

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Class of 1957 50TH REUNION





## **Class of 1957**

Frances Gray Archipenko  
Gayle Wertgame Arst  
Claudine Abry Bacher  
Myrna Janoff Baldinger  
Helen Isaacs Barer  
Rolf Barnes  
Marjorie Roberts Barnet \*  
Dr. Marya Bednerik  
Evelyn Stein Benjamin  
John Bennes  
Arlene Ludlam Bentley  
Elizabeth (Betti) Kornhauser Castro  
Louise Carty Cavanaugh  
Doris Makosky Chalfin  
Leonardo Cimino  
Nancy Moses Claster  
Emily Cram Collins \*  
Richard Comins \*  
Janet Sutter Controulis  
Barbara Krevitz Corcoran  
Frances Galbraith Corliss  
Susanne Cornaro  
Michael Degener  
Elsbeth Kurth Douglass \*  
Darcy Lay Doyle  
Margaret Ward Dye  
Cecile Schachnow Engel  
Patricia Fairbanks  
Edith Keen Farley  
Phyllis Fay  
Barbara Uhrman Feldman  
Lucy Grier Feller  
Maxine Cohen Fink

Nancy M. Fish  
Marion Fisher-Snyder \*  
Cristol Schwarz Fleming  
Diane Will Fountain  
Julia Brandley Frampton  
Adrienne W. Schlang Garnett  
Merle Zinn Ginsberg  
Barbara Ruth Kelly Glovich \*  
Phyllis Elkind Goldstein  
Eleanor Kronish Goldstein  
Marjorye Hirsch Goldstein  
Constance Golub Gorfinkle  
Joan Asch Greene  
Adrienne Scott Grumet  
Audrey Chase Gutlon  
Mary Ann Vermeulen Haddad \*  
Priscilla Loening Hanford  
Ralph Harmer \*  
Helene Friedman Hartman  
Patricia Linde Hauser  
Margot Wurtzburger Heller  
Jane Pomerance Hermann  
Barbara Golden Herrick  
Sandra Hochman  
Hadassah Houtz Hoffman  
Ann Sommer Holmes  
Helen Allentuck Horowitz  
Marcia Ruth Sang Isaacs \*  
Margaret Jepson \*  
Barbara Hubbard Karmiller  
Harriet Lasker Katz  
Oswald Kaufhold  
Anita Kessler

Nina Ann Gelles Koepcke  
Helen Kopp  
Susan Hirsch Landesman  
Lawrence LeCours  
Clarissa Hill Lennox  
Judith Levine  
Mary Lou Earthrowl Lewis  
Elaine Silverman Lewis  
Barbara Ann Rolnick Love \*  
Susan MacPherson  
Justin E. Mamis  
Lois Landau Mazer-Zelman  
Theresa Mendez  
Roberta Selwyn Miller  
Deborah R. Miller  
Anne Marie Schleisner Moses  
Bartie Bartlett Mumford  
Ketti Finkle Okean  
Alice Mott Oscanlon  
Linda Krob Owens \*  
Carol Yeckes Panter \*  
Rosamonde Pinchot  
Dr. Elaine Liberstein Pitt  
Natalie Feiler Podell \*  
Louisa Perkins Porter  
Marcia Morgan Qasim  
Lois Ballon Rabinowitz  
Stephanie Brown Reininger  
Vicki Behrstock Reynolds-Pepper  
Barbara Richelson \*  
Elizabeth Musante Riddle  
Burt Rockwood

continued on page 2

---

\* Denotes Deceased

Alyce Hastings Rogers  
Ellen Sickel Rogoff  
Donald Ross  
Myrna Ruiz-Vega  
Julia Russell  
Valerie Witalis Said  
Michele Kashé Schaye  
Suzanne Lee Elstein Scheinman \*  
Jane Schneiderman  
Carol Bennet Schoenberg  
Judith Patterson Schultz  
Adele Slater Schwarz  
Joan Littman Selig  
Dorothy Franks Sellers  
Bette (Anna) Shaler \*

Janet Wells Sherwin \*  
Elinor Berman Sidel  
Laura Kesselman Skoler  
Judith Hyman Smith  
Suzi Cremer Smith  
Pamela Cook Sobel  
Joan Rosenthal Sovern \*  
Sonja Van Hall Speets  
Joan Stanley-Baker  
John V. Starkweather  
Heather Barnes Starsong  
Judith Douglass Sutton  
W. Leonard Taffs  
Sonja Carlsrud Tarnay \*  
Virginia Buckley Tatoul

Pauline Towne  
Claudia Tucker  
Alida Ger Van der Hoeven  
Van Horn  
Linda Smyth Vanallen  
June L. Smith Vandegraaf  
C. Parrish Fort Warner  
Margery Beck Wiesenthal  
Dolores Lloyd Williams  
Madalene Olander Woodbury  
Winston Case Wright  
Lynn Sakowitz Wyatt  
Sara Zuckert

---

\* *Denotes Deceased*

## Claudine Abry Bacher

930 5th Avenue, Apt. 2A  
New York, NY 10021  
(212) 288-9493  
claudinebacher@earthlink.net



My first impression of Bennington was the beauty of the campus. A native of NYC, I had transferred from the U of Michigan, which was basically large and impersonal. In contrast, Bennington with its bucolic setting, intimate living conditions, and small classes reminded me of a posh girl's prep school. I was surrounded by students who seemed so self-assured, so talented—so original in thoughts and actions. Although I thought that they could be a bit intimidating at times, I found Bennington fun as well as stimulating.

I can't say that I was a very focused student when I arrived, but I soon appreciated what a "Bennington education" meant. For me, its small classes and superb professors solidified Bennington's reputation as a unique place to learn and develop. Among our many enthralling professors were the likes of Howard Nemerov, Stanley Edgar Hyman, and Paul Feeley. My particular hero was the renowned French Professor, Wallace Fowle, my thesis advisor.



Outside the classroom, there was a dive called the State Line (where I was introduced to the Elvis Presley phenomena) and The Knotty Pine for late night snacks. When we were really flush, there was the gourmet Paradise Restaurant, although the food at the college was very good for college fare. I also remember a store called The House of Walsh located in Williamstown that periodically displayed its wares in Commons, which consisted of preppy plaid Bermudas and Shetland sweaters in contrast to some of our more artistic types on campus. And then, when the weather began to get dreary, we could look forward to the Non-Resident Term as an unusual diversion from normal undergraduate life.

With all this, Bennington's impact didn't really kick in for me until I was in my 40s. Our three girls were grown and I took myself out of our suburban world and all that it entailed then. I had married the Princeton boy who had beguiled me in College and our lives were comfortable and interesting but when our oldest daughter became ill and we lost her, our world crashed. Susan's goodness and courage continues to inspire our family. I think it was at that very difficult time that I finally understood the thesis I had worked on with my marvelous advisor, Professor Wallace Fowlie. My thesis was on Albert Camus. I recall grappling with the meaning of existentialism in his book, *L'Étranger*. I now believe that the choices we can make are how we handle the sad and bad that we get dealt on this journey called life.

