

## for Alumni and Friends of Bennington College

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## Coleman elected ninth Bennington president

It was late afternoon October 10 when Adam Yarmolinsky made the call. A few hours before, the presidential search committee had made its recommendations to the board. The trustees voted for the first-choice candidate.

"Liz, congratulations. We want you to come to Bennington."

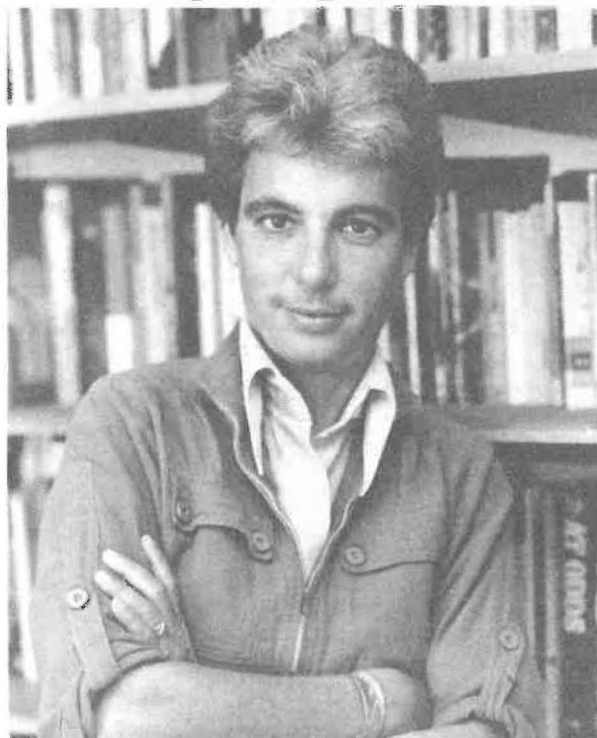
Elizabeth Coleman's response: "I'm deeply honored and utterly delighted to accept."

Yarmolinsky, chairman of the board and of the search committee, announced Coleman's election at the community dinner Friday evening, welcoming her in absentia: "After a search as thorough and widely shared as this one, I can say with assurance that we are welcoming Elizabeth Coleman as the right leader at the right time for Bennington. She is an educator and an individual to whom we can entrust the college and its students with pride and confidence."

An all-community welcome is planned for November 16. Coleman intends to be on the campus at intervals and to meet Bennington groups elsewhere during the transition. She takes charge July 1.

Since 1984, Elizabeth Coleman has been professor of literature and humanities in the university — the undergraduate college, the graduate schools and special divisions comprising the New School for Social Research in New York City. She had taught in these fields for the eight years preceding as a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences. She was also its dean from the outset, developing a liberal arts college — now named Eugene Lang College — with notable parallels to Bennington.

The four-year college that emerged has a student body smaller than Bennington's, chosen individually by similar criteria, and as diversified in its interests and aspirations. Students design their own programs. The



Elizabeth Coleman

student-faculty ratio is low; classes are small; there are no lecture courses. Students are encouraged to express their views on academic policies and community life, which is enlivened by rounds of plays, recitals and exhibits by the students.

Because Elizabeth Coleman has been part of that endeavor and has furthered its aims, her election is a double gain for Bennington. She brings a dedication to learning and proven skill with the non-traditions by which progressive education can constantly renew itself.

## Campus horticulture: despite thorny problems, beauty endures



Ed Flaccus, left, works with volunteers on a landscaping project.

Editor's note: For 17 years Ed Flaccus has taught in the Division of Science and Mathematics at Bennington. In addition to teaching ecology, botany and environmental studies, and supervising the greenhouse and herb-arium, he has until his retirement this year played a leading role in the horticultural care of the campus. He provides us here with a personal account of that care.

The late afternoon sun slanted across through crisp air as we looked down over the meadow toward Mt. Anthony. Quietly, gently, tentatively, a doe's head appeared above the grass, already tall from early rains. She grazed slowly across the opening at the far end of the field, her head alternately disappearing and reappearing, her large ears flicking off flies. A hush fell on the group of us watching.

The occasion was post-seminar drinks on Tom and Alice Reitz's back porch entertaining Kerry Woods, one of four candidates for the ecology/computers position in the Science and Math Division (we have since hired Kerry, and he is teaching already this fall). I had found it both interesting and gratifying that all four of the candidates we brought to interview were greatly impressed by the beauty of the campus. The informal beauty had especially impressed one who had just previously interviewed at a New York State campus with buildings in "penitentiary brick" style and grounds laid out and tended unimaginatively. Many other visitors, before and since, have been similarly impressed.

We're very fortunate to have a campus of about 550 acres, the bulk of it long ago cleared, and since kept open and farmed. The college made an agreement in 1974 with Dick and Scott Leake, father and son dairy farmers, whereby they could use the fields for mowing and for crops of corn and alfalfa in rotation, and would keep the fields open, fertilized, in good condition, to the benefit of the college. The Leakes have practiced wise and beneficial agriculture, in the process curing some serious erosion problems.

There are other areas of the larger campus that are not farmed, with distinctive though largely successional plant communities: the swamp along College Road, the woods back of the orchard, part of which was an old sugar bush, the orchard itself, scattered areas grow-

ing up to trees both planted and wild, dry old-field slopes, the pond by Dickinson, some Christmas tree plantations, the former gardens back of Jennings and some nursery areas.

Practically all college grounds maintenance efforts have gone into the inner campus surrounding the dorms and common buildings. It is there that we've tried to maintain trees and shrubs, though not most of the original flower gardens, and to develop an informal arboretum.

Since the original campus was laid out in 1932, changing conditions and personnel have produced ups and downs. One of the unique aspects of our campus is that it has grown very naturally, not separable from the spirit of the college itself, nor from each student or faculty member who has spent time here. Space limitations prevent adequate discussion of buildings, but the addition over the years of several varying yet compatible styles has contributed much to the beauty that surrounds us.

This is not the occasion to develop a painstaking and detailed history, but I should begin by crediting briefly a few important influences. The campus grounds were laid out and lovingly looked after in the early days by Louise DeWilde, the companion of Mrs. Jennings. Those who were here with DeWilde refer to her knowledge and judgment with great respect. In the early years the college also had the services of Adolf Balmer, a Swiss master gardener.

A generation of students bear witness to the lively continuing care of botanist Bob Woodworth, still with us. As most readers of *Quadrille* know, Bob ran the farm program during the war years (what war? asks a recent student, to whom the Second seems as remote as the First World War). Becca Stickney '43 has continued both a passionate and vocal interest. In my day, Becca and faculty members Fred Wohnus, Irving Lyon, Arnold Ricks and Ken Kensinger have all played roles in oversight. Fred, Irving and I made the decision not to broadcast-spray with DDT or its successors, such as methoxychlor, to try to control the spread of Dutch Elm disease, nor to spray the orchard apple trees. More recently, a campus

Horticulture, to page 6



## INTERIM REPORT:

### "Incremental improvement, respect and esteem"

by John Williams II, Interim President

By almost all statistical measures, there is good news this Fall. Enrollment is up; financial aid as a percentage of budget is down slightly without denying assistance to any needy student; our indebtedness has been reduced; our cash flow has improved; the number of alumni and friends who support the college has increased even as the development effort has had to adjust to a period of transition.

There is nothing dramatic in any of this — just steady progress as a result of hard work on everyone's part. The point is central to our expectations: The more likely road to long-term stability is by way of incremental improvement on all fronts over time rather than any quick fix. The other side of that coin is that small progress, however welcome, does not

allow for any relaxation of effort. How far we have come is but a hint of how far we still have to go before we arrive.

The "almost all" qualifier by which I introduced matters statistical is an important caution. We cannot take much comfort in our improved statistical health until we can also report that faculty and staff compensation has increased to levels more appropriate for the services rendered. That is the ultimate test of genuine financial stability. Anything less, though it has been a necessary way station, is unacceptable for a budget that is truly "in balance."

There is a more elusive index of institutional well-being that is of profound importance. It is difficult to measure except by being present on campus, because it has to do with the spirit of community, of shared experience, of common endeavor. In this regard, everyone

associated with Bennington can be proud of how faculty, students and staff participated together in the process that brought four presidential candidates to campus for extended visits. Had you been here, you would affirm, as I do, the good spirit and remarkable openness with which the campus went about a period of mutual exploration, probing and discourse.

The presidential search process has underscored that the college remains a precious place; that our faculty is extraordinarily talented, our students a testimony to the excellence of our program; our staff a source of strong support; and that the college has the capacity to rekindle its collegial spirit even as we continue to confront tough decisions. The Fall that is passing so quickly augurs well for the future if all of us will but nurture and sustain this promising display of respect and esteem for each other.

## Swan named library director; two new directors join development

John Swan joined the college October 1 as director of Crossett Library, bringing a wide range of experience to his position. He came to Bennington from Wabash College in Indiana, where he had served as reference librarian since 1979.

"I was attracted by a school such as Bennington because it isn't conservative," said Swan. "I've also admired Bennington for a long time because of the emphasis on liberal arts for their own sake."

Swan holds a doctorate and a master's degree from Tufts University in English and American literature, and received a master's in library science from Simmons College.

While at Wabash, Swan was active in the Indiana Library Association and chaired the

Intellectual Freedom Roundtable of the American Library Association.

One of Swan's goals will be to work with faculty to integrate the library into the curriculum through bibliographic instruction. The biggest challenge, he believes, will be to improve the collection despite the college's limited resources.

"I hope to convince people that a better collection is in everyone's interest," Swan said.

\* \* \*

David Crittenden will join the development department staff November 3 as director of annual giving. He succeeds Marny Krause, now at Skidmore College.

Denise Hahn will arrive at Bennington on the same date to serve as the college's new director of alumni relations. Nancy Jones, acting director, will resume her work in development research and special projects.

Crittenden, who grew up in Vermont, received a bachelor's degree in English at St. Lawrence University, and a master's degree in

English literature at San Francisco State University. He later owned and directed for 11 years a summer camp on the northern California coast. Crittenden takes charge of Bennington's Annual Fund with experience gained in his current position at the Cardigan Mountain School, Canaan, N.H., as director of development. He has had notable success there in both annual giving and capital fundraising.

Denise Hahn has most recently been assistant director of the alumnae association at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va., where she also received her bachelor of arts in English. Previously she held positions in social service while teaching literature and writing at Central Virginia Community College.

Elsie Dorain, acting director of development, welcomed Hahn and Crittenden as additions to Bennington "who personally and professionally will help greatly in building on the successes to date in gift support and alumni organization." She said a first order of business for the new administrators will be to meet the class agents, officers of the Alumni Association and others with whom they will be working directly and to become familiar with programs already in place.

## Applications, enrollment at 10-year high

Applications to Bennington have risen 37 percent in the past two years. This season they reached a ten-year high.

Freshman fall enrollment is 193, up from 149 last year. Total enrollment is 565, compared with 548 a year ago.

The entering students include 21 upper-classmen as transfers and two freshmen who are among the country's 20 1986 Presidential Scholars in the Arts. They are Leslie Wantanabe of Rockville, Md., and Jeffrey Shelp of Venice, Calif.

Approximately 50 percent of this year's freshmen are receiving financial aid from the college, which is below the level of recent years.

The largest groups among the freshman class come from the states of New York (52 — with 17 from New York City), California (27) and New Jersey (16). The class's 15 students from beyond the U.S. arrived from 13 countries; Spain, Mexico, Ecuador and Uruguay are new additions to the international roster. The female-male ratio fits the pattern of the upper classes at about two-to-one.

## Housing puzzle solved, new cafe opens

It was a tight squeeze, but all incoming students at Bennington have found a home, according to Alice T. Miller, Director of Student Services.

More doubles were created and additional students were allowed to move off campus to accommodate some 15 extra students over last term's enrollment. The process has been surprisingly harmonious, given the minor inconveniences students have faced, Miller added.

"Our students recognize the fact that there are more students and they are happy about it," she said.

