin 1958  
 Athena Capraro Warren 1941  
 Margaret Grant Wehmeier 1939  
 Marion Pratt Wells 1940  
 Natalie Elman Wengrin 1980  
 Rose Kleinberg Wiener 1928  
 Janet McKenna Williams 1951  
 Doris Blattner Wilson 1954  
 Charlotte Byer Winkler 1946  
 Rosalie Miller Zanderer 1962

**Friends**

Phyllis Ben  
 Kai-Yun Chiu  
 Joseph H. Flom, *Former Trustee*  
 Norma Hess  
 Martin Hirschorn  
 Alan Miller  
 Oleg Moston  
 Thomas Quinn  
 Denise Saks  
 Judith P. Sulzberger  
 Jiri Vavrina  
 Margaret Williams

**Faculty**

Irene T. Bloom  
 Alan F. Segal



# CLASS NOTES

**For classes without correspondents, send notes to:**

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 Barnard College  
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80th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

## 32

**Ethel Greenfield Booth** writes:

"Whenever I see a gap for my class news, I feel I have an obligation to remedy it, if only to prove that there are some of us still around. It may feel like borrowed time; who expected to live to be 97? That's my age today. I graduated at 18. I don't think many at Barnard knew I was so young, and I did nothing to enlighten them. I was active in Wigs and Cues, acted in the Junior Show, contributed to the newspaper, held class offices, and represented Barnard at a number of intercollegiate organizations. It was an exciting time for me: Extracurricular activities were as significant as what went on in the classroom, where I continued to achieve at a fairly high level (which I took for granted), but the other was rewarding in unexpected, probably life-changing ways. I reminisce hoping undergraduates will compare what they may be experiencing today with my experiences. I was the youngest everywhere, never wanting anyone to know my age. Now that I am the oldest everywhere, I tell everyone because I want them to know: You too can

look forward to growing older. It is not only possible but also agreeable to find promise in each new day. I do, and you can too. Bon voyage!"

## 38

I am sorry to report that our only news this issue is sad. We have been informed of the loss of three classmates: **Antoinette Schoonmaker Renfrow** died on June 13, 2008; **Claire Virginia Rouse** died on Dec. 9, 2010, and is survived by her stepson; and **Mary Rhodin Carey** died on Dec. 30, 2010, and is survived by a son, three daughters, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

We send our sympathy to their friends and families.

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## 39

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## 40

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## 41

I was so disappointed not to be able to attend Reunion this year. Fortunately, eight members of our class were there. **Vera Arndt Bush** and her granddaughter arrived Thursday morning, so Vera was able to attend tea with President Spar, a private discussion that Vera was thrilled to have. By Friday the others had arrived: **Estelle De Vito, Eleanor Johnson, Marie Turbow Lampard, Eleanor Gans Lippman, Alice Kliemand Meyer, Victoria Hughes Reiss,** and **Marguerite Binder Zamaitis.** Although our class did not have a private room, they were seated together and had a good visit. Some members of the Class of 2001 sat with them and were fascinated by the group. Our class voted to entrust the remains of the class treasury, \$1328, to Barnard in memory of our deceased classmates. Alice Meyer and **Betty Clifford Macomber**, who could not attend, will continue to act as co-presidents.

For various reasons, everyone but Vera left after Friday's programs—and they missed some fine programs. Vera, who received a lovely orchid corsage, enjoyed staying at Union Theological Seminary. She and her granddaughter had several delicious meals, heard a joint Columbia-



Barnard Choral performance, and saw a very professional dance performance. A class picture was taken, and we should be able to find it on the Barnard Alumnae Web page. Vera's granddaughter has already earned her PhD and is receiving assistance from the National Institutes of Health. She has also completed her studies for her MD and was delighted to meet Estelle DeVito, who holds an MD and has a daughter who's a medical doctor on the West Coast and can be helpful to the new graduate.

Regrets came from several classmates:

**Doris Prochaska Bryan**, Betty Macomber, **Jane Ringo Murray**, and **Martha Bennett Heyde**, who recently moved to Peter Cooper Village and says her eyes kept her from attending.

I'm so grateful to Vera for sharing all this news.

As most of you know, **Athena Capraro Warren** died peacefully on Nov. 7, 2010, at the age of 90. Her daughter, Hera Cohn-Haft '69, recently forwarded a lovely obituary that some of you might like to receive. I'll be glad to send you a copy if you send me a request. In her later years, Athena continued her dedication to Second Mile, her ministry to the patients at Overlook Northampton in Leeds, Mass. In addition to Hera, Athena is survived by two sons, her first husband, a cousin, her second husband's three children, and eight grandchildren.

*Jane Ringo Murray*  
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**Doris Bayer Coster** has been in touch with the Barnard Reunion Committee, which will begin planning Reunion 2012 in the fall; we'll be planning our 70th reunion. Please make sure all of your contact information is up-to-date with the College, and let Alumnae Affairs know if there are any changes: 212.854.2005 or alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu.

**Marion Blum Sweet** and her husband,

Elliott, report that they are gradually turning over the responsibility for organizing their family reunions, at a lake in northern Wisconsin, to the next generation. As a special treat, their son arranged a trip to Washington so his parents could see the sights in a leisurely manner.

**Denise Rachel Hahn Galperin** died on Dec. 21, 2010, in Israel. Her niece Linda J. Rie '72 prepared a long, detailed summary of the life of this remarkable woman, who fled France and finally reached America in August 1940. She earned a degree in early childhood education and worked for 15 years as a kindergarten teacher, assisting émigré children. She then obtained a PhD in French literature at Columbia and later taught at Tel Aviv University. She is survived by her husband, four children, 10 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Helena Percas-Ponseti** died on Jan. 1, 2011. She earned her PhD at Columbia and taught for more than 40 years at Grinnell College. She was the editor of the journal of the Cervantes Society of America. She was very supportive of her husband, who was a well-known specialist in the treatment of clubfoot. She is survived by her stepson and his family.

**Louise Salet Cameron** died on Nov. 11, 2010. Louise was a commuter and had kept in touch with many of her New York friends. She retired to Florida and missed the Big Apple.

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## 43

What thoughts go through your mind when you are looking for a tidbit of news and instead encounter the dreaded "mailer daemon"? The frustration is there. I know that we're all approaching the point where we care a little less about the present, and instead reminisce about past pleasures. Reunion will be here before you know it.

I have just moved into a retirement community in greater Boston, which met many age-related needs. It is in an area that I did not know, but it enables me to be closer to my children. In short, it is

a blessing to be among family and new friends when you are the passenger and not the driver of the car.

I await your thoughts. And if picking up a pen is not your thing, give me a call and keep me posted.

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## 45

The class news this quarter is sorrowful. We have lost three more classmates.

**Argentine Black Fisher** died on Feb. 28, 2011. The source of this news was an obituary from a research firm. She is survived by large family—five daughters, four grandsons, and four great-grandchildren, to whom she was very devoted. The 1945 *Mortarboard* describes her as "distractingly heterogeneous in talents and charms ... cosmopolitan with Southern grace." Argentine was educated in New Orleans and abroad, and she was a zoology major at Barnard. You may recall her nickname was Mimi.

**Malvina Leshock** died on Jan. 11, 2011. Her death was also reported by a research firm. She is survived by three brothers. Malvina is not listed in our yearbook, so I assume she completed her studies at Barnard midyear or was working overtime in the lab when it went to press.

**Tatiana (Tania) Khmel Markow** died on May 14, 2008. The source of this delayed news is a research Web site. Tania came to Barnard from Middlebury College. She was fond of working with adolescents and meeting people in general, which fit in with her major, sociology. *The Mortarboard* states that she liked the awareness and activity at Barnard, particularly in the Community Service Bureau.

Being perceptive, as every Barnard graduate is, you'll notice that my only references to these classmates come from our yearbook and the College death notices I receive. I would so much like to be able to tell you something about what they did in their post-college years. I'm sure that would be of interest to all of you.

I'm considering spotlighting one



classmate in each column, someone with whom I have been in touch and learned her post-college story.

If you'd like to see your name in this column, please send me some of your news.

Best wishes to all of you.

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## 46

**Ruth Margaretten Bilenker** retired in 1984 after 25 years as English supervisor for the Elizabeth, N.J., secondary schools. She followed it by continuing her devotion to serving humanitarian needs by way of Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey. Ruth served two years as its board president; as a continuing board member, she leads the monthly food pantry, packing for 130 needy clients, and chairs the public relations committee. Each year she makes a new 10-minute film featuring the agency's different services, to spark fund-raising at the annual benefit dinner. Some of her volunteering spirit she attributes to the assigned Barnard senior thesis topic "Schemes for a Better World." Along with these activities, Ruth has enjoyed her beloved and talented family: her husband, her son and his wife, and two grandchildren.

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## 47

Since I've recuperated from my illness last winter, I'm happy to continue writing our column again.

Sadly, my husband, Bob, died last November after a long illness. He was always supportive of Barnard and enjoyed coming to our class activities.

I'm very impressed with Dana Bacharach '13, the Class of 1947 Scholarship recipient for 2010–11. Born in Israel, Dana moved to Portland, Ore., before starting at Barnard. She plans to major in comparative literature and minor in French, and she intends to

## First Lady of Bayside Keeps Going

### Joan Brown Wettingfeld '42



Photograph by Roz Liston

Plenty of journalists undoubtedly envy Joan Brown Wettingfeld '42, who, as a second career, writes a weekly article on local historical topics, for the *Bayside Times*. Born in Manhattan, she was raised in Queens, first in Astoria and later Bayside. She's lived in the same Bayside house for 40 years, and at 90, pursues an active social and work life.

"I spend a week looking for material," she says about the column that she's had since 1994 (and which she produces on a computer). "That keeps me busy. I really take my time, to see what would appeal, getting subjects. This keeps me going."

Seeking new challenges, being flexible, and seizing opportunities have defined Wettingfeld for decades. After graduating from Barnard, *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa as a history major, she went on to get a master's degree in that field from Columbia. Her early jobs included working in a bank, and acting as a secretary for the managing editor and editor at the Columbia University Press. She also toiled at Barnard as an assistant to the head of student affairs at the time.

Wettingfeld married her husband, a Columbia graduate who had worked on the atom bomb without telling her, over a three-day leave during World War II. "I couldn't believe what he had been doing," she recalls. As a mother of two, Wettingfeld became a teacher once her children were enrolled in school. At the time, schools didn't have designated libraries. Wettingfeld, who also earned a master's degree in library science from St. John's University in Queens, didn't hesitate to say "yes" when her principal asked her to set up a library in the school. She remained at P.S. 41 in Bayside, in the library, until she retired from the school system.

Wettingfeld still appreciates what Barnard gave her. "My father marched me to Barnard," she recalls. "They gave me a scholarship all four years. I commuted from Bayside [and] enjoyed school. I got everything I could have desired." Besides her academic preparation, "Barnard gave me a great network of friends," says this active alumna whose two sisters also went to the College. "I talk to and write to many of them, and went to as many reunions as I could. It was a wonderful class. I'm always proud of being a Barnard graduate."

—Merri Rosenberg

study abroad in Paris. Dana's volunteer work includes the B'nai Brith youth organization; she was also a founding member of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation and went to Tibet to volunteer in a medical clinic. At Barnard she has worked in Communications and she helped plan Student Life's annual Women's Leadership Retreat.

**Marie Beltram McIlvennan** and her husband live an active life in Longwood, Colo. She writes that they have been married 62 years, have four children, and have been living in the Denver area for almost 50 years. Marie taught French and Spanish and since retiring has been

substituting. She's very active in her church doing fund-raising and bazaar work. She enjoys traveling and writes that she has been "all over the world." Marie is also active in the AAUW and enjoys hiking, gardening, and Bible-study groups.

I also heard from **Raymonde Lawrence Mayer** in Jupiter, Fla. She has been married for 62 years and has three married children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Like Marie, she also taught French after getting her master's degree. She and her husband have lived in various cities in New York and Texas, as well as in Mexico City. Retired now in Florida, she's very grateful for her education



and experiences at Barnard.

From West Lebanon, N.H., **Mary McQuiston MacNamee** writes that she's the treasurer of the D. Hugh MacNamee Memorial Trust Fund, which honors her husband, a psychiatrist who died in 1983. The trust fund promotes education in the field of mental health and counseling for adolescents and their families who cannot afford it. Marie is still active doing water aerobics and attending movies, plays, and concerts. As she writes, "That's busy enough."

**Ruth Rosenberg Lapidés**, a prolific artist, died on Feb. 10, 2011. Articles in *The New York Times* and the *New Haven Advocate* extolled her achievements in art in New Haven, Conn., which included paintings and cast-bronze sculptures. She received many awards for her work. Many of her sculptures have been installed in organizations across the United States, such as the YWCA in Phoenix, Ariz., and in St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven. Ruth also held office in the New Haven Parks Commission and was on the board of directors of the League of Women Voters. She is survived by three children and several grandchildren.

We have learned of the death of **Alta Goalwin Lewis** on May 14, 2010. Alta received her MD in pediatrics from New York Medical College in 1951. Her most recent position was clinical associate professor of pediatrics there. Alta is survived by two daughters. Her husband, Dr. Harney Lewis, predeceased her in 2004.

**Jeanne Hutchinson Butterton's** daughter informed us of Jeanne's death on Jan. 22, 2010. She died peacefully at a hospice in California after a long illness. She also leaves a son.

**Anita Ginsburg Isakoff's** husband, Sheldon, has informed us that Anita died on Feb. 28, 2011, at her home in Chadds Ford, Pa. A former teacher, librarian, and orchid grower, Anita was born in New York City where she attended the Birch Wathen High School in Manhattan. While a sophomore at Barnard, she met Sheldon, a Columbia Navy engineering student. They were married Aug. 8, 1946, following the completion of his military service as a naval officer in the Pacific. In the Brandywine River Valley area of Chadds Ford and Wilmington, Del., where they lived for 60 years, she was a dedicated participant in the arts and cultural activities and was the founder and member of the board of directors of the Delaware

Theatre Company, an actress in the Wilmington Drama League, a docent at the Delaware Art Museum, and the Brandywine River Museum. She was president of the Delaware Orchid Society, pursuing both her love of orchids and foreign travel, which included six continents. She collected orchids in their native habitats in Belize, Peru, Kenya, and the Comoro Islands.

Anita was an enthusiastic supporter of Barnard and created a scholarship in her name. She was also a member of the Athena Society. Anita is survived by Sheldon, one son, and two grandchildren.

We also report that **Andi Emerson** died on Feb. 13, 2008, and **Mary Manchester** died on Dec. 26, 2009. We were unable to get further information on these classmates.

Please note my new address and phone number below. —MTH

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*Marguerite Traeris Harris*  
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631.277.3250

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## 48

Here's an early alert for a class mini-reunion we're planning to hold in New York City this fall. Watch your mail for details. Meanwhile, we'll share news of classmates from California to Maine:

**Brigitta Sorer Grenier** writes, "Since our 50th reunion, declining health has restricted not only travel but also hiking, swimming, and volunteer work. More than ever do I treasure time with good friends and a great variety of books. Richard and I are able to live independently in the house we built 56 years ago, then surrounded by apricot orchards. We are visited by our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, scattered as they are over three continents."

**Virginia (Winkie) Bosler Doris** writes, "I was diagnosed with Parkinson's three years ago. My husband died at approximately the same time. I remained at home alone in my house until a year ago, when I had a stroke. I reported it to

my 'lifeline' person. The personnel, who appeared almost instantly, assembled very quickly and fell to their work. I felt very well taken care of. They transferred me to the hospital in Ellsworth, Maine, and from there to the hospital in Bangor, where I spent three weeks. My daughter joined me there. We had an earthquake going on (small potatoes compared to the one in Japan). But the quake stirred things up so that she stayed two weeks longer to avoid the ash. My recovery has been relatively good. I send greetings to all." We remember Winkie for her talents as a professional dancer and, more recently, as a yoga teacher. We're sure that her lifetime of fitness and physical activity helped her prevail over this recent bad patch. We wish her all the best.

**Elizabeth (Betty) Zlotsky Tavian** writes from Connecticut: "Sorry I missed Reunion 2008, when I was recovering from a cracked bone. Meanwhile, my major enjoyment has been singing. This year's concert will be Puccini's *Messe di Gloria*. I've had charge of our retirement community's chorus, mostly preparing for our holiday concert. Meanwhile, I sing with a synagogue choir on the odd Sabbath, as well as at an occasional major performance. Having given up my car, I am fortunate to get transportation to 10 Live at the Met performances, as well as to the Hartford Symphony—all very good. We're looking forward to the new, outstanding young conductor, Carolyn Kuan. Perhaps we will meet. All the best."

We share Betty's enthusiasm for the Met-at-the-movies performances. You can check out your local city's offerings and get your New York "fix" for a fraction of the cost.

We are sorry to report the deaths of two classmates: **Sigrid Dueland Prentice** died on Jan. 9, 2011. She leaves a son, two daughters, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a brother, and a sister-in-law. Sigrid had been a music teacher and lived in Alabama. **Alma J. Beers Rowe** died on Jan. 12, 2009; we only recently learned this from her daughter. Our condolences to their families.

Please send your news and tell Barnard's Alumnae Records if you move, so we can stay in touch. (The post office absolutely does not forward mail after six months.) Write to us if you'd like to spearhead a mini-reunion with classmates



in your region—a good way to gear up for our 65th reunion in 2013. *It's not to be missed!*

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My co-correspondent, Rosary, was scheduled to write this column, but its deadline coincided with her move. Rosary and her husband, Tom, left their house in Califon, which had been their home for more than 20 years, on April 29 and moved into an apartment in Pompton Plains. Both locations are in New Jersey. Her new address and e-mail address are listed below. I'm sure that you'll join me in wishing them both much good health and much luck in their new location.

In March, I received an e-mail from **Marilyn Heggie De Lallo** concerning her trip to India and Nepal, which she made in spite of her age and three replacement joints. She was very enthusiastic about seeing the Taj Mahal and flying over the Himalayas in a small airplane to photograph Mount Everest. She was appalled, however, at the poverty and filth she saw in those countries and at the dismal treatment of women there.

Unfortunately, two more of our classmates recently passed away. **Sondra Berger Dickler** died on Dec. 26, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Charles, and her three children. **Margaret Schneider Voight** died on Jan. 8, 2011. Her survivors include two sons, one grandson, her partner, Donald Terwilliger, and one brother. Our condolences to all of them. —YDD

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## 50

Any “outsider” hearing about our activities would not believe we are in our 80s! As an example, **Marilyn Winter Bottjer's** artwork was recently on exhibit at the United Hebrew Lazarus Gallery in New Rochelle, N.Y. The show, “Hooked on Art: A Collection of Hooked Rugs by the Hudson River Rug Hookers,” ran from March 4 through May 11.

In October 2010, **Christina Lammers Hirschhorn** traveled to Belgium to visit **Claire Raick**, who had returned to her native country after graduation. Together the two of them visited Bruges and Ghent. Chris returned to the U.S. on the Cunard liner *Queen Mary 2*.

**Jean Zeiger Cunningham** reports, “I've gone on two Amazon cruises since our last reunion. The first—from Belém, Brazil, to Iquitos, Peru—exerted such a pull on me that I signed on for another, on a 29-passenger replica of a rubber-supply boat, roundtrip from Iquitos into some of the Amazon's tributaries. It was magic. As if that were not enough, we then visited Lima, Cuzco, Macchu Pichu, and points in between.”

**Carolyn Kimmelfield Balleisen**, having retired from the practice of law, has been writing her memoir, interrupted unfortunately by a broken hip. After rehab, she plans to resume what she has found to be “quite a fascinating journey.”

**Nancy Nicholson Joline** writes of her life in a retirement community in Duxbury, Mass., where she has been very busy on the board of directors and the library committee, as well as with a walking group, a memoirs group, and more. She enjoys seeing her family more often and going to museums and theatre in Boston.

**Mary A. Adams Blank** and her husband have also moved, and they are very enthusiastic about a retirement community in Chapel Hill, N.C.

It has been a year since **Helen R. Wheeler** began her weekly newspaper column “Senior Power” for the local online newspaper *The Berkeley Daily Planet*. Her comments on Dr. Kevorkian elicited positive e-mail responses from New Zealand to Virginia. “And a couple not-so-positive from locals.” Also involved with the media is **Mary Louise Luginbuhl Kearns**, a volunteer fund-raiser for New

York's public television channel WNET/Thirteen. She was recently interviewed as a person-in-the-street, speaking eloquently on why she loves Channel 13. As a result, she has been asked to help in the promotions department with their four annual fund-raisers.

**Rita Abrams Kaufman** is recovering from an angioplasty procedure, but plans to return to teaching an adult English-as-a-second-language group for the Literacy Program of New Jersey. Rita says, “The adult program is desperately needed in this area for Asians.”

Our semiannual mini-reunion in New York on March 25 attracted 11 classmates, who lunched at the Columbia Faculty Club after a concert on campus featuring unusual instruments.

Alumnae Records has conveyed to us the sad news of the deaths of four classmates: **Patricia Berlyn**, who lived in Israel, on Feb. 9, 2010; **Louise Moberg** on Oct. 26, 2010; **Joyce Alessandrini** on Feb. 26, 2011, survived by her sister Eileen Alessandrini '43; and **Barbara Hewson Fernandez** on Jan. 13, 2011, survived by six children and many grandchildren. —COB

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I regret to say we have lost three more of our classmates. Information has just been received that **Tommye Helen Burns** passed away in April 2003. I know of no details, but if you'd like to add information, please phone or e-mail me and it will be included in a future publication.