I had always had an interest in politics and became involved in Fundraising activities for Bill Bradley's initial senate race and to this day remain active on the democratic political scene. (I became part of White House Millennium effort, under then First Lady, Hillary Clinton, designated as "Save America's Treasures.") My particular project (which I am still pursuing) was to raise funds to preserve Val-Kill Cottage, the cherished home of Eleanor Roosevelt one of my all-time heroines and the only national site dedicated to a first lady. Unfortunately, I bemoan the current state of our dismal leadership. I hope to see history being made with the election of Hillary Clinton and that she can lead us out of this mess.

I'm grateful that Fred and I are still sharing our lives particularly when contemporaries are facing poor health, losses, and disappointments. Fred and I are also grateful that our daughters Diane and Nancy are near. Being grandparents renews our spirits and we cherish the company of dear friends. I try to keep a sense of humor as this modern world seems too often to spin out of control.

I want to make time to read all the books that keep piling up, and to watch again my favorite old movies and then I just want to hang around to find out how things will really turn out, as if anyone can ever know. As for Bennington, with all the difficulties and complexities of higher education these days, it is my hope that this unique, marvelous place will continue to grow and inspire.



## Helen Isaacs Barer

203 West 86 Street  
Apt. 1108  
New York, NY 10024  
helenbarer@optonline.net  
www.helenbarer.com  
(212) 724-5328



I arrived at Bennington College when I was barely 17 years old, an unsophisticated, sweet, and intellectually immature Brooklyn Jewish naïf. I'd never even spent a summer away from home!

Initially I was overwhelmed by the (seeming) maturity and social skills of my fellow students in Woolley House, and by the class work: I'd never even heard of Freud or most of the writers in the freshman literature class. But I was open—open to new experiences, people, and ideas. I felt as though I was flying.

What I did know was that I loved acting, and studying and performing under Bob Alvin's guidance was inspirational. American Studies was another field that fascinated me, and Rush Welter became my mentor. Indeed, these two arenas remained my concentrations throughout my years at Bennington. My senior thesis was in the field of American Studies, although I had enough credits to graduate in either discipline. I wandered all through the curriculum, treating each semester's choices as a delicious menu of opportunities.

Nothing I studied in college really prepared me for my life. But the experience of Bennington did. I found that I had a voice, and a critical one at that. I learned how to do research, think through problems, write coherent papers, take chances (as in Mr. Fowlie's Dante course, in Italian and English), experiment (Welter convinced me I needed to experience the art department, and I took a class in printmaking; I was not an artist). I switched residences, to Leigh House, where I found a sympathetic and fun set of friends, fell in love for the first time, experienced desolation for the first time, dared to try out for summer stock and to the horror of the faculty, interned one Non-Resident Term at Time Inc.

I've had a wonderfully interesting professional life, fully reflective of the diversity and experimentation of my Bennington years. I started out, after college, as a production assistant at CBS Television, then moved over to Collier's Encyclopedia Yearbook, where I was assistant to the managing editor and quickly rose to the position of editor in charge of American literature and American Studies (thank you Mr. Welter). While at Collier's, I realized that I hadn't really studied English or American literature as an undergraduate, and took night classes at NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, from which I eventually got my master's degree. (The professor



I worked with most closely was amused by my degree from Bennington, and teased me in class by challenging me to give dates for specific literary events and writers. I acknowledged I didn't know them, but said that if he left me alone in the library I could quickly come up with the facts. He liked that.)

Next I landed a job as a copy editor at Time-Life Books, with the promise of a researcher's position in a year. Six months later I was researching and writing material for series such as *The Emergence of Man*, *The History of Photography*, *Great Cities of the World*. Women were not officially permitted to write, only act as 'vestal virgins' outside the doors of the male writers. If our material was used, we were paid overtime to compensate for not having the title of writer. The year that I began work on *Foods of the World* the women reporters at *Sports Illustrated* organized a dozen or so of us to sue the company. We were ultimately successful, and I subsequently spent a dozen years as a writer and editor in the book

division. I'd probably still be there had I not gone on maternity leave and they had not moved to Virginia. The nerve of them.

The next years were spent as a sometime depressed mother, doing freelance editing and missing working with others. I eventually fulfilled another college dream by working as associate producer for an eccentric and brilliant independent television producer, writing story treatments, scripts for documentaries, and acting as line producer on docudramas. When my producer lost her funding after five years, I left and began doing volunteer work, ending up establishing the volunteer program at the new Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, and working (as a volunteer) fulltime. Five years later I decided that I needed to do my own work, and while still volunteering (I'm also on the Board of Directors of The Retreat, a domestic violence agency in eastern Long Island), am happily writing mystery novels. My first, *Fitness Kills*, was published in July 2007 by Five Star; I'm halfway through my second, tentatively titled *Families are Murder*.

I've had a fortunate, privileged life: we have a huge rent-controlled apartment on the Upper West Side, a bayfront house in Water Mill, NY, and travel extensively. There've been knocks along the way: my husband Harris has had two life-threatening illnesses (he's a 'recovering lawyer' now, healthy and doing pro bono work for nonprofits). I lost two babies late in my pregnancies—but did deliver a delicious daughter, Julie, who went to Vassar College and now has her own downtown literary agency in New York (Barerliterary.com).

Reinventing myself constantly has been exciting and fun. Who knows what my next act will be?

## **Patricia H. Fairbanks**

7912 Surreywood Place  
Charlotte, NC 28270  
(704) 321-7259

**What were your primary interests while attending Bennington, and what are you interested in today?**

My primary interests while at Bennington were getting my classwork done on time, horses, and have a good social life. Now, my interests are horses, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, English history, and especially my three sons and their families, including four grandchildren.

**How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

It broke the apron strings of childhood and showed me the open door to the wider world beyond.

**What ups and downs have you experienced?**

No more and probably fewer than most of the downs.

**Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

I am fortunate to have three wonderful sons and their families, who make my life productive and fulfilled.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

The past is with us only as a guide; the present is where we live; the future depends on our sensible use of energy, our ability to stem rampant over-reproduction, and an urgent need to educate young people on ways to maintain good health. The culture of self-gratification and excessive consumption must change or we will find ourselves going the way of ancient Rome. I will stop, lest I be considered an old crab.

## Edith Keen Farley

198 Twitchell Hill Road  
P.O. Box 586  
Shaftsbury, VT 05262  
(802) 447-7316

My primary interests while attending Bennington were literature, the German language, painting and music. More important than courses was the stimulating intellectual environment, which allowed the development and wonderful dialogue of ideas. Ideas were and still are a great focus and fascination for me. I was and still am intellectually curious. This has enriched my life enormously.

The Bennington Experience lifted me up to all standards of excellence, and led me to see much of the beauty and greatness in people who are engaged in the teaching and learning processes. Stanley Edgar Hyman, Howard Nemerov, Irene Hasenclever, Harold Kaplan, “Woody” Woodworth, Simon Moselsio, Paul Feeley, and Paul Boepple are some of the brilliant teachers whose guidance and encouragement made the four years I spent at Bennington a great joy and served to create more energy and love of accomplishment.