New this year for students is the Upstairs Cafe, which houses table games, pool and ping-pong tables, pinball machines, a dart board and TV. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Returning students collaborated on a wall mural to decorate the new cafe.

An extensive orientation program was coordinated by a student committee. The program included workshops, receptions and other opportunities for parents and new students to gain a thorough introduction to the college.

## The bright side of being most expensive

The prize that goes with first place on the College Board's "most expensive" list is getting all the calls from the press. For Bennington, that's good. Numerous upbeat articles are bringing the college national attention: "Its emphasis," the Associated Press said in a wire story devoted to Bennington, "is on the individual."

Bennington has been first on the list before. This time around, experience and progress add emphasis in answering variations on the two initial questions: "Why is

Bennington so expensive?" and "What kind of education do you give for that kind of money?" developed by facts and insights from on-campus interviews, the resultant articles are inclusive, accurate and positive.

The list published each August is derived from a 3400-college survey by the College Board, a nonprofit educational services association. The figures cited are total "fixed costs" — tuition/fees, room and board.

Most expensive, to p. 10

## Bennington College Board of Trustees

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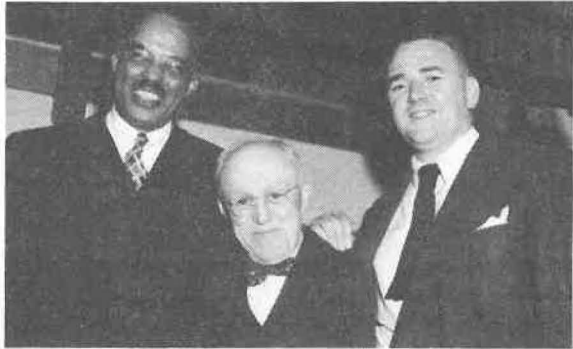
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## Letters to the Editor



## Reunion issue corrections

To the Editor:

In the 50th reunion issue there is a mistake in the caption of the photograph showing me with two speakers at the Conference on Contemporary America, held at the college in April 1950 (see photo above). The man identified as Ralph Bunche is Ira de A. Reid, professor of sociology at Haverford College. He was moderator of the conference. Ralph Bunch was the final speaker, at the Bennington Armory. The whole affair is reported in the *Alumnae Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 3, 1950, with excerpts from the addresses of Max Otto, Allen Tate, Erich Fromm and the other speakers at one of the most memorable events ever to take place at the college.

Frederick H. Burkhardt  
Bennington College President, 1947-1957

## Mabel Barbee Lee's name misspelled

To the Editor:

I enjoy reading *Quadrille* and feel that it fills a real need in communication among the various groups who are interested in the college. Being a member of the first class I was particularly interested in the "1st 50th Reunion Issue," but I was truly appalled and distressed that Mabel Barbee Lee's entire name was misspelled in the headlines in the section on "The 30's."

Mabel Barbee Lee was a remarkable woman, loved and respected by the members of the early classes and by the faculty. It was she who made the college-to-be alive for those of us who were interviewed as prospective students for the early classes. I know many of my classmates would not have considered Bennington, then still unopened, had it not been for Mrs. Lee's personal enthusiasm and the excitement she created in our minds when talking to us.

Emalea Warner Trentman '36

*Editor's Note:* We apologize for all factual errors in the Reunion issue, and we encourage alumni, as the best source, to continue to point those errors out to us.

## Self-criticism a strength of college

To the Editor:

I must take exception to Michael Hooker's letter appearing in the Summer '86 *Quadrille* (p.2).

The following paragraph from that letter is quite wrong:

"Attitude: Bennington traditionally has enjoyed and suffered from a lack of self-scrutiny and disciplined action. The scrutiny is needed to assure a curriculum and methods that are right for Bennington today. It is needed to hold our students and our faculty to the standards of excellence their talents warrant."

One of the most outstanding attributes of the college is its ability to execute self-criticism. If the college is to implement curricular changes - and it will, according to Ron Cohen's study - it will be through self-study.

That Bennington retains a clear vision of itself is creditable to its self-discipline.

Wynn Miller '78

*Quadrille welcomes letters to the editor on subjects of interest to Bennington alumni. A letter to the editor should include your name, class year, address and daytime phone number, and be addressed to: Quadrille, Bennington College, Bennington VT 05201. We reserve the right to edit letters for reasons of space and/or clarity.*

## The View at 70

To the Editor:

This is an informal report to the upcoming 50th Reunion class on the first one, as seen by one person.

There was a shivery sense of time-straddling. In spite of the changes over the many years, so much delighted by being unchanged. The floor in the corridor of the former science wing of the Barn creaked with the same complaints as 50 years ago; the steps to the Commons and the nobs of the banisters to the dining rooms had a completely familiar feel. I sat on a bench in front of Commons with Emma Swan Hall and Priscilla Bromley Crowell, not talking much, quiet in the sunshine, looking out at the green landscape across to Mt. Anthony. There was no strangeness there.

The weather certainly didn't contribute to the festivities on the first day-and-a-half - it was cold, raw and rainy - but the programs were impressive. There was music by a talented ad hoc sextet of Pioneers; Barbara Coffin Norris' hilarious rendition of "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep" with theme and Variations; poetry reading by Barbara Howes; the dedication of Paul Feeley's sculpture, "Jack," a gift of Helen Webster (Feeley) Wheelwright; Fletcher Wardwell Gaylord's lively verse, *As We Were*; Ron Cohen's fascinating report on the final phase of the Newcomb report on our political attitudes since the first study when we were in college: dedication of the Virginia Todahl Davis Alumni House; challenging and exciting music performed by the senior music majors in the Carriage Barn; and much more.

And all the while there was talk, talk, talk. At first "Who are you?", (the badges were beautifully scripted but hard for aging eyes to read). Then the delight when the past image took over from our present looks at 70. There was much laughter, too, even a sense of absurdity at our being in a place which should have been long ago.

The college handled the logistics of reunions plus graduation with smoothness and style. The food was wonderfully good and attractively served.

The 14 members of our class who came to the first 50th had mixed and independent (as always) thoughts about next year's celebration. One thing for sure: there will be one! The Pioneers shall gather again with the spotlight on the Class on 1937 - that's us. So ideas and suggestions are enthusiastically solicited.

Betty Evans Munger '37  
Class Agent

## Emphasis on arts creates imbalance

To the Editor:

The first 50th class reunion at Bennington last June was a fine warm satisfaction, a delight to all 26 of us, to say nothing of a kind of fulfillment. Greatly changed though the campus is from what it was 50 years ago, with only the barn, the Commons, a few student houses, plus a green on which a few young transplanted elms were guy-wired into place, the feeling of the campus and its many associations for all of us, were as young as ever. The years of maturity since our graduation in 1936 have somehow sharpened those memories, bringing them together, along with later experiences, promoting a creative ongoing development. Those early experiences were the base of all that followed.

And much has followed. Ted Newcomb's study, renewed periodically, shows how individual character and achievement indicate the growth of mind and heart, stemming in great part from the Bennington experience. Last June in Barn One we discussed these studies during the reunion and commonly decided that the single most descriptive adjective to describe our class is the term "feisty."

So it is as a feisty member of the Class of '36 that I submit the following observations:

The most basic educational policy of the founders of Bennington was to teach, inspire, encourage its students to handle and help to

solve the problems of the day, economic, political and social. A primary ingredient of the educational policy was the principle of balance.

All of the divisions, including the arts, were on an equal footing, a condition not common on other campuses where the arts were regarded as something only a few eccentrics favored.

Students at Bennington were encouraged to try a number of trial majors during their first two years, to become familiar with some of the areas covered by each of the divisions, and to concentrate on a major thereafter. By this means, graduates would understand and take an active part in the world as it was, so as to help in guiding its future.

Is that policy still in force at Bennington? I see signs of imbalance, failing to recognize connective understandings and capabilities for future creative action in the world we live in.

This imbalance, I think, is partly due to the dominant position of the arts. The arts division, once equal in influence with literature, the sciences, and the social sciences, is now dominant so far as the number of students is concerned. Which would be all right if the arts division were not also dominant in the total course offering, with only a few students paying any attention to what the other divisions have to offer. Since these non-arts offerings are centrally vital in our world today, I am concerned lest Bennington students shortchange themselves and the problems our world is now up against.

This does not help Bennington's reputation nor the condition of the world we live in.

At Bennington the fault lies possibly with the counseling the students receive from a faculty that is equally ingrown. Having observed the faculty on a dozen or so different campuses, I have seen how precious they can become. Many are narrowly confined to their own disciplines, hugging them closely to themselves, looking askance at what they see as threats from outside disciplines. If this is so at Bennington, then the solution to the problem of specialization lies with the faculty itself. For they, I submit, are sufficiently intelligent to recognize what is happening and by joint action to reverse the trend. And to participate in a marvelous creative adventure in the process.

In the restoration of balance, the arts students themselves should be a major ingredient. But they must become familiar with what the sciences, literature, and especially the social sciences can offer, in the way of analysis, strategy and the experimental search for solutions.

If the Bennington curriculum can be overhauled, and all students thrown into the mixture and stirred up as with a big spoon through better counseling, then perhaps current classes celebrating their 50th might be as joyfully feisty as we of '36 are.

Gladys Ogden Dimock '36

## IT'S A SILO REVIVAL

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## Liff Award Presented to alumni volunteers

At the annual dinner of the Bennington College Alumni Association on June 14, Kay Crawford Murray '56 and Irma Hagemann Thexton-Willis '51, received the Hudas Schwartz Liff '47 Award. The Liff Award was established in 1985 to honor volunteers who have taken on expanded responsibilities within the Alumni Association and have, by their example, encouraged others to do the same.

Kay Crawford Murray '56 has been active in the Alumni Association for 30 years, as vice president, class agent, and most recently, chair of the Associates committee. She is also a former trustee of the college. Under Kay's leadership, the 37 members of the Associates

committee have successfully raised almost \$600,000 of the \$804,764 contributed to the Annual Fund this year. Kay is counsel for the New York City Department of Juvenile Justice. She received her doctorate in law from Columbia University.

Irma Hagemann Thexton-Willis '51 is regional chair for Washington, D.C. Through the years she has served Bennington in a variety of roles, among them class agent, alumni/admissions volunteer, phonothon worker, and member-at-large. Irma and her Washington committee last year organized a very successful fall reception to introduce new trustees to Bennington alumni in the Washington area.

## Alumni Association leadership named for 1986-87

The Bennington College Alumni Association links the college and its most important asset — its 6,400 alumni coast-to-coast. It is an association of regional groups that work together to support one another's individual, personal and professional development, as well as to enhance Bennington through special events, admissions and FWT support, fund-raising activities, and alumni/reunion week-end. The activities of the Alumni Association are governed by an executive committee which you elect and whose president serves as a member of the college's board of trustees. In addition, there are three alumni trustees on the board.

Listed below are the members of the executive committee and the chairs of the regional groups.

### Executive Committee

**Hudas Schwartz Liff '47**, Alumni Association President, Huntington, N.Y.

**Peg Stein Frankel '41**, Vice President — West Coast, Elk, Calif.

**Jane Berry Vosburgh '58**, Vice President — Southwest, Albuquerque, N.M.

**Jeannie Cross '72**, Vice President — New England, Quaker Street, N.Y.

**Grace Russell Wheeler '48**, Vice President — Mid-Atlantic, Bryn Mawr, Penna.

**Suzanne Eckfeldt Harding '47**, Secretary, South Freeport, Maine.

**Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff '59**, Treasurer/Chair of Alumni Fund, New York, N.Y.

**Kay Crawford Murray '56**, Chair of Associates Committee, New York, N.Y.

**Lavinia "Kelly" Falconer '40**, Chair of Nominating Committee, El Cerrito, Calif.

**Mary Anne Sgarlat '79**, Chair of Alumni/Admissions, Milton, Mass.

**Constance Payson Pike '47**, Chair of Davis Alumni House, Old Lyme, Conn.

**Dody Coffin Harvi '42**, Co-chair of Reunion, Dover, Mass.

**Nancy Comstock Baldwin '63**, Co-chair of Reunion, Lebanon, Conn.

### Regional Chairs:

**Bennington:** Barbara Henry '85, Bennington, Vt.

**Boston:** Marjorie Issacs Newman '69, Sharon Mass.

**Detroit:** Alan Feuer '76, Southfield, Mich.

**Long Island:** Jane Thornton Iselin '56, Syosset, N.Y.

**New York City:** Wendy Liff-Flynn '77, New York, N.Y.

**San Francisco:** Dorothy McWilliams Cousins '37, Sausalito, Calif.

**Washington, D.C.:** Irma Thexton-Willis '51, Cabin John, Md.

*Members-at-Large* provide support to the regional chairpersons.