There was an obituary in *The New York Times* on March 13, 2011, for **Mary-Rita Hennelly Monroe**, who passed away on March 4. Her two daughters and two grandchildren survive her.

Our third notice is of the sudden death of **Joan Gilbert Peyser** on April 24, 2011.



Joan had been planning to host a party for her reunion classmates at her wonderful brownstone in the Village when she died of complications during heart surgery.

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60th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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**Ruth Grossman Hadlock** has a busy life in California. She volunteers as a librarian at the local Jewish community center, where she works primarily with the preschool and young schoolchildren. She recently saw Dorothy Coyne Weinberger '53. Ruth's husband is jazz musician and writer Richard Hadlock, a soprano saxophonist with the long-running public radio show *Annals of Jazz*. The family had a reunion in Pittsburgh this summer when their son got married.

**Nan Heffelfinger Johnson** urges us to start organizing for 2020 and the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. She knows it will take a lot of organizing, and it will be worth it as a celebration dedicated to empowerment and freedom of women everywhere. Now, that would be a legacy.

**Priscilla Redfearn Elfrey** agrees with Nan and has signed up. Priscilla is still at NASA codeveloping its Center for Life Cycle Design. In Boston she chaired an interuniversity event of a virtual mission to the moon. Designed to promote simulation-partnering, the event was dedicated to the Japanese team, which had to withdraw; students from France, Italy, and the United States participated and began plans for next year's event in Orlando, Fla. Before that, Priscilla has interns coming from Arizona, conferences in the U.S. and Europe, writing, and family visits, which, as we all know, are too infrequent.

**Florence Rafeld** is a lifelong Floridian who majored in music. After graduating from Barnard, she returned to the west coast of Florida to teach piano and help manage her family's store, Rafeld's. She's now retired and living in a retirement community near St. Petersburg.

For 16 years, **Roberta (Ronnie) Cockburn Tollefson** has lived in a retirement community in the sunny Arizona desert. She enjoys it, except in August during the humid, rainy season, when she sometimes escapes to Colorado. Ronnie's a widow who recently acquired a mixed-breed dog for company. She has two granddaughters and three grandsons, likes to bowl for entertainment, and used to take part in annual variety shows but has given that up. She has very fond memories of the junior show at Barnard.

**Anne Gulliver Frey** left Barnard to get married before she graduated. Her husband is on the faculty of Dartmouth Medical School. They raised four children and have eight grandchildren. After some years, Anne went back to school at Dartmouth College. When she received her degree in 1975, she was one of the first women to graduate from Dartmouth, after which she taught school for 18 years.

**Beth Stanislaw Stull** attended a South Florida Barnard Club event at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach. The spring weather was beautiful, and visiting family members could go to the beach and swimming pool. Her six grandchildren range from college age down to 3- and 5-years-olds. This winter, a daughter arranged an 80th birthday celebration for her in New York City. Among the guests was **Marilyn Rich Rosenblatt**.

**Lenore Fierstein Berck** and her husband maintain a home base in New Jersey. In the winter they travel to Mexico, and in the summer they go to the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. For 10 years Lenore has been a docent at the Jewish Museum in New York City.

**Susie Turner Kern** and her retired husband live in Michigan. They have four children and eight grandchildren. In graduate school Susie received a degree in social work and became a psychotherapist, maintaining a private psychotherapy practice for 40 years.

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**Joan Hurwitz Ludman** and her husband were on campus in May to attend the Columbia/Barnard commencement. Her grandson, Benjamin, graduated from Columbia, and his then fiancé, Danielle, graduated from Barnard. The couple married in August.

There are two deaths to report: **Stephanie Kruse Johnson**, who lived in Albuquerque, N.M., died on Nov. 27, 2010; and **Anne Anderson Jones** died on Dec. 24, 2010, in Wilmington, N.C. We have no further information for either woman.

Gene and I have been traveling abroad extensively for the past 10 years. We decided to see more of the United States and took a glorious three-week trip to a half dozen American national parks last July; destinations included the Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, and Denver.

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## 54

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On April 14, a special Class of '55 event was held at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York. At a lunch gathering in the dining area, Dorothy Urman Denburg '70, Barnard vice president for college relations, provided a brief update on the College, including a report of a record-breaking number of applicants to the Class of 2015. Also present at the gathering



were Stefanie Landsman, manager of Alumnae Affairs, and Mackenzie Salenger '13 and Greta Workman '14, who spoke about their college experiences. Following the lunch program, classmates enjoyed a docent-led tour of the beautiful museum additions, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, and the marvelous exhibit "The Diary: Three Centuries of Private Lives." Our thanks for planning this event go to **Jane Were-Bey Gardner, Florence Federman Mann, Duane Lloyd Patterson, Carol Held Scharff, and Diana Touliatou Vagelos**. Special thanks to Erin Fredrick '01, director of Alumnae Affairs, and to Stefanie, Mackenzie, Greta, and, of course, Dorothy for their contributions to the success of the event. Classmates in attendance were **Barbara Kahn Gaba, Patricia Dykema Geisler, Carol Gordon Greenholz, Gayle Abouchar Jaeger, Dawn Lille, Barbara Funk Lindeman, Norma Haft Mandel, Florence Mann, Duane Patterson, Carol Scharff, Louise Cohen Silverman, Toni Lautman Simon, Renee Becker Swartz, and Diana Vagelos**.

On April 27, 12 classmates met for lunch at the Atlantic Grill in New York. Present for the occasion were Barbara Gaba, Jane Gardner, Carol Gold, Gayle Jaeger, Barbara Lindeman, **Marion Toman Marchal**, Duane Patterson, **Marcella Jung Rosen, Ellen Blumenthal Sehgal, Mirella d'Ambrosio Servodidio, Louise Silverman, and Toni Simon**. If you'd like to attend a lunch gathering, respond by e-mail to Jane Gardner at myblueboat@aol.com. A future get-together will be held on Sept. 26 at Henry's, 2745 Broadway at 105th Street.

*Sharing the Legacy of President Millicent C. McIntosh*, produced by Gayle Jaeger, Florence Mann, and Merri Rosenberg '78, in association with Alumnae Affairs, will be available for purchase in the Barnard Store and will be posted online this summer. To reserve your copy, please contact alumnaeaffairs@barnard.edu. Alumnae who were students during "Mrs. Mac's" celebrated tenure (as dean of the College from 1947 to 1952 then as the College's first president from 1952 to 1962) were invited to share their personal stories of her critical impact on their lives and over every area of campus life. Contributors from our class include

**Judy Burg Besserman**, Carol Greenholz, Norma Mandel, Marion Marchal, Duane Patterson, and Mirella Servodidio. All the personal stories are an invaluable addition to "Mrs. Mac's" legacy. Not only did President McIntosh touch many lives, she set a course for Barnard that remains vibrant and relevant today.

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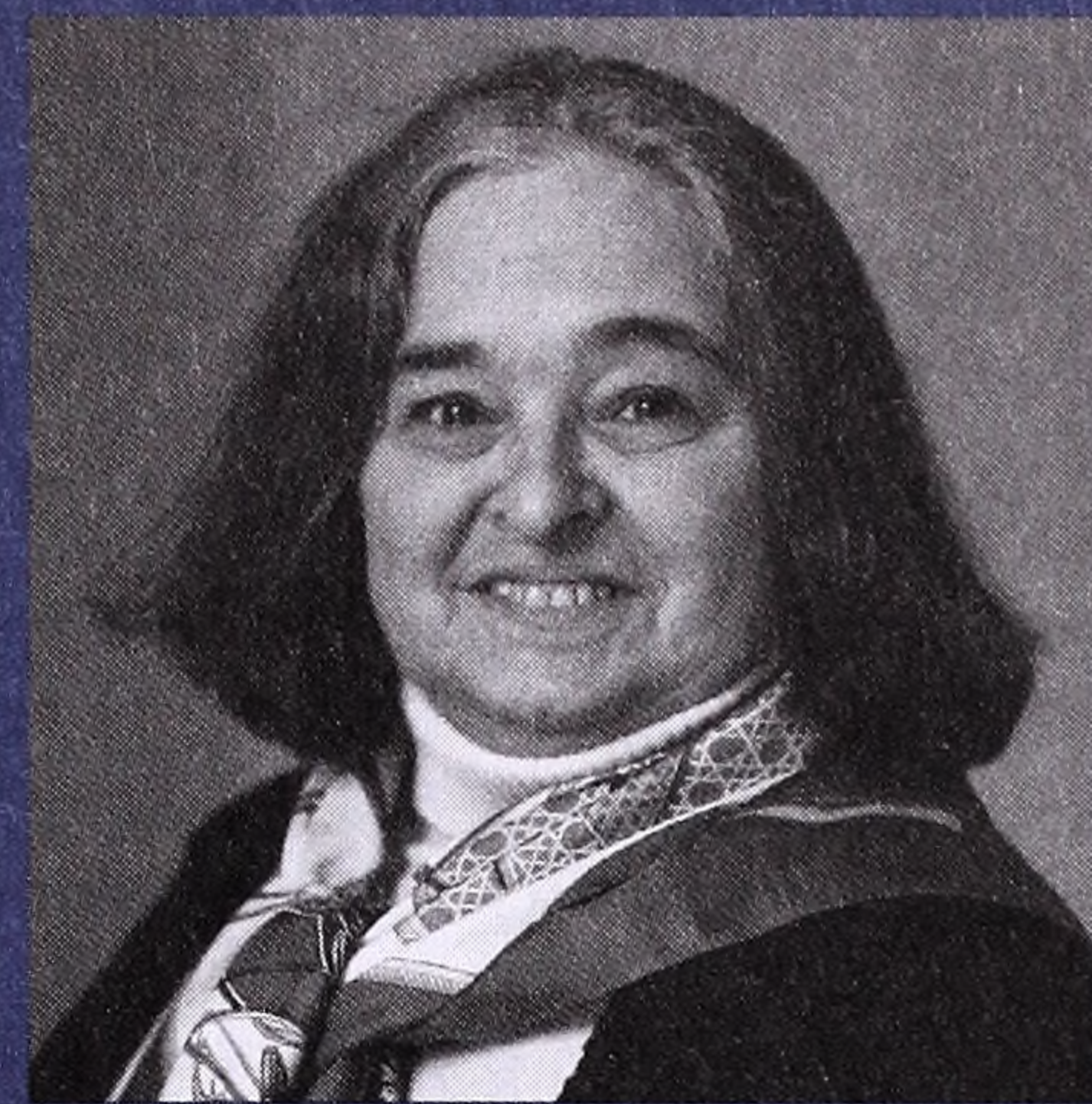
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**Anita Herzog Weiner** writes from her home in Haifa, where she moved when her two sons were teenagers, that she has had a long career in social work, both teaching and working in the field of child welfare. She has also published academic books and articles in both Hebrew and English. Anita has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all living nearby.

**Barbara Florio Graham** was sorry to miss Reunion. In June, she launched a new book, *Prose to Go: Tales from a Private List*, an anthology of 34 first-person stories by 18 Canadian writers. One of the stories is set at Barnard.

The awards ceremony at Reunion this year honored **Janet Bersin Finke**, who received the Award for Service to Barnard, and **Alessandra Comini**, who received the Distinguished Alumna Award. Another highlight of Reunion was our class luncheon, where we discussed the problems of aging and how we're coping with them. Those of us who participated found it to be a beneficial and productive experience. We were thankful for the expert leadership of **Sylvia Schor Boorstein**, who chaired the program.

**Muriel Savitz Finegold** has been working on a project for Obama's reelection called "Grandmothers for Obama." Since much of the political discourse impacts seniors, she says it's in our best interest to support his progressive agenda. The group started with people in Massachusetts mailing postcards to voters in New Hampshire. Muriel organized a group in her neighborhood, got a voter list



"I am so grateful to Barnard for enabling me, a first-generation American, to better adjust into our society, to flourish and to grow. **I have set up a scholarship through my estate** to support future generations of Barnard students who share the immigrant experience. I am glad to have this way to give back to the school that meant so much to me."

**Linda Rie '72**

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from Tampa, and did an our-state-to-yours campaign. She says it makes a difference to get a personal postcard that states the facts and doesn't ask for money. The group would like to ratchet up the effort nationally.

**Julia Keydel** has become a photographer. In the summer of 2010, she went to Riverside Gardens with her point-and-shoot camera and became addicted to the material, creating a portfolio of photos of flora in the extraordinary and diverse garden. She brought it to our reunion lunch, so we were able to appreciate her work. She looks forward to "taking it out of the category of a work in progress."

**Judith Gordon Wharton** lives in Short Hills, N.J. In 1985, she founded what is now the largest nonprofit music school in New Jersey, which serves students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Now called the Judith G. Wharton Music Center, it has an annual enrollment of more than 1,200 students. Visit [whartonmusiccenter.org](http://whartonmusiccenter.org) for more information.

**Catherine Comes Haight** still plays tennis and ranked at a national level of 4.0. How's that for someone our age? She also tells us that one of her sons recently got married at West Point, which both her sons attended. They both also are doctors and have served in Iraq.

**Diana Cohen Blumenthal**, our new class president, hopes we can figure out some ways of staying together and being friends, because that's what we need in our collective lives.

With sadness we note the death earlier this year of Rabbi Albert Hollander, beloved husband of **Sifrah Sammel Hollander**.

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**Francine Forte Abeles** writes that she and her family—three children, two of their spouses, and three grandsons—had a reunion in June at Cornell, where her husband, Ernie, celebrated his 55th

reunion. Except for Fran and her son Ed, everyone else who's old enough has either an undergraduate or graduate degree from Cornell, so Ithaca is a natural location for family gatherings.

From a postcard sent by **Barbara Gitter Adler**: "My husband and I are watching, from a distance, our grandchildren progress through life in Salt Lake City. We have six, ranging in age from 25 to 10. Otherwise, my husband's illness keeps us close to home, and we enjoy life as much as we can, taking walks nearby, visiting museums, and attending plays."

We are sad to report that we have lost another classmate. **Rae Reibstein Berger** died in January. She is survived by two children and two grandchildren. We offer condolences to her family.

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When **Yvonne Groseil** approached 65, she thought she'd find a pleasant, relaxed part-time job, so she enrolled in the adult-track master's program for teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) at Hunter College. The state of the job market never occurred to her; she was sure there was a need for teaching English in New York City. Yvonne has since discovered two things: She enjoys teaching, and the only jobs available are adjunct (or "contingent faculty") positions.

She's currently an adjunct at three programs: the American language program at Columbia University, the International English Language Institute at Hunter College, and the English department at Hunter College. She still likes teaching and her students are great, but life as an adjunct is difficult: no job security, they are hired from term to term depending on enrollment, and no sick days or benefits. In some institutions, nearly 75 percent of the

teaching is done by adjuncts rather than tenured faculty. She has become active in the efforts by adjuncts to improve their working conditions through organizations such as the New Faculty Majority. In March 2010, she presented a paper on the professional status (or lack thereof) of ESOL teachers at the TESOL Conference in Boston. Because Yvonne has a PhD in anthropology as well as a master's in TESOL, she can carry her message to both fields; she presented a paper, "Brushfires in Hell: Adjuncts Awaken," in a panel on Anthropologies of the Damned at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) annual meeting in New Orleans last year. The panel was about marginalized groups and the marginalization of those who study them. Yvonne is working on an article on this subject, and she'll take part in a panel on the problems and organizational efforts of adjuncts at the AAA Meeting in Montreal this November.

In 2004, **Doris Platzker Friedensohn** began writing sketches about a job-training program for future cooks located at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, near Newark. A sampling of those materials found their way into her 2006 food memoir, *Eating As I Go: Scenes from America and Abroad*. After her memoir was published, Doris settled into the Food Service Training Academy at the FoodBank to write at greater length about the people she met and the rituals of the program. Her new book, *Cooking for Change: Tales from a Food Service Training Academy*, was published in June by Full Court Press.

**Libby Levinson Moroff** and her husband, Saul, celebrated their grandson's 13th year with a short trip to Rome. They enjoyed fabulous sights, walks, and eating. The trip was ostensibly a gift to Noah, but really to Saul and herself.

**Blanche Eisemann Sosland** completed a manuscript for the second edition of *Banishing Bullying Behavior: Transforming Pain, Rage, Revenge to Empathy, Kindness, Healing*, which is scheduled for publication by Rowman & Littlefield in September. In the meantime, the first edition is available on Amazon in paperback and for Kindle. Blanche and her coauthor, SuEllen Fried, are doing quite a bit of speaking on the topic of bullying. They're also working with public television station KCPT to do some educational programming.



Blanche continues to be active with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, the Watson Literacy Center at Park University, the board of Jewish Educational Services of North America, and the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, which she and her husband, Neil, founded with five other couples 45 years ago. All five of their children are graduates of the Academy and their fourth grandchild is graduating this year, with four more grandchildren attending. Their grandchildren in Waban, Mass., and Washington, D.C., attend Hebrew day schools in their respective communities. Blanche's and Neil's 14 grandchildren range in age from 26 to 1. Everyone comes home for Passover, which makes it a very joyous holiday.

**Anne Wilson Tordi** taught French and Italian at Colorado State and Ohio Wesleyan in the '60s. She moved to Florida in the '70s and to North Carolina in the '80s to attend the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She earned a PhD in Romance philology and Italian. She stayed in Chapel Hill and has been working for an Italian journal for the past 15 years. Her two sons and five grandchildren live in Florida, but, happily, her daughter moved to North Carolina a few years ago with her son, who's now in his sophomore year at UNC-Asheville. —EWS

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## 59

**Bernice Ide August** writes, "Gil and I celebrated our 50th anniversary by wining and dining our way through Paris, Lyon, and Dijon last July. I was the arts editor and dining columnist for a group of suburban Washington, D.C., newspapers for 25 years. Still reviewing, but only part-time. Our grandchildren occupy a lot of our days. Gil helps Jared, 6, with his Mandarin.

I enjoy teaching Taryn, 3, to hit a (Nerf) tennis ball. They are definitely more fun than our children were."

**Judith Brodtkin Barnett** attended the first meeting of the Barnard Club of Rhode Island, held in Providence in March. It was organized by Willa Perlman '81 and Hester Kaplan '81.

**Alice Lotvin Birney** continues as literary and cultural manuscript historian at the Library of Congress, where she has worked for the past 18 years. Her clients include some of the most famous living authors and architects. Older manuscript collections under her supervision include the papers of Frederick Law Olmsted, the designer of Central Park, where she played as a child. She has published three nonfiction books since 1973. Any spare time is taken up with family, including two nearby young granddaughters, and a Capitol Hill organic vegetable garden.

**Louise Heublein McCagg's** most recent exhibition, "New Traditions in Beauty Queens," was a collaboration with South African artist Senzeni Marasela. The show ran from May 25 through June 19 at AIR Gallery in DUMBO, Brooklyn.

Class co-presidents **Susan Schwartz-Giblin** and **Marian Bennett Meyers** organized a mini-reunion on May 11 at the Guggenheim Museum, which also celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. A docent gave a private tour of the exhibition: "The Great Upheaval: Modern Art from the Guggenheim Collection 1910–18." An open lunch in the new Wright Restaurant, which opened to rave reviews, followed the tour. At press time, 16 classmates were expected to attend. We will share more details in our next column.

**Marian Markow Wood** writes, "After I left my teaching job at Barnard, I landed in publishing—1965, I think. I began with nonfiction and eventually moved on to include fiction and then a small poetry list. I'm pretty proud of the authors I found and kept, but to name them here would be to exceed your probable length. A few will have to suffice. In nonfiction, the award-winning Philip Caputo, for his Vietnam memoir; biographer T.H. Watkins, for his extraordinary biography of Harold Ickes; historian Jean Smith, for his equally extraordinary life of Chief Justice John Marshall; and *New York Times* managing editor Arthur Gelb, for his passionate memoir of his life at the *Times*.... My

husband died in October 2008, and I moved out to Greenport ... where we had a house, and I've been working here, on a reduced schedule, ever since. The realities of publishing in this day and age have made it easy to decide to stick with the authors I have and take on no more. The work is as challenging as ever and there is much peace out here, much beauty. I miss my husband dearly, but I can say I am content." —JWT

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## 60

**Joyce Duran Stern** writes that she has "invited the women who were part of our entering class and who were housed on the top floor of Brooks to make donations to the Barnard Fund in memory of two recently departed among the 'Brooks Angels,' as we liked to call ourselves, **Alice Fleetwood Bartee** and **Ann Dawson Johnson**. I am offering to match your gifts up to \$100 each." She suggests that this "might inspire others to make matching offers for their own friends or to donate in memory or in honor of someone." Joyce also informed us that her daughter has published four books, the latest being *Culinary Tea*, which celebrates "the many possibilities of cooking with tea, including producing tea concentrates, brines, braises, and smoking mixes; steeping leaves in cream, vinegar, vodka, and other liquids." The book was cowritten with the Boston Park Plaza's tea sommelier (who knew that this was a job description?), and I missed the introductory tea party there. Alas.

**Mary Campbell Gallagher's** op-ed "Who Will Save the Horizon of Paris?", which opposes government plans to build office towers, appeared in *Planetizen*, planetizen.com/node/47061. Her piece resulted in the preservationist organization, SOS Paris, inviting Mary to speak at its annual meeting last March.



*Bien fait*, Mary! Mary also continues to add to her publications on passing the bar (the legal one; not the mortal one), which can be viewed at [barwrite.com](http://barwrite.com).

**Berl Mendelson Hartman**, who just returned from leading a delegation to Capitol Hill to persuade Congress to treat our oceans and their inhabitants kindly, e-mailed a *New Yorker* cartoon to the reunion planning committee. It shows a woman reading her Alumni (sic) News and looking glum, while her husband says, "If you didn't want to feel inferior to your classmates, you shouldn't have gone to such a good school." Well, my dears, with a few stellar exceptions, we all feel that way sometimes. Although, amazingly, nothing dispels that feeling like attending Reunion and feeling the love and respect that we have for each other. How lucky we are to have had two shots at a 50th!