No experience I had at College failed to help me grow. Good friends, classes, the NRTs, thesis writing (with its long hours of research), and especially the freedom to think for myself—helped me to learn how and where to find possible “answers,” rather than to be stuffed with information.



One of the most enriching experiences I had while at Bennington was with the Bennington College International Summer School, run by Bradford Smith under the auspices of the State Department. I was a guide and English teacher for 40 foreign graduate students (divided among three of us) from 25 countries, who were in the U.S. to study eventually at various “prestige” colleges and Universities under the Fulbright Program. I did this for the summers of 1956 and 1957. I also received a Fulbright Award in 1957.



After college, many unexpected opportunities came to me, which turned out to be great

blessings. I began a career in the publishing field, which I greatly enjoyed. I worked first at *TIME* magazine. My office overlooked Rockefeller Plaza. How great was that? Later, I had an offer to work in the textbook department at Henry Holt (always closer and closer to the field of education). Again, I enjoyed the work and the people at Holt, and always felt that my efforts were rewarding, as indeed they were. At this time, I began work on my Master's Degree in English. The graduate program at New York University was excellent. My courses were taught in the evening, so I could continue working during the day. Moving to Greenwich

Village made it possible for me to get home from work and just walk across the park to classes. I loved everything about New York. My father had been a native of Queens, NY, so I knew that city well. (When he married my mother, whose ancestors settled in parts of Vermont, they settled in Bennington, and my brothers and I grew up as rural kids.) However, I was happy as the proverbial claim to be what I strongly felt I was – a successful career person in the city I had always gravitated towards. Some of my best friends from college were there and we thought of ourselves as a sort of colony within the city. We even had Sunday evening poetry



readings at each others' apartments, and wonderful, "creative" meals which we all took turns making.

The early years in NYC were followed by marriage to Don Farley. This union is still flourishing after 47 years. We lived at first in Berkeley, California; where Don was finishing his graduate work... an exciting time to be in Berkeley. After we returned to the East Coast, we taught in Connecticut, but lived in Manhattan.

When our son, David, was born in 1973, we moved to New Canaan, Connecticut. This was the happiest and most fulfilling time of my life. I was able to be a full time Mom. Being an



older mother, I took nothing for granted, as we had waited so long for him. We were a family. A glorious word. Don continued teaching math and science, and I went back to teaching middle and high school English when David finished middle school.

During this time, we also began to do editorial work for News Bank Inc. of New Canaan, Conn., an electronic publisher of educational material. After we retired from teaching in 1992, we moved to Vermont when Newsbank transferred its editorial department to Chester, VT. Semi-retired, we continue to do freelance editorial projects, but mostly we just enjoy spending time together, traveling when we can, seeing friends, and trying to keep fit and ambulatory.



David, our son, is an advertising account executive for Capital Media in the Albany, NY area, where his fiancée, Kim, also lives and is employed as a social worker.

In summary, a few “downs,” but mainly “ups.” I think it is enough to say that a passion for living, working, and creating, even reinventing, was inspired by parents who believed in possibilities, some good Vermont roots, and, certainly, four wonderful years at Bennington College.

## Cristol Schwarz Fleming

3508 Shepherd Street  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
(301) 657-9289



Although I graduated in 1957, I was really the class of 1956. I was married after my junior year and went to live in New Haven while my husband finished Yale. None of my teachers at Bennington believed I would come back to finish but indeed I did. In the meantime, I made good use of the Yale Library doing research for my thesis.

Since I transferred to Bennington in my junior year, I wasn't a long-term member of the class of 1956 either. In fact, I had only one year on campus; in 1956-57 when I came back, I lived in a little cottage in North Bennington.

However, despite the shortened time I spent on campus, my experience at Bennington profoundly affected me and the rest of my life. I had transferred from a traditional school and was delighted with the academic and personal freedom I found at Bennington. My advisor and favorite teacher was Kit Foster. She taught me how to write and how to really read literature, especially Shakespeare. I still use the Shakespeare volume from her class with my notes scribbled all over the margins. Another wonderful teacher was Stanley Edgar Hyman: I took the Myth, Ritual, and Religion (was that the name?) class with him. When we lived in North Bennington, we used to see Shirley Jackson at the grocery store. Likewise I loved the dance classes with Bill Bales and once met his wife, the actress Jo Van Fleet, doing the laundry. Also, I adored Paul Feeley and was delighted to see him featured in the 75th anniversary book.

I had to miss graduation to be in a good friend's wedding and then had to pack up all our belongings and a very unhappy cat to move to Columbia, S.C. where my husband Jon had just been sent for basic training. Suffice it to say it was a terrible culture shock and I spent the two years he was in the army waiting to go back to North Bennington. We did promptly in spring of 1959, minus the cat but with the addition of our first-born child, David. We moved into the house directly across the street from the one we had lived in before and I began teaching at the Old Bennington Kindergarten. In spring of 1961, our daughter Molly was born and David started at the College Nursery School.

After two happy rural years, Jon uprooted us again to enroll at Columbia Law School in New York. Another culture shock, the public housing apartment building we lived in had a larger population than North Bennington. However, this move turned out to have life long benefits, as with most of our neighbors African-American or Hispanic, we got involved in the civil rights movement. We were in Washington for Martin

Luther King's great speech in 1963. While in New York, I took classes at Bank Street College. When I first walked into the school, I said to myself, "this is an urban Bennington." Just before we left New York in spring of 1964, our third child, Peter, was born.

Jon got a job with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. and we moved back to Chevy Chase, MD, where we both had grown up and our parents still lived. After a year of settling in, I was recruited by a friend to teach at Green Acres School, a small progressive, "learning by doing" elementary (now also middle) school in nearby Rockville, MD. Again, I had the "this is home" feeling that I was back at Bennington College. I taught at Green Acres for ten years and all our children went there.

In the early '70s, I took some classes in natural history (birds, plants, local geology) through the USDA Graduate School (really adult education), and eventually got a certificate in Natural History Field Studies. This program moved my career sideways as I then was asked to start a children's program at the Audubon Naturalist Society. I stayed there for 15 years, moving up to be Environmental Education Director. For over 25 years, I have taught the plant identification courses for the USDA Graduate School and still lead botanical field trips for the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Eventually, my love of "botanizing" in the field got the better of me and I quit my job to write a book, *Finding Wildflowers* in the Washington-Baltimore Area, which was published in 1995 by Johns Hopkins University Press. I was so pleased to be able to send a copy to Kit Foster. After writing the book, I got a job with the Maryland Natural Heritage Program, a program established by The Nature Conservancy to monitor rare and endangered species. I couldn't believe that I was paid to go out and walk in the woods to locate rare plants. The job was great, but after five years, the traveling throughout the state got too much so I retired. I still do occasional rare plant surveys on contract for the Natural Heritage Program, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Park Service. My life is very busy with volunteer work; I am President of the Maryland Native Plant Society, a board member and Education Committee Chair of the Audubon Naturalist Society, and Chair of the Tree Committee of our village.