They are: Mary Brox '73, Chelmsford, Mass.; Betsy Feist '64, New York, N.Y.; Dik Fishman '73, San Francisco, Calif.; Gail Gambino '61, Port Washington, N.Y.; Amy Sawelson Landes '76, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Caryn Levy Magid '65, New York, N.Y.; Louise Loening Reiver '52, Wilmington, Del.; Keven Vance '79, Washington, D.C.

## Alumni Goals Set for 1986-87

For two days following Reunion in June, the officers, regional chairs, committee chairs, and members-at-large of the Bennington College Alumni Association met to plan strategies for the Association in the coming year. Discussion and planning focused on goals for the Association, the identification and development of new leaders, regional development, alumni involvement in admissions, fund raising, the management of the Davis Alumni House, and Reunion.

Goals for the Alumni Association for 1986-87 were set:

1. Continued development and expansion of regional groups — strengthening established groups in New York, Boston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Long Island and encouraging growth in chapters in Bennington, Los Angeles and Philadelphia.
2. Continued work with the alumni/admissions network in recruiting
3. Achievement of the \$850,000 Annual fund goal.
4. Continued focus on reunion with emphasis on increased participation and giving.
5. The administration of the Virginia Todahl Davis '40 Alumni House.

## Reunion 1987 planning begins

The 1987 Reunion Planning Committee met for the first time on September 5 to discuss the program for this year's reunion. Members of the Reunion executive committee are:

Nancy Comstock Baldwin '63, Co-chair  
Dody Coffin Harvi '42, Co-chair  
Elizabeth Evans Munger '37, 50th Class Agent  
Ruth Magnusson Wathen-Dunn, '37, 50th Program Coordinator  
Andrea Kanner Halbfinger '62, 25th Reunion  
Elisse Ghitelman '77, 10th Reunion  
Karen McAuley '66, previous reunion planner  
Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff '59, Chair of Alumni Fund  
Hudas Schwartz Liff '47, President, Alumni Association

In making plans for Reunion 1987, the committee reviewed the 1986 reunion evaluation survey and incorporated suggestions into the 1987 program. A highlight for this year's reunion will be an alumni panel on "Changing Expectations and Changing Roles." A suggested reading list will be available in advance for those who wish some in-depth preparation. Faculty presentations, ever popular with alumni, will again be scheduled.

The Reunion executive committee will meet again in October and in February to finalize details.

## An open letter to Southwestern alumni

### ATTENTION, SOUTHWESTERNERS:

You are now represented on the Alumni Board with your own vice president, Jane Vosburgh, 5805 Torreon Drive NE, Albuquerque NM 87109 (505-822-8445). Vermont now knows where Arizona, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma and Utah are, and wants to do something with us. What? Let's explore: write or call me now about your personal interests regarding Bennington's Alumni Association. Let's get organized.

Jane Vosburgh '58  
Vice President, West

## Health insurance update

by Ellie Rooks '59

Since December 1984, Karen McAuley '66 and Ellie Rooks '59 have tried to find a low-cost health insurance plan for alumni under the auspices of the Bennington College Alumni Association. Only two percent (roughly 110) of the members has expressed interest in such a health plan over this two-year period. Since insurance companies with whom we have been in contact require that a much larger proportion of the association be covered, we have been unable to achieve this end. Thus, we have had to abandon our original plan for the time being.

We did, however, find an alternative. Metropolitan Life can offer individual group health insurance to alumni with no minimum participation required. To be eligible for coverage, you must pass a physical and you must be self-employed. They offer comprehensive coverage comparable with that offered by large corporations. It is *not* a bargain. The package includes: Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Major Medical and low-cost life insurance. Each of these components may not be taken separately but as a package only. There is a deductible of \$100 and reimbursement in full

for covered expenses. The rates vary with age and geographical location. In addition, the insurance company can design a health plan to meet the particular needs of an individual or family.

If you are interested and have not already done so, you may contact the following person for further information:

James P. Taylor  
Branch Manager  
990 Westbury Road, 2nd Floor  
Westbury, NY 11590  
Tel: (516) 334-7090

Or, you may write Ellie Rooks and she will forward to you information regarding rates. Ultimately, though, you must contact Taylor directly at the insurance company.

Ellie Rooks  
56 West 65th Street, 4G  
New York, NY 10023

If anyone knows of a way to encourage more Bennington alumni to participate in a college-sponsored insurance program for alumni, please share your ideas with Ellie Rooks or Karen McAuley. Believe me, we've given this the old college try.



## Alumni Association annual meeting: a very good year

John Williams, interim president, and Adam Yarmolinsky, chairman of the presidential search committee and chairman of the board of trustees of the college, were guests at the annual meeting of the Bennington College Alumni Association held in June on campus during Reunion 1986. Introduced by the president of the Alumni Association, Hudas Schwartz Liff '47, Williams commented on his role as interim president noting that this transition period was an ideal time for asking questions, making self-assessments and preparing the ground for a new president. Yarmolinsky briefed the alumni on the status of the presidential search.

Continuing with the business of the annual meeting, Liff noted that it was a very good year for the Alumni Association with more volunteers committing more time and energy to Bennington programs than ever before. Regional groups have been active in New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Long Island, Boston, Los Angeles and Bennington.

Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff '59, treasurer and chair of the Alumni Fund, and Kay Crawford Murray '56, chair of the Associates Committee, reported on the success of the fund-raising program this year (see issue of *Checks and Balances*). Mary Anne Sgarlat '79, chair of the Admissions Committee, thanked those alumni whose efforts this year in admissions resulted in the largest entering class in recent years. The success of the efforts of Constance Payson Pike '47, chair of the Davis Alumni House, Nancy Comstock Baldwin '63 and Dody Coffin Harvi '47, co-chair of Reunion, was in evidence all weekend on campus with the dedication of the Alumni House and a record number of alumni returning for Reunion.

The slate of officers, trustees, and members-at-large, nominated for 1986-1987 and now serving on the alumni council are:

**Hudas Schwartz Liff '47** - renominated for president of the Alumni Association. Hudas has held many positions in the Alumni Association: treasurer, chair of class agents, chair of the Annual Fund, co-chair of the 50th Campaign, and regional chair of New Haven and Long Island. She is a docent at the Hecksher Museum of Huntington and chair of

the personnel committee for Planned Parenthood of Suffolk County.

**Grace Russell Wheeler '48** - nominated for area vice president (Mid-Atlantic Region). Grace has been a class agent since 1983. A resident of suburban Philadelphia, she does freelance market research under the name of General Research Associates. Grace is president of the board of Beaver College, and past board member of the Please Touch Museum for Children.

**Jane Berry Vosburgh '58** - nominated for area vice president (Southwest Region). Jane's previous activities for the Alumni Association include vice president, publicity chair, Pittsburgh regional chair, and class agent. She is president of the Albuquerque Federated Republican Women, docent of the Albuquerque Museum and member of the Docent Council, member of the American Association of University Women, and student of the National Association of Parliamentarians (Rio Grande Chapter).

**Marianne Byk Schnell '50** - renominated for alumni trustee on the college's board of trustees. She has just finished her term as vice president for the Mid-Atlantic Region and has been president of the New York Region. Marianne also plans to assist in Long Island regional activities. As a painter Marianne has had seven one-women shows in New York City and two shows of drawings — one at Bennington and one in Calgary, Canada.

**Dik Fishman '73** - nominated for member-at-large. Since graduation Dik has been a practicing artist and is currently a student in graphic design at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. He is part owner of a restaurant in Berkeley and has been active in political movements (nuclear power, the draft, and Central America). He is an admissions volunteer representing the college at college nights and fairs and interviewing applicants.

**Amelia Sawelson Landes '76** - nominated for member-at-large. "Everything I did at Bennington prepared me well for what I do today. The reason a Bennington education works is because it teaches students to get things done . . . to get results." Amy has been active in the Los Angeles area as an admissions representative for the college, attending

college fairs and interviewing prospective students. She is an account manager at the Food Group, an advertising and marketing communications agency for the food service industry.

**Caryn Levy Magid '65** - nominated for member-at-large. In 1985-86 Caryn was New York City coordinator of the Admissions Pilot Project and organized alumni volunteers who contacted prospective applicants to answer questions about Bennington. Over the winter Caryn hosted a get-together for prospective applicants and through the years has been an alumni interviewer. She is associated with the real estate firm, David Day Realty, and also works several times a week as an assistant to the college advisor at the Manhattan Center for Science and Math.

**Louise Loening Reiver '52** - nominated for member-at-large. Louise says, "I am very happy to work for Bennington in an official capacity through the Alumni Association. My contact with Bennington over the years has been constant and rewarding." She initiated the Lionel Nowak Music Scholarship Fund upon his retirement and together with her sister, Priscilla Loening Hanford '57, has continued to build the fund over the years. Louise lives in Wilmington, Del., and will assume her duties with the association in January upon her return from a six-month stay in Calcutta, India, where she will be working with Mother Teresa.

### The New York Alumni Association needs YOU!

If you're interested in helping to organize:  
The New York Arts Connection  
Theatre Benefits  
Special Events/Seminars  
Mini-Reunions  
Alumni Admissions Efforts

Please contact:

Wendy Liff-Flynn '77  
1160 Third Avenue, 14E  
New York, NY 10021  
Telephone: 212/744-2299 (h)  
212.310-2685 (w)

## REGIONAL NOTES

### California

■ Northern California has scheduled its Annual Meeting for October 28 in San Francisco. Regional chairperson, **Dorothy McWilliams Cousins '39**, announces that interim president **John Williams** will be the guest speaker at the meeting. In addition, **Helen Webster Feeley Wheelwright '37**, will be honored for her work on behalf of Bennington through her various affiliations with the college. Wheelwright will speak about life on campus in the early years. The annual San Francisco phonothon will take place the evening of October 29. Alumni callers are being recruited. **Peg Stein Frankel '41**, West Coast vice president, reports that 11 students from Northern California have entered Bennington this fall compared with no students in 1985. **Joan Fitzgerald Denny '72** and **Suzanne Heller Harris '41** are coordinator and assistant coordinator, respectively, for the San Francisco associates committee. **Shoshana Schiller '83**, will chair the San Francisco admissions committee and will coordinate the alumni/admissions phonothon. Finally, proceeds from last January's theatre benefit will enable a FWT student to accept a voluntary job in Northern California this year.

■ Los Angeles had a Bennington Reunion West on June 29 at the home of **Erin Quinn Mico '79**. **Erin and Amy Sawelson Landes '76**, planned the potluck supper which approximately 30 alumni attended. In addition faculty member **Leroy Logan** stopped by. Alumni had a chance to see the student video "Students on Bennington." Los Angeles alumni have plans for another gathering in the fall.

### Boston

Boston alumni, chaired by **Marjorie Issacs Newman '69**, held an organizational meeting in September. Plans call for publication of the newsletter and the November phonothon.

### New York City

New York City held its yearly planning meeting on September 23. The fall New York City phonothon will take place on October 7 and 8. Organizers for the fall phonothon are **Cathy Hays-Sloan '80**, **Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff '59**, chair of the Alumni fund, and **Wendy Liff-Flynn '77**, New York regional chair. Other events are in the works. Watch your newsletter for more details.