After 17 years, founding editor **Felice Aull Nachbar** stepped down as editor in chief of the Literature, Arts, and Medicine Database, effective Jan. 1. My pal, Muriel, recommended visiting [litmed.med.nyu.edu](http://litmed.med.nyu.edu), and she was right—Felice envisioned and created an important and fascinating project at the intersection of medicine and the arts. Check it out when you have time to spare—you'll find yourself exploring painting, literature, videos, and more. —SG

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# 61

This is my last column after I don't know how many years. Our new correspondent is **Carol Krepon Ingall**. Our 50th reunion exceeded expectations, I think, in so many ways. From my standpoint, a lot of meaningful conversations and exchanges took place, accompanied by a lot of heartfelt connections. We all looked good and we seem to have a lot of life in us—maybe enough for the next 25 years.

We have a 100-page reunion book with life stories of more than 65 classmates, which you can order from Alumnae Affairs. President McIntosh's frequent declaration that we could "have it all"—careers and families—seems to have made a deep impression on a lot of us. Most classmates who wrote essays for the book or appeared at Reunion seemed to have both families and interesting lives. There were speakers and panels and two quotes that describe us: "How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?" (Satchel Paige, quoted by Erica Jong '63), and "The United States of Amnesia" (Gore Vidal).

After a life in Canada making films and having a famous daughter (Naomi Klein), to mention just two of her accomplishments, **Bonnie Sherr Klein** received the Millicent Carey McIntosh Feminism Award at Reunion.

**Christine Reitlinger Angiel's** son, an epidemiologist, has just been appointed to a position at Stanford University, where **Marian Folk Safran's** daughter heads the Russian and foreign languages division. (A third classmate also has a child who teaches at Stanford, but I forget who—that's why Carol's taking over this column!)

**Valerie Brussel Levy** came all the way from Australia for Reunion.

**Suzy McKee Charnas**, author of more than 15 fantasy science-fiction books and known all over the world, is busy figuring out the best electronic book delivery and publishing systems.

**Tobe Sokolow Joffe** did a great job as class president the whole weekend and as a panel speaker at the Saturday luncheon. And she created a slide show presentation of **Cynthia Barber's** stunning large-scale sculptures. Tobe and her husband, Joe, are celebrating the marriage of their middle son.

**Marilyn Martin Fricker** and her husband, Nigel, came from England. Retirement agrees with Nigel, a high-powered former barrister, and Marilyn looks wonderful and enjoys her grandchildren.

**Sharon Doyle Johe** reports that her son, Justin Spring, came in third for the 2010 National Book Awards with *Secret Historian: The Life and Times of Samuel Steward, Professor, Tattoo Artist, and Sexual Renegade*.

**Judith Reiter Weissman** and **Dorothy Memolo Bheddah** stirred up

73 percent participation in fund-raising, breaking lots of records. We tried to launch a new career for **Sydney Oren Brandwein** by using her photographs of Barnard in our reunion booklet. **Mierle Laderman Ukeles**, another classmate with a worldwide reputation as an artist, was unable to attend Reunion because she was receiving an honorary doctorate from the Rhode Island School of Design that weekend.

Classmates who were friends as first-years on six Hewitt were still hanging out together at Reunion: **Dena Evans Hopfl, Sherry Hyman Miller, Linda Rosenblum Reinfeld, Mary Varney Rorty**, and Marian Safran. And another group that dates back to first year was also still intact at Reunion: **Genevieve Ramos Acker, Christine Reitlinger Angiel, Barbara Clarke Garcia-Romero, and Janet Gregory Seery. Julia Brandes Wall**, a retired doctor, also attended Reunion. She's now a docent at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

There are about 15 classmates in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I live, and at least 15 more with children and grandchildren who come to visit. We'd love to see you all. Thank you, Class of 1961, for the privilege of being your correspondent and knowing the wonderful things you've done. And once again, hello to all the women who read this but are silent for their own reasons. Your life is as valuable as any news you read here. Good-bye and good night. —*Sherry Miller*

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50th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

# 62

Sadly **Carol Dodson Spengler** died on Dec. 18, 2010, after a courageous, six-year battle with breast cancer. Born in Brooklyn, Carol was a religion major, studied the organ at Juilliard, worked as a music teacher in the Hopkinton, Mass., public schools, was head of a private lower school, helped found the local chamber orchestra, served as organist at two churches, and was involved with the Harvard Healing Garden for breast cancer survivors. Carol is survived by her husband of 32 years, David, and their daughter.



**Roz Leventhal Siegel's** first murder-mystery novel, *Goodie One Shoes*, was published by Hilliard & Harris. The story concerns a woman our age who opens a shoe store as a second career, and a designer shoe used as a murder weapon. Roz believes that writing her book shows you can do anything new at any age, as Mrs. McIntosh always told us.

**Sheila Levrant de Bretteville** was on sabbatical from Yale in Hong Kong, where she inspired students to create new environments in public art projects.

**Naomi Steinlight Patz**, aside from accompanying her husband, Rabbi Norman Patz, on trips and visiting one daughter's family and enjoying the family of her other daughter (Aviva Patz '92) nearby, has been writing about Jewish subjects for adults and children. Her children's text *The Jewish Holiday Treasure Trail* was published, and she completed a monograph on the destroyed Jewish community of Jihlava in Moravia, Czech Republic. Naomi has reimagined, reworked, and adapted the play *The Last Cyclist*, written in the Terezín concentration camp in 1943. She hopes to add a musical score and have it performed more widely.

**Linda Roth Futterman** does psychoanalysis and psychotherapy and supervises candidates at the institute where she's a faculty member. She's married to a lawyer, Stanley Futterman (CC '61), who's preparing to celebrate his 50th reunion, and she's one of many classmates who have volunteered to serve on our own 50th reunion committee. Linda and Stanley have three successful, married children with children of their own.

**Elinor Yudin Sachse** and **Marsha Corn Levine**, our reunion chairs, are looking for more classmates to join the reunion committee. We need a large committee to have a huge turnout in 2012. Let me know if you want to help, and I'll pass your information along to them.

**Cornelia Kubler Kavanagh** will have an exhibition of her Moulin sculptures at the Peabody Museum in Salem, Mass., for a year beginning this summer. Cornelia has shared her passionate interest in climate change and the environment with classmates in the past.

**Shari Gruhn Thompson** is very involved with animal welfare and volunteers at a shelter, which is critical now because people are returning dogs they cannot afford to keep. Shari's grown daughter also

works with dogs.

**Sally Hess** was in a dance performance last November with singer Aude Cardona at Dixon Place, in downtown New York.

Poet Eva Miodownik Oppenheim '50, former Alumnae Affairs employee and current poetry workshop co-leader, spoke to the Barnard '62 Book Group after we read the poems of Wisława Szymborska, winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature. The group meets monthly on Tuesday afternoons and is always open to new members.

During this year's Reunion, the following women attended the 1962 mini-reunion to hear speakers, get to know each other better, and to plan for our 50th reunion, May 31–June 3, 2012. Please save the dates.

The attendees were **Maya Rosenfeld Freed Brown, Angela Carracino DiDomenico, Abbe Fessenden, Libby Guth Fishman, Barbara Gormise, Karen Charal Gross, Valerie Horst, Joan Rezak Katz, Leila Kern, Marsha Levine, Barbara Lovenheim, Sheila Greene Mandel, Susan Maurer, Rita Gabler Rover, Deborah Bersin Rubin, Elinor Sachse, Nancy Brown Schmiderer, Jean Beth Shaffer, Roslyn Siegel, Ellen Torrance, Marcia Stecker Weller, and Nancy Kung Wong.** The event was organized by Nancy Schmiderer, with the help of **Sara Ginsberg Marks** and Marcia Weller. Maya Brown and Joan Katz spoke about the enormous challenges they faced in life and were able to survive through a combination of luck, strength, honesty, intelligence, compassion, and humor. They were an inspiration to everyone. Ellie Sachse and Marsha Levine, 50th reunion co-chairs, led a discussion about our forthcoming big reunion. Ideas, input, and volunteers are needed as soon as possible. Ellie and Marsha will write more in a short time, but the ideal deadline is Aug. 15. Please send your ideas and offers of assistance to [sachsedc@verizon.net](mailto:sachsedc@verizon.net) and [mclevine@aol.com](mailto:mclevine@aol.com), or call me at the telephone number listed below. You don't have to live in the New York or Washington, D.C., areas to work on our reunion, as much of the work will be done online and by phone. If you have recently changed your e-mail, phone, or address, please let me know. We'll also soon write on how to easily navigate the Barnard Web site so that we can comfortably use it to plan our reunion.

Committees are being formed all over the country to reach out to classmates.

The goal is to have 100 women attend; our active, lively class should be able to do even better. We'd also like to improve our giving record, which, unfortunately, was relatively low in 2010–11. Barnard desperately needs our support. We'll want you to contribute your information for our class book, and we'll be asking for remembrances of our deceased classmates, as well as help researching, proofreading, and designing. A survey is being planned, and we welcome suggestions for questions to ask.

We hope to have a space in the College where we can show "The Footprint of '62"—photos, works of art, writing, crafts, and artifacts on a wide range of subjects, from class members whose postings will be available online or on display in this room. Volunteer class workers, especially the technologically proficient, are needed to organize and arrange what classmates send or bring in. This will also be a place for us to meet and chat.

**Harriet Kaye Inselbuch** has graciously offered to host the Thursday cocktail party. The Friday class dinner, organized by our class officers, may include musical offerings by talented classmates, singers, and instrumentalists, among other things. Past class presidents will be honored at this event with a slide show that we'll need people to work on. Saturday morning, Linda Roth Futterman will arrange a panel and a group discussion. Ideas on topics, panelists, and other helpers are needed. There will also be a panel at the Saturday class lunch. Barnard provides a weekend rich in programs, including speakers, classes, tours, and entertainment; we'll fit our special programming into available time slots. We're hoping to arrange a cocktail hour and a dessert reception before and after the all-classes Saturday night dinner.

We expect that our 50th reunion will be a lot of fun, with something for everyone. A Sunday museum or gallery visit, followed by a brunch, will be coordinated by Debbie Rubin and her committee.

At our age, everyone who makes it to Reunion should feel proud and important. The College is wheelchair, vegetarian, and Shabbat friendly. So plan on coming, participating, and having a wonderful time.

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At a February mini-reunion in **Shirley Sherak's** dramatic Tribeca loft, **Camilla Trinchieri** (known also as Camilla Crespi or Trella Crespi, the pen name she has used for her seven mystery novels) shared the arc of her fascinating life. Born in Prague to an Italian diplomat father and American mother, she grew up both in Europe and the United States. After Barnard, she worked in Italy—with Fellini, among others—dubbing Italian films into English. This piqued her storytelling inclinations, and, returning to New York in 1980, she began her writing career. She remains deeply appreciative of her Barnard experience.

**Diane Logan De Terra** returned from three months in Southeast Asia, where she traveled to celebrate Magha Puja Day at Dhammakaya and attend a retreat for spiritual elders in Thailand; also to mourn with its 1,000 residents the demolition of the Chinese community on Penang Island (where she first conducted fieldwork in 1975 and now makes her second home) to make way for luxury condos. It marks the demolition of a community and a way of life for more than 100 years. If all goes well, she will be in Nepal to deliver spiritual and peace education training to teachers, and then she'll travel overland from Kathmandu to Lhasa with her son.

**Elizabeth Smith Ewing** ran her own company as a designer of women's high-end clothes from 1968 to 1993. Currently she's a competitive ballroom dancer, American rhythm and international Latin styles. Last year, she won the U.S. championship for the 50+ group in Latin dance. She and her husband have two daughters and five grandchildren.

**Anna Stein Kadish** loves living in rural Columbia County, N.Y., where she's a master gardener, hiker, and swimmer and works at the county cooperative extension. Now retired, Anna was a pathologist, immunologist, and researcher who worked on the HPV (human papillomavirus, which causes genital warts and cancer of the uterine cervix and the penis) in the setting of HIV infection and AIDS. Her work helped to set the stage for the development of the HPV vaccine now used to vaccinate young girls and ultimately reduce the incidence of HPV infection and

cervical cancer. Anna married her Harvard Medical School classmate; they have three children and seven grandchildren.

**Karen Gold Halperin** has been working in an elementary school classroom since her retirement. Seven years ago she lost her job when the company she worked for as a computer programmer closed. She had planned on being in the school for a year or so, and can't believe she's been there ever since. Her son and daughter, both lawyers, each have two children. Karen lost her husband 20 years ago, and that's been the most difficult part of her life. It's lonesome, she says, even more so as she is older. She's very active in her community but thinks it's time to try new things, to move outside her comfort zone.

Ten years ago, **Maria Villa** moved from San Francisco to Salt Lake City for a career in banking (she obtained her MBA at Harvard) and health care (she got her master's in public health at UC-Berkeley) so she could see her granddaughter every day, rather than only on vacation. Maria works part-time as a contract analyst with Inner Mountain Health Care, and she savors the delights of life in Salt Lake City: walking, attending films, and acting as a docent at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

After a long career as an entertainment and sports lawyer, negotiating for Jim Henson and the Muppets, the NBA, and Columbia House, **Harriet Rose Yassky** retired five years ago. She volunteered for her son, David, who was a New York City Council member, and worked on his campaigns. At the same time, she returned to take graduate classes at New York University and at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. She's currently helping one of her professors with research for a book on the phenomenon of itinerant Jewish peddlers. She is married to Lester Yassky, lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, and has three children and five grandchildren.

**Susan Landauer** lives in Portland, Ore., and quietly loves her retirement, reading to schoolchildren, organizing tree planting, and tending to her drought-resistant garden and her dog, Rosy, a "Chuweiner." She worked for many years as a case manager serving the elderly and disabled. She was part of a pioneering effort to provide adult foster care as an alternative to placement in a nursing home. Susan characterizes her efforts as

providing "as homey a life as possible."

**Brenda Woodward** writes, "After a decade of trying a lot of different jobs, I ended up in one I liked, doing editorial work in the publishing house Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. After I had been there 12 years, the company moved out of New York, and I have been freelancing ever since, mostly on trade fiction and nonfiction. My other main preoccupation has been gardening on other people's property, since I've never had any. And cats. I only have two but would have many more if I could."

After retiring from 35 years as a speech pathologist, **Marjorie Shiro Seidman** now enjoys playing with her son Gregory's 1-year-old daughter and volunteering at her Unitarian Universalist Church. She sings in the choir and admits that she has always sung someplace, remembering with great pleasure performing as one half of a folk duo called Mutual Company in the 1980s in the Maryland area. She and her husband, Thomas, a professor of math at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, still live in Columbia, Maryland.

**Marlene Lobell Ruthen** retired 10 years ago from her freelance business designing *ketubot* and began to work with watercolors and acrylics and to take classes at the Art Student's League branch in Rockland County, N.Y. In April 2010, she had a gallery show on the theme of global warming, with three wall-size paintings and six canvases that were paired to show a lush, pre-global-warming landscape and the same, after the full effects of global warming, barren and lifeless. Marlene has been joyfully married to Jerry for 49 years, and they have two children and five grandchildren.

Your faithful correspondent, **Alice Miller Weiss**, after 13 years rusticated in Cape Cod, is moving with her husband, Marc, to an old house in Cambridge near Porter Square, where they expect to be able to take the "T" whenever they want to go hear a jazz duo, hang out in an Irish bar or a piano lounge, or attend the theatre.  
—AMW & PHH

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# 64

Congratulations to two class authors.

**Karen Tweedy-Holmes** recently signed a contract with Rizzoli to publish her book on horse sanctuaries in the United States. She and her collaborator will be featuring at least 12 sanctuaries in depth and describing a number of others in an appendix. Karen will leave her job of more than 18 years at the Population Council to travel to the sanctuaries, which are spread all over the country, driving and camping as she goes. Horses and photography have been major elements of Karen's life since before Barnard, so here's to finally having a chance to follow your bliss in a major way. The book will appear in fall 2012.

In **Emily Fox-Kales's** new book, *Body Shots*, she demonstrates how the body narratives of Hollywood celebrities not only serve as public enactments of the same eating and weight struggles their fans endure, they create a "new normal" that naturalizes and even valorizes the chronic body dissatisfaction and weight obsession that are established risk factors for eating disorders in women and girls. Emily is a clinical instructor in the department of psychiatry, faculty of medicine, at Harvard University, and an academic specialist in the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at Northeastern University, where she teaches film and psychology. She's also a clinical associate at McLean Hospital/Harvard University and the executive director of the Feeding Ourselves Program.

My own photographic work about eating disorders and sex trafficking, two forms of abuse of women's bodies, will be shown concurrently at the Newbury College Gallery in Brookline, Mass., and at the Brookline Arts Center this fall. The project received a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and a prize at the South Shore Arts Center when it was shown there last spring.

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# 65

We suppose at our age that no news is good news, but it would be nice to have some news, good or otherwise, if you'd like to share it. Drop us a line.

And don't forget our mini-reunion, scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 19–21, 2012. If you received a questionnaire about it from **Patricia Zimmerman Levine**, please be sure to send it back with your answers. If you haven't received it, she needs your input. Please drop her an e-mail at plevine42@comcast.net, so she can send you the questionnaire.

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Our class kicked off our 45th reunion with the now traditional, well-attended, Thursday-night cocktail party hosted by **Susan Weis Mindel** and Dr. Joel Mindel at their gorgeous restored East Side town house. We extend to them many, many thanks for their gracious hospitality. On Friday afternoon, **Augusta (Gussie) Souza Kappner** participated the Crisis of Education in America panel. Gussie is president *emerita* of Bank Street College of Education.

Our Friday class dinner in The Diana Center featured a lively discussion entitled "And Then I Decided To..." Introduced by our reunion chair, **Dorothy Chen-Courtin**, the program featured presentations by three classmates: **Karen Anderson Holden** described her journey from economics professor to Cajun

musician and dance instructor; **Barbara Grado Devir** is now a Presbyterian lay pastor, teaching courses at Sing Sing Correctional Facility; and **Mary Siegel Bleiberg** began a new career in 2009 as the executive director of ReServe, a nonprofit group that finds part-time stipend jobs in the nonprofit sector for professionals 55 and older. We then mixed and mingled, describing the twists and turns in our own lives that have led us to where we are now.

Lunch on Saturday paired our classmates with members of the Class of 2006. Kathryn Kolbert, director of the Athena Center for Leadership Studies, helped the cross-generational group to share Barnard experiences and compare notes on how the theory and practice of women's leadership has evolved over the past 40 years.

On Sunday, thanks to **Linda Rappaport Ferber**, we were provided a private tour of the art collection at the beautiful McKim, Mead, and White-designed Century Association building. The tour was led by curator Jonathan P. Harding, assisted by Linda. It was followed by a buffet brunch at the lovely dining room of the Harvard Club, where the food was plentiful, varied, and delicious. We thank **Janet Levitt Zalkin** for hosting and making the arrangements at the club.

Attending the reunion events were **Ruth Hachenburg Adelman, Jane Rotman Altman, Jane Brody Anthony, Maira Brouman Barnette, Jane Reckford Biba, Sandra Levy Birnbach**, Mary Siegel Bleiberg, Dorothy Chen-Courtin, **Susan Cohn, Stephani Cook, Barbara Rubin Cooper, Joy Markman Davis, Barbara Devir, Jane Geller Epstein, Adaeze O. Ezekoye, Katherine Falk**, Linda Ferber, **Iris Chuyen Freeman, Leslie Perlman Glassberg, Alice Rubinstein Gochman, Barbara Suskind Goldfarb, Toby Golick, Rochelle Haimowitz Gordon, Rita Werner Gordon, Norma Green, Cheryl Shaffer Greene, Susan Halper, Phyllis Shapiro Hantman, Nanci Weisz Healy, Louise Sobin Hersh, Linda Lovas Hoeschler**, Karen Holden, **Kathryn Kenley Johnson**, Augusta Souza Kappner, **Judith Tabibian Kurjian, Lynne Moriarty Langlois, Denise Jackson Lewis, Karin Prager Lipson, Judith Pinsof Meyer, Susan Applebaum Milstein, Jane Necol,**



**Annette Niemtow, Nancy Tally Polevoy, Diane Raphael, Patricia Savoie, Susan Eisner Schiff, Karin Perloff Shields, Edna Carter Southard, Anna Lee Spiro, Marcia Weinstein Stern, Sandra Fromer Stingle, Lauren Seidel Storck, Janet Sullivan, Helen Stern Sunshine, Benna Brodsky Thompson, Natalia Udovik, Carrie Wilson, Margaret Steinglass Wirtenberg,** and Janet Levitt Zalkin.

We extend our appreciation to our reunion chair, Dorothy Chen-Courtin, and to our reunion committee: Ruth Adelman, Maira Barnette, Linda Ferber, Susan Halper, Phyllis Hantman, Louise Hersh, Lynne Langlois, Karin Prager Lipson, Nancy Polevoy, Marcia Stern, Natalia Udovik, and Janet Levitt Zalkin. Continuing as co-presidents are Phyllis Hantman and Nancy Polevoy; the vice presidents and reunion chairs are Dorothy Chen-Courtin and Natalia Udovik; continuing as nominating chair is Linda Ferber; continuing as treasurer is Janet Levitt Zalkin; and the class co-correspondents are Karin Prager Lipson and Marcia Stern.