Our three children are happily married and have given us seven wonderful grandchildren. David is a computer programmer and his family lives nearby in Reston, VA; Molly married a Cape Cod man and she is a psychotherapist in Eastham, MA; and Peter is a water rights attorney in Glenwood Springs, CO. It's not too bad to have to visit Cape Cod and Colorado! And best of all is that my granddaughter, Jessica Eldridge, is a sophomore at Bennington, loving it as much as I did, and even living in my old dorm, Canfield House.

## Eleanor Kronish Goldstein

1 Chester Terrace  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706  
(914) 478-1723

My love affair with art started well before I reached Bennington and it continues today. But Bennington blew my mind. I found a home of kindred spirits as I dashed from sculpture to American literature to dance, feeding my appetite to be all I could be.

I have three children who, despite their learning disabilities, have flourished to become a physicist, a fund manager, and a lawyer. It was a torturous road of research, fighting for the right help and a ton of good luck. Add four granddaughters to the mix and a great guy who I have been married to for 47 years. My involvement with the cause of serving learning disabled children ultimately led me to becoming the director of a not-for-profit child advocacy agency.

I did, though, return to painting and was commissioned to paint a 20-foot mural at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the Cathedral's first and only commissioned mural. Although the painting was destroyed in the Cathedral fire in December, 2001, I am still painting, sculpting, and making prints today. I am listed in *Who's Who in American Art* and have the great pleasure of continuing to show, sell—but most important, pursue—my art.



## Constance Golub Gorfinkle

1 Commodore Court, Unit 305  
Hull, MA 02045  
(781) 925-1969  
Connieg123@comcast.net

My primary interest at Bennington actually was to shape a human being out of the chaotic and confused girl who arrived at college. To that end I picked professors over subjects, but always with an overriding love of literature that I somehow knew would figure importantly in my future.

So, I had the honor to study with such as Howard Nemerov, Stanley Hyman, and Wallace Fowle. But others also had a hand in my emergence including history professor Rush Welter, who probably more than anyone taught me how to be an organized researcher, an indispensable tool in the profession that has become my life's work—journalism.

The four years I spent at Bennington certainly weren't always an upward trajectory. Transition is never easy, and there were long periods of feeling bad about myself, as I contemplated what had not been a particularly happy childhood.

But, in the end, when I stood with my fellow graduates, I had the sense that I had arrived somewhere and was ready to move on.

There have been many high points in my life since my 47-year marriage to Herb Gorfinkle, a good man, a sweet man, an honest man, who cherished me and supported me in whatever I wanted to do outside the home. Without that support, I couldn't have had my chosen career, being an arts reporter, covering theater, film, dance, opera, crafts, literature, and the fine arts. What a joy that has been!

Since I retired my staff position on *The Patriot Ledger*, a daily newspaper that publishes in Quincy, MA, I have been freelancing in those areas, which has given me time to pursue other interests. Chief among those is the religious community I became a part of after Herb's death. The church I now belong to is known as the Old Ship Meeting House. Actually, I fell in love with the building before Unitarian-Universalism, the faith that is practiced there.

Old Ship is the oldest church of continuous worship in the United States. Having gathered in 1635, the same year the town it's in—Hingham, MA—was founded, the congregation erected its present building in 1681 out of old growth trees. Thus, the timbers holding up the structure are more than 900 years old. A National



Historic Site, Old Ship is considered such a fine example of early Colonial architecture that the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York replicated the buildings amazing vaulted ceiling in its Americana Wing many years ago.

Among my joys, of course, are my and Herb's three daughters, Elisabeth, Jeanne, and Anne. However, we suffered a terrible loss ten years ago when Elisabeth died of lung cancer at the age of 38. She left behind a five-year-old daughter, Alyssa, who lights up my life every day. Like her mother, she's interested in the natural sciences and is thinking she might like to study them at Bennington. So, next spring, I'll return with her to see if she falls in love with the school at first sight, the way I did. If Alyssa does wind up at Bennington, she'll be the third generation to do so. Her Aunt Jeanne graduated from Bennington in 1984. Two years after Elisabeth's death, Herb died. In some ways his death was even harder, because I felt utterly alone in my grief.

But with the support of Jeanne and Anne and the pleasure derive from my seven grandchildren (another on the way), as well as the loving kindness of many friends, life, at 72, is good. I still write about people and things I most admire; I've made a happy move to the seaside resort town of Hull—right next to Hingham—to a condominium complex on an island in Hull Bay, which is reached from the mainland over a causeway.

I've also developed into somewhat of a political activist, a natural outgrowth of my outrage over the current state of affairs in this country and the like feelings of my fellow parishioners, a sentiment, by the way, that was very evident during my recent visit to Bennington.

Every day I awaken to the knowledge that in this world, filled with the wretched and disenfranchised, I am very lucky—to be happy, healthy, fulfilled, and comfortable. That I am able to claim all that at this point in my life is due in no small part to the experiences I had 50 years ago at Bennington.

## **Priscilla Loening Hanford**

1773 Honeysuckle Lane  
Paradise, CA 95969  
(530) 877-5585,  
cell: (530) 519-9560  
pjhandford@aol.com

### **What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

I entered Bennington with a keen interest in a possible career in political journalism, as I loved both political science and writing. A “double-major” in poli-sci and lit was my stated aim, with poli-sci dominant. My two years at Bennington (I left after sophomore year to get married!) gifted me with counselors who were luminaries in their fields of political science and political economy. I was a music minor, because I loved music since childhood and especially loved choral singing. Being in the Madrigal Choir, the Octet, and the College-Community Chorus were great experiences. While I never persevered in piano or flute to the point of real competence, all my Bennington music instruction, participation, and the amazingly wide suite of exposure to composer and performers (faculty and guests) were grace-gifts for life.

I continued to be actively engaged in political science until the late 1990s, as teacher, researcher, and public servant. A little more than a decade ago, I responded to a call to lay ministry as a spiritual director and retreat leader, where my focus remains today, with great joy! Music is always a rich part of my life; I “use” it in my ministry, and continue regular participation in choral singing.

### **How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

At Bennington, I experienced a new universe of intellectual challenge, which was intense, heady, and very exciting. I credit my two years at Bennington with giving me a legacy of lifelong intellectual curiosity and joy in learning. It also taught me humility, when I realized I wasn’t Little Miss Smarty-Pants after all! The realistic confidence in my abilities, which I gained at Bennington, helped me to pursue a rewarding career in public service, where I held a variety of leadership roles at state, regional, and local levels.

## Hadassah Houtz Hoffman

Drdassiehoffman.com

Dassieh@aol.com

My four years at Bennington were a transformational experience for me, setting my life upon a new trajectory. I entered as a social butterfly, sorority girl from East Denver High School, definitely a “geographical desirable.” I had planned to become a creative lit major, and dabble a bit in “the Arts.”

In my freshman year, I took Introduction to Psychology and Modern Dance with Bill Bales and Katherine Litz, and my life was never the same. I struggled with Literature vs. Psychology and Modern Dance for three years. At the conclusion of my junior year, I had completed all of my pre-thesis reading of Henry James. And I was bored to tears, hating the prospect of completing this work. And so I applied to the “powers that be” to change my major, hoping to become a social science major, and to write my thesis in psychology. And I was allowed to make the changes, and follow my dream.