### Long Island

Long Island — eight out of twelve incoming students from Long Island attended an informal get-together on August 24 at **Jane Thornton Iselin's (56)** home. Two students representing the college were on hand to clarify a range of concerns from noise levels in various houses to ways to earn money on campus to laundry. Yes, academics were discussed. It was a lively afternoon and highly recommended as a yearly project for the regions. A special thanks must go to **Andrea Kanner Halbfinger '62** and her committee who made follow-up calls last year to Long Island high school students who requested information on the college. That "personal touch" was an important factor in the increase in number of top-notch students who chose Bennington. Andrea's committee met on September 15 to gear up for the new year.

### Bennington

Bennington-area alumni welcome a new chairperson, **Barbara Henry '85**. A long-time Bennington resident, she raised nine children prior to returning to college to complete her degree. A painter, Barbara teaches at her studio in Bennington. As the first activity this year, Bennington-area alumni offered housing to parents for Parents Day during Columbus weekend in October. More activities are planned.

### New England

New England Vice President, **Jeannie Cross**

'72, reports on a successful gathering of 15 alumni from the upper Connecticut River Valley. **Nancy Markey Chase '61** hosted the luncheon on September 20 with **Peter Richardson**, Director of Admissions, as the guest speaker. Richardson showed the student video on Bennington and brought the group up-to-date on his office's successful year in attracting incoming freshmen to the college. Richardson also talked about the presidential search and the four finalists for the job.

The session drew alumni from both Vermont and New Hampshire, four of whom agreed to serve as a steering committee to develop future events, one of which they hope will be a fundraiser. The four committee members are **Lili Paxson '42** of Norwich; **Elisabeth Ward '52** of Hanover, N.H.; **Isabella Erickson '40** of Springfield, Vt.; and **Anne Frye**, an honorary member of the class of '36, of Norwich. Also offering to assist the group is **Gladys Ogden Dimock '36** of Bethel, Vt.

## Alumni/Admissions volunteer coordinators announced

Mary Anne Sgarlat '79, national chair of admissions for the Alumni Association, announces that five regions have appointed coordinators to assist the admissions office this year. They are: **Shoshana Schiller '83**, San Francisco; **Caryn Levy Magid '65**, New York City; **Keven Vance '79**, Washington, D.C.; **Andrea Kanner Halbfinger '62**, Long Island; **Mary Brox '73**, Boston.

Their duties are to establish a team of alumni volunteers to telephone prospective students and answer questions about Bennington, to provide representation at college fairs, to coordinate applicant/acceptance parties, and to assist the admissions office in off-campus interviewing when necessary.



# Campus horticulturalists struggle with saving elms, dredging pond

grounds subcommittee (Ricks, Stickney, Kensinger, with I as chairman) was set up by the art and architecture committee under Ken Kensinger. From the staff side there has been a series of superintendents of building and grounds and grounds supervisors, trying with too little money and varying success to keep up the grounds.

So we have had a loose, somewhat shifting arrangement in which the faculty grounds subcommittee has worked in informal oversight with the grounds staff. This came about partly because we did not have horticultural expertise on the staff (the one exception was Dick Streeter, who stayed a few years and was then lured away by higher salary to head up the operation at UVM). Because of over-commitment of time, the faculty subcommittee has operated largely by phone conversations and ad hoc campus walks, and by not a few cries of anguish.

The usual pros and cons of a loose vs. a tight ship are relevant here. The complement of groundsmen has ranged from four or five to only two today, a downward trend and more than ominous for a 550 acre campus! In the last two or three years, thanks to Leonard Cross and Billy MacDonald, and supervisory help from Bob Ayers and Greg Moon, the condition of the grounds has improved. The groundsmen have worked hard and cooperatively with the subcommittee, despite trials on both sides. Earlier there have been times and particular individuals when careless mowing has barked trees, broken specimen tree signs, etc. On the other side, grounds staff have suffered under the multiple boss syndrome — several strong-willed faculty members with differing and occasionally ill-advised ideas about priorities, cutting brush and pruning.

Added to the above have been the considerable contributions of time and labor by some faculty in keeping their residence grounds maintained, or in general campus work (Kensinger, Levine, Reitz, Stickney, Logan, Sandy, Chuck and Harriet Yoder, are a few who come to mind). And far from least student work, both paid and volunteer (about which more later).

Issues have come and gone, and some have stayed. In the early days Dickinson Pond was a sheep meadow, in which drainage tiles had been installed for drainage. Someone told me a while back that there was an early internecine war between some faculty members who wanted a pond (they plugged the drain tiles) and others who did not (they unplugged the tiles). Both Becca and Bob deny any knowledge of this, but apochryphal or not, it somehow sounds very Bennington-like. The building of the dam in the middle sixties won the day, needless to say, for the pond advocates.

Saving the elms is an issue that has gone. As I've said, we early decided for reasons of efficacy, expense and ecological side-effects not to engage in a spray program. In 1977 Billy Rudd (then grounds supervisor) and I attended a Dutch Elm Disease Symposium at the National Arboretum in Washington, where a large group of national experts met for two days of papers on the state of the art in DED control. The state of the science was rather unresolved, and we came away with the realiza-

tion that there was neither an easy nor uneasy cure nor much hope on the horizon. While it was possible to save one or a small number of suitably isolated trees by constant combination of sanitation pruning, spraying for the bark beetles which spread the disease-causing fungus and yearly injecting with the fungicide benomyl, trying to keep a campus complement indefinitely would have been prohibitively expensive and would have likely ended in failure by slow attrition.

Now all but a very few American elms are gone. The general opinion among horticulturalists is that we made the right decision, painful though it was. On Commons we had a choice of replanting with resistant types of elms such as Siberian, Chinese or little leaf, none of which have the form of the grand American elm, or with other hardwoods, such as moraine locust, red or white oak, or sugar maple. The decision was made to go with sugar maple, still so impressive in lines, so long-lived, so brilliant in fall, and so appropriate to the white clapboard New England dorms bordering Commons lawn. With respect to the south drive, I felt strongly that a line of trees close to the road, as the elms had been, was a serious hazard — there had been at least two students killed in collisions with those trees in the time I'd been here. Furthermore, the free and open vistas with views of Mt. Anthony were and are an aesthetic plus that would be lost by reestablishing a line of sugar maples or other hardwood or evergreen choices.

To dredge the Pond or not? Dickinson Pond averages about 18 inches deep everywhere except at the dam end, where it is two or three feet. It is being invaded especially by cattails, the productivity of which has been measured by 17 years of ecology students. It is in the familiar process by which shallow, warm water ponds fill in because of the high productivity of plants, supported by plenty of water and mineral nutrients. The Pond is a wonderfully accessible outdoor biology lab; it is also a great resource for students, faculty or staff to enjoy, aesthetically and spiritually. It is home to various numbers of muskrats (devilishly hard to observe — see Annie Dillard's *A Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*) which make their food piles of cattails. There are painted turtles; the females make their annual trek up to the little hillsides near the east end of the science building, and less often the west end, to dig holes and lay their eggs. Do the same ones repeat the trip? Do they remember? How do the little hatchlings, if the eggs have escaped the skunks, navigate back to the water? Good potential science investigations there. Big, rough-backed, ominously hissing snappers come and go — they do a lot of overland traveling. There are no fish — the water is too shallow to avoid oxygen depletion and freezing out in winter — but lots of peepers and toads in spring, frogs, and the tadpoles that are the offspring of each. Most springs we have a brood or two of mallard ducks, hatched in the wet swamp east of VAPA, the ducklings brought surreptitiously some night by mother to the feeding delights of the pond. During spring and fall migrations there are visits from many more mallards — a record 70 at

once in fall of '85 — black ducks, mergansers, blue-winged teals, green and great blue herons and even the occasional Canada goose. As I write this there is a magnificent American egret, snowy white, fishing, moving with incredible long-necked grace. He or she has been here a couple of weeks, obviously enjoying the ambiance and the company of a great blue heron. This is the first record I have of an egret on the pond in 17 years (their northward autumn visits from the south are much commoner closer to the coast).

The Pond will eventually — within 20 years? — disappear. At what point, if at all, do we go in and dredge?

Do we let brush grow up around parking lots? Should the lots be shielded from view by vegetation? Or must the brush be kept cleared to allow views of the lots by security personnel? And this brings up the larger question, faced earlier by the art and architecture committee: Is our campus primarily a walking campus, with parking lots and parking on the periphery only? Parking has got to be one of the most intractable, though least profound, problems faced by any educational institution, seeming sometimes as unsolvable as death, taxes, or our own pet policy.

What do we do about walks? There are no better determiners on the face of the Earth of the shortest distance between two points than college students, who are loath to bend even a little (uncharacteristically?) from the straight and narrow in their walking. To avoid the geometric patterns of paved paths of a Harvard Yard, with a path from every door to every other, we've tried to plant some buffers of shrubs. Some of these have not succeeded, some of the rather more prickly ones have. At least one faculty member some years ago elderd me gently, claiming that such regimenting activity was very un-Bennington. In a way I agreed with him, but only partly. You can't start forbidding, but you can at least try to persuade and cajole students and colleagues to avoid tramping out lines of hard and grassless earth. Likewise to stay off the grass during the couple of weeks of "mud-season" in the spring, so that we all can walk barefoot on it later on in the summer.

Then there is the problem of sculptures, which over the years have bloomed in sporadic series on campus. Both practical and aesthetic considerations need to be addressed. They complicate life for the lawn-mowers, and can be a serious hazard to night walkers. On the aesthetic side they can be impressively creative expressions, some beautiful in their own right or in complementing their surroundings, some ugly — indeed that may be their intended statement. What we've worked for is some accommodation between the liveliness and challenge of artistic expression and the need to avoid uncontrolled and unjuried proliferation before what is a captive audience.

So much for some human problems. There are others, such as the terrible ubiquity of some introduced shrub species that were planted very early on campus. The worst of these is the Eurasian tatarian honeysuckle and its close relatives (*Lonicera tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L.x. bella*, and *L. xylosteum* are the latin names). They have proved to be fiendish pests in much of southern Vermont; spread by birds they have invaded even into old-growth woodlands. The buckthorn (in our case *rhamnus cathartica* — there is another species that is a problem elsewhere) is another. So far we've been spared the ravages of Japanese Polygonum, or bamboo, though we have one small patch of it that we're watching.

We also have tree disease problems other than Dutch Elm Disease, such as maple "decline" or "dieback" of sugar maple, and the more recent ash dieback or decline of the American ash. Both of these are problems generally in our area, and a number of our trees on campus look poorly and many have died. About all we know is that both conditions are complicated. There is a general belief that one or a combination of four or five conditions is involved in maple decline: soil compaction, drought periods, road salting, mineral deficiency, Verticillium wilt, a widespread fungus disease of many tree species, and possibly acid precipitation. The ash dieback is newer and even less understood, but some recent evidence suggests that a mycoplasma may be involved, a very small cellular parasite of the same type that causes elm necrosis. We have tried some fertilizing of sugar maples without noticeable success. So it seems that occasionally plant pathology can be as dismal a science as economics.







## Summer at Bennington

Bennington bustled this summer with activities ranging from the traditional July Program to Anna Halprin's "Circle the Earth" dance of peace workshop. Clockwise from left are participants from the July Program, Art New England, Circle the Earth workshop, Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East, and the Bennington Writer's Workshop. Photos of the July Program, Art New England and Chamber Music conference by Katherine Kellogg, photo of Circle the Earth by Connie DeLego and photo of Writer's Workshop by Wendell Severinghaus.



## Memorial services honor Malamud

Friends and admirers of the late Bernard Malamud gathered at Greenwall Music Workshop on May 17 for a memorial service.