We're especially grateful that Lynne Langlois, who has held the office of fund chair for many years, will be continuing in the position. She handles a difficult job with dedication, skill, and sensitivity. Our class has an enviable record in providing financial support for Barnard, and we thank all who have contributed, with gifts both large and small.

And finally, we want to thank Louise Hersh, who produced our wonderful class booklet (with technical assistance from her husband, Bob), for being class correspondent for the past five years. She has done a great job, and we hope to be able to do the same.

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## 67

**Amy Kallman Epstein** is attempting to navigate through the extremely challenging topography of "Widowland," where she found herself in July 2009 when her husband, Jeremy, died. They had met on a blind date at the end of junior year, fixed up by **Susan Couture Cannon**. In 2008, Amy sold her 25-year-old company, which designed and made educational children's products, to a big toy company and started another product-design company, Pin Tree Designs, beginning with some home furnishings and lighting products. She has taken some textile and product-design courses and draws upon her earlier background in architecture and urban design. She has also begun to write her memoirs, addressing the need to reinvent herself both personally and professionally. Her daughter and son, and their spouses, also remain in New York and have been supports for Amy.

**Nancy Gertner** will retire in September as U.S. District Court Judge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, moving to a professorship at Harvard Law School, which will afford her more opportunity to write.

**Fran Sussner Rodgers**, in collaboration with her daughter, Nicole, has set up a blog and Web site, rolereboot.org, focusing on women's and men's roles in the 21st century.

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## 68

**Linda Rosen Garfunkel**, our class president, was kind enough to take notes during the last Phonathon and forward them to me for the column. Thanks, Linda.

**Mary Ellen Murray Tucker** retired after working at Barnard for 39 years. She and her husband, who is also retired, have been traveling, and she has gotten

involved in local politics. It took Mary Ellen about a year to get used to being retired. My tag line for that is "I'm not really retired, just tired," since I replaced one full-time job with about three or four part-time jobs! The trick is to keep busy and involved.

**Irene Herz** will be in the chorus of Verdi's *Nabucco* with the Taconic Opera this fall. Irene—send more info, maybe we can go! Irene and I grew up four blocks away from each other in Brooklyn.

**Faye-Ellen Silverman** just had a CD of her own music, *Transatlantic Tales*, released by Albany Records. Visit [albanyrecords.com](http://albanyrecords.com) for more information.

**Ann Owens Brunger** has been a hospice chaplain for the past six years, after retiring from the pulpit as a Presbyterian minister.

**Francine Haba Rosenthal** works right here in White Plains, N.Y., at an outpatient mental-health clinic. I wonder if we've seen each other in town and not realized it.

**Louise Potter Ross** is on the board of Open Arms Housing in Washington, D.C., and is their chief fund-raiser. Eleven years ago, she and some others bought and renovated a building and moved in 16 formerly homeless, mentally ill women. Now that the building is fully occupied, they're looking to buy another building.

**Karen Robb Stewart** is with a research company that's working with the National Institute on Aging. They're looking for people who are 80 and older, living reasonably well, and within 150 miles of Baltimore (I guess we need not apply) to be part of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study on Aging.

**Dorrie Rosenblatt** retired from teaching geriatric medicine at the University of Michigan. She then started a geriatric clinic in southwestern India, which has been functioning for 10 years.

**Janice Moore** has advanced degrees in public health. She has been in applied research at Caremark (CVS) for eight years, working in drug utilization. She says that her psychology major prepared her very well for her chosen profession.

**Ellen Moser Posnick** contacted me directly and told me: "Four years ago, I suffered from a cerebellum bleed that turned out, of all things, to be a clot formed around a piece of metastasized kidney cancer! The clot was removed via open brain surgery; the left kidney also went the way of medical trash. After 30



sessions of focused head radiology and a torturous eight days of (unnecessary, it turned out) chemo, I began my life of remission. Included in this period were a broken femur bone and hip replacement, a fractured pelvis, and shingles. And so I live still to tell the tale.... Now for some good news: I retired from the New York City school system about seven years ago. In between surgeries, I have taught high school English in private school and writing and literary analysis at colleges around town. More good news: My son graduated (CC '02) *magna cum laude*, having served as publisher of the *Spectator* from 2000–02. He's now married to Sheryl, a Tufts graduate, and they have a 1-year-old son. That's my news. I have learned to accept the bad and be very grateful for the good. (And yes, Barnard does breed strong women.)" Well, Ellen, we're all glad that you seem to have come through with flying colors and that the good news came last!

My husband, Jeff (CC '68), handed in his retirement papers, so as of June (though he may still work the summer session), we will be a family of leisure. Ha! I will still be helping to prepare student teachers as a clinical supervisor with Pace University, Pleasantville, as well as writing a newsletter for the Science Teachers of New York State and various and sundry other things including singing with our temple choir and the Village Light Opera Group. Jeff and I want to travel a bit now that we don't have to go only when school is out, and Italy looms in our future. Can't wait. Never been.

Th-th-that's all folks! Hope you are all enjoying the warm weather and are in good health. Keep in touch.

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## 69

**Hallie Ephron Touger** wrote in late April: "The Broadway revival of Larry Kramer's searing drama *The Normal Heart* opens tomorrow. The character of Dr. Emma Brookner is based on [the late] Dr. **Linda Laubenstein**. Linda was my roommate

at Barnard and a dear friend. Blogging about it today on Jungle Red." Hallie, her novels, and her blogging are featured on [jungleredwriters.com](http://jungleredwriters.com).

**Ellen Yamasaki Williams**, who recently moved to Queens, says she's "taking classes at Landmark Education. I took the Landmark Forum last July, and it was truly amazing. I really find what they're doing is quite brilliant, and I have taken a number of classes with them. I'm also devoting more time to increasing awareness of Ortho-Bionomy in New York City. I still need and want to build my client base, so I need to spend time finding ways to get more people to know about my work," Ellen writes. "All in all, I'm having a great time. I'm adjusting to life in Queens. If only there were more health food stores."

**Judy Gould Cavalier** says, "It was wonderful to get together last month at **Sheva Coleman Cohen's** home in Elkins Park, Pa., for a weekend of laughter, reminiscing, catching up, and mutual admiration with **Nancy Macomber, Martha (Mari) Okie, Christine Quinn-Thibodeau, and Kathleen Clagett Williams.**"

**Louise Restituto Begley's** daughter, Rebecca Begley '97, is still in Palo Alto, Calif., and has a PhD in molecular pharmacology. Her son, Peter, does financial work but "is still trying to figure out what to do and where to settle," Louise writes. "Both are married, and I have three grandchildren—two boys, one girl.... I stay active by volunteering and pursuing my art-related hobbies. In addition to reading and book groups, I quilt, stitch, knit, sew, and collect anything of texture. My most recent adventure was a trip to Fargo, N.D., for a five-day stitching retreat while the Red River was cresting and the Interstate was closed because it was under water just north of the airport. (In our more active days, Dick and I took an icebreaker through the Arctic and visited China, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Russia, Scotland, Turkey, and the Black Sea. We were marooned in Istanbul on Sept. 12, 2001, for a week.)"

**Dee diSomma's** daughter, Sabetta Matsumoto, obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in physics from Penn, and on May 16 she completed her PhD at Penn in theoretical physics (liquid crystals, soft condensed matter). "The title of her thesis is 'The Taming of the Screw,

or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Elliptic Functions,' and it includes videos Sabetta created on the computer to demonstrate her ideas," Dee writes. Sabetta will continue to live in Philadelphia while she starts a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in September at the Princeton Center for Theoretical Science.

**Elinor Knodel** just celebrated her 30th service anniversary with the DuPont Co. in Wilmington, Del. "Trained as a biochemist, I have held positions in R&D, manufacturing technology, and knowledge management, and I am currently a business-process consultant in the chemicals and fluoroproducts business. Hard to believe that I will retire in the next few years, timed, we hope, after our son's graduation from college. I continue to practice Iyengar hatha yoga, which that keeps me more flexible, relaxed, and probably saner."

**Elaine Kuracina** reports that, in May, she performed her one-woman musical, *Diamond Lil, Onstage*, at the Kellish Musical Barn, Syracuse, N.Y. She's scheduled to present her show *Senator Rhoda Fox Graves*, about the first New York State woman senator and president of the Senate, for the Upstate N.Y. Teachers Association, and to direct a melodrama at the historic Edwards Opera House in the Adirondacks.

For the first time since 1986, **Peggy Farley** writes in: She has started her "own investment advisory firm, Ascent Asset Management Advisory Services Inc., and bought another investment advisory firm, giving the combined firm \$1 billion of securities portfolios under management for institutions and high-net-worth individuals." She "launched the firm's first venture capital fund, the Ascent Medical Technology Fund, LP, which invested in innovative medical devices and life-science companies in the U.S. ... [and] sold off most of the portfolio management business and focused on a smaller number of portfolios and our venture capital endeavors." Peggy also "launched the second of the firm's venture capital funds, the Ascent Medical Technology Fund II, LP, which focused on establishing the beginnings of a medical technology industry in the Middle East," and she writes that "while establishing the first medical device manufacturing business in the Middle East, in Oman, and the first company doing clinical and preclinical



research for new drugs and devices, in Jordan," she visited Saudi Arabia "several times, worn an *abaya* and covered my head ... but enjoyed great freedom everywhere else ... and I have always been treated with respect in every Middle Eastern country that I visited."

Her daughter, Maggie, is finishing her senior year at Drexel University, where she's been in the film/video program. "I am in her senior project film, thus fulfilling my ambition to become a movie star," writes Peggy, who has moved back to Morningside Heights after many years on the Upper East Side.

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# 70

**Eileen McCorry** shared sad news from Alumnae Records about the death of **Florence Kelly** on Dec. 28, 2010. We wish great comfort and peace to her family and friends.

Good news arrived for this issue from three classmates: **Janna H. Jones Bellwin** has worked as an attorney at Baker & McKenzie LLP in New York City for 38 years. She practices in the area of international finance transactions. Although hard at work, Janna's great joys are her grandchildren, 2-year-old Abby and her brother who was born this summer. Janna enjoys helping her daughter "juggle her kids and her full-time job."

**Camille Kiely Kelleher** has accepted a position with Allianz Global Investors as their global program director. She writes, "I haven't had enough to challenge me since our son, Rory, returned to Northeastern, so I decided to find a full-time job." Camille's new position will involve creating and running training programs worldwide for AGI, particularly its sales force. Her experience in helping to set up Barnard's Financial Fluency Program, in addition to her investment management background, captured the attention of AGI. Camille also notes that networking was particularly helpful in finding this job, because age can be a difficult hurdle in finding work.

After more than five years, **Judith Mensh** has left her position as head gardener in the Upper Garden at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and is now pursuing further training in garden design. She works at the American Plant Company, a locally owned Earthwise garden center in Great Falls, Va. She invites "all fellow Barnardians to visit" her there to "talk plants." She's also available for private horticultural consultations.

Keep the news coming.

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# 71

Kicking off our amazing Reunion, nearly 40 of us gathered for the Thursday evening soirée at **Linda Elovitz Marshall's**. With panoramic river views, and food and drink fit for the goddesses that we are, we joyfully mixed and mingled in small groups of threes and fours until we all actually knew each other by evening's end.

At least 90 classmates attended at some point, along with a dozen or so spouses and guests—our best turnout ever. Most of those were present for Friday's class dinner, the highlight of which was the much-anticipated screening of our mini-documentary Oral History Project. The 22-minute "trailer" focused on the childhoods, family backgrounds, and first-year experiences of most classmates interviewed to date. Brilliantly edited to interweave the widely ranging backgrounds and experiences of its subjects into a complex, moving, and at times startling tapestry, the film brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation. The trailer is still available on DVD for anyone contributing \$20 or more to the Oral History Project.

**Ina May Wool's** Art of Memoir Writing workshop was well attended by the classes of '71 and '56. Participants were gently yet firmly reassured and invited to respond to writing prompts and share their memories, which included a mother's

pomegranate lipstick and the sound of tiny muffled footsteps on a painter's drop cloth. Ina May gloried in the "chance to communicate with all those smart and open-hearted women."

**Mary Gordon** read excerpts from her new novel, *The Love of My Youth*, and answered questions about the impact of 1968 on her life. At school, she led a double life of political activist by day, innocent commuter by night. "My daughter says I am not radical enough—a pawn of the patriarchal power structure (I shave my legs)—yet seems happy enough to use me as her personal domestic servant!" (Followed by laughter of recognition from the audience.)

Rabbi **Cheryl Weiner** facilitated discussion at the Saturday lunch, which touched on caring for aging and ailing parents, alongside fears of someday battling these same genetically linked diseases ourselves; living with and overcoming perfectionism; frustration and disappointment at not having ended war, poverty, hunger, or disease; hopes and plans for still making a difference in those same arenas; and the various joys, pitfalls, successes, and struggles of family, career, finances, and retirement.

With a husky, halting voice, Dr. **Beryl Benacerraf** accepted her Woman of Achievement Award at Saturday's Gala Dinner in honor of her mother, Annette Dreyfus Benacerraf '43, who had died the evening before. We congratulate Beryl on her groundbreaking work in early detection of Down's syndrome, and we extend our sincerest condolences on the loss of her mother.

Later, **Esther Amini Krawitz** read a short personal memoir in our crowded class lounge about her father's reaction to her leaving the shelter of home and moving to campus as an upper classman. While her cultural background differed from most, many listeners identified with her themes of family melodrama, parental emotional blackmail, and the shifts in power within a family when change occurs.

Many women stated that this was the first reunion where they had met and befriended numerous previously unknown classmates, and they intended to pursue these new friendships—a testament to the success of our 40th reunion.

Thanks to **Katherine Jessop Brewster**, our class president (and cat herder extraordinaire), for shepherding



our wildly opinionated and talented committee through this five-year cycle; to **Michelle Patrick** and her husband, Bob Solomon, for handling the gargantuan task of interviewing, taping, and editing our mini-documentary; to **Mary Gorayeb Friberg** for planning Thursday night; to my husband, Octavian Cretu, and our staff at Anaconda Press for designing and printing table materials for BOHP; and to **Joyce Pollack Rocklin** for planning and guiding the Sunday tour at the American Museum of Natural History.

Prior to Reunion, we received the sad news that **Barbara Carver Ready** died unexpectedly on Nov. 16, 2010, of natural causes. She was editor of the *American Journal of Orthopedics* at Quadrant HealthCom Inc., with no known next of kin.

Finally, belated condolences to **Elizabeth Kellogg**, who lost her beloved husband, John, in 2008. Betty is a cellist and lifelong performing musician who teaches and plays in a trio and a symphony, which she helped found in Leesburg, Va.

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40th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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**Myra Alperson** writes: "Amazing how quickly our children grow! My daughter is now a sophomore at Bronx High School of Science and has found her heart in the debate program there. She's debating whether to specialize in science or perhaps study more history—but we'll see. My food-tour business, Noshwalks (noshwalks.com), continues to sustain my appetite for exploring New York City neighborhoods, and

I'm hoping to do an update of my 2003 book, *Nosh New York*. Meanwhile, I'm now in my eighth year as a teacher, in a resource room for K–5 students at a sweet, small school not far from our home in Washington Heights. I had sworn never to return to teaching when I first left, in 1977, but I'm enjoying it and am glad to have the same schedule as my daughter—and summers off!"

**Marlene Siegel** retired from a career of more than 30 years in executive management at the New York City Department of Education. Currently she's engaged in a second career in insurance in New York State, representing Genworth Financial. She specializes in long-term care insurance and presents seminars on long-term care planning.

**Susan Laufer Bee**'s solo show, "Recalculating: New Paintings," ran from May 25 to June 19 at A.I.R. Gallery in DUMBO, Brooklyn. "In addition, my late daughter, Emma Bee Bernstein (she died in 2008), recently had a solo show of photographs, titled 'Emma Bee Bernstein: An Imagined Space,' at the Janet Kurnatowski Gallery in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The show was reviewed in *The New York Times*. I am teaching in the art criticism and writing MFA program at the School of Visual Arts."

**Marcy Wang Wong** writes: "I am an architect; our practice, Marcy Wong Donn Logan Architects, is in Berkeley, Calif. We design projects ranging from houses and visitor centers to sewer treatment plants and ferry terminals."

**Deborah Reich** writes: "My eBook, *No More Enemies*, was published in April on amazon.com for the Kindle. A print edition will come out too. Although the book was a few decades in the making, it has a forward-looking point of view about the search for reconciliation and justice here in Israel and Palestine, and in general. It's a lively read, and I think it offers hope—that's why I wrote it. My deep intention is to help spark a global shift toward an era of no more enemies."

**Susan De Bartolo** writes: "I have just become a grandmother! My eldest daughter, Paula, gave birth to a little girl this spring. She lives in a Tulsa suburb, so I will see lots of my new family. I feel a 'Sunrise, Sunset' moment coming on.... I work at the central office of Tulsa Meals on Wheels, a private nonprofit organization that did very well in the economic downturn. Most of the real work

here is done by some 2,000 volunteers. My husband, Jim, has finally found his niche since leaving Amoco after the BP acquisition: He is a dental assistant at Catholic Charities. Like me, after volunteering awhile he is on staff at a mostly volunteer organization. We are proud of the work we do in the community, but make a bit of money to spoil our new granddaughter with and have iPhones."

We regret to report the death of **Sylvine Barer Jerome** on Jan. 6, 2011. Our condolences to her sons and her mother. —JR

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**Marilyn Hett**, member of the Counselors of Real Estate, was recognized by the Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture and the Arts for actively promoting the growth of tourism and convention activity in Tampa Bay, Fla. Marilyn has a passion for collaborative partnerships, resulting in many arts initiatives that further the economic vibrancy of the community.

**Ilan Arm Glickman** writes, "I wanted to tell you that my first-year roommate, **Elizabeth (Betsy) Klitsner Shapiro** (I'm sure you remember her), passed away in March 2010 of pancreatic cancer. I was not really in touch with her for many years, but we did have some friends in common and I would often get updates on her. She and her husband, Mendel, made *aliya* many years ago and lived in Jerusalem. She had six children and owned a very popular pottery and crafts studio in Jerusalem, *Kad v'Chomer*. Her sister, Frances Klitsner Wolff '71, brother, and mother also live in Israel and survive her."

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# 75

Lots of news this month! Your correspondent is happy to report that she earned her second master's degree in May, 35 years after my first from the Columbia School of Journalism. This one is in educational theatre from New York University. I'm pursuing work with performing-arts organizations in education, communications, and outreach.

**Jill Gay** is on a five-week consulting gig on reproductive health/HIV in Benin, West Africa. She's also happy in her second marriage, to Stuart Shapiro, who works at the National Institutes of Health. Her eldest daughter is an artistic director of a theatre company, and her youngest daughter is graduating from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Toby Macy Schaffer** lives in Stamford, Conn., where she has started a personal-injury law practice. She has three children, all married, and four grandchildren, who are 4 years old and younger. Her oldest daughter, Pamela, graduated from Barnard in 2004 and is a doctor doing a fellowship in pediatric nephrology at Montefiore Medical Center.

**Rosalind Volpe Goodwin** reports that she has lived in Chapel Hill, N.C., since 1987 but often visits her mother, who still lives in New York City. She earned a doctorate in environmental health in 1988 at Columbia, and she has worked for the International Lead Zinc Research Organization since 1980. She recently served as director of the Silver Nanotechnology Working Group in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Her husband is a doctor of science metallurgist from MIT who travels the globe solving metallurgical problems. Rosalind's son, Adrian, is a junior in mechanical engineering at the University of Rochester in New York. She also enjoys playing the cello in various chamber music groups and with the Chapel Hill Philharmonia. "Life continues to be full and exciting with work, friends, music, and travel," she says.

**Susan Weintraub Leibtag** is acting director of the Human Language Technology Center of Excellence at Johns Hopkins University and has worked for various groups at Johns Hopkins for 30 years. She also freelances as editor for Rabbi Yechiel Spero, author of the

*Touched by a Story* series, published by Artsroll Publications. They're working on their 15th book together. Susan and her husband, Bernard (CU '79), have nine grandchildren. They plan to move to Israel in late 2011.

**Betty Iseri Yee**, now retired from investment advising, is spending more time with her daughters. She volunteers at their schools and on the board of a music education group. Her oldest, Katie, is a first-year at San Diego State University. She has been in touch recently with **Palma Torrisi**, a former roommate now living on Long Island. Her daughter, my goddaughter, Rosara Torrisi '09, is in the master's program in social work at Columbia. Betty lives in Huntington Beach, Calif., but gets to New York regularly to visit the family of her husband, John Yee (CC '75).

**Judy Weisman** has retired from the practice of general and colorectal surgery after 30 years. She lives in Maine and is doing some part-time consulting and working as a court-appointed special advocate volunteer. "I also have become very seriously involved in competitive ballroom dancing, which is a joy—and a lot of hard work!" Her son Gabriel lives in Boston and is a clinical policy analyst for the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the state of Massachusetts. Her son Dana is a sophomore studying jazz piano and composition at the State University of New York at Purchase Conservatory of Music. Judy is in regular contact with Diane Tabakman '73.

**Arlene Bradley Levine** and her husband, Barry, have coauthored a book that has just been published: *Say NO to Aging: How Nitric Oxide (NO) Prolongs Life*. She says, "My husband and I have worked together in cardiology patient care and research for 25 years. This book brings our insights on longevity to the public. As our practice has matured, we find it a lot more fun and rewarding to prevent disease than treat it."

**Susan Ochshorn** reports she ended her first year as an education policy consultant with an invitation to join the education team of *The Huffington Post*. Her first piece, "Where the Achievement Gap Is Born: A Letter to Cathie Black," was published right before Christmas. Her second, a call for higher pay for early childhood teachers, was featured as a top story in the education section a

week later. She also blogs at ECE Policy Matters ([ecepolicymatters.com](http://ecepolicymatters.com)), which is dedicated to bridging professional practice and public policy. "I'm enjoying a return to my journalistic roots, as I continue my advocacy for progressive policies for young children and families," she writes.