In my senior year, as a psych major, with a minor in dance, I had a conversation with Mary Anthony, who was then teaching at Bennington. “Well, Hadassah,” she said, “If you’re so interested in modern dance and psychology, why don’t you become a dance therapist?”





And so I did, graduating with an MA in dance therapy from New York University 20 years later. And again, when I received my PhD in psychology in 2002, I wrote my dissertation about modern dance and humanistic psychology—both subjects discovered during my years at Bennington.



Mary Anthony was the first dancer I interviewed for my dissertation research in 2000. I reminded her what she'd said to me in 1957. She just smiled and said,

"Good. I'm always glad to know that I've made a difference."

I've kept in touch with Mary over the years, recently attending her receipt of the Martha Hill Award, and her 90th birthday party.

Mary's words were the catalyst, but Bennington provided the environment, and the opportunity to explore the possibilities. For these things, I will be forever grateful.



## **Ann Sommer Holmes**

282 Compo Road S.  
Westport, CT 06880  
(203) 227-9420  
Holmesa8@aol.com



**What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

I was interested in sculpture and studied multimedia with George Holt and painting with Paul Feeley. I loved reading and came to Bennington rather than an art school, studying with Harold Kaplan and Ben Belitt. Now I'm a poet and a painter, and I work with old masters' techniques and images.

**How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

I was at Bennington two years. I married and transferred to Sarah Lawrence. Because I had loved Bennington, this was the closest I could come to Bennington where I could continue with studio work and academics. I went back for my M.A. in poetry at Sarah Lawrence in 2002. I've always split my focus between art and literature.



**What ups and downs have you experienced?**

A lot of my "downs" flipped to "ups." I moved to Japan in 1967, interrupting my career as an artist. I was artist-in-residence at Tama Bigaku Daigaku—an art university in Yokohama. I became interested in Japanese contemporary pottery and interviewed potters in Mashiko. I got my doctorate in art education at NYU upon returning to the US. I then published a poetry-pottery memoir about apprenticing in Mashiko and Mashiko potters speaking about their work called, "Shards: Mashiko Poetry" in 2004. I had a show scheduled at Westport Library in November 2007.

**Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

I have a son, Kip, and a daughter, Megan. Kip is a captain for American Airlines. Megan is an associate professor of Renaissance Art History at University of Michigan. My interest in painting was influenced by loving the Italian

Renaissance and looking at paintings with Megan.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

We also lived in Greece for three years. If I wasn't making art, I was certainly surrounded by it. I have my sponge periods and my creative periods. Japan and Greece were inspiring in art and certainly influenced the way I thought and worked later on.



## Helen Allentuck Horowitz

25 West 81st Street  
10024-6023  
(212) 787-7594  
hhorowitz@nyc.rr.com

Earlier this year, I drove to Bennington for our own mini-reunion with Louise Carty Cavanaugh, my class of '57 roommate and lifelong friend. We sat on the lawn beneath our former home in Franklin House, marveling at the sheer beauty of the campus and at the privilege we had so taken for granted in the years we were there: the privilege of studying with Stanley Edgar Hyman, Kenneth Burke, Howard Nemerov, Oliver Garceau, Kit Foster, Ann Schlabach, Ben Belitt, and so many others; the privilege of friendships, privacy, personal freedom, tears, drama, experiments, mistakes...all ours in the utter luxury of a Bennington education.

I wish I had put my Bennington knowledge to better use but I couldn't have had four more intensely satisfying years anyplace else on earth. And I imagine I am not the only one of you who would give a great deal to live those Bennington years over again.

Meanwhile, like so many of us in the classes of the late 50s and early 60s, I've married...divorced...remarried...mothered...grand-mothered...graduate schooled...careered (full-time as director of public relations/communications/marketing for a number of large nonprofit organizations) and consulted. Recently retired...even more recently widowed, I'm now in the place of trying to make the rest of my life work usefully for me, my family, and for others. 50 years! No way!



## Nina Ann Gelles Koepcke

(408) 269-3228

nina@ninakstudio.com

In 1961 Dick and I moved to San Jose, CA, with our young son, Richard. It was just at the start of the famous Silicon Valley computer and technology explosion. We bought a house that we thought would be our home for perhaps two or three years. Somehow we ended up staying there while raising our four children and it's still where I live and work, though we did take one seven-month hiatus to live in Sweden. Over the years we built additions to the house to accommodate the various needs of our growing family that included such interesting pursuits as raising rabbits and chickens, a lamb or two for 4H and a bunch of Guide Dog puppies for Guide Dogs of San Raphael. At one point, I even became the county's chief 4H "rabbit leader," much to my surprise!

One of our daughters died in 1983 followed by Dick's death in 1999. Our two sons still live in the Bay Area while our remaining daughter and her family now live in Vancouver, WA.

Dick built my first pottery studio adjoining the house in the early '70s and then, after the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, I managed to finance a fine new and much larger studio more or less where the old one



had been. I use that studio now to make ceramic sculpture as well as to do some 2D work in painting and printmaking. Over the years, I received a number of artist-in-residence grants both in this country and abroad in Japan, France and Russia. In 1982 I helped a group of students at my children's elementary school create a large ceramic mural. That project eventually led to the making of a number of other murals now gracing assorted school walls in the Bay Area, in Tucson, AZ, and even the patio of a local public library.

In 1995, a friend and I co-founded and directed the LifeLines project: a four-year multidisciplinary arts project for people with terminal illnesses. LifeLines culminated in the creation of a half hour video entitled “Scared, Scarred and Sacred” that received partial funding from the local arts council and is now in the permanent collection of the University of Arizona library.

Presently, I am volunteering as the treasurer and grants director for the Clay and Glass Arts Foundation of the Bay Area, a tiny non-profit dedicated to encouraging participation in the clay and glass arts by under-represented or under-served populations within our greater community.



## Judith Ann Levine

4629 Shore Drive, Apt. 326  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
(757) 425-2658  
Jal35@cavtel.net

I used to feel if I went to the “right” school, married the “right” husband, had the required two children, and bought a split-level house in suburbia, all my dreams would be fulfilled. Add to that the dinner parties with the right china and sterling and my home-made Beef Wellington would surely complete the picture, wouldn’t it?

Well, it didn’t. So I forged onward. I became the local chairman of B’nai B’rith’s Anti-Defamation League, I took on Little Theatre roles, joined a Chamber Orchestra, and assisted my husband, Dr. Jack Rubin, in his dental practice ad infinitum. But it still wasn’t ENOUGH—even various paid jobs—how was I to fill that hole?



I went to Bennington for only two years and then married who I thought was the man of my dreams. Actually, looking back, I believe I didn’t want to pursue either my music major or my dance minor. And, I began to take steps towards a teaching career even before I left Bennington. I transferred to a Teachers College after marriage and had one of the biggest culture shocks of my life. But I did get my license to teach in New Jersey.



While bringing up my children in suburbia (“The Split Level Trap”) I kept wondering what was “wrong.” I read Betty Friedan’s book, *The Feminine Mystique*, and thought I had found the answer. I commuted to NYC in the ’60s and brought wearing slacks and



jeans into suburbia. I ran into Sue Humboldt '55 on one of my trips for dance classes at Carnegie Hall in NYC, and I saw the best of the ballet performances at the new Lincoln Center as well as dozens plays and, once in a while, a concert. I even met Margaret DeGray at the Russian Tea Room where she bristled because they wouldn't let two women (us) sit at the bar!