Personal meditations on Malamud's life, art and friendships were presented by Ben Belitt, Phebe Chao, Arlene Heyman '63, Georges Guy, Stephen Sandy and Claude Fredericks. A second campus tribute to Malamud was held July 30 as part of the 1986 Bennington Writing Workshops, on the night Malamud was to have read from his work. The following are excerpts taken from readings that were part of the two memorials.

\* \* \*

"(Bern Malamud) wanted to gobble up the details of the world. He asked unbelievable questions of his friends and acquaintances, in private and in public. When he was writing *The Tenants*, he asked one of my august colleagues, 'Have you ever had sex with someone of another race?' He asked a woman who had married an older man, 'What was it like when your husband first kissed you?' She objected gutturally at first, 'Bernard, zat is a very rude question'. But then, like all of us, she proceeded to answer. He asked questions of men, and he asked questions of women. He *liked* women. It was one of the smartest things about him. Bern was as interested in the sounds of the cello as he was in the sounds of an orgasm. Nothing was too sacred, and nothing beneath his attention. He loved what most of us call gossip. He said that it was the bread and butter of a novelist's trade. And indeed he transformed his investigations, the tiny tesserae of our

daily lives into the grand mosaic of art."  
Phebe Chao  
Literature and Languages Faculty

\* \* \*

"Almost every time you saw Bern, and I think this was everyone's experience, whether you were his student or his friend (and many of his students became lifelong friends) you left feeling enhanced, indeed often elated. You were terribly interesting to him (as were your friends, relatives, patients, husband and children); indeed you were precious, life was precious, life in all its manifestations. Art, for instance, was endlessly moving to him. To see a museum show with him was an extraordinary experience. Bern knew about the artists' life and felt for his sufferings and rejoiced at what the man had accomplished — his victories, "his triumphs," — in spite of those sufferings; you left feeling you'd spent the afternoon with the artist. If you took a walk with Bern (and everyone took a walk with Bern: he met friends for walks the way others met over a cup of coffee) he would talk and listen intensely but he would always notice nature. He had an eye for a graceful tree or a bright bird, a self-trained eye. (One had the sense that most of the things that he knew and loved he had taught himself to know and love, and that you could do the same. Perhaps this was illusion, that you could do the same, but it was an exhilarating illusion!)

Arlene Heyman '63

\* \* \*

"I have never been able to read the cunningly poised opening sentence of one of Mr. Malamud's title stories without realizing that, as a poet, I am involved:  
*'The thick ticking of the tin clock stopped. Mendel, dozing in the dark, awoke in fright. The pain returned as he listened. He drew on his cold, embittered cloth-*

*ing and wasted minutes sitting at the edge of the bed.'*

The literal sound of the clock ticking away under cheap tin — prosodists call this onomatopoeia — caesuras stopping the heart with silences and simple declarative sentences, like thuds, the 'cold, embittered clothing,' and the passionate self-removal of the executing hand, are all matters for the poet. One looks over the sentences to the story's title: *Idiot's First* — and, yes, the priorities are right for the poet — as Blake declared them to be when he said: "If others had not been foolish, we should be so" — where "should" can be read as "ought to," as well as the simple future tense. When the same priorities are seen to preside over an entire volume unflinching in its contemplation of human folly, the poet again finds his true perspective and calls it "lyrical." Looking beyond the stories, into the pit of the 'magic barrel' — another title story — where the whole world of schlemiels, sufferers, schnorers, schleppers, nudicks, compulsive idealists, marinate in comedy and fantasy like pickles in a delicatessen barrel, one sees that the realities are hyperbolic, angular, off: and that the observer of all this 'turbulence' is — Yeats's phrase — still 'unsatisfied.' That, too, is right for poetry."

Ben Belitt  
Literature and Languages Faculty

\* \* \*

### Air For Air

In such a glut of light frozen above  
The sea he could not sort or separate  
Sunlight from snow. So in the spare finesse  
Of body barking ever up its tree  
Of hungers it went ill to separate  
The one desire from Desire. Yet those  
Serene, those incremental devastations  
(So incidentally serene) spoke well

Spoke jealousy of air for air, the shriek  
Of energy against Atlantic shore,  
Of spirals shifting in one zenith.  
And there  
The frozen heather, wreaths of beach grass blew.

This ring of orderings had to serve there, tallied  
But got diffracted in his jalouse eyes.  
Nothing was then as it would be between  
That land that wave that air, nothing he saw  
Would he be like to see again it said  
It said it said. Back from the wind, from sand

And back, he found the sky undoing snow,  
Salt glaze of frost slowly relenting, gleaming  
On pitch pine and scrub oak, beryl and umber.  
A nuthatch darted, then zigzagged down a bole  
Through shad, half shad, full noon and out of sight.  
The one who watched that little star trek might

Believe (in his best interest) he would come  
On such clear movement once again as once  
Before; and in his treble sighting make  
All of it understood; the twisted reds  
That wind bowed cedars to, a light on the bark,  
The silent nuthatch or the howling shriek,

Keeping these sensible in understanding  
How these were here, how long they would keep there.  
Wouldn't he offer a possessive eye  
Wouldn't he pay another visit hearing  
"nothing is now as it shall be"?  
Shall be,  
A voice continuing repeats, shall be.

Stephen Sandy  
Literature and Languages Faculty  
from *Riding to Greylock*  
(Alfred A. Knopf, 1983)  
Copyright 1983 Stephen Sandy





"Jinny came into my life at the end of my term as chairman of the first phase of the Capital Fund drive. I was by that time what my husband's old Irish nurse would describe as 'broke and badly bent'. Jinny's enormous healing powers worked for me and for everyone else. She left us the most precious legacy there is, a clear and radiant memory of someone who was a truly complete and gallant person. Her center was focused outside herself, which allowed her spirit complete freedom to grow and to reach out to others. We were all touched by that spirit and it enhanced our lives, not just then, but will continue to as long as we are still wandering around down here.

"A house, warming and sheltering, is the most perfect memorial to Jinny. Her wise and gentle spirit will be in every nook and cranny, encircling all who come in."

Kate Evarts Merck

Kate Evarts Merck '46  
Dedication of Virginia Todahl Davis Alumni House

"At 70, the Bennington gestalt remains alive and well in this grateful alumna's cerebrum, since both left and right sides of the brain were constantly plowed up and seeded during those four years of 1932-36, with unforgettable TLC from such a conglomerate group of unique human beings gathered together on that special Vermont Hilltop . . . who can count the ways?"

So much of the content of the past 50 years has been impregnated by those experiences. What a seedbed it was for all of us!"

Eldora Van Buren Boeve '36

"When I think about alumni I have known, struck by how, to a certain extent, to have maintained a sort of independence, an ideal, that one finds in the id. It is as though the id exuberance common in later life, have marked upon their place. Whether we remain now, the mere fact that here for four years, things are in our charge are things that will stand in the world, and or leave us ever."

Donna Tartt '86  
Student Commencement

"We must take the make our history."

Tillie Olson  
Commencement Speech



Reunion/Commencement '86 took on a special significance as the Class of '36 returned to celebrate its 50th Reunion, a milestone marked by all classes with much joy, fondness for the past and anticipation of the future. As always, the new graduates brought their own special exuberance to the proceedings, which went on smoothly despite rainy weather.

It was Bennington's largest reunion ever, with about 240 alumni, spouses and guests attending

Reunion. Some of the weekend's highlights were:

- Dedication and opening of Virginia Todahl Davis House.
- Special exhibits of photographs of Commencement 1936, wall hangings by Ruth Magnusson Wathen-Dunn '37, Ansel Adams photographs from the Bennington College collection and gift books given by Vincent V. R. Booth in memory of Vincent Ravi Booth.
- Student dance, drama and music perfor-







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Merck '46  
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sides of the brain were  
constantly plowed up  
and seeded during those  
four years of 1932-36,  
with unforgettable TLC  
from such a conglomer-  
ate group of unique hu-  
man beings gathered to-  
gether on that special  
Vermont Hilltop... who  
can count the ways?"

So much of the content  
of the past 50 years has  
been impregnated by  
those experiences. What  
a seedbed it was for all of  
us!"

Eldora Van Buren Boeve '36

"When I think about the Bennington  
alumni I have known, I am invariably  
struck by how, to a one, they all seem  
to have maintained this particular  
sort of independence, this tenacity to  
an ideal, that one finds at Bennington.  
It is as though the idealism and  
exuberance common in youth, but so  
rare in later life, have been indelibly  
marked upon their characters by this  
place. Whether we realize it or not  
now, the mere fact that we have lasted  
here for four years means that these  
things are in our characters, too. They  
are things that will stand us in good  
stead in the world, and will not fail us,  
or leave us ever."

Donna Tartt '86

Student Commencement Speaker

"We must take the responsibility to  
make our history."

Tillie Olson

Commencement Speaker



mencement '86 took on a special  
s the Class of '36 returned to celebrate  
on, a milestone marked by all classes  
, fondness for the past and anticipa-  
re. As always, the new graduates  
own special exuberance to the pro-  
h went on smoothly despite rainy  
nington's largest reunion ever, with  
ni, spouses and guests attending

Reunion. Some of the weekend's highlights were:

- Dedication and opening of Virginia Todahl Davis House.
- Special exhibits of photographs of Commencement 1936, wall hangings by Ruth Magnusson Wathen-Dunn '37, Ansel Adams photographs from the Bennington College collection and gift books given by Vincent V. R. Booth in memory of Vincent Ravi Booth.
- Student dance, drama and music perfor-

mances, faculty lecture  
and panels.

- Dedication of the "Jack" by Helen Webster (See p. 10 for related stories)
- Members of the literary report on the third "Newcomb Study" from Cohen, co-director of the women that in general



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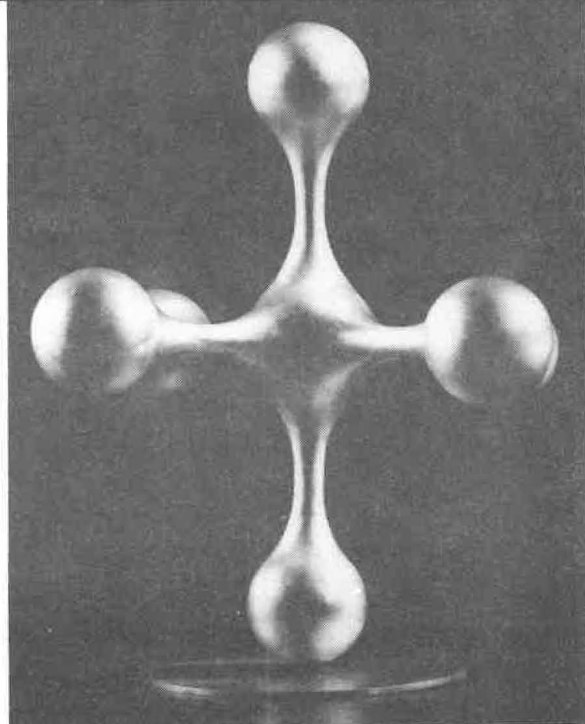
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"It was a lot more than we anticipated. Some came four full days, some only one meal — each carried away a sense of the excitement there, full of good minds at work. (There was) an incredible support system, especially the groundsman, the kitchen staff, and the Barn professionals, all so welcoming. (My) most vivid memory (was) finding behind/ underneath the greying hair, the changed skin, lame knees or heavy lenses, the youthful faces we had carried in our minds all these years, of the people we knew. Often the voices were still the same and the twinkle in the eye — so many heartwarming conversations."

Sarah Knapp Auchincloss '41



"Jack" actually presents the Two into Three problem in the clearest of terms since we see it at one and the same time as both planes and volumes and, as we move around it, this exchange is constantly made aware to us...which in turn makes us more self-aware....

(Paul Feeley believed) that Art and Life are one, interchangeable and metaphorically related. The original goal of the College was to put the Arts back into the curriculum of Life and to integrate all the modes of human endeavor into the idea of an education of lasting and satisfactory meaning.