**Jo Ann Engelhardt** has been living in Palm Beach County, Fla., for the past 21 years, working at Bessemer Trust, a wealth management firm, as a managing director. Her husband, George Elder, writes books on the intersection of Jungian psychology and Eastern religions, particularly Hinduism and Buddhism. Their oldest daughter, Phoebe, is at Berkeley Law School; their middle daughter, Isobel, is beginning a career as an elementary school teacher; and their youngest, Chloe, is a first-year at the American University of Paris. "For relaxation, I study voice (classical), which I've been doing for the past 10 years. I also took up ballet for the first time ever about four years ago." She's in touch with **Judy Weisman**, "who was a truly accomplished ballerina." Jo Ann, like Judy, is also doing ballroom dancing.

**Sonia Taitz** tells us that her new novel, *In the King's Arms*, will be published by McWitty Press in October. The book is about a female American college graduate at Oxford. A couple of early reviews call it "deeply felt, lyrical" and "gloriously rendered" and that "Taitz writes passionately and wisely." Sonia has also written for *The New York Times*, *The New York Observer*, and many other publications. Her most recent book, *Mothering Heights*, was published by William Morrow and Berkley.

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## 77

Thanks to all of you who voted, we have two members of our class elected to the board of the Alumnae Association. I'm now officially the president of the AABC, and congratulations to **Francine Benzaken Glick**, who has been elected to the nominating committee. Beginning this summer, I represent all of the alumnae of the College, but I will do my best to continue our Class Notes column until my term as class correspondent is up, at the end of this year. So please send me your updates and I'll let all of your classmates know what you're up to.

And it may be a year away, but I look forward to personally greeting all of you at our 35th reunion next year, so save the dates May 31 to June 3, 2012. Let your class officers know if you have any suggestions for programming or special activities that you would like to propose.

On May 9, **Deborah L. Jacobs** presented "Estate Planning Is a Woman's Issue" for Project Continuum. Deborah is the author of *Estate Planning Smarts*, the second edition of which came out this year and includes recent changes to the tax laws affecting estate planning. Deborah shared her extensive knowledge of estate planning with a special emphasis on issues that affect women.

**Michelle Neumann Finkelstein** writes that she's still working on an e-business called Essential Apartment Supplies, Inc. (EASI), which focuses on apartment supplies for new renters. She also reports that she's "aging gracefully, although sleep is no longer something I do very well." I can hear many of you agreeing with that statement.

**Maria Foscarinis** runs the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, which she founded in 1989. She writes, "Record numbers of people across the country are becoming homeless due to the foreclosure crisis and continued unemployment. We're focused on prevention, as well as advocating for solutions for those already homeless, and we are really busy! I'm proud of all we've accomplished, but also always aware of how much more we need to do."

On a sad note, I was informed that **Patricia McKenna** passed away last

## Keeping Homelessness in the Public Eye

### Maria Foscarinis '77



Maybe it was those conversations around the family dinner table that first launched Maria Foscarinis's ultimate career path as an impassioned advocate for the homeless. The founder and executive director since 1989 at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty in Washington, D.C., Foscarinis was raised on Manhattan's Upper East Side, as the daughter of Greek immigrants—her father was a political economist and her mother was a pediatrician—who had been part of the resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of Greece. "There was a foundation in my home, about the issue of social justice and doing something about poverty," says Foscarinis, who also remembers that her parents took her to anti-war protests. "Issues of economic justice always appealed to me."

After earning a master's in philosophy from Columbia, followed by a law degree there and a clerkship with the Honorable Amalya L. Kears in New York's Southern District, Foscarinis became a litigator at the major New York law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell. She volunteered for a *pro bono* case to work on a class action suit for homeless families, who had been denied access to emergency shelter in Nassau County, New York. Meeting with those families was a revelation. "It was shocking to see poverty there in the midst of affluence," she says. "Some clients were living in their cars."

That case, which resulted in a "favorable settlement for the group," helped shift the evolution of her career. "In the mid '80s, homelessness was becoming a big issue, a national issue," says Foscarinis. The National Coalition for the Homeless wanted to start an office in Washington, D.C., and offered the then-29-year-old the opportunity to lead it. Combining litigation and lobbying efforts, she has been instrumental in having the federal government "pay attention to this issue," including the first legislative effort to address it, the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, now known as the McKinney-Vento Act. Foscarinis has also been board vice-chair at the U.S. Human Rights Network and Washington counsel at the National Coalition for the Homeless. Earlier this spring, she was a featured speaker at American University's conference on "Global Issues in Human Rights."

Foscarinis acknowledges that her years at Barnard continue to influence and inform her life's work. "I did most of my philosophical work at Barnard," she says. "I had wonderful professors. We dealt with questions about meaning—'why are we here?' Through this pursuit, I came to the conclusion that there was no real answer. We create our own meaning through engagement in our world and community." —*Merri Rosenberg*

summer. Patricia was a dedicated employee of Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, N.J., for more than 20 years. I extend our sympathies to her family.

On the personal front, last December I marked 20 years since my last treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma—I'm grateful to have been completely cancer-free since then! This May, I celebrated eight years

of marriage, and one of the happiest parts of my life. I also have been involved in ceramic art for over 15 years, and this is a source of energy and pleasure.

This past year, I became involved with an organization called Hands Up for Haiti and have traveled twice to Cap Haitien, in the north of the country, on pediatric missions. Getting involved in global



health for the first time at this stage in my life has been challenging, but also extremely rewarding. I'd like to hear from other classmates who have done work of any kind in developing countries. Write about your experiences and how these experiences have affected your lives.

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## 78

Last issue, we devoted time to a special Archaeological Dig Through Jami's Desk, wherein we unearthed an ancient message from **Pamela Karasik**. Through carbon dating, we found it to refer to events from the Iron Age. Here's the update: "You are only two years behind, as Hannah has just finished her sophomore year at Barnard." Oh, that Pam; always such a card!

It seems that Hannah is no longer an intern at WKCR—she's now the business manager and a board member of the station. "She is a history major with a concentration on the Middle East. Timely, yes? She is becoming fluent in Arabic and still plays cello with the Bach Society." Pamela adds that in September, her daughter Sophie will also start at Barnard.

Bringing you timely news fresh off the vine has exhausted us. However, there's still this, from **Joan Kingsly Gottesman**: "I will give you something to make the work of being my class correspondent a little easier," writes Joan. See? Another joker. She must have me confused with a class correspondent who rarely makes her deadlines.

Joan continues: "After retiring from the practice of law in 1991, earning a MEd from Bank Street as a reading and literacy specialist in 2000, teaching in Westchester for a couple of years, and then starting a consulting practice as a reading and literacy coach, I find myself being a lawyer again, clerking for a bankruptcy judge, which was my practice area before I retired to raise my children. In this terrible job market, it is nothing short of miraculous to have found this position after not practicing law for 18 years, and I

think to myself at least once a day, 'Lucky, lucky, lucky.' Well, on the bad days, maybe I only think, 'Lucky.' I bumped into **Amy Gewirtz McGahan** at a mutual friend's party, and was so saddened to learn of the passing of Debbie Levitt Ron '79, an acquaintance from my old town. My almost-ex and I split after a long marriage, and I've been living in west Chelsea for almost a year, commuting to Brooklyn for work. My elder son graduated at the end of May with a degree in Chinese studies from Connecticut College, and my younger son will be a junior at GW."

I wish I could afford **Polly Morton Barton's** gorgeous woven-silk ikat paintings, which have been collected by the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and by important private collectors. For now, I can adore them from afar via her newly designed Web site ([pollybarton.com](http://pollybarton.com)). The Santa Fe artist recently gave an interview to the Handful of Salt blog ([handfulofsalt.com/?p=4992](http://handfulofsalt.com/?p=4992)), where her work is described as "stunning, more painting in thread than anything else. The colors somehow manage to be both rich and muted, exuberant and quiet, with subtle variation, shade, and depth. And maybe that's why her work feels emotional and energetic: It has fluidity, movement, depth, variability, texture, nuance. It has LIFE."

In the interview, Polly discusses her influences and the creative process. If you read it, you'll be contributing to Polly's goal: "I would feel a new measure of success if I could talk and share enthusiastically about my work."

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## 79

**Rukhl Schaechter-Ejdelman** writes, "My son, Naftali, who recently founded Yiddish Farm, an organic farming collective to be built in Goshen, N.Y., has just been invited to participate in the ROI Summit in Jerusalem this summer—a program that, according to their Web site, 'gathers the most dynamic young Jewish leaders who are transforming the Jewish world.' My son, the transformer!"

**Lauren Plante**, MD, MPH, is director

of the division of maternal-fetal medicine and an associate professor in the departments of obstetrics and gynecology and anesthesiology at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. She's the North American editor for a textbook on maternal critical care, which is to be published by Cambridge University Press.

**Cristina Garcia** recently published her fifth novel, *The Lady Matador's Hotel*, as well as her first collection of poetry, *The Lesser of Death*. She's starting a new weeklong writers' conference at Ghost Ranch, in northern New Mexico.

**Risa Gerson** has been a supervising attorney at the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York City for the past 15 years. This year, after receiving a grant from the United States Department of Justice's Wrongful Conviction Review Program, she has been heading up the office's Reinvestigation Project, which reinvestigates cases in which clients were wrongfully convicted. She has also been teaching a criminal appellate defense clinic at New York University Law School. During much of the past year, her husband, John Leland (CC '81), has been reporting from Baghdad for *The New York Times*, but he's now (thankfully) back in New York, covering local news for the *Times*.

**Ilise Levy Feitshans** really does wish she was back in New York City, but "this weekend, I am in my apartment in Geneva, desperately attempting to rewrite some of the draft text for my thesis 'Forecasting Nano Law: Risk Management Protecting Public Health Under International Law.' I am among the 100 Women Making a Difference whom the American Society of Safety Engineers will honor at their 100th anniversary celebration in Chicago in June, so I hope to be in the U.S. at that time."

**Cindy Ladopoulos** wrote to offer Ilise a place to stay in May/June: "At least my apartment has finally been spackled and painted so, hopefully, I won't have any new cracks/leaks by the time you get here."

**Barbara Field** writes us from sunny San Diego, but she also still misses New York. A photo of her taken with Jhumpa Lahiri '89 and Anna Quindlen '74 from a recent reunion adorns her office wall and inspires her every day. Barbara is president emeritus of the Barnard Club of San Diego. She has worked for CBS (promoting movies), Macy's, Harcourt Brace Children's Books, ad agencies, and Scripps Research Institute, and she



has been published in newspapers, in magazines, and online. Her novel, *The Deeper, The Bluer*, won a Writer's Digest fiction award. She is a UC-San Diego communications manager, an OpEd Project regional manager, and an Afghan Women's Writing Project mentor. She also teaches for UC-San Diego Extension and at the Whidbey Island Writers Conference. Her son, Adam, is a 21-year-old junior at Stanford University.

Finally, our class held a mini-reunion at the Radiance Tea House in New York. Hope to get some updates on it for the next edition.

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Bucolic bulletins this season from alumnae who live where the rats don't race. Thirty-one years a mystery woman, **Jillian Freeman Shaffer** gratifies my eternal wish to learn what's going on with a friendly note: "I live in New Hope, in lovely Bucks County, Pa., with my two wonderful daughters, ages 16 and 12, our Yorkshire terrier, Buddy, a white rabbit, Jasper, and a red-eared slider turtle, Sparky. Animal wisdom and countryside living is a little different than New York City, but I have learned that the quiet wisdom of the heavens, the land, the trees, the animals is as amazing as the intelligence stored in a library. I am amazed still at how we all went to college 'B.I.' (before Internet). I don't think my daughters could do a paper depending on library stacks and card catalogs. Love living across the street from farms to buy fresh produce, and enjoy orchards and gardens and quiet space under the panoramic sky. Enjoy venturing into New York City to visit and catch up with my adult stepchildren." Jill, who

graduated with a degree in architecture, wonders if anyone else landed in Bucks County. So do I (hint, hint).

**Lisa Menke Stuart** shares, "Living a tropical island life in Key West now, it is always a treat for me to talk with **Lois Elfman** about her writing career and sophisticated life in New York City. No matter what paths our lives take, put two of us Barnard women together and we are off talking and laughing for hours!" Amen. Their most recent gab session took place, Lois sophisticatedly clarifies, "over tea at the St. Regis New York. That specific activity and location were chosen because I recently completed an article for the hotel's in-room magazine, *Bespoke*, about afternoon tea." I'll be right over!

No, I won't. I, ladies, am addressing wedding invitations.

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30th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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As your new class correspondent, I appreciate the great response we received to our request for class notes. Keep sending in your news. As for myself, I spent the past few years traveling around

the world (last count: 70 countries) and am now chief operating officer and general counsel for a Los Angeles-based fashion retailer. I live in Santa Monica, Calif., with my boyfriend, Alex, a business litigation attorney. Without further ado, here is the latest news from your classmates: **Emily Bestler** has been promoted to editor in chief and senior vice president at Simon & Schuster and will now head a new imprint—Emily Bestler Books. During her 16 years at Simon & Schuster, Emily has published 79 *New York Times* best sellers and 12 No. 1 best sellers. She lives in Glen Ridge, N.J., with her husband and three children.

**Sheila Black** is coediting an anthology of poetry, *Beauty is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*, which will be published by Cinco Puntos Press in September. She's also colaunching a new editorial services business called Floating House, LLC (floatinghousellc.com), and she's the author of two poetry collections, *The House of Bon* and *Love/Iraq*, among other works. Sheila lives in southern New Mexico with her children (one of whom is college bound) and remembers Barnard fondly, especially the local eateries.

**Gretel Duckson Noble** is a city and regional planning consultant with her own practice and advises primarily local governments and developers. She focuses on affordable housing policy and finance issues, as well as grant writing. Gretel's daughter, Emily, will be entering the Class of 2015.

**Risa Fishman**, MD, was recently appointed medical director of the Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Risa lives in Rockville, Md., with her husband and three children, and she just began college shopping with her daughter, Ilana, who loved Barnard.

**Nadia Silvershine** is a sales associate at Macy's in Northern California and lives in San Rafael, Calif.

**Eugenia Giobbi Bone** is an author whose specialty is writing about food. She writes a food blog for the *Denver Post* and her nonfiction book, *Mycophilia: New Revelations from the Weird World of Mushrooms*, will be published by Rodale in October. Eugenia lives in New York City with her husband, architect Kevin Bone, director of the Cooper Union Institute for Sustainable Design, and has two teenage children.



**Susan Leibowitz** writes that she's rapidly approaching 15 years with the news program *Dateline*, where she's a producer of hour-long stories about crime and major world events. Susan lives in Los Angeles, Calif., with her husband and 3-year-old daughter, who amazes them every day.

**Saralyn Mark, MD**, reports that Brick Tower Press published her first book, *Stellar Medicine: A Journey Through the Universe of Women's Health*, this year. She recently received a lifetime achievement award from the American Medical Women's Association. Saralyn is an endocrinologist, geriatrician, and women's health specialist who has practiced space medicine through NASA. She says that her career has not been conventional but has been a lot of fun.

**Julia L. McCreight** is an artist and graphic designer with an art business called Arabesq Art ([arabesqart.com](http://arabesqart.com)), and she teaches ballroom and Latin dancing. Julia, who lives in the Minneapolis–St. Paul area, is primarily commissioned for spiritual and fantasy art projects.

**Julia Lisella** was recently awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of American literature at Regis College in Weston, Mass. She lives in Medford with her husband and two children in a 100-year-old house.

**Donatella Lorch** has been a journalist for more than 20 years and has reported and written for NBC News, *The New York Times*, and *Newsweek* (visit [donatellalorch.com](http://donatellalorch.com) for more). She's now working for USAID in Nairobi, Kenya, where she lives with her husband, who works at the World Bank Kenya. Donatella has four children, the oldest of which will be a sophomore in college; two are in high school; and the youngest, who is 6, insists he's Kenyan and speaks Swahili interspersed with Sheng (local slang).

**Erika Pardes Schon** is the director of the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University. She also conducts the HaZamir Baltimore choir ([zamirfdn.org](http://zamirfdn.org)) and directs Hebrew musicals at the Schechter day school. Erika and her husband, Lew, are preparing to be empty-nesters, as four out of their five sons will be heading to college in the fall. Her oldest son graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, and is the lead guitarist of the band Pigeons Playing Ping Pong.

**Karen Polcer Bdera** reports that after

receiving her MBA in finance from New York University Business School (now known as the Leonard N. Stern School of Business), she worked for 25 years in the for-profit world in sales administration, customer service, and IT, and has been working most recently in development for a small New York City nonprofit organization. Karen, who lives in the greater New York area, has been married to her husband, Nick, for more than 21 years, has completed 21 marathons, is an aggressive fund-raiser for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, and can't believe this is the year that she'll turn 50. She also served for a short time on the board of Barnard Business and Professional Women and has volunteered extensively for the New York Road Runners and the Broadway Ultra Society.

**Elizabeth Rich** reports that in the fall of 2010, she was named commentary editor of *Education Week*. After living mostly in New York City since graduation (with the exception of a few years in Oklahoma and Washington, D.C.), Elizabeth settled in her hometown of D.C., where she lives with her husband, Matthew J. Kelly (CU '92), in 2006.

**Nancy Rieger**, our class president, is a writer in the development office of New York University's Langone Medical Center, where she's involved in writing all manner of fund-raising materials, including a donor newsletter that she started last year. Nancy also works with three other Barnard alumnae in an office of about 70 people. In May 2010, Nancy married Armand Pohan, who graduated from Harvard in 1964. They moved to Fort Lee, N.J., and both love to travel, read, and attend concerts. Nancy has three adult stepchildren, one of whom is attending Teachers College at Columbia this fall.

**Suzy Stein** joined Columbia University in 2009 as the executive director of the MS degree programs at the School of Continuing Education.

In June, **Sharon Weise Kerr** finished her career as an international middle and high school biology and chemistry teacher. She has lived and taught in England, the Netherlands, and Singapore, and she currently lives in Abu Dhabi. Leaving the classroom will allow her more time to write and work on professional development for teachers throughout the world, which she has come to enjoy so much in her work with

WIDE World (Wide-scale Interactive Development for Educators) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. It will also provide for a flexible schedule so that she can visit her newborn granddaughter more frequently.

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**Florence Wetzel** recently published a jazz mystery novel called *Dashiki*. She's also writing book and CD reviews for [allaboutjazz.com](http://allaboutjazz.com).

**Leslie Greenbaum Fram** lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Jonathan, and 9-year-old son, Stanford. Leslie recently completed UCLA's waste-management-sustainability program and is consulting in the renewable energy sector. An off-Broadway musical is being produced based on the book she wrote nine years ago, *How to Marry a Divorced Man*.

**Maureen Kedes** has been busy running her public relations firm, Vertex Communications, being mom to Sam, 11, and Nolan, 9, hosting the "PR Insider" radio show on [voiceamerica.com](http://voiceamerica.com), and blogging for AOL at [beverlyhills.patch.com](http://beverlyhills.patch.com).

**Jacqueline Kamber Hosford** has found her stride, "that sweet balance of the personal and the professional." She spent the past two years building her own New York City area interior design practice, Jacqueline Hosford Interior Design, LLC. She recently became president elect for the American Society of Interior Design New York Metro chapter for 2012. "I have never been quite so excited about my professional future since I graduated Barnard!" she writes.

In September, **Barrie Stevens** will start her 10th year teaching writing at Stony Brook University. She'll also be seeing her son, Dylan, off to Princeton. She hopes that some of the great programs she reads about in *Barnard Magazine* will help her fill the "empty nest."

**Slawka (Christine) Korduba** reports that she has had a fun, challenging career in brand management and marketing, working with Unilever brands (Dove, Snuggly, Wisk) and now with Nestlé



Waters (Poland Springs, San Pellegrino, Perrier). She works in corporate affairs at Stakeholder Communications. Christine has three wonderful children: a sophomore at Boston College; an 8-year-old in third grade; and a 14-year-old daughter. "All keep me on my toes, flexible in my thinking, and very active," she says.

Always dealing with life-work balance issues, **Jennifer Astone** works from home as managing director of Swift Foundation, which promotes biological and cultural diversity. She's busy parenting her son, Sandy, 6, who loves singing, bicycle riding, and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books. She's proud to be a former Peace Corps volunteer (Senegal 1985–87) in this 50th anniversary year.

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It's been great hearing from you all! We look forward to continuing to connect with our class and love getting e-mails from all around the world.

**Molly Wesling** writes that she'll be living in Madrid, Spain, for a year starting in August, while her husband, Ted, is on sabbatical from his position as a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Their sons, Nick, 15, and Oliver, 12, will attend a Spanish public school. She says, "We are all frantically learning Spanish."

**Julie Bokser** is an associate professor in the department of writing, rhetoric, and discourse at DePaul University in Chicago. She teaches writing and rhetoric classes from undergraduate through master's level, including a creative nonfiction class, which is her favorite. She has been studying rhetoric in colonial Mexico for a while and is just shifting to a new project on biblical rhetoric. Her husband, Steve, is

an emergency physician and toxicologist and they have three kids: Jake, 10, Lily, 6, and Ari, 4. She writes, "I'm exhausted—all the time! I welcome anecdotes and advice about juggling it all!"

Also congratulations to **Marti Paschal**, who e-mailed about her acceptance into what sounds like a fabulous writing residency program.