For 27 years of marriage, I played the role of Mom and wife, and two pretty neat children emerged from that marriage. Their father did a lot of the parenting, and we raised two sons: Doug, 46, graduated Princeton and Wharton, married a Princeton grad, and has one son. Doug is

an engineer and very much like his father. My other son, Jeffrey, is now 44. He lives in St. Louis with his wife and their two children, and is Captain of a major airline. I'm proud of them both, but grateful I kept my education current.

In 1975, I had entered the Occupational Therapy program and commuted to Columbia University in NYC for a Master's Degree majoring in psychiatry. My Bennington experiences had prepared me for this phase of my life as well. Woody Woodward's class, "Human Life and Environment," gave me a taste of medicine and science, and a major reason why Columbia thought I might adapt to working with the disabled at the mature age of 40 was the Bennington NRT job I had taken at a hospital for "crippled children" 20 years earlier.

But in 1981, shortly after I had got my degree at Columbia, I made one of the most surprising discoveries of my life when I realized I had an addiction problem. I joined a number of 12 step programs, which began my healing. Unfortunately, my husband did not like his new and better wife. He told me one night that he was leaving the next day. That was the most painful growth experience I'd ever had, as I had never lived alone. But armed with a very functional career, I moved to the South to begin a whole new life as a single, and to get closer to my parents.



In my sophomore year at Bennington, Margaret DeGray had had me read a book by Lucy Freeman, *Fight Against Fears*. Ms. Freeman, a Bennington graduate, wrote about how her backed up tears were the cause of her sinus headaches. And when the tears were released the headaches disappeared. I wrote a paper on psychosomatic medicine and I figured I now knew why my mother was always getting sick! (Talk about co-dependency!).

I had moved to Chapel Hill, a college town, in North Carolina where much “Inner Child” work was being done and finally learned what I had been running from all my life. And with that knowledge, the hole in my gut began to fill. I now practice Cranial Sacral Therapy, a type of body energy light touch therapy, which is my 3rd career in my own part time private practice. I do a lot of work with disabled children (ADHD, Learning Disabilities, etc.) as well as adults with chronic pain. So I’ve come full circle from the first Bennington NRT. I live very near the ocean I love, and have many close friends. My life is filled with helping others overcome their pain, and that is what’s filling the hole in me.

I used to read the alumnae magazine and felt somehow I hadn’t done enough with the fantastic education Bennington College had given me. I hadn’t published a book, made a movie, or had pictures hanging in a gallery somewhere. I now feel, however, if I can help one person get to the root of his pain as I did mine, and heal from the inside out, then I’ve made a difference. Bennington College was a major building block (or even a “cornerstone”) that helped me get to this place. For that, I’ll always be grateful.

## Mary Lou Earthrowl Lewis

3929 Old Pali Road  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
(808) 595-3351  
malia313@aol.com

When I entered Bennington College in the fall of 1953, I had attended a girls' boarding school in Toronto. Our choir at the boarding school was selected to represent Canada at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in London. I was the head girl of the choir, and we sang at Westminster Abby at the Coronation Ceremony, following the actual Coronation. We were sitting on the Mall for the Coronation Parade, and we toured England that summer giving concerts at several girls' schools and Cathedrals throughout England. After returning home that summer, I entered Bennington in September, fully intending to pursue my love of music—violin and piano. After two Non-Resident terms and a summer at the New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston, I decided to switch my major to science/pre-med.



In the fall of 1955, I met Peter Lewis, a senior at Williams College. We were engaged in June of 1956 and married in December. After the non-resident term, I returned to Bennington and graduated in June of 1957. During our Air Force years, I did work for two doctors setting up their laboratory and doing all of their lab testing. After Peter graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1962, we headed for Hawaii—Peter's home. We had three children and I became totally involved in the Honolulu community as a stay-at-home Mom. I served as President of the Honolulu Junior League and the Honolulu Symphony, and went on to serve on the national board of the Junior League, as well as serving on many other boards.

In 1978, I started a new career in travel. In 1981, I opened, with a good friend, a travel agency with which I am still very involved. I love to travel and send clients on trips they love. Peter and I travel as much as possible. We have a home in New

Zealand, which we adore, and we are checking off the list of “1000 Places to See Before You Die.” We have just a few to go! None of this could have happened without the wonderful self-confidence that Bennington College instills in us all. We were encouraged to accomplish whatever we wanted to do with hard work and dedication.



## Lois Landau Mazer-Zelman

425 East 58th Street  
New York City, NY 10022  
(212) 888-7351

**What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

Business and economics. I did my thesis on the life on the early “Robber barons.” This background helped me 25 years later when I applied for a job on Wall Street in 1981. I also had done my non-resident term working on Wall Street.

**How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

It taught me how to think and apply practical knowledge with book knowledge. It made me adaptable to the ups and downs of life. I worked seventeen years on Wall Street.

**What ups and downs have you experienced?**

Three marriages, two divorces, death of daughter-in-law at birth; life is a short journey and I’m trying to figure out how to keep it going!



**Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

I have three children and three stepchildren—12 grandchildren in all.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

I hope we all will be alive for our 60th Reunion! Bennington College was a fabulous experience for me. I transferred out of University of Penn to come as a transfer student. I’m not sorry!

## Roberta “Cookie” Selwyn Miller

4099 Cornwall East  
Boca Raton, FL 33434  
Cookie333@comcast.net

I arrived at Bennington at the tender age of 17 as a dance major. Modern dance was my passion from the age of 10. I had the honor of taking a class with Martha Graham. Three years of dance, music, choreography, co-chairing Dance Tour, and performing at the 92nd St “Y” all blends into a blur of leotards, tights, and jeans. I have so many wonderful memories of Bill Bales and Bill Sherman, the studio and theatre above the dining room, and trekking to Jennings for a music class.

Bennington exposed me to the wonder of “the words.” Most classes did not have final exams, but rather a series of papers and a long final paper. So with the help of Nemerov, Kaplan, and Belitt I learned to write. What other college offered courses titled, “Tolstoy and Dostoevsky,” “Marx, Freud and Einstein,” or “The Language of Literature?” No freshman English at Bennington! I recently founded my public relations and corporate communications company: The Wizard of Odds, Inc. I am chief wordsmith.



On the lighter side, there are fond memories of “anybody want a date?” Williams certainly had a presence on campus. The State Line Bar and Faculty cocktail parties were institutions. Many hours were spent on the rock wall at the end of Commons lawn pondering the future. Every time I see Alan Arkin in a movie or on TV I remember riding on the back of his motorcycle on Route 7!

I married after my junior year at Bennington. Sadly, the marriage ended after 21 years. Gladly, we have three great, married kids, and 5 super grandchildren. I finally graduated from college, Barry University, in 1980. Better late than never! So, fifty years later I am still trekking, traveling, and enjoying life.