Feeley often got poor grades from the freshmen because they thought they ought to be told what to know. But those who lasted through to senior year discovered what Feeley and the College had truly meant to them. Perhaps that is the real deep and abiding significance of Feeley's concern with the kind of questions and answers he sought in his Art...such as how does one turn Three into Two and Two into Three."

E.C. Goosens  
Dedication of Paul Feeley sculpture "Jack"



mances, faculty lectures and alumni presentations and panels.

- Dedication of the Paul Feeley sculpture "Jack" by Helen Webster Feeley Wheelwright '37 (See p. 10 for related story.)

- Members of the Class of '36 heard a preliminary report on the third phase of the classic "Newcomb Study" from Dean of Faculty Ron Cohen, co-director of the study. Cohen told the women that in general, the attitudes they have

when they left Bennington a half-century ago. The current study is being prepared for publication and will take its place with those made 25 and 50 years ago among the same group of women.

The excerpts above offer a sampling of the thoughts and feelings of some of those alumni, students and visitors who shared in Reunion/ Commencement weekend, and mark the excitement and reflection they felt during this unique celebration.





Helen Webster Feeley Wheelwright '37 dedicates Paul Feeley's "Jack." Photo by Ralph Alswang '87.

## Feeley sculpture one of several acquisitions by trustees' art committee

The gift of Paul Feeley's sculpture, "Jack," dedicated during Reunion Weekend (see page 9), adds a singular new work to the number recently acquired through the efforts of the art committee of the board of trustees. Other acquisitions include: a Jules Olitski painting, titled "Flaming On," given by Robert Rowan, a major Los Angeles collector and father of Carol Rowan '77; a gift from Kenneth Noland of his painting "In Florescence," and also from Noland, his untitled monotype.

The art committee of the board, chaired by Lois Schulman Chazen '56, has been actively seeking important art for the teaching collection, primarily through gifts. In aiming to improve the college's teaching collection, the committee is working with the art division and outside experts in evaluating the current collection and determining future needs.

A future article in *Quadrille* will cover the activities of the art committee, and the nature and use of the college's collection.

## Obituaries

### William Averill Harriman

With the death of William Averill Harriman last July, Bennington lost a valued friend and supporter. The measure of his special relationship to the college is demonstrated by the decision in 1983 to award Harriman an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, one of only seven awarded in the college's history.

The text of the accompanying citation serves as a fitting tribute to that extraordinary man.

"Governor, Ambassador, Statesman, Philanthropist, we hail and honor you for the extraordinary achievement of your life. The power of your mind, the strength of your spirit, the wisdom of your experience, the courage of your heart, have changed the course of history. You have given yourself to your fellow men and women with unparalleled generosity. We salute you for your unstinting devotion to the peace and well-being of this planet and its people.

"Governor Harriman, you have given us three women of Bennington — two daughters and one granddaughter. In this small corner of the world that gift is of unaccountable worth and influence. Therefore, with deep pleasure and with profound pride, we bear witness to your achievements, and your legacy, by conferring on you what we most prize, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, and by admitting you to all the rights and privileges which pertain to that degree here and elsewhere."

### Barbara Slatter Jones

by Thomas P. Brockway

Barbara Slatter Jones, a member of Bennington's first faculty, died on July 27 at the home of her son, Peter, in San Francisco. Born and educated in England, she met Lewis Jones when they were both students at the London School of Economics. Soon after Jones returned home, Slatter was awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship to study in the United States and she and Jones were married in October 1928.

In 1932 they became faculty members of Bennington, which opened that year. Bennington's president, Robert Leigh, had once taught at Reed College and he gladly appointed Reed graduates, such as Jones, to the Bennington faculty. Jones was to teach economics, his wife sociology. This continued until 1941 when Leigh resigned and Jones became Bennington's second president.

This unfortunately ended Barbara's teaching career, for she was a superb teacher, but she and her husband agreed that the president's wife should not be as intimately involved in college affairs as they thought Mrs. Leigh had been. This gave Barbara more time for her children, Barbara Ann and Peter, and she also soon found a project, her noteworthy book on the college. "Bennington College, the Development of an Educational Idea" was published in 1946. In the foreword Jones wrote that the book "makes use of the Bennington experience to throw light on problems which are basic to all education."

Lewis Jones became president of the University of Arkansas in 1947 and in 1951 was chosen from a field of 148 to be president of Rutgers University. When he resigned in 1958 he and Barbara chose Sarasota, Fla., for their eventual retirement and Lewis died there in 1975. Barbara came to Bennington in June 1982 to receive a Bennington College award "for her major contribution in shaping the college, for her years of devoted teaching and for her interest in its past and present and her concern for its well-being."

### Remembering Barbara

"Barbara Jones was really great — she was my first counselor my first year at Bennington. She had a wonderful sense of humor, she would poke fun at someone when they were so sure they knew exactly what they were talking about, then explain to them the reality of the situation.

"She was very firm-minded. She saw things as they were, not as she thought they should be. But Barbara also was very human and very tolerant."

Gladys Ogden Dimock '36

"She was a really wonderful teacher. She held you to it — she didn't let you get away with any fluff. It's a great shame that she gave up teaching when her husband became president; it wasn't considered proper. She enjoyed teaching and was so capable. I am glad she got the 1982 Bennington award."

Asho Ingersoll Craine '36

"She was one of my favorite teachers and friends at Bennington. She had the capacity to see you as a whole person. She was interested in so many things that her enthusiasm was contagious. She was my counselor and inspired me to do anything in the world that I wanted to do."

Ruth Dewing Ewing '37

"Barbara was simply a wonderful teacher and friend. She was always somebody with brains, insight and the ability to analyze. She had a lovely sense of humor."

Didi Noyes Muma '36

## No apologies for highest tuition

Continued from p. 2

Bennington is first at \$16,950. Close behind are Barnard (\$16,530), Sarah Lawrence (\$16,385), MIT (\$16,150) and Harvard/Radcliffe (\$16,145).

Reporters hear no apologies for what Bennington charges. Interim president John Williams has been widely quoted as saying, "We charge what our education costs." The basis for that cost and for what it provides is readily defined by an exceptionally low student-faculty ratio (8.6 to 1 last year). That fact leads into discussions of the principles and form of the educational process at Bennington — the significance of the all-inclusive fee, the faculty as counselors, the role of the Field Work Term, and individuals charting their own course. Reporters get strong endorsements from the alumni and parents they call for corroboration.

"What Bennington students get for the money," the *Washington Post* said, in summary, "is independence and personal attention."

Echoes of "financial problems" take the questions into matters of management and administration — refinancing, cost control, balanced budget, rising enrollment and gift support. Reporters are told with equal clarity that much has been accomplished and that there are still problems to be solved.

One of the few concerns with being first is a perception of elitism based on price. This is put to rest when reporters get to the subject of financial aid, as they all do. To quote the *Post* on Bennington again:

"Sixty-five percent of its students are on financial aid, compared with the national average of 35 to 40 percent."

Favorable coverage of Bennington is due in part to being ready with good facts to answer reporters' questions. But there is a larger advantage to the college in the way reporters use their facts — the tone of what they write about the college. The articles reflect the openness and enthusiasm of the people interviewed. Then too, as *Newsweek's* writer noted on a clear late-summer day, "It's so beautiful here."



Lynda Baldwin '88. Photo by Kim Pitt-Foster '90.

## First Class of '45 Scholar chosen

by Minter Krotzer

Last year Penny Wilson '45 and Edie Kuhn '45 organized a "Class of 1945 Special Scholarship Fund Drive." It was their 40th reunion and, as Penny Wilson put it, "We thought that after so many years we should get our act together. We wanted to rev-up the alumnae and set a precedent for other classes to also take a direct interest in the school."

Their class responded enthusiastically to the idea and Lynda Baldwin '88 was chosen as the first Class of 1945 Scholar. She is a mathematics major from Eureka, Mont., and has studied social science, natural science and mathematics. Her FWT's have been fruitful: One year she worked at the Maria Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla., where she learned about horticulture. The following year she worked for a legislative lobby group in Wyoming which promoted responsible use of the state's natural resources.

Baldwin thinks that "it's great that the class of 1945 has funded a scholarship. It shows how supportive the alumnae are. Personally it is gratifying because my work is really difficult now and it has given me a boost or a return for the work I have done."

Send your news to *Quadrille*!



# CLAS S N O T E S

**36** Asho Ingersoll Craine  
1704 Hermitage  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
313/663-5348

Dorothy Case O'Brian died on August 8, 1986. Donations can be sent to Meals on Wheels, New York City.

Hannah Coffin Smith made it up to Bennington last spring, and "enjoyed the 50th reunion tremendously!"

**37** Elizabeth Evans Munger  
Route 3, Box 398  
Lexington, VA 24450  
703/463-3764

**38** Sally Brownell Montanari  
7219 Beechwood Road  
Alexandria, VA 22307  
703/765-7163  
and  
Marcia Ward Behr  
3418 Bradley Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
301/656-2260

Marcia Ward Behr writes that she has been involved with the Washington Convention of the National society of Arts and Letters. "Thank goodness we won't host another one for a dozen years," she said. The society raises money through benefits to give awards to young artists who participate in yearly competitions.

**39** Dorothy McWilliams Cousins  
139 Currey Avenue  
Sausalito, CA 94965  
415/332-1384  
and  
Cecilia Drinker Saltonstall  
61 Stratham Heights Road  
Stratham, NH 03885  
603/772-2665

"A Visit with Dr. Jo" is a one-person play written by Eunice Wheeler Herrick Trowbridge and April Radbill. "Dr. Jo" was a legendary local doctor in northwestern Connecticut who cared for four generations of Trowbridges. The play is based on ten hours of taped interviews with the doctor. Trowbridge and Radbill originally told the story in a book published in 1981.

Honora Kammerer Gifford reports that she is "continuing dressage lessons at Doomhof Farm in Shaftsbury and reading at the Recording for the Blind branch unit in Williamstown." Honora and her husband, Don, also are studying gardening and making gardens of their own.

On August 1, 1986, author and historian, Marion Hepburn Grant, 68, died at her summer home in the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook, Conn. Marion Grant was well known for her many historical books. Some of her works on the Fenwick section of Old Saybrook include: *The Fenwick Story*, *The Infernal Machine of Saybrook's David Bushnell*, and *The Hart Dynasty of Saybrook*. She is survived by her husband, Ellsworth, her sons John and Toby, her daughter Katharine Houghton, her sisters Katharine Hepburn and Margaret Perry and brothers Robert and Richard.

**40** Phyllis Torrey Bosee  
Little Cove Lane  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
203/637-9975  
and  
Mary Eddison Welch  
P.O. Box B

Harvard, MA 01451  
617/456-8091

Alice Wharton Appel died of cancer on April 19, 1986. She is survived by her husband, Leonard Appel, and her two children.

Vera Hall Dodd is busy teaching piano, accompanying, and expanding the family farm with the help of her daughter and son-in-law. Vera is president of the country's first Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship, which she helped found and which just purchased a historic church.

**41** Sarah Knapp Auchincloss  
3935 Rippleton Road  
Cazenovia, NY 13035  
315/655-3158

Joan Thomson Day writes that her eighth grandchild was born March 20, 1986. In September, Joan traveled to China with the San Diego Zoological Society to see pandas in their natural environment, and to observe other conservation efforts in China.

Barbara Kelly Starr died in the fall of 1985. Her husband, George, died in December.

Anne Browne Ward tells us that since her retirement 2½ years ago, she has enjoyed a "rich and active life, making new friends, finding new interests, and enjoying all sorts of things that (she) never had time for."

**42** Susan Hedge Hossfeld  
3 Pine Court  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
415/453-8243

Deborah Froelicher Howe reports that she is "still enjoying my retirement from 40 years of teaching dance, though I am looking around for some minor dance work."