Finally, **Karen Estilo Owczarski** held a reception for admitted Barnard students in the Washington, D.C., area at her home in northern Virginia last spring. In attendance were Carolyn Middleton, the senior associate director of admissions; Judy Acs '84, a Barnard Area Regional Representative (BARR), former Barnard-in-Washington Club president, and very active current member; Whitney Tull '01, co-president of BIW; and Alexandra Thomson '81, BARR and former president of BIW. The accepted students were an enthusiastic and impressive cross section from the largest applicant pool the College has ever seen. Many students were early-decision acceptances and were very excited about attending Barnard in the fall.

Hope to hear from more of you soon!

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**Joy Clark** writes that she's a psychiatrist in private practice in Manhattan and Westchester, N.Y. Her future plans are to continue her private practice, and see her kids off to college. She has a son, aged 15, and a daughter, aged 8. Joy has been in a relationship with her husband, Jack, for 22 years. The family lives in Westchester County and participates in the Barnard-in-Westchester Club. **Persephony Zill** lives down the street from Joy.

**Marianne Pugatch** lives in Cambridge, Mass., and is director of social

work at the Adolescent Substance Abuse Program at Children's Hospital Boston. She often sees **Jill Litner Kaplan** and is still in touch with **Catherine Cook**, **Virginia (Ginny) Power Jestin**, **Polly Trottenberg**, and **Ruth Yodaiken**.

Marianne, who was awarded a three-year NIAAA Traineeship, will attend the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in this fall. She plans to stay in the field of addiction and adolescent health and work part-time at Children's Hospital.

**Dawn Cohen** is a senior IT business analyst at Bristol Myers Squibb. She writes, "I maintain my sense of humor (otherwise known as my fragile grip on sanity in the face of working full-time and parenting a high school student and soon-to-be middle school student) by making time for myself to write (mostly fiction), do a little gardening (I usually get a nice weed crop), and local hiking with the kids (the Sourlands and the D&R Canal are beautiful—you'd never know you were in N.J.). I am very excited that the solar panels we installed last fall are performing wonderfully, and we're on track to produce about 10MW/year, even with sub-optimal conditions."

**Allison Stewart Laws** is working as the New York editor for economic research at Standard Chartered Bank. She's happily married to George Laws, and her son, James, will attend Bard College this fall.

**Mindy Braunstein-Weinblatt** writes, "It was great seeing all my Barnard sisters at our 25th reunion! It was also a fabulous way for me to celebrate my 21st wedding anniversary, which was the same day as our reunion." She saw her first-year roommates, **Toby Kosowsky Fleischman** and **Miriam Gruen Kosowsky**, two weeks before Reunion when they celebrated the bat mitzvah of Miriam's daughter, Sarah, "who handled becoming a Jewish young woman with much grace and finesse." Mindy writes, "Miriam lives in Newton, Mass., with her husband, Jeff, and their four children. She does mediation when she's not busy with her family. Toby lives in Ohio with her husband, Aaron, and their three children, and heads east to look at colleges for her children and to come to our children's coming-of-age parties."

**Lisa Berlin** says, "My husband and I are just about to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. Our daughter,



Samantha, is finishing second grade. After 11 years in Chapel Hill, N.C., we are moving to Baltimore where I will join the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Social Work. My husband, Bob, owns a small business here, which he'll continue to operate from afar. I would be interested in connecting with Baltimore-area alums."

**Michelle Lindholm-Benjamin** writes, "I am still teaching Vinyasa yoga at Healthworks Women's Fitness near us. This is my fifth year teaching there. My daughter, Jessica, turns 11 this June. She will start middle school in September. Very exciting! I am still in the collecting phase for my fourth large collage piece. The theme is Jesus. I have been studying the Bible with Jehovah Witnesses since fall of 2009. I am still writing poetry. I am preparing to write an article for our local online neighborhood newspaper. We redecorated our home the past two years. I'm still working on the study. I cannot imagine what the next 25 years will bring. Lots of love to all my 1986 alumnae friends!"

**Victoria (Vicky) Olsen** writes, "I earned a PhD in English 16 years ago (the degree is as old as my eldest daughter) and have been writing and teaching since. I published a biography of Victorian photographer Julia Margaret Cameron in 2003 and several magazine articles on photography after that. I returned to Barnard to teach in the first-year English program for several years and was pleased to catch up with my senior thesis advisors, Bill Sharpe and Maire Jaanus. Now I teach full-time in the Expository Writing Program at New York University, which has kept me learning about both teaching and writing. I teach teenagers and have two teenage daughters at home so my hands are full, but I do hope to publish another book someday."

**Ellen Levitt** says, "Since our reunion five years ago my life has undergone some changes. I went back to teaching—and got bounced around to seven different schools because some closed. I am now at a pretty decent public high school in Brooklyn and my commute and students, for the most part, are better. So I've been juggling the job, parenting, and all that comes with it. I also have to deal with my formerly strong father being quite ill for the past four months. (He was our best babysitter and gardener!) On the fun side, my husband,

two daughters, and have done lots of skiing and snowboarding, as well as other entertaining vacations—finally went to Chicago, which I'd wanted to visit for many years. I sing with my synagogue choir, and specialize with a small group that backs up our cantor on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

"My biggest achievements have been the photography exhibit I had in 2006–07, at the Brooklyn Historical Society, and my book, *The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*, which was published by Avotaynu in May 2009." She is completing *The Lost Synagogues of the Bronx and Queens* and working on the Manhattan edition. It's a fascinating topic for Ellen and she enjoys interviewing people, hearing from readers, and speaking at events like the Brooklyn Book Festival of 2009. She has also done other freelance writing, including a piece in *The New York Times* in June 2010. "Oh, and I hurt my knee last year and had knee surgery. And got shingles in 2006. Humbling!"

It was wonderful seeing 40 classmates at our 25th reunion. Everyone looked fabulous and demonstrated all the best of Barnard. —Audrey Jacobs

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25th Reunion May 31 – June 3, 2012

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As we gear up for our 25th reunion in spring 2012, class officers are trying to stimulate reconnections and bring classmates together. Pre-reunion events were planned in Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and Los Angeles for the weekend of May 1, so hopefully some of you had a chance to get together. **Pia Fiedler**, reunion chair, organized a fun-in-the-sun run/walk in Glen Ridge, N.J. Although the D.C. celebration fell through at the last minute, I was able to connect with **Suzanne Keech**, which was long overdue, and we're planning to have dinner and catch up soon. Our class officers want to encourage people to join the Barnard College Class of '87 Facebook group, where information about Reunion

will be posted as it becomes available. In addition, **Beth Wightman** will be collecting items throughout Southern California to sell later this summer at local swap meets: clothing, jewelry, books, etc. All money raised will go toward class events at Reunion. For more information, contact her at beth.wightman@csun.edu or 310.398.7215.

On a very sad note, I must also share with you the news of the untimely passing of **Mary E. Peterson**, of New York City, who died on Feb. 20, 2011. According to her obituary, Mary attended law school at New York University after graduating from Barnard. After practicing law for several years, she had a successful career in acting, both on-screen and as a voice-over commercial actress. She is survived by her son, former husband, three sisters, and her aunt Virginia Peterson Ozer '64. Our deepest sympathies go out to her friends and family at this time.

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**Bonnie Siegel Eshel** has been living in Israel for the past 21 years, the last 13 of which in a suburb of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem called Carmei Yosef.

She adds, "I have four beautiful kids—Matan, 14, Nadav, 12, Adi, 11, and Eden, 3. I am heading the market data division of one of Israel's leading financial software companies, but what keeps me out of trouble is my involvement with the Israeli cycling federation. After retiring from racing a couple of years ago, I was looking to see how I could give back to the sport that gave me so much for so many years, and when the opportunity arose to run for the federation's president last year, I took it. What I found out afterward is that not only am I the first woman to be president of the cycling federation, I'm also the first woman president of any sports



federation in Israel—so, one big step for women's sports here! It's an extremely time-consuming job, but extremely rewarding as well. My biggest complaint now that I'm involved is I hardly have time to ride!"

**Alison Craiglow Hockenberry** has five kids, which she finds "completely astonishing. This spring I'm an assistant adjunct professor at the Columbia journalism school, co-teaching with Cyndi Stivers '78. It's been delightful to be on campus every week. Still living in Brooklyn and enjoying it."

In June, **Ilana Aaronson Meyers** graduated from Teleosis Homeopathic Collaborative in Boston. "I will continue to practice here in the New York metro area," she writes, "and I also see clients in Brewster, N.Y."

Ilana sends updates on classmates as well: "**Lisa Kolker Brocato** is launching a new brand, Whole Soul. **Elaine Neumann Schnall** is going back part-time to practicing law, and **Nancy Yaffa Le Roux** is working for AMEX in London, where she lives with her husband, Piet, and two adorable children, Annabelle and Michael. We are getting together in New York City with **Margaret Tapler Sassaman**, who is a judge in Seattle, and **Anjela Maurer Franklin**, who now lives in Dallas. **Rachelle Schwartz Zucker** will join us too."

Finally: **Carolyn Mostel Weiser** writes, "I've been living in West Hartford, Conn., for the past nine years. I teach high school English by day and direct community theatre by night, which makes perfect sense given that I was a double major in English and the Program in the Arts at Barnard. On the volunteer front, I will be assuming the presidency of Beth El Temple in West Hartford this June. My husband of 21 years, Jeff, and I are proud to be sending our oldest daughter, Samantha, off to college this fall at the Rhode Island School of Design. Our middle daughter, Emily, attends the Greater Hartford High School of Performing Arts as a classical piano major, and our youngest daughter, Sydney, will celebrate her bat mitzvah this year."

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## Virginia Huie '88

News 12 Long Island reporter Virginia Huie was honored with two Emmy Awards for her military series and half-hour special paying tribute to

Long Island's fallen servicemen. Virginia, who holds a master's in communication from Stanford University, is also the recipient of an Edward R. Murrow Award and a New York AP Broadcasters Award for General Excellence of Individual Reporting.

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# 89

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# 90

**Jennifer Anzivino Bruni** has been meaning to let everyone know that she started a blog: [jenniferbruni.wordpress.com](http://jenniferbruni.wordpress.com). It covers a range of topics, from social commentary, politics, and books to art and culture. The blog has led to a lot of freelance work with the advertising agency Digitas, proving that pleasure can pay after all.

**Ariela Gordon-Shaag** reports that she lives in Israel with her five children, ages 4 to 17. She's a senior lecturer at Hadassah Academic College in Jerusalem and the chair of the master's program in optometry and vision science; she also gets to do some research. Ariela finds similarities between Hadassah and Barnard, in that they are both small, the students get lots of attention, and teaching is the primary goal. **Rachel Eichler Maron** also teaches in the department. Sadly, Ariela reports that her friend Rivka Karen Zuckerman Matitya '89 died last year after a long struggle with metastatic breast cancer.

**Jennifer Egert** is living and working just south of Barnard on the No. 1 subway line. After nine years as a psychologist at

the VA Medical Center, she recently left to take a part-time job at Montefiore Medical Center teaching in the department of family and social medicine. Jennifer is also building an independent practice, teaching workshops in mindful approaches to stress and resiliency, and doing more art. Her new Web site is [jenniferegert.com](http://jenniferegert.com).

**Diane Webber Thrush** took a job at Politico editing their start-up subscription news service, covering health-care reform. She has a team of six reporters, and some days that's not enough to cover everything that's happening in Congress on implementation and repeal of the Affordable Care Act. She says it has been very challenging and busy, but it's a great time to be covering this topic.

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Barnard Club of Portland, Oregon. It turns out that approximately 190 Barnard alumnae live within 25 miles of Portland. More than 30 alumnae were in attendance, representing classes from the 1950s to the 2000s. I have joined the leadership committee, and hope to report more on the benefits of a strong alumnae network.

Finally, I'm saddened to report the death of **Cynthia Gerstner** on April 17, after a long and hard-fought battle with breast cancer. She was a professor of biology and ecology at Columbia College in Chicago. While working at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, she began to study conservation of the Peruvian Amazon. In 2003, she received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to study the effects of taking rare fish species out of the Amazon and shipping them to home aquariums in the U.S. You can find her full obituary on the *Chicago Tribune* Web site by searching for her name.

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# 91

**Rona Wilk**, class president, thanks everyone who made our reunion a huge success this year, including our class officers: **Marnie Katzman, Andrea Salwen Kopel, Kristen Hoeschler**



**O'Brien, Diane Fink Rein, and Abby Safirstein**, as well as **Geneva Riley Tiggler** and **Rebecca Lieberman**, who were members of our reunion committee. Geneva, along with **Ruth Abusch-Magder, Sally Braver Friedman, and Sara Ivry**, generously gave of their time to make fund-raising calls. A huge thank-you to **Anne Fell Josephson**, who headed our reunion gift fund-raising. Due to the efforts of both Anne and Andrea, our fund chair, we were able to reach, and even surpass, our fund-raising goal. Thank you to everyone who contributed! And thanks to all who attended—it was a treat to see everyone and reconnect with so many familiar faces. Rona also writes that our class dinner was a warm and wonderful evening, made even more special by an appearance by President Ellen Futter '71, who reminded us that, even as plans and expectations change, there's always at least one constant: Barnard.

Rona adds that she was working at the Metropolitan Opera until it downsized two years ago, so she's currently living the freelance life and trying to figure out what comes next. Her years at graduate school and a PhD in history are coming in handy as she does some work with online teaching tools and readers. She's also studying Spanish and doing a little cooking—a definite change of pace!

Here are some thoughts on Reunion: Abby loved having President Futter speak and remind us how we're still special.

**Aileen Huang** was happy she traveled from Seattle to reconnect with classmates. **Judy Aks** said it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces. Kristen appreciated her 3-year-old letting her "leave him on his golden birthday to come here and see my great friends."

Kristen enjoys her time as a stay-at-home mom to Jack, 6, and William, 3, as well as her volunteer work and geocaching, camping, and hiking with her family. She sadly reports that **Zita J. Lichtenberg** died suddenly this past March. She was a dear friend and maid of honor to Kristen. After college, Zita lived in Japan, Germany, England (where she earned her master's in journalism from City University in London), Minnesota, and most recently in Washington, D.C., where she first held a correspondent position at television network NHK. Since 1996, she had been working at the World Bank in public relations for South Asia, among other things. Abby was also close to Zita, as was **Jennifer Davis**; they

each flew to St. Paul for her funeral. While shocked and sad, they had a sweet time catching up and remembering what a funny, smart, kind person Zita was. She is survived by her parents, brother, niece, and nephew, as well as other family and friends.

**Adena Lebeau** lives in Highland Park, N.J., with her husband, Jeff Kress, son, Ezra, 13, and daughter, Yakira, 7. She has worked for the past 15 years as a psychometrician at a testing company. Her family recently celebrated the happy milestone of Ezra's bar mitzvah.

**Suzanne Kling** works during the week in NYC as director of operations for the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America and returns to her home in Brookline, Mass., on weekends. Living in two cities is an adventure, and she enjoys reconnecting with college friends in New York.

It was great to hear from **Rachel Lendner Sobel**, who received her master of public health degree from Columbia in 1999 and has been working as a health educator ever since. She wears many hats in this role, but her favorite is smoking-cessation counselor. She lives in Teaneck, N.J., where she just celebrated the bar mitzvah of her son, Eliran, and is looking forward to planning the bat mitzvah of her daughter, Margalit, in March 2012.

In June, my husband, David, and I celebrated our son Alexander's bar mitzvah at Great Neck Synagogue. We also celebrated the dedication of our new family Sefer Torah, which was written in Israel, in honor and in memory of Alexander's grandparents; he proudly read from that new Torah at his bar mitzvah. It was a wonderful celebration with our family and friends, including **Deborah Lupkin Gross, Alyssa Held Honig**, Michelle Gitlitz Lupkin '90, Jonathan Lupkin (CC '89), Daniel Sobelsohn (CC '92), and proud aunt Maris Fink Liss '85.

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## 92

**Margot Kong** celebrated the birth of her second daughter, Tula Lily Edwards, on

the Ides of March (March 15). Abby, who is 3, likes being a big sister. Margot and her husband are enjoying their paternity/maternity leaves and spending great quality time with the girls. Margot attended the Barnard Club of Northern California's welcome reception and says it was "well done." Hopefully, you'll get involved in the regional club in your area.

**Jenny Milchman** had a short story published in a collection called *Lunch Reads*, which was, at press time, No. 20 on the Amazon best-seller list. She received an offer for her first novel from an innovative new press, still in the process of being launched. While she considers which direction to go in, writing-wise, she's teaching for New York Writers Workshop, running the series Writing Matters, and gearing up for December's Take Your Child to a Bookstore Day. Jenny is married to Josh Frank (CC '92), and their kids, Sophie and Caleb, are 7 and 5, respectively.

It is with great sadness that I report the loss of **Soo Jin Lee**. She was born in Seoul, South Korea, and her family moved to New York City in 1977. In June 2008, Soo Jin was diagnosed with clear cell ovarian cancer. She waged a vigorous and valiant battle to overcome her disease, a battle she ultimately lost on Jan. 5, 2011. Until her death, she had been practicing medicine at the ob/gyn department at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. —KPW

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## 93

Well, hello again! My life as a new principal and mother of a toddler has certainly kept me busy, but I can honestly say that not a day goes by in which I do not think deeply, feel strongly, and laugh heartily. I wish the same for all of you as well.

My guess is that **Karen Ackerman Kosowsky** did all of these as she celebrated the bar mitzvah of her oldest son, Benjamin, with her husband of 17 years, Daniel, and their daughters, Jordana, 11, and Ellie, 8. In attendance were numerous alumnae, including Karen's



family members Joyce Steg Kosowsky '60 and Miriam Gruen Kosowsky '86, and friends Audrey Trauring Chavel '94, **Risa Loebenberg Gewurz, Felisa Reinhard Hochheiser**, Ellen Senker Muss '92, and Penina Schoenholz Weinberger '89.

**Amy Talkington** recently won a Writers Guild of America Award for *Avalon High*, a Disney Channel movie that she cowrote, which premiered in November 2010. She's currently writing several feature projects, including a *Private Benjamin* remake for New Line with Anna Faris set to star.

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## 95

After graduating, **Heidi Hipple Bjornson-Pennell** moved to London, where she attended law school and trained and practiced as a barrister doing criminal defense and human-rights work. She now lives with her wonderful husband and three adorable children in San Francisco, where she works as a state public defender on death penalty cases.

**Sheryl Handler-Matarar** is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Akron Children's Hospital. She lives in the suburbs of Cleveland, with her husband, Scott (CC '92), and their three children, Lauren, 9, Aidan, 5, and Carly, 3. Sheryl reports that Lauren and Carly have expressed interest in being in the Barnard classes of 2022 and 2029.

**Mouraneth Yok Heng** practices integrative medicine at the Scripps Center for Integrative Medicine in La Jolla, Calif. She completed her residency in family medicine at Scott & White, Texas A&M, and completed an integrative medicine fellowship at the University of Arizona's Center for Integrative Medicine with

## Leadership: In Sickness and Health

### Rochelle Shoretz '94

Living in the fast lane, Rochelle Shoretz experienced marriage, motherhood, a clerkship for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and—cancer—by the age of 28. She'd spotted a slight indentation on her right breast while changing into a swimsuit, and quickly brought it to the attention of a doctor. The diagnosis was clear, but it didn't slow Shoretz down. In the midst of chemotherapy, while slogging through the routines necessary to care for her then 3- and 5-year-old sons, Shoretz took the first steps to start Sharsheret (sharsheret.org)—a nonprofit organization that serves and supports young breast cancer patients, with a focus on Jewish women. It offers the sorts of programs Shoretz would have liked for herself.

During the decade since its founding, Sharsheret has provided resources to tens of thousands of women and families across the country, connecting patients with one another, and helping to transform the secretive culture that once shrouded the C-word. "My own grandmother died of breast cancer, and I don't remember her using the words 'breast cancer' in my presence," says Shoretz. In the early days of Sharsheret, which means "chain" in Hebrew, Shoretz remembers the challenge of being a young, female leader, particularly in the Jewish community where "people may think things need to be sanctioned by a rabbi," says Shoretz, who credits Barnard and her all-girls high school for providing her with "that strength, that voice, that power" to take charge. An English major, she remembers feeling a powerful connection to Barnard the first time she passed through the gates as a visiting high school student. During her sophomore year at college, she married, but remained involved in campus life, working as a staff member of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, and acting in the Jewish theatre.

In class, Shoretz sparkled. "It was like teaching a brilliant, breathtaking runaway train of a student. You'd throw out an idea and she'd grab it, absorb it, make it her own," says Brenda Gross, who taught Shoretz in several classes, including first-year English.

Now divorced and raising her two sons in New Jersey, Shoretz experienced further hardship a couple of years ago when she learned that the cancer had returned and spread. But this tall woman with flowing strawberry blond hair doesn't display any outward signs of anger, anxiety, or sadness. On a recent morning, she speaks in her usual rapid clip, reveling in the news that she's been awarded a seat on a Federal Advisory Committee on breast cancer and young women. "They often say when you lose one of five senses, your others are enhanced," says Shoretz. "I wonder if life feels so much more powerful and vibrant because I lost some of my health." —*Elicia Brown*

Dr. Andrew Weil. Part of her practice involves doing medical hypnosis. She has a daughter, Ani, 6, and a son, Dara, 3. She and her husband, Veasna, celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary by spending two weeks by themselves in Italy.