## Dr. Elaine Liberstein Pitt

24 Ridgeway Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 668-4043  
epitt@umich.edu



I wound up at Bennington by chance. I was a very inexperienced and naïve 16-year-old from Brooklyn, New York, and all I knew was how to study hard and that I wanted to go to medical school. Despite the fact that this does not seem to have been a very good match, I did finish Bennington far less naïve intellectually and I did go on to medical school. While the Bennington experience did not influence my direction in life, it certainly did influence the way I went about it. My post-graduate training was in psychiatry and I practiced as a psychiatrist privately in Baltimore and then in 1977, when we moved to Ann Arbor, I affiliated with the University of Michigan's Medical School. I held various positions in the Department of Psychiatry until my retirement four years ago. During the last six years of my active career I focused entirely on issues of physician's health and I continue to consult in that area at the Medical School and the University Hospital. My husband of 45 years is an academic cardiologist and we have three children and three grandchildren.

I have always been fascinated by and loved travel. Earlier in my life, I had little opportunity to do this. I have been extraordinarily fortunate in that over time I have had multiple opportunities to indulge in this passion



and have had extraordinary travel experiences all over the world. In my mid-forties I had what to me was a sort of life transforming experience in this regard. I visited my daughter, who had spent her junior year abroad in Nepal. She took me on a trek to Everest base camp. Since then, I have done numerous treks in various mountain ranges. I have been fortunate enough to have good health and the ability to endure the physical demands and comfort deprivation that is often needed. However, I must admit that I am not at all averse to three-star restaurants and five-star hotels! The intellectual world that Bennington opened up for me continues to inform my approach to these adventures.

Note: skiing is another passion.

## Stephanie Brown Reininger

P.O. Box 12  
Post Mills, VT 05058  
(802) 333-3642

After my husband Robert died spring 2006, I decided to settle in the Upper Valley where we had spent our summers. At the same time I decided to return to painting, nudged by a family cookbook I am constructing from recipes collected over the years from family and friends. The paintings are not illustrations of recipes, but stand alone as paintings and can relate in some way to what is on the page of the cookbook.

I have seven grandchildren spread out all over the country, and a grand number of friends from all over.

As long as I have energy and desire, I shall pursue adventures in reading, and travel and friendship.



## Laura Kesselman Skoler

27 West 67th Street  
New York, NY 10023  
lauraskoler@aol.com  
(212) 580-4868

### **What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

My first interest at Bennington was social—meeting the men from Williams, Dartmouth, and Penn! But I was always interested in social science and psychology, with an “untapped” interest in art.

Today, my main focus is contemporary art, France and French culture, and what makes people “tick.”

### **How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

My Bennington experience was fabulous. For the first time, I learned to love learning. At Bennington, I took sculpture, printing, Dante, literature, and biology. What could have been better than Wallace Fowlie, Simon Moselsio, Nemerov, and Woody! What other school would allow me the luxury and “whim” and taking classes outside the box!

### **What ups and downs have you experienced?**

We all experience ups and downs—I try to help them up, even when they are down. My husband and I lived together for 32 years. We now live apart, but are very caring and close (quite a European arrangement).

Because I now live in New York and followed my interest in contemporary art, my life took on a very unique change. I worked as a consultant to French Institute Alliance Française and started their first program of arts and culture—food, wine, fashion, etc. My life has continued to evolve and be invented. I am proud to be the recipient of the French Chevalier des Arts et des Letters and to be on the Board of the Foundation Guerlain in Paris. I am also vice president of the Board of the New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY, which will open the first “landmark” downtown arts museum in NY.



**Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

I have three daughters. The oldest, Emily, lives and works in Burlington, VT. The middle, Julie, lives and works in Oakland, CA, and Rebecca lives and works in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I also have two grandsons, 7 and 9 years old. I do wish my daughters could have experienced Bennington.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

Last comment! I created this philosophical line: "If you are on a route and it's not right, Take a left and make it right!"

## **Suzi Cremer Smith**

70 Indian Hill Road  
Canton, CT 06019  
(860) 693-8549  
Suzismith4@comcast.net

### **What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

Literature, especially French. I still spend time in Paris every winter, organized a house (family) exchange for 20 years, and was executive director of the Alliance Française. Now I am a political activist protesting US occupation and constitution shredding.

### **How did the Bennington Experience influence your direction in life?**

Certainly imparted a sense of worth and confidence—intellectual curiosity. It was my first opportunity to read and discuss real literature. I feel it changed me from a fluffy girl into an interested, interesting woman.

### **What ups and downs have you experienced?**

I met and married the love of my life, Ray Smith, in 1956—a year before I graduated. We had three children (all of whom went to Williams). My perfect life ended with Ray's death at 62 and daughter Alexandra's at 41. I remain devastated and truly changed from their loss.

### **Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

Although always very interdependent, I move through life in my house and garden in Connecticut and in my Paris apartment pretty much on my own, but with love and affection from my daughter, Ashley and son, Andrew and their children.

### **Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

I am surely fortunate to have 2 wonderful children and 4 grandchildren. My life has changed since the death of my husband and daughter but, somehow, Bennington remains a constant source of courage. It formed me. Bennington is where it all began for me, and in a way, it still nourishes me.



## Pamela Cook Sobel

61 Peaceful Way  
Tiverton, RI 02878  
(401) 624-7770

A few memories, from hundreds include...

Life changing piano lessons with Claude Frank and Lionel Nowak, the elusive world of Proust with Wallace Fowlie, the secret hideaway of Josie's in the Jennings basement, the bloody thorn scratches gotten during Carrie and my midnight master caper on the music faculty, Julian DeGray's enthusiastic and witty response to that prank, Chef Perry's cucumber mousse, the dear soup man's "exhibit the flavor" on an upturned bowl, the weekly music seminars in the Carriage Barn which painfully devastated or marvelously triumphed each performer, dips in the Jennings fish pond, the forever-embracing majestic mountains, amusing encounters with the faculty children on the path down to Commons, the Williams students always

on the prowl, mosaic laying with George Holt, dawn Sunday morning breakfasts to grab an early chance at getting the best piano (George Finckel's Mason & Hamlin) for the entire day. Linda Drob's mural in Nowak's studio, Lennie Hokanson's master's recital, the Madrigals residing in winter term at Bennington where we (and the audience!) learned the difference between a clove and a bud (or head?) of garlic, the amazing East Coast tour after that, Paul Boepple tearing to shreds our adored freshman compositions "filled with mossy thoughts," he scolded, sight-reading chamber music for Orrea Pernel, the mysterious wonder of Schubert with Claude Frank, page turning for Lionel Nowek, Kit Foster's telephoning the late sleepers right from our 8 am classroom, Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery," Lou Calabro's bulb-horn parts for the keyboardists, and Henry Brant's spooky piece which began with the double bass players starting *under* audience in the Carriage Barn's cellar, rehearsing the bell ringers, Betty Shaler's beautiful dance solo to Barber's *Adagio For Strings*,



building a stomach in Woody's lab, Bill Bales' class on "balance," my own senior recital, Kirkpatrick's recital at Williams which changed my career my career from piano to harpsichord and launched me toward the Big Apple.