**43** Jean Short Aldrich  
66 Main Street  
North Bennington, VT 05257  
802/442-5670

**44** Margaret Larson  
122 East 76th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212/535-9122

Nancy Bickelhaupt Frank sent word of a "delightful reunion of our suite from Bingham '41. Joyce Searls Adams, '74 and Mary Jane Wiman Brinton came for a 'pajama party' at my house. Only Janet Frey Harte was missing due to illness (she's well now). It was a ball — we all wound up in the hot tub at midnight, as crazy as some of our Bennington adventures!"

"Wings and Circles," Doria Higgins' exhibit of paintings from 1981 to the present, was shown at the Tompkins County Arts Council of Ithaca in February.

The pastel paintings of Phyllis Preston Lee were exhibited at the Country Art Gallery in Locust Valley, N.Y., this past May. Phyllis continues to work full-time out of her studio in Washington. She and her husband took a "marvelous nature trip" to Madagascar last winter.

**45** Elizabeth Harvey  
287 Race Hill Road  
Madison, CT 06443  
203/421-3179

Ann McMillan's latest recording, a work for voice and tape, *Whale-wail, In Peace, En Paix*, will appear on the

Folkways label (FSS 34006A) in 1986. She is currently at work on commissions for orchestra and for a capella chorus, both with tape structure parts. She has been a recipient of Guggenheim, Rockefeller, CAPS and Fulbright fellowships. She is published by the American Composers Edition in New York.

Margaret Dunn Siebens, a sales associate with the Princeton office of Weichert Realtors, has been named a representative to the Capital Properties Group.

**46** Joya Bovington Cox  
39 Watson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
202/333-9298

Ruth Thompson Shapiro sent this report on classmates who attended this year's reunion festivities. "Louise" Rockwood Cies and Noel Gleason Lincoln traveled together from Massachusetts. Mary Hammond Storer and Virginia Tishman Meyerson came separately to the trustees meeting; Ginny stayed the weekend with husband George.

"Elinor Brisbane Philbin attended the reunion with a friend from New York. Marianna van Rossen Hoogendyk came just for Saturday afternoon with a Canadian friend to visit with old friends and give a tour of VAPA. Marjorie Kleine St. John joined us for brunch on Sunday.

"Petah Cullingham Acer was on hand with her husband Oscar and shared with us her dissertation, "Class, Curriculum and the Performing Arts," a very exciting event.

"Your class agent came in from Pittsburgh and we all had a splendid time catching up with the years gone by. Remember, our 45th will be in mid-June 1991 — Join us!"

Six paintings by Constance R. McMillan were part of a group exhibition in May at the Cornerstone Gallery of Fine Arts in Falls Village, Conn.

**47** Sally Johnson Knox  
107 Quintynnes Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19807  
302/654-1987

The trustees and faculty of the Ethel Walker School have named Elizabeth Olson Marshall the recipient of the Natalie Galbraith Chair in the Humanities, awarded to a faculty member who has made a substantial contribution to the humanities at the school. Elizabeth heads the dance department and is involved in student counseling, an area in which she has completed a master's degree.

In the March 23, 1986, issue of the *San Francisco Examiner's* magazine "Image," Doris Corn Muscatine traces the history of gourmet coffee businesses in San Francisco. She interviews several coffee experts who run the classic coffeehouses, one of whom brought the first espresso machine to the United States.

**48** Elizabeth Sherwin Nevin  
177 E. 75th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
212/288-8236

Grace Russell Wheeler and her husband, Alexander, attended the recent Philadelphia performance of Carol Channing Lowe '42 in her show "Legends." Grace sent a note backstage to Carol and after the show was invited back to visit.

Barbara Helm Reece is celebrating her 25th year as an interior designer under the name of Biege Peabody Design Consultant, presently at her home address. "It's a fascinating career with many facets," she writes.

Painter Janna Pratt Goodspeed is on the steering committee at Performing Arts at Sage, a center for alternative theater and music housed in a former elementary school in Croton Falls, New York. Its purpose is "to present diverse interpretations of socially relevant and humanitarian

## CLASSNOTES

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NAME WHILE AT BENNINGTON IF DIFFERENT:		
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<input type="checkbox"/> THIS ADDRESS IS NEW. Please change my records. My old address label is attached below. This change is effective on _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my check for \$12, made payable to Bennington College, to help support the publication costs of <i>Quadrille</i> . All gifts to Bennington College are tax deductible.		
Return to: QUADRILLE Bennington College Bennington, Vermont 05201		



## FWT NEEDS YOU

Alumni participation in the Field Work Term program has always formed the backbone of the program's success. Without your help with providing housing, identifying prospective employers and promoting the program, Field Work Term would not be the valuable teaching tool it is today.

We are always in need of housing space for students during Field Work Term, and are constantly searching for new employers and ideas for promoting the program. If you can help, please clip and mail this ad today!

- ☐ YES, I can provide housing during FWT.
- ☐ YES, I'd like to know more about becoming a FWT employer.
- ☐ YES, I'd like to help with FWT parties or other promotional events.

Name	Class Year	
Address		
City	State	Zip

Send to: Nola White  
Director, Field Work Term  
Bennington College  
Bennington, VT 05201  
802-442-5401

concerns in forms that educate, enlighten and entertain," according to Janna.

For this academic year, Margaret Starr Kernan and her husband Michael will be in residence at Stanford University. Margot will be a visiting scholar at the Department of Communications, working on a new videotape, "vines," in the television studios there. She also will research the second installment of the video art magazine, *Video Windows*, which she produces with a group of Washington artists.

From Princeton, Naomi Siegler Savage writes that she is still photographing and fancies the following subject matter: "tennis, dentistry, Versailles, flowers, masks, hands, valentines, portraits and eyes."

**49** Marcia Ireland Brookbank  
1521 NW 31st Street  
Gainesville, FL 32605  
904/376-9775

Marjory Brown Booker currently serves as Community Relations Director at Goodwill Industries of Western Connecticut, based in Bridgeport. She toured Alaska late this spring (one of a few states without a Goodwill, she reports). Marjory writes that she had a brief visit with her former Bennington roommate, Elizabeth Shaw Smith Waltz '50, in San Francisco last August and was surprised to learn she's involved in vocational rehabilitation, too. Marjory and Elizabeth were both English Literature and Languages majors, and their August meeting was their first in 35 years.

Lynn Phillips Rashbaum presented a "Sound Installation" at the North Shore Community College's Festival of the Arts held in mid-April on the Beverly, Massachusetts campus.

**50** Patricia Hansen Franks  
25 Old Farms Lane  
New Milford, CT 06776  
203/354-1497

Phyllis Johnson Couse writes: "I wish to say how pleased I was over the joint degree program with Bank Street and Brown University. I am an alumnus of Bank Street as well. Three cheers."

**51** Suzy Mosher Saul  
7202 Delfield Street  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815  
301/654-9094

Painter and wood sculptor Gail Gardner Newman's work was shown in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Murray Hill Arts Association's Second Annual Summer Art Walk.

Joan (Dusty) Hutton Landis is still at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, teaching Shakespeare, American literature, modernist fiction and British poetry. She is leading a women's reading group in Wilmington and will be running a seminar in Seattle next April on "Shakespeare and the Modes of Symbolic Geography." She just completed a dissertation on this theme, which first interested her during her years at Bennington.

Tina Hunter Logan was one of four winners of the 1985 Connecticut Painters and Sculptors Competition. An exhibition of the artists work was shown in April at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center in Stamford, Conn.

  
**52** Marilyn Bernstein Seide  
54 W. 82nd Street  
New York, NY 10024  
212/873-2128

Stephanie Chamberlain currently owns her own business as a "floating phlebotomist" in Essex County, under contract to Beverly Hospital. She writes, "Have seen few friends from my Bennington years but would love to hear from Joan Olmsted Oates!"

"I'm off to Calcutta, India, for six months to work for Mother Teresa's mission," writes Louise Loening Reiver.

Rhoda Turteltaub Rosenthal is living and working as a lawyer in Southern California and "would love to hear from fellow Benningtonians — call 619-436-3585."

**53** Carolyn Lissner Heveran  
45 Christopher St., 3D  
New York, NY 10014  
212-243-3244

**54** Susan Powers Lagunoff  
23 Southmoor  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
314/727-7155

In the summer of 1985, Michael

Hooker and Carole Gewirtz Yudain had a four hour conversation in a live interview on WGCH's "People to People" radio show. Along with being a freelance journalist and public relations consultant, Carole is a writer/public relations representative for State of Israel Bonds.

**55** Helen Burgin Buttrick  
90 Elm Street  
Canton, MA 02021  
617/828-2812

"Still living in the same Greek revival farmhouse which we moved to and renovated twenty years ago," Judy Backer Grunberg writes, "I have been working with resist processes on fabric for about ten years, concentrating on Shibori techniques for the past eight. I've tried to adapt traditional Japanese resist (Shibori) techniques to my own personal imagery while remaining faithful to the ancient processes. I have had work at the SAC in Boston and the Craft Shop of the Woodstock (NY) Guild. One of my framed silk pieces received an Award of Distinction from the Schenectady Museum in '84." She and her husband Paul, an architect, are planning to open their old farmhouse to bed and breakfast guests and would love visits from alumnae passing through the Albany-Pittsfield area.

Jessica Myerson (Irene Ryan) has been hired as the new artistic director for the Pasadena Playhouse.

**56** Jane Thornton Iselin  
Burtis Lane  
Syosset, NY 11791  
516/364-2054

Gretchen Lindblad Mamis writes, "So much has happened in the years since Bennington. I am so happy with my new work that I have to let you know about it. Gretchen became a certified midwife in 1984 and is now in practice at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Mass. "Midwifery is the best fun and most rewarding work I've ever done (short of raising two neat kids)," she wrote.

Susan Ackiron was recently appointed assistant director of the Fund for Modern Courts, Inc., a citizens' group working to improve the court system in New York State. Her priority will be to reactivate a Westchester Chapter of Modern Courts.

  
**57** Anne "Suzi" Cremer Smith  
Indian Hill Road  
Canton, CT 06019  
203/693-8549

**58** Kathy Kading Wheeler  
30 Waterside Plaza 3G  
New York, NY 10010  
212/679-9182

Architectural sculpture, paintings and drawings by Anita Margrill were exhibited last summer at the Jane Steinberg Gallery, San Francisco.

Terry Connelly Whiting lives in the Philippines, where her husband is president of the Chamber of Commerce.

**59** Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff  
1060 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10028  
212/534-6191

Poet Jill Hoffmann gave a reading in Essex, New York this summer. She read from her three books: *Mink Coat and Other Poems*, *Frankly*, and *The Gates of Pearl*.

Katherine Durant Cobey writes that she has been "juried in" and now has a studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Va., as a knitter and spinner.

Jill Hoffman is a poetry editor and contributor to *Mudfish*, published by Box Turtle Press. Also affiliated with Box Turtle Press is Attitude Art, whose poetry and performance series presented a reading by Carole Bovoso. Carole's book, *Foremothers*, is soon to be released.

Mezzo soprano Alice Marie Nelson was part of a recital at Christ and St. Stephen's Church in New York City in May. The program included works by F.A.D. Philider; Bach; Debussy; Fannique; Granados and Aaron Copeland. Jane Vanderploeg Deckoff was present and found it to be "gorgeous."

**60** "Micky" Schwartz Hillman  
101 Mt. Vernon St. Apt. 2  
Boston, MA 02108  
617/723-7523

Phyllis Baron Plattner writes that she and her husband have moved to the Washington, D.C., area while he works at the National Science Foundation for two years. She recently showed her paintings at Fendrick Gallery in Washington.

Janet K. Bloom, M.F.A., C.T.I., is a Trainer for the Eidetic Analysis Institute, and conducts Image Grove Explorations in Eidetic Imagery. She writes us that "eidetics," or "our inner movies," are extraordinarily effective instruments of self-knowledge and transformation. They are so clarifying that an entirely new psychoanalysis has been founded upon them." In her workshops she shows people how they can untap their imagery dynamics and discover more about themselves. She is based in Bronx, N. Y., but has conducted workshops in Los Angeles, Chicago, Pennsylvania and New York State.