**Natalia Leltchouk** holds a Cand. phil. degree in comparative literature



Photograph by Gail Hadani

from the University of Bergen in Norway. She's an interpreter and translator for the municipality of Bergen, as well as a pianist and piano teacher. She has four children, Katharina, 15, Magdalena, 13, Elisabeth, 10, and Johannes, 8, who play violin, cello, violin, and cello, respectively. Her ex-husband is chief pediatrician at the



university clinic in Bergen, which is what brought the family to Norway. Natalia has also lived in Germany and Switzerland, and has spent significant time in Spain.

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**Binta Brown '95**  
Partner at Kirkland and Ellis, LLP, Binta N. Brown served on Andrew Cuomo's transition team and was listed in *Crain's New York Business*

2011 "40 Under 40" list of successful professionals. Binta also received a 2011 Woman of Power and Influence Award from the New York City chapter of the National Organization for Women. She was a key fund-raiser for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and she's a Barnard trustee.

## 96

It was great seeing everyone at Reunion! We had a nice turnout of about 25 people at our class dinner on Friday. You can go to our Facebook group page, Barnard College Class of 1996, and see pictures from the weekend. Those in attendance included **Alison Abodeely, Sima Saran Ahuja, Shira Asekoff-Meyer, Jean M. Bart, Roseanne Benjamin, Marcy Berman, Wendy Brooks, Laura Caruso, Madeline Chang, Vanessa Corba, Deborah Cronen, Antonia Fasanelli, Sarah Feinberg, Jill Fine, Stefania Geraci, Amy Leavey Glazer, Rebecca Goldberg, Eunice Hong, Jane Hong, Alicia Hurtado, Adile Istarki, Jennifer Jensen, Frances Ihling Juhasz, Zuhairah Khaldun-Diarra, Ronak Kordestani, Pauline Lem, Taryn Leonard, Jeannine Magno, Kamala Murthy, Jessica Nepomuceno O'Connell, Joanna Rodger, Nicole Pruss Rosenthal, Elisa Rotman, Julie Scelfo, Anna Segur, Jomysha Delgado Stephen, and Kami Wright.**

We got lots of news over the weekend:

Jomysha Stephen is happily married to her college sweetheart, Sanoj Stephen (CC '97). They have two beautiful children, Bailey, 8, and Connor, 5. She was promoted in January 2011 to the position of general counsel at Barnard and considers herself the luckiest lawyer in New York City.

Antonia Fasanelli reports that she lives in Baltimore and is the executive director of the Homeless Persons Representation Project (hprplaw.org), a nonprofit organization that provides free legal services and advocacy to achieve an end to homelessness in Maryland.

Jeannine Magno caught us up on a lot of people. She reports that **Renata Bokalo** lives in Manhattan with her husband, Roman. She's the director of a new division/venture at the Aesthetic Movement focused on representing designers. **Kathryn Nelson** lives in Houston, where she's an attorney. Zuhairah Khaldun-Diarra recently gave birth to a daughter, Salimata, and is the director of marketing for the National Urban League. Anna Segur has been living in Boulder, Colo., after development stints in Peru and El Salvador. She's the mother of Diego, 3, and Marcos, 5 months, and recently began working at the University of Colorado's Engineering for Developing Communities program, which seeks to address the engineering challenges of the developing world. Jeannine, who lives in Jersey City, recently gave birth to a daughter, Fiona, and works as a PR consultant. She has lived in New York City and Bangkok since graduation.

We also received a sweet note from **Margaret Sullivan's** dad. He writes that Maggie is a nurse practitioner who is fluent in Spanish. She recently spent three weeks in Guatemala working with Partners in Health helping indigenous women learn more about cervical cancer and understand more about their reproductive systems. Maggie has worked in Guatemala before, and in Haiti and Chiapas, Mexico, with people who have little access to medical care. When Maggie isn't working at a PIH location, she works at Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

**Lauren Rosenblum** brings us the news that her son, Rafferty Levi Rosenblum Moss, was born in November. Lauren and her family live in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, and she's a PhD candidate in English at Stony Brook.

**Jennifer Bielory Slifkin** and her husband welcomed their fifth child, Michael Arthur. Known as Miki, he joins siblings Ami, Avigayil, Kobi, and Kira.

And **Candace Rechtschaffen Gilhoolley** writes in that she's in the process of immigrating to Montreal. "I am looking for other Barnard women in the Great White North. Ronin, 5, and Autumn, 3, are becoming bilingual. We all miss N.Y. terribly, but life is more relaxed here and that is not such a bad thing," she says.

We also received the sad news that **Jennifer Tanguoso** passed away in December 2005.

Your correspondent **Samantha Nicosia Rowan** still works at *Institutional Investor*. She's also writing a young-adult novel based on *Little Women*. Check out her blog, [livinglittlewomen.blogspot.com](http://livinglittlewomen.blogspot.com).

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**Gabrielle Polt Balkan's** first class update since graduation is to report the November 2010 birth of her two girls, Georgia Grey and Josephine Beckett; the upcoming publication of her children's book *The Dog Rules* (written as Coco La Rue for Scholastic); and that she's growing out her bangs in Ditmas Park, Brooklyn.

**Carolyn Sawyer O'Keefe** writes that **Aidan Smith** moved to New Orleans and got a job teaching at Tulane. Meanwhile, **Sunita Koshy** was promoted to director at Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and is managing a team of six there.

Since January 2011, **Rebecca Epstein Tolkoff** has run two marathons and potty-trained her fourth child after almost nine years of nonstop diapers. Or, as she put it jubilantly on Facebook: "For the first time in eight years, six months, and two days,



everyone in the house is wearing undies." I am too jealous for words.

The livin' is good here in Cambridge, Mass. My two boys, ages 3 and 1, are healthy, my husband is lovely, and the book publishing business seems to change every day. I feel lucky to work with wonderful authors and remain happy that reading is basically my job.

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## 98

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## 00

On Nov. 13, 2010, **Jessica Wells-Hasan** married Joseph Hasan at the Hudson Theatre in Times Square. Jessica and Joe met four years ago when he adopted an animal from her shelter. **Katrin S. Kark**, **Gloria Lin**, and Sam Reeb-Wilson '01 read pieces during the ceremony. **Britt Bandel Jeske** served as Seattle bridesmaid, and **Emily Lee** served as music director for the wedding. Also in attendance were Christina Chong '01, **Anna Gavin**, **Meghan Kyle**, **Molly McCoy**, Jody Mullen '04, Katie Skibinski '01, and Jane Hollander, Jessica's former boss in Barnard's development office. Additionally, Jessica recently left her position at the National Audubon Society to serve as director of development and external affairs for Girls Write Now, a writing and

mentoring program for underserved high school girls in New York City.

**Kim Hedges** lives in Northern California. In October, she'll be participating in a 320-mile charity bicycle ride along the northern coast of California to raise funds for nonprofit environmental and bicycling advocacy groups. If you'd like more details you can find Kim's contact information on the Alumnae Network.

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## 01

Congratulations, Class of 2001, on our 10th reunion! It was a pleasure to see everyone, and we had a great turnout of more than 60 attendees. During our class dinner, we had the pleasure of being serenaded by former President Shapiro and Dean Runsdorf, which sparked great memories.

Also, congratulations to our newly appointed class officers: **Jyoti Menon**, president, **Lauren Alexander**, vice president; and **Migna Taveras Lespinasse**, class correspondent. Thank you to my classmates and friends for the nomination and honoring me at Reunion with the Young Alumna Award. I look forward to seeing everyone at our 15th, and I hope that we'll have more than 100 attendees.

**Jennifer Styperk** is excited to announce her successful service, P.S. Poetry Salon, which is very popular in Hollywood and has a long list of celebrities among its clientele. Jennifer is teaming up with Groupon in order to offer the unique gift of bespoke poetry.

On Aug. 18, 2010, **Sara L. Robinson** and her husband, Saul Epstein, welcomed their beautiful son, Aaron Mark. This past spring, Sara was also thrilled to see the publication of her doctoral dissertation: *Blood Will Tell: Vampires as Political Metaphors Before WWI*.

We also want to congratulate Migna on obtaining her master's from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia. —Erinn Smart

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## 02

**Catherine Martin Christopher** and her family have moved to Lubbock, Texas, where her husband, Gordon Christopher (SEAS '02), has taken a job as a professor at Texas Tech University. Wreck 'em, Tech! They also welcomed their second child, a daughter, Edith Ellen, on Feb. 11. Edie was named after her great-grandmother, Edith Spivack Goldstein '29.

**Rieko Yamanaka** designed a cookbook called *Peko Peko: A Charity Cookbook for Japan*, a collection of 60 family-friendly Japanese recipes that will be available this summer. All proceeds will be donated to the GlobalGiving Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund. Please visit [pekopekocookbook.com](http://pekopekocookbook.com) for more info.

**Erica Orden** has been a reporter with *The Wall Street Journal* since February 2010. She covers arts and culture for the New York section and lives in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn. **Karen Shoum** defended her dissertation in December 2010 and was awarded her PhD in clinical psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, in February 2011. She will walk this May 2011 in the graduation festivities. She is now a postdoctoral research fellow at the New York State Psychiatric Institute at Columbia University.

**Jacklyn Salama-Lahav** had her third child, a boy, on Jan. 28, 2011.

**Rebecca Paley Voorwinde** was promoted to co-director of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships, a Jewish leadership program. On a recent business trip to Los Angeles, she had the pleasure of spending time with **Emily Flynn Vencatachellem** and her two gorgeous sons. Becky reports that Emily and her husband, Rodney, just returned to the United States from a year of traveling around the world with toddlers—she's a brave woman.

**Adrienne Serbaroli** was featured in the Spring 2011 issue of *Barnard Magazine* in an article about Barnard women in the military. Currently, she's a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and just got selected to



Captain. She is stationed in Quantico, Va., and she lives with her two dogs in Alexandria.

**Natalia Korobov Taft** received her PhD in organismic and evolutionary biology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2009. She is a postdoctoral scholar studying the transition of early vertebrates from water to land with Neil Shubin at the University of Chicago. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Ben, who is in the same department at UMass. Natalia gave birth to their daughter, Lydia, 3, right before her last year of graduate school.

Leaving Google Inc. after seven years, **Rena Miller-Jacobs Shapiro** took on the role of director of political advertising at AOL last summer. It was tough to say good-bye to Google, but she loves her new job at such a fast-paced and high-growth company. In March 2011, she and her husband, Adam, moved to South Orange, N.J., and welcomed their second daughter, Tamar Henrietta, into their family. Tamar's sister, Vered Hope, 2, loves Tamar and the family's new digs in the suburbs.

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## 03

**Jenny Margulies** recently spent five months living in Japan teaching service members and veterans about VA benefits. She currently lives in Washington, D.C., and works as an attorney for the Board of Veterans Appeals. Next stop—Italy!

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## 04

Congratulations to **Pnina A.C. Grauman** on her marriage to Aaron Safier. The bridal party included **Aimee Boczko Davis, Adena Jurkowitz, Rebecca Kabat, Danielle Molofsky Levine (CC '04),**

**Jennifer Margulies '03, and Adeena Toll.**

Congratulations to our classmates on their career milestones: **Orly Klein** has been accepted for a prestigious oncology fellowship at Johns Hopkins and the NIH. We have more new medical doctors in our ranks, including **Danielle Cherrick, Archana Raman, and Beth Schuss Zell.**

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## 05

Congratulations to all the new graduates! **Gloria Tai** received her MBA from Wharton and is moving to Hong Kong to work as an associate for Morgan Stanley in August. She was also lucky enough to hear Jhumpa Lahiri '89 speak at Bryn Mawr.

**Aubrey Hb** successfully defended her mathematics PhD in computational topology from Duke and is happy to be moving back to New York City.

**Diana Huang** graduated from SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine in 2009. She lives in New York City and is completing her second year in obstetrics and gynecology at Beth Israel Medical Center.

**Meira Abramowitz** graduated from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in 2009 and is completing her second year as an internal medicine resident.

**Amber Reed** received a master's in anthropology at UCLA and is working toward her doctorate, researching South African youth and NGO interventions in rural areas.

**Karen Schloss** received her PhD in psychology from UC-Berkeley. Her area of research is visual perception, with a focus on color aesthetics. She exclaims: "GO BEARS! (both Barnard and Berkeley)."

**Marina Tsukerman Hod** completed her MBA at New York University this year and recently joined KiWi Power as director of strategy in London. She was married in Israel in 2005 and gave birth to Rachel Noa Hod (BC '32) in December 2010.

**Tessa LaNeve** has been the literary manager and director of the Einhorn

School of Performing Arts at Primary Stages since 2006, where students get to work with actors, writers, and directors (including other alumnae).

Former Barnard roommates **Maxine Kaye** and **Astrid Marshall** launched the Bootstrap Project, an online platform that allows customers to buy art made by Bootstrap artisans, giving those artisans and their communities the power to end their own poverty: "It's aid through beautiful trade."

**Elizabeth M. Curtis** is excited to be the new membership chair of the Barnard Club of Northern California, and she enjoyed catching up with new Bay Area resident Erica Wintermuth '04.

Good luck to all our classmates going back to school! **Sunanda Sachatrakul** is pursuing a master's in media studies at the New School University after four and a half years in Bangkok, Thailand, where, in addition to other outstanding accomplishments, she won the Malaysian Annugerah Industri Musik 2010 award for best music video.

**Nicola Fucigna** is pursuing her MFA in poetry at the University of Arizona. Though she loves the desert out in Tucson, New York City keeps sneaking into her poems.

**Sarah Nicolazzo** is in her third year of Penn's PhD program in comparative literature. She loves living in west Philadelphia with **Lisa Rand, Megan Honig '04, and Marissa Nicosia '07.** She'll be showing her Seven Sisters pride when she attends the five-year Smith reunion this summer with her girlfriend.

**Jessica Lian Pace**, honored to have been elected class president, is finishing her third year at the Conservation Center of New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, where she's pursuing degrees in art history and art conservation. She's been in western Turkey this summer, working as an archaeological conservator, and is excited to start an internship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the fall.

After five years teaching in New York City, **Rhiannon Bettivia** spent the past year studying at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and, having found her calling, is excited to start her PhD at the University of Illinois in digital cinema preservation. She got married in 2009, with **Arien O'Connell** as her maid of honor.

**Margaret Chen** recently got married in San Francisco. **Christina Cheng, Tamar Glatt, Sofia Leung '06, Seenam (Kayle)**



**Nguyen, Rebecca Anderen Tam, Yun (Stella) Xu, Jennifer Yang, and Alice Zhao** attended. Margaret is in her second year at UC-Berkeley School of Law.

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# 06

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# 07

**Tara Fiechterusso-Anastasi** is in her second growing season at the Seeds for Learning farm in northwest Philadelphia. It's a "food justice" program that teaches high school students personal and community sovereignty through changing their local food system.

**Rachael Safyan** graduated from New York University School of Medicine this May and is continuing her training in internal medicine at Boston University Medical Center, where she hopes to pursue a career in hematology and oncology.

**Lala Wu** graduated from UC-Berkeley School of Law in May. This September, she'll begin a two-year fellowship at Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell, an environmental and land-use firm in Denver.

The New York City-based Class of 2007 book club just rounded out its second year of operation. If you'd like to participate, in person or remotely, e-mail **Frances Howorth** at *frances.howorth@gmail.com* to get on the mailing list. We're open to other classes by request.

**Hannah Kreiger-Benson** has been working as a musician, carpenter, math tutor, music teacher, and more since quitting her full-time job in nonprofit

construction last June. She says, "New Orleans is an amazing place to be a musician, and I've had incredible opportunities, including playing Jazz Fest and Voodoo Fest last year and this year." In September, she starts working toward a master's in musicology at Tulane. "It's a very small program that admits only a few people every other year, so I'm very excited to have been admitted."

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# 08

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# 09

**Rosara Torrisi** has been accepted into Widener University's clinical doctor of human sexuality education program and will continue to work at North Shore Child and Family Guidance Center on Long Island.

**Glenda Smiley** is a master's candidate at Bank Street College of Education, where she's pursuing certification in general childhood education and the teaching of literacy. She's also the executive assistant of BLACK GIRLS ROCK! Inc., a nonprofit youth empowerment and mentoring organization established to promote the arts for young women of color, as well as to encourage dialogue and analysis of the ways women of color are portrayed in the media.

**Melanie Kress** has founded an apartment-based project space in Brooklyn called Concrete Utopia. Currently opening its fourth exhibition, entitled "i am not a good enough feminist," the organization has quickly grown to include a staff of six Barnard women: Shay Cornelius '10, Rosie duPont '10, Alicia Mountain '10, Emma Quaytman '11, and **Kate Ryan**. The project space, primarily

a gallery and publishing house devoted to the innovative cultivation of creative practice and discourse, hosts group shows, organizes long-term collaborative projects, and publishes books, and it is ever-expanding to new modes of display and pedagogy for art and ideas. In the fall of 2012, Melanie will begin graduate study in contemporary art theory at Goldsmiths College in London.

**Jamie McTavish-Perez** will attend Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) this fall to pursue a master's in international affairs. This summer, Jamie will be traveling through Peru as a leader of 16 high school students for a community service program.

**Megan Cummings** is doing Alzheimer's research at New York University's Center for Brain Health. This summer, at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (ICAD) in Paris, she will be presenting her poster on "Correlations Between Amyloid and Metabolic PET Imaging in Cognitively Normal Adults with a Family History of Late-Onset AD." She recently received the ICAD Travel Fellowship for Junior Scientists, as well as a travel grant from New York University Graduate School of Arts and Science, where she is currently pursuing a master's in psychology with a specialization in neuroscience.

Moving back to Houston after graduation, **Brett A. Longoria** began working for a local Web development company called ZooZ Media, which designs and develops custom Web sites. She recently helped launch a new online dating Web site called *neumate.com*, which was a great project to work on.

After a stint in environmental consulting, **Ekaterina Alexandrova** currently works with Ya'axche Conservation Trust, an NGO in southern Toledo, Belize, that couples conservation with development. The organization manages two reserves of tropical forest and collaborates with buffer communities on sustainable livelihood initiatives.

**Adriana Akers** was selected as a 2011–12 Henry Luce Scholar. Beginning in June, she will spend 13 months in Beijing working at an urban-planning think tank and studying Mandarin. —AVL



# In Memoriam

- 1931 **Maxine Rothschild Male**,  
March 28, 2011
- 1935 **Gertrude Lober Edelstein**,  
Feb. 6, 2011
- 1937 **Edna Fuerth Lemle**,  
April 17, 2011
- 1940 **Louise Preusch Herring**,  
March 19, 2011
- 1941 **Marjorie Nettleton Bosco**,  
April 18, 2011  
**Ruth Stevenson Carpenter**,  
Nov. 28, 2010
- 1942 **Elizabeth Dorman Peterson**,  
Jan. 15, 2010
- 1944 **Mary Powell Hill**, Jan. 26, 2011
- 1945 **Nancy Kerr Ketcham**,  
March 3, 2011  
**Adele Shopis Rohm**,  
March 15, 1990  
**Winniefred Drackett  
Schumacher**, March 31, 2011
- 1946 **Beatrice Guillium Hendrich**,  
Nov. 1, 1996  
**Elizabeth Lobke**,  
Sept. 21, 1995  
**Patricia Healy Sullivan**,  
April 24, 2011  
**Regina Tron Tostanoski**,  
Aug. 25, 1997
- Yvonne Trebilcock**,  
Dec. 1, 1997  
**Jean McCurdy Van der Wiel**,  
Oct. 30, 1995  
**Margaret Roberts Voorhees**,  
May 17, 2008
- 1947 **Pat Campbell Dunbar**,  
April 11, 2011  
**Ruth Hurwit Gerchick**,  
Feb. 23, 2011  
**Bevin Daly Patterson**,  
April 25, 2011
- 1949 **Victoria Oberwager Claman**,  
Aug. 7, 2009  
**Mildred Lazarus Marcus**,  
March 19, 2011
- 1950 **Doris White Kurtz**,  
Dec. 18, 2010  
**Patricia Halsey Shannon**,  
April 24, 2011
- 1951 **Joan Higbee Bodger**,  
July 1, 2002  
**Carolyn Chambers**,  
Feb. 7, 2009  
**Justine Fillmen**, Jan. 20, 1994  
**Linda Howe Hale**,  
March 2, 1981  
**Phyllis Henry Leach**,  
Aug. 24, 2007
- Eleanor Meyer**, Sept. 14, 2010  
**Joan Gilbert Peyser**,  
April 24, 2011  
**Billie Pinkerson Scheuer**,  
Sept. 22, 1995
- 1956 **Bina Saksena Bragg**,  
Jan. 1, 2000
- 1958 **Francoise Dearden Bartlett**,  
March 7, 2011
- 1960 **Templeton Mossman Jones**,  
June 25, 2010
- 1961 **Debra Koskowitz Nussbaum**,  
March 8, 2004
- 1966 **Mary Bester**, Sept. 21, 2004  
**Constance Dolan**,  
Sept. 18, 2006
- 1970 **Miriam Grunberger Wallach**,  
April 11, 2011
- 1971 **Jane McAdams**, Feb. 16, 2011
- 1972 **Angela Manzo**, Feb. 16, 2011
- 1974 **Elizabeth Klitsner Shapiro**,  
March 1, 2010
- 1975 **Pura Rojas**, Jan. 29, 2011
- 1976 **Linda Kivuls**, Dec. 31, 2010
- 1986 **Helen Gleason**, Oct. 16, 2010
- 1990 **Cynthia Gerstner**, April 17, 2011
- 1991 **Zita Lichtenberg**,  
March 15, 1987

Alexandra Loizzo  
alexandra.v.loizzo@gmail.com

Jennifer Feierman  
jennifer.feierman@gmail.com

## 10

**Marci Leveillee** will be attending Columbia University School of Social Work for her master's starting this fall. She will be finishing her year of service as an Americorps VISTA in August 2011 before heading back to New York City for school.