For the first five years I taught at the Brearley School while studying the harpsichord on a full scholarship with Sylvia Marlowe. Then it became time to start concretizing and teaching privately. Concerts included on our East Coast and in France, Italy, and Switzerland. Being well entrenched in keyboard studies from the age of seven, I had performed as a pianist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at age 16. Then later as harpsichordist in New York City, gave concerts at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Metropolitan Museum, the UN, and Philharmonic Hall.

I've made five recordings and taught wherever I've lived, founding two harpsichord departments at Choate Rosemary Hall and The Groton School. While teaching at Cornell University, I served on the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra's Board of Directors. Other boards include Indian Hill Arts in Littleton, MA, and currently I serve on the Tiverton, RI, Arts Council and on the board for the Four Corners Center for Arts and Education.



In 1970, I married Michael Sobel, who is a rheumatologist. We have a daughter Amanda, born in 1973, who now teaches writing at M.I.T. in Cambridge, MA. Amanda's husband, Ian Richmond, is an administrator at Harvard University.

As time allows after my daily practicing, I love to paint—oils and water—colors. Michael has retired from medicine, going from joints to joinery as a cabinet-maker. We live in a beautiful spot with four cats and much wild life on a large pond. Old friends from Bennington are most heartily welcomed to visit!

## **Madalene Olander Woodbury**

1111 West 47th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
(816) 753-1337  
madtom@swbell.net

**What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

At Bennington, the sciences and literature. Now, I'm pretty much retired after doing volunteer work—especially in Community Children's Theatre.

**How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

I gained a lot of confidence and opened to new challenges, which led me into volunteering for Children's Theatre—trouping into Kansas City public schools and putting on plays.

**What ups and downs have you experienced?**

My life has been very even and happy, and we have been able to do a lot of traveling.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

Just to keep on walking, talking, taking nourishment, and trying to use my brain each day.



## **Winston Case Wright**

45 Buerger Road  
Mobile, Alabama 36608  
(251) 341-0755

**What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?**

Dance at Bennington. Husband, children, and grandchildren today.

**How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?**

Bennington instilled intellectual curiosity that has lasted throughout my life. Also, the recipe I got from Dr. and Mrs. Woody has been passed down in my family.

**What ups and downs have you experienced?**

Ups: Family and travel. We have lived in Tennessee, Italy, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Bermuda, Texas, and Mobile.

Downs: Never being able to lose weight!

**Do you have any family notes you would like to share?**

Husband, Jack, graduated from Harvard. Son, John, graduated from University of Washington and Columbia. Daughter, Catherine, graduated from NYU. Daughter, Elizabeth, graduated from Vassar and Spring Hill College. Daughter, Victoria, graduated from Barnard.

**Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?**

Bennington was a fabulous program—I hope it continues to flourish.



## Without Update



Frances Gray Archipenko



Gayle Wertgame Arst



Myrna Janoff Baldinger



Rolf Barnes



Dr. Marya Bednerik



Evelyn Stein Benjamin



Arlene Ludlam Bentley



Elizabeth Kornhauser Castro



Louise Carty Cavanaugh

## Without Update



Nancy Moses Claster



Janet Sutter Controulis



Barbara Krevitz Corcoran



Frances Galbraith Corliss



Susanne Cornaro



Darcy Lay Doyle



Margaret Ward Dye



Cecile Schachnow Engel



Barbara Uhrman Feldman

## Without Update



Lucy Grier Feller



Maxine Cohen Fink



Nancy M. Fish



Diane Will Fountain



Julia Brandley Frampton



Adrienne W. Schlang Garnett



Marjorye Hirsch Goldstein



Phyllis Elkind Goldstein



Joan Asch Greene

## Without Update



Adrienne Scott Grumet



Helene Friedman Hartman



Patricia Linde Hauser



Margot Wurtzburger Heller



Jane Pomerance Hermann



Barbara Golden Herrick



Sandra Hochman



Harriet Lasker Katz



Helen Kopp

## Without Update



Susan Hirsch Landesman



Clarissa Hill Lennox



Elaine Silverman Lewis



Deborah R. Miller



Anne Marie Schleisner Moses



Bartie Bartlett Mumford



Ketti Finkle Okean



Rosamonde Pinchot



Louisa Perkins Porter

## Without Update



Marcia Morgan Qasim



Lois Ballon Rabinowitz



Stephanie Brown Reininger



Vicki Behrstock Reynolds-Pepper



Elizabeth Musante Riddle



Alyce Hastings Rogers



Ellen Sickel Rogoff



Donald Ross



Julia Russell

## Without Update



Michele Kashé Schaye



Jane Schneiderman



Carol Bennet Schoenberg



Judith Patterson Schultz



Adele Slater Schwarz



Joan Littman Selig



Dorothy Franks Sellers



Elinor Berman Sidel



Judith Hyman Smith

## Without Update



Sonja Van Hall Speets



John V. Starkweather



Heather Barnes Starsong



W. Leonard Taffs



Virginia Buckley Tatoul



Pauline Towne



Linda Smyth Vanallen



June L. Smith Vandegraaf



C. Parrish Fort Warner

## Without Update



Margery Beck Wiesenthal



Dolores Lloyd Williams



Lynn Sakowitz Wyatt

## Without Photo

John Bennes  
Doris Makosky Chalfin  
Leonardo Cimino  
Michael Degener  
Phyllis Fay  
Merle Zinn Ginsberg  
Audrey Chase Gutlon  
Barbara Hubbard Karmiller

Oswald Kaufhold  
Anita Kessler  
Lawrence LeCours  
Susan MacPherson  
Justin E. Mamis  
Theresa Mendez  
Alice Mott Oscanlon  
Burt Rockwood

Myrna Ruiz-Vega  
Valerie Witalis Said  
Joan Stanley-Baker  
Judith Douglass Sutton  
Claudia Tucker  
Alida Ger Van der Hoeven Van Horn  
Sara Zuckert

## Deceased



Marjorie Roberts Barnett



Emily Cram Collins



Elsbeth Kurth Douglass



Mary Ann Vermeulen Haddad



Marcia Ruth Sang Isaacs



Barbara Ann Rolnick Love



Linda Krob Owens



Natalie Feiler Podell



Barbara Richelson

## **Deceased**



Suzanne Lee Elstein Scheinman



Janet Wells Sherwin



Joan Rosenthal Sovern



Sonja Carlsrud Tarnay

## **Without Photo**

Richard Comins  
Marion Fisher-Snyder  
Barbara Ruth Kelly Glovich  
Ralph Harmer

Margaret Jepson  
Carol Yeckes Panther  
Bette Shaler

## 50th Reunion



BRIEE DELLA ROCCA

From left to right: unknown, Priscilla Loening Hanford, Mary Lou Earthrowl Lewis,  
Constance Golub Gorfinkle, Hadassah Houtz Hoffman, Ann Fulton Magai '58,  
Edith Keen Farley, Laura Kesselman Skoler





## BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Office of External Relations

One College Drive

Bennington, Vermont 05201

800-598-2979

[alumnirelations@bennington.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@bennington.edu)

[www.bennington.edu](http://www.bennington.edu)