**Jenny LeRoy** is working at Ryerson University.

**Marissa Mazek** is now the assistant to the executive director at Literacy Partners, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides free, community-based literacy

education to thousands of adults in New York City.

Lastly, **Alexandra Triumph** is working at the American Cancer Society in Springfield, N.J., as the coordinator of special events.

Sally Davis  
sallyndavis@gmail.com



### Lan Li '10

Lan Li is studying for a PhD in history of science and is the recipient of one of 30 2011 Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New

Americans. The fellowship is worth about \$40,000 in tuition support and \$50,000 in maintenance. The award is given annually to the most accomplished and promising immigrants and children of immigrants in American graduate education.

### For classes without correspondents, send notes to:

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



## LETTERS

Continued from Page 2

understands that my deployment ensures her own safety and allows her father (also in the Army) to stay home with her. I don't believe that America has quite figured out yet how to allow women to do it all (career and family). I can only hope that our daughters are inspired by those of us who try to embrace both personas.

—Courtney Kjos Short '99  
Monroe, NY

Thank you for profiling five alumnae who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces. I read their profiles with interest and cheer their commitment to our nation's defense. I have served as a physician in the United States Air Force for the past 11 years. When I signed up, I looked in the Barnard directory and found only one other alumna serving in uniform. I am glad to see that young alumnae have considered and entered into military service. I hope it becomes more of the rule than the exception.

—Karen Toubin Dacey '92  
Olney, Md.

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued from Page 3

We know that Barnard is blessed with an uncommon selection of faculty and students. We choose each and every student with extreme care, picking from an ever-larger applicant pool of bright, vivacious, and ambitious young women. We choose each faculty member from a nationwide search, and then run them through a rigorous seven-year process of development, assessment, and review. But we are also blessed with an extraordinary staff. They choose to come to Barnard, to make the College theirs, and to live its values in their work. They are often the first to interact with the general public and the ones who touch our students' lives in unexpected but profound ways.

Phyllis Ben worked at Barnard for 48 years—or, as I'm sure she would have liked to remind me, for as long as I've been alive. When she spoke at my inauguration, she ended with these classic Irish wishes: "May the wind be always at your back ... Thank you for letting me be here and good luck to you. I hope you have as great a time as I'm having."

"I am, Phyllis," I'd like to say to her. "I am."

## SALON: LORI MILLER

Continued from Page 5

she herself played the flute and the piano in various chamber-music groups and orchestras. "I wanted to show this world in a more fun light," Miller said. "The classical musical world has this reputation of being stogy and boring. The people in the film are so funny."

In many ways, the project was inspired by her grandmother, Elsa Klahr, a German immigrant to the United States who survived the Holocaust and lived to be 103. Her grandmother took piano lessons until the family had to flee Germany in 1939, leaving their piano behind. When they arrived in Delaware, there was no time or money for piano lessons, Miller says. Her grandmother had to help out with the family business instead. It wasn't until she turned 70 years old that she took up playing the piano once again. "This was the greatest thing ... that happened to her. She found music again," Miller adds.

Klahr even performed a piano concert at her retirement community on her 102nd birthday. And, she got to see *They Came to Play* at a screening for her retirement community before she died last year. "I think it's a wonderful story," Miller said. "I really felt like I was honoring my grandmother with that film."

*Links to Lori Miller's films:*  
[theycametoplay.com](http://theycametoplay.com) and [shakespearehigh.org](http://shakespearehigh.org)

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## ERICA JONG

Continued from Page 9

or used to call themselves feminists don't know anything about the horrors of the pre-feminist state. The battles, the struggles—and the exhilaration!"

The talk also stirred up ambivalence and anxiety. Could empathy really compensate for dread? Was it true that hope and humility sprang from the same root? And why no mention of that paragon of agelessness, the soul—"which is not born and does not die," observed Surya Green, author and journalist on spiritual matters.

A few dinner guests pointed out that as professors, teachers, and therapists, they had already dedicated their lives to younger generations. But everyone

agreed that to be forever young, one needed to stay involved. Since retiring from teaching philosophy, Susan McAlister, for example, has returned to her first love, theatre, as a producer and director.

The conviction that it is never too late to take up a new venture or entertain a novel risk was regularly sounded at the lively lunch panel on agelessness the next day. Susan Meister organized and moderated the event.

Panelist Diane Stewart Love recently submitted to her first singing audition after deciding three years ago to take voice lessons. She told the man auditioning her, "You are the first person besides my teacher and my husband to hear me." Reader, she got the part. After she sang her number, the man asked, "You tap dance?"

"I can do the tap dancing!" panelist Louise Bernikow offered. For Bernikow—author of many books, including an ode to her dog subtitled *How a Good Dog Tamed a Bad Woman* and the anthology *The World Split Open: Women Poets in England and America*—the crucial risk is "to tell the truth." Women's truths, "about marriage, childbirth, abortion, breast cancer," remain half-buried, she said, quoting poet Muriel Rukeyser's famous words, "...if one woman told the truth about her life? The world would split open."

For Nancy Stone Lang, work is key. In fact, most of the women who spoke up emphasized their careers. Bernikow—who decided not to marry or have children after watching domestic responsibilities "squash" her mother, a Hunter College class valedictorian—flashed this statistic: within a year of graduation, 80 percent of the Class of '61 had married. Several women I interviewed were wed *before* they graduated. But everyone talked about their work when they talked about their lives.

When a '91 alumna, one of a handful of participants from '91 and '01, spoke of the pride she felt in becoming a stay-at-home mom after a hectic career in Washington, D.C., doing political work, the reaction was polite but subdued. In 1961, staying at home was nothing to be proud of: it was simply what women did. And these women didn't. Next to that, agelessness may prove a piece of cake.

*For a video of Jong's talk, go to [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine)*



## HOMECOMING DEAN

*Continued from Page 11*

Hinkson majored in psychology, but it was the attitude of Barnard faculty and administration toward students that made the deepest impression upon her. She recalls, "Whenever I said, 'We should do this,' people said, 'OK, let's do it.'" As Hinkson remembers, the approach was not just supportive but also empowering.

As a volunteer at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater during her college years, Hinkson arranged for the renowned dance troupe to perform in the gym. A student representative to the Board of Trustees, she contributed to the debate in favor of Barnard staying independent from Columbia.

Hinkson experienced her first taste of working in an academic setting during her college years. At the suggestion of Verna Bigger Myers '82, Hinkson signed up during Orientation Week to fulfill her work-study requirements in the Admissions Office, where she organized a special weekend for prospective students of color.

Her voice as a student was heard frequently on campus, but she is sensitive to those who feel left out. "Being a person of color, a commuter during my first year, and from a low-income immigrant family, meant that my voice was certainly a minority voice on the campus," she says. "As the dean, I remain committed to taking the time to seek out the minority voices that are equally valuable to the complex decisions that will influence my work."

As an adult, Hinkson has maintained a strong affection for her alma mater. She has served as fund chair for her class almost every year since she graduated. During her interview for the job as dean, she coined a term to describe her emotions: "Barnard Love."

Since Hinkson's arrival in February, that sentiment appears to be reciprocated. "I'm not sure it's a coincidence that Avis returned to Barnard as dean of the College on Valentine's Day. With her arrival, we have all felt the love," remarks President Debora Spar. "She's a joy to work with and, no matter how stressful or complex the issue, she is unflappable, bringing a rare blend of high energy and total calm to any situation."

Growing up in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, in Flatbush, Brooklyn, her extroverted personality attracted many friends and babysitting gigs. The youngest of four, Hinkson was raised in a conservative Caribbean household that emphasized both

religion and education, according to her sister, Yvonne.

The new dean absorbed both values. An ordained minister, she preached and taught at a large church in Oakland during her off-work hours. Before she leaves for the office each morning, Hinkson squeezes in a few minutes of calm—"a space of silence" she calls it—which sometimes takes the form of prayer. "My approach to my work is driven by my own faith," she says, explaining that she aims to contribute to society, and often "thinks about ... opportunities for others."

Her new life in New York City might demand that Hinkson show up to serve "French toast sticks" at Barnard's annual Midnight Breakfast and reappear the next morning at 9 a.m. for a meeting of the Columbia Athletic Committee.

"Being dean makes me realize what it costs to be that accessible," says Hinkson, her eyes widening with a hint of mirth. "It means you have to get out of your own way sometimes."

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## MARY GORDON

*Continued from Page 14*

women's fashion. In the span of four years, from 1964 to 1968, women went from wearing uncomfortable skirts, stockings, and girdles to the freedom of wearing whatever felt good. By 1968, the fashions that women were obliged to wear just four years earlier would seem as antiquated as a whalebone corset. For Gordon, this was "one of the great liberations," she says. "Suddenly I could be comfortable in my clothes. It was a miracle."

Gordon began teaching at Barnard in 1988, 17 years after graduating with a degree in poetry and going on to study writing at Syracuse University. Like Adam and Miranda, she has in some ways changed since her youth and in others stayed very much the same. "I was much more courageous when I was younger, and kind of stupider," she says. "I tried to do a lot of stuff that I thought could be done that now I know can't [but] the things I thought were important I still do."

A self-proclaimed "card-carrying feminist," Gordon holds strong beliefs about the women's movement. "We thought we were going to change the world so men would be more like women," she says. Instead, she believes that some women have taken the opposite road, trying to take on

the qualities embodied by men. Or they have simply taken on too much, in a way men have not had to do.

Gordon was asked about everything from her opinion of Oprah (a feminist who is part of the world of money but via a uniquely female path), to how she balances everything—"I'm good at compartmentalizing. That counts with mothering and writing too." When a former student asks for advice on getting back into writing after having a baby, Gordon recommends starting small. "Don't start with a product goal but with a page goal," said Gordon. "Say 'I will only allow myself one half hour. I will only allow myself one page.' You'll feel rebellious against yourself."

Being an inspiring teacher is important to Gordon because she is just as inspired by her students. "It has to be more about the student than about you, and that requires a lot of attention," she said. When it comes to Barnard women, she assured her audience of fellow alumnae, the present is just as good as the past. In fact, today's students make her hopeful about the future. "I think that Barnard students are the most wonderful students in the world. Period."

*"Attend" Mary Gordon's salon; visit [barnard.edu/magazine](http://barnard.edu/magazine)*

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## THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT...

*Continued from Page 15*

"Deep-thinking leadership that knows how to use a long school day well," she said.

Government must understand and remedy the current disconnects between education goals and realities, added Kappner, and societal influences must be factored into the equation.

Next question: How to have an impact? "People need to organize," said Yip, and Kappner encouraged parents and teachers to join together. Murphy spoke about getting teachers' and parents' voices heard in the media. Audience members concurred that there need to be more public forums. Hurley spoke about developing better testing that truly benefits students and teachers.

"The federal government has to change the way in which it allocates money for education because right now we're using measures that disadvantage the poorer states and continue cycles," Kappner said. "The federal government needs to invest in a strong teaching profession."







# On the Ball

Humble beginnings and a Barnard degree lead to careers as an athlete and a consultant in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Singling out a hardship applicant**, the President's Page of the winter 2011 issue of *Barnard* struck a strong personal chord with me. I was one of those young women who grew up in a small town, living a life of limited resources. I was one of those young women who celebrated receiving the chance and the honor to enter the gates on West 117th Street. My Barnard education led me to places I never imagined.

I had a student-athlete's struggle worth experiencing. I received grants, financial aid, and worked throughout my undergraduate years. I played basketball, studied anthropology, and toiled at Levien Gym as much as possible between classes and practices. Our assistant coach Ula Lysniak '87, had just started with our program and told us about playing in Europe, which sounded perfect to me. Being only 5'5", I knew the chances of a continued career were very slim, but I decided to give it a try. With a plane ticket, my best friend (and Barnard classmate), a phone number, and a few hundred dollars, we ventured into unknown territory called ... my dream. What was the worst thing that could happen? Failure? I could always just go home.

Try-outs in different countries with different teams led to a six-month, semi-pro contract in Luxembourg. After a successful season with the team, they asked me to stay on for another year. It was (and still is) a fantastic opportunity to play competitively, meet people, and visit much of Europe at the same time. Although I did return to the States to visit friends and family, I decided to stick it out in basketball as long as my body would let me.

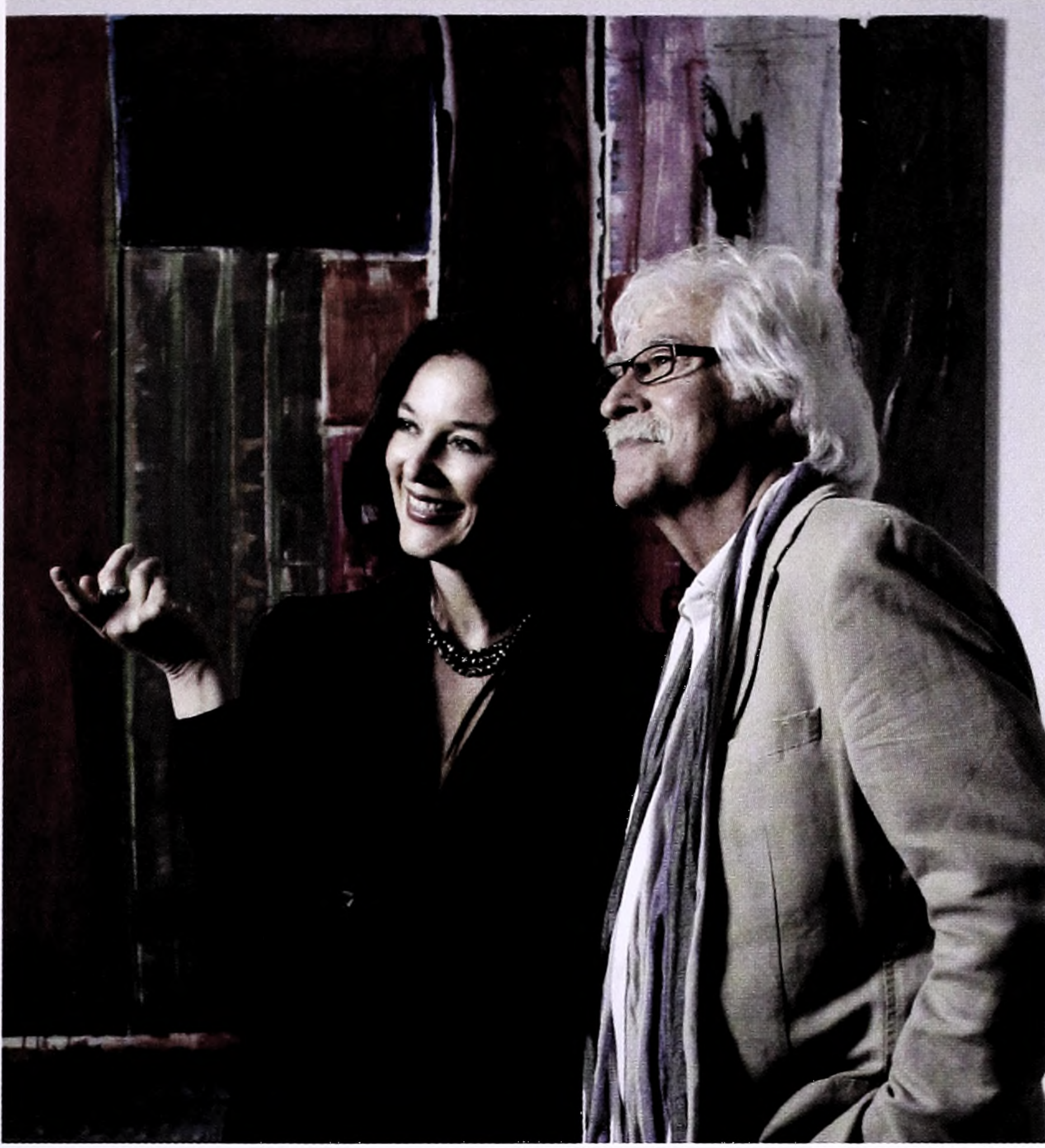
The sport lifestyle here has more of a "hobby" attitude; between games once a weekend and training twice a week in the evenings, we athletes have a lot of free time on our hands. The longer I stayed in the league, the more people I met and eventually I decided to get a job in addition to playing basketball. I coached youth teams, officiated games, and worked as a secretary for an international motorsport company. Eventually I became the executive assistant to the CEO and traveled across Europe for international races supporting Formula 1.

Enjoying myself in this foreign land, I learned as much as possible about Luxembourg, including the language and cultural characteristics of this small country, which is really a grand duchy. In time, I became known in the local community as a resource for other newcomers. I kept accepting extensions to my contracts and along with them came new opportunities, such as working in human resources for Delphi Automotive and becoming the international mobility manager for more than 150 expat families. I also began consulting for the league basketball players and coaches.

And in 1998 I became an entrepreneur, founding of Integreat Relocation Specialists ([www.integreat.lu](http://www.integreat.lu)). We support and encourage those who also have embarked on the challenge of a new culture and a new career in Luxembourg. My company provides consultation and guidance for balancing the stressful changes a family will encounter, adapting to the Luxembourgish culture, and learning foreign languages.

Since those days as a hardship applicant, I carry my mantra with me always: "If I don't try, I won't know." So I tried and am proud to say that my company is going strong as I celebrate my 20th playing season and enjoy offers to move into possible coaching opportunities. I've been told that it's about time to hang up my uniform. Maybe I will, maybe I won't. Barnard gave me the confidence to take off for Europe by the seat of my pants with \$200 in my pocket. At that critical time in my youth, the College recognized something deep inside me and helped me to develop my strengths. Now I am compelled to acknowledge the Admissions office for the chance to prove I could reach my potential and surpass it—it's a Barnard tradition I will carry with me always.





## **BARNARD CONVERSATIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ART**

Join critic, editor, and curator Kathleen Madden '92, for conversations with emergent artists, curators, critics, and gallery owners that will provide an intimate insight into the contemporary art scene in New York City. Through visits to galleries and studios in Chelsea and SoHo, on 57th Street, and the Lower East Side, participants will consider the creation, exhibition, and sale of contemporary art. Learn how to ask key questions to talk about the art of today.

Kathleen Madden contributes regularly to *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *un.magazine* in Australia and has curated exhibitions for Tate Modern, London. Previously she was the commissioning editor of *Contemporary Art* at Phaidon Press.

**Thursdays: October 13, October 20, October 27,  
and November 3  
10:30 AM–12:30 PM**

*Enrollment is limited to 12 alumnae and guests.  
Fee: \$475.*

For more information or to register, please call Susan Cohn at 212.854.5179 or e-mail [collegerelations@barnard.edu](mailto:collegerelations@barnard.edu).



## **HOW TO WRITE THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE: A COURSE IN MEMOIR WITH ERICA JONG**

Best-selling author Erica Jong '63 leads an inspiring examination of memoir writing—from a look at how fiction and memoir have merged, to techniques for turning your personal history into a captivating story.

**Tuesdays: November 15, November 29,  
and December 6  
6:30–8:30 PM**

*Enrollment is limited to 15 alumnae and guests.  
Fee: \$450.*

For more information or to register, please call Susan Cohn at 212.854.5179 or e-mail [collegerelations@barnard.edu](mailto:collegerelations@barnard.edu).



# EVENT SPOTLIGHT

# FALL 2011

For more information about these and other exceptional programs at Barnard this fall, visit [www.barnard.edu](http://www.barnard.edu) or call 212.854.2037.

Wednesday, 09/14 7 PM  
**POWER TALK WITH  
CHARLAYNE HUNTER-GAULT**  
*A lecture*  
Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor Barnard Hall

Friday, 09/23–Saturday, 09/24  
**ACTIVISM & THE ACADEMY:  
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF  
FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP  
& ACTION**  
*A conference featuring a performance by  
Suzanne Vega '81*  
Registration in Barnard Hall Lobby

Tuesday, 09/27 7 PM  
**TRANSLATING IRÈNE  
NÉMIROVSKY**  
*A roundtable discussion with Liesl Schillinger,  
Sandra Smith, and Susan Suleiman*  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

Thursday, 09/29 7 PM  
**PSYCHOANALYSIS & OUR TIME**  
*A lecture by Éric Laurent*  
Julius Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Tuesday, 10/11 6:30 PM  
**“SEX” IS NOT A MECHANISM:  
MAKING “SEX-SPECIFIC  
MEDICINE” MORE SCIENTIFIC**  
*The Roslyn S. Silver '27 Science Lecture  
by Rebecca Jordan-Young*  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Wednesday, 10/12 7 PM  
**POWER TALK WITH  
LLOYD BLANKFEIN**  
*A lecture*  
Julius H. Held Auditorium, 304 Barnard Hall

Thursday, 10/13 5:30 PM  
**FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD**  
*A panel with Michelle Fine, Maria Hinojosa '84,  
Nancy Holmstrom, and Naomi Klein*  
Event Oval, The Diana Center

Tuesday, 11/01 6:30 PM  
**WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?  
THE HISTORY & POLITICS  
OF FOOD**  
*A panel discussion with Hilary Callahan,  
Kim Hall, Deborah Valenze, and Paige West*  
James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall

Thursday, 12/01–Saturday, 12/03 7:30 PM  
Saturday, 12/03 2 PM  
**THE BARNARD PROJECT AT  
NEW YORK LIVE ARTS**  
*New dances in performance*  
219 West 19th Street, between 7th and 8th

Thursday, 12/08–Saturday, 12/10 8 PM  
Saturday, 12/10 3 PM  
**UBU THE KING**  
*A play by Alfred Jarry*  
Glicker-Milstein Theatre  
LL200 The Diana Center

**BARNARD**  
THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE  
FOR WOMEN  
IN NEW YORK CITY