**61** Nancy Markey Chase  
Box 684  
Norwich, VT 05055  
802/649-1486

June Magnaldi recently returned to the U. S. following 17 years managing development projects for CARE in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Greece.

Phyllis Martin Pearson and Harry W. Pearson, former Dean of Faculty for Bennington College, are happily remarried and living in Chesterfield, Va., with their children Nels, 17, and Rachel, 14. Phyllis writes, "I am now a born-again Christian doing work for the Movement of Messianic Jews, playing piano for the Glory of God, sharing music and testimony with various church groups."

  
**62** Barbara Marcus Sprafkin  
941 Comstock Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315/422-7753

"An Evening of Gershwin" was performed by Katrina Cameron in March. The piano performance was part of Goddard-Riverside's "Musical Evenings." She is currently working on *Children of the Night*, a musical version of Dracula and *The First Word*, a one act chamber opera.

Former director of the Nashua Adult Learning Center, Dorothy Willett Oliver has been appointed a consultant in adult basic education with the New Hampshire Department of Education.



63

**Sandy Perlmutter Greer**  
381 7th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
718/788-3387 (h)

**Tama Rib** writes that her business, "primarily civil rights work, is going great guns." She invites resumes from alumni with civil rights backgrounds for freelance legal work.

Because of business involvements, **Barbara Goldberg Rohdie** has moved to Heathrow, Fla. She wrote that she hopes to continue teaching child and educational psychology and that she is working on a book for parents "to help them make creative thinkers and problem solvers out of their kids."

In a recent letter, **Linda Appleman Shapiro** wrote of some of her many activities. "In addition to my training in NLP (neuro-linguistic programming) and my use of laying on of hands for the reduction of pain, my private practice in individual and family counseling now includes hypnosis. Recently trained, I'm very excited about this new dimension to my work." Linda also tells us that about a third of her time goes toward taking oral histories of the elderly.

**May L. Vaughan**  
1936 38th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
202/333-1280

64

**Heather Maycock** has two sons — David, 20, and Jonathan, 17. "They all love California," she says, "but we miss them — they're all so terrific."

**Jill Underwood Bertrand**  
RR1 - Box 73 Fiskdale Road  
Brookfield, MA 01506  
617/867-9882

65

Last July, **Nina Levin**, was married to Alain Jalladeau in Nantes, France. Nina is the international representative in Paris for Europe 1, a French radio station. Her husband is the director of the Festival de 3 Continents, a cultural program in Nantes.

**Robert Moore** writes that **Abbey Goldstein Arato** died on December 26, 1984, of unknown causes.

"I got my Ph.D!" writes **Maria A. Taranto**. She received a doctorate in October 1985 from Columbia University in developmental psychology. Maria also was promoted to associate professor in psychology at Nassau College in Garden City, N.Y.

**Karen McAuley**  
910 West End Avenue  
New York, NY 10025  
212/749-4646

66

**Sally Bowie** gave birth to her second child and second son, Jess, on May 30, 1986. She is continuing her private psychotherapy practice and her research on the acute and long-range effects of rape.

Mime artist **David John Krohn** gave a guest performance at a Logan, Ohio, high school in March. He has received two individual fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and produces the Mime Arena at Ohio State University's Renaissance Festival and the Ohio Mime Festival each year. He has his own mime company, "The New Mime Troup."

*Reunion*

67

**Joyce Keener**  
3177 Lindo Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90068  
213/558-6039  
and  
**Pam Acheson**  
5 Long Hill Farm  
Guilford, CT 06434  
203/453-6832

**Marilyn Sibley Fries** writes, "It was fun to be introduced last fall as a new member of the University of Michigan faculty together with Nick Delbanco!" Marilyn and her husband, Brant, are settled in Ann Arbor and both members of the University of Michigan's faculty. They hope to stay in Ann Arbor for a while.

Currently an assistant professor in the fine arts department of Colgate University, **Carol Kinne** writes that she "participated in Colgate's academic procession in an 'official' Bennington robe and hood" this past May. Colgate awarded her a grant to work on new pieces. She has a studio in New Berlin, N.Y., as well as a sculpture space in Utica.

*Sites*, a literary and architecture magazine, devoted its entire fall issue to **Susan Mauss Tunick's** essay, "Architectural Terra Cotta: Its Impact on New York." Many documentary photos are included in this issue, which is available for \$5 from: Friends of Terra Cotta, c/o Tunick, 45 Grammercy Park, New York, New York 10010. Susan also had an installation of new architectural reliefs in New York University's Broadway Windows show, titled "Decodetals," last summer.

**Barbara Fisher Williamson**  
322 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10025  
212/663-1158

68

**Barbara Kaufman Bouldin** has remarried and kept her name. She lives in Bernardsville, N.J., with husband Dor, son Adam, who plans to attend Bennington in a few years, and daughter Karen. Barbara is currently employed as a systems analyst at AT & T.

**Emily Stonington Swanson** is executive director of the Montana Wildlife Federation. Her children Erik and Natalie are now 15 and 12. They also have a Norwegian boy, Eivand, 17, living with them for the year.

**Judith Zenge Grumbacher**  
4974 Swinton Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
703/978-9721

69

Painting and showing her work in Boston, **Carol Bolsey** is a professor of painting at Harvard University.

**Kathryn Lee Girard** has moved to Pasadena, California to set up and direct a research center at Pacific Oaks College and Children's School.

**Camille Conwell Long** is an elementary/junior high school librarian and says she has found her niche after "endless switching around." She and her husband, John, took a year off recently and lived in North Wales, U.K., on a teaching exchange. Camille writes, "I was delighted to find and buy for my library **K.K. Holabird's** '69 delightful children's books."

**Kathleen Norris** has joined the faculty of the Great Plains Institute of Theology, based in Bismarck, N.D. Her first course will be a writing workshop for pastors. She writes, "a friend says, 'we're so isolated here, the poets and ministers have to hang out together.' I guess that's true."

**Beverly Brown Red** spent the summer working with her husband, John Anderson, building studios near their home in Waltham, Vermont. His studio will be for architecture, hers for art. They have two children, Asher, 4 and Ruby, 2.



"Bethlehem Rogue" is a 9' x 15' mild steel sculpture created by **Anthony Cafritz '85** and commissioned by the Usdan Center for the Arts. Cafritz worked on the sculpture in the summer and fall of 1985 and it was installed last January in the Suzanne and Nathaniel Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Huntington, Long Island. The center was established in 1967 by **Samuel Lemberg**, who named it in honor of his daughter, Bennington trustee, **Suzanne Lemberg Usdan '51** and her husband.

**Doreen Seidler-Feller** recently contributed two articles to *The Handbook of Feminist Therapy*. She edited and introduced a section titled "Power and Advocacy," and wrote "A Feminist Critique of Sex Therapy."

**Harry W. Sheppard** has been awarded a fellowship in choreography from the Artists' Fellowship Program of the New York Foundation for the Arts. He recently made a 10-week tour of Europe (Austria, Hungary, Germany, Spain, and England) with **Yoshiko Chuma** and **The School of Hard Knocks**, a dance and performance unit, of which he is a member.

**Zai Zatoon**  
P.O. Box 132  
Mill Valley, CA 94942  
415/381-2220

70

**Patricia Prandini Buckler** received a Ph.D from the University of Louisville last May. Patricia also received the Graduate School Dean's citation for excellence in graduate studies.

The world premiere of "Blend," a 17-minute piece for orchestra by **Alison Nowak**, was featured last spring in a Greenwich Symphony concert. "Blend" is Alison's first work for orchestra, and the premiere marked the first occasion in the orchestra's 28-year history in which it performed a work composed by one of its own musicians.

Last fall, **Ellen Pollak's** book, *The Poetics of Sexual Myth*, was published by the University of Chicago Press. She is living in Philadelphia with her husband **Nigel Panneth** and their two daughters, **Rachel**, 6, and **Tessa**, 10 months. Ellen teaches English literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Barbara Abercrombie**  
92 Macy Street  
Raynham, MA 02767  
617/822-0725

71

**Peter S. White**, a research biologist with the Great Smoky Mountains

National Park, has been named director of the North Carolina Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A specialist in Southeast flora, White is leader of the cooperative park studies unit of the University of Tennessee and a biologist in the Uplands Field Research Laboratory of the Smoky Mountains Park.

*Reunion*  
**Sam Schulman**  
Box 446  
Haydenville, MA 01039  
413/268-7262 (w)

72

**Mary Barringers**, a potter and sculptor, was visiting artist at Juniata College in Huntington, Penna. last March. She lives in Hartford, Conn., where she has her own studio and teaches at the Greater Hartford Community College.

**Candace Forman Byers Timpson** was married last June to **Robert Timpson, Jr.** She is the manager of market information and analysis for the International Business Machines Corp., in Armonk, N.Y.

On August 2, **James David Bloom** married **Robin Beatie**, a professor of English at Manhattan College in Riverdale. Both she and James received doctorates from Rutgers. Currently, James is a professor of English at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Penna., as well as an author, most recently of *The Stock of Available Reality: R.P. Blackmur and John Berryman*.

This past June, **Heather Langdon Brown** completed her three year training with the Rosen Institute, Berkeley, Calif. She's heading back to New York to resume her practice. Heather is engaged to marry **Harry Gaurer**, author and copy editor for *Business Week*.

**Susan Miller** and her husband, **Maury**, announce the birth of their son, **Maximilian**, in March. The Millers also have a daughter **Eleanor**, 3.

**Celebrate Reunion 1987**  
**June 12, 13 & 14**





Members of *Carescen* with Salvadoran friends. Ralph Alswang '87 is in front row with camera. Photo courtesy of Ralph Alswang.

## Student visits El Salvador, helps organize refugee relief fund

"America is a culture of guns, but in El Salvador, you're immediately confronted with them, everywhere," said Ralph Alswang '87, who was part of an eight member delegation to El Salvador last summer.

Alswang was making plans to visit Nicaragua when his sister told him about a trip to El Salvador being planned by *Carescen*, a committee which attempts to help Central American refugees.

Between 500,000 and 700,000 internal refugees are currently displaced in El Salvador, Alswang said, and face disease and poverty every day, with little help offered by the government.

"It was even worse than I expected," Alswang said. "The corruption in the government is incredible and 85 percent of the money the U.S. sends to El Salvador goes to the military anyway."

The main threat to the refugees comes primarily from the National Guard, not opposition guerillas, according to Alswang. "The guerillas cause nowhere near the terror the National Guard causes," he said, and frequent reports of torture and murder of refugees by

government troops were not uncommon.

"It's important to see the situation first-hand," Alswang said. "You see a reality the press doesn't give."

The delegation spent seven days touring the country and initiating efforts to found an orphanage in honor of Anne Frank. But that plan changed as the group learned more about the country's Catholic cultural values, which call for people to take orphans into their own homes, rather than sending them to orphanages.

In response to that concern, the group has instead decided to initiate a relief fund which would allow more families to take orphans into their homes, to be administered through *Crispdes*, the El Salvador Christian Relief Fund. Alswang said he hopes to organize efforts to raise funds through organizations such as peace groups or women's groups.

Alswang said he was most struck by the attitudes of people who are living in the middle of major conflict areas. "They're saying, 'We're not mad at Americans, we just want to tell them to stop sending military aid,'" he said. - Terri Ezekiel

**Tory Cowles** and her husband, Nick Maravell have one son — Costa Maravell — now 2 years old. They are living in Potomac, Md., which is just outside Washington, D.C.

While at Bennington, **Monica Fischbach** promised herself that she would live in New England someday. Well, in 1980 she moved from New York City to Maine, where she is now "working as a regional sales manager for Russ Berrie Co., practicing Buddhism (and) keeping goats and ducks."

Mezzo-soprano **Kimball Wheeler** spent July singing at the Marlboro Festival. She wrote that she enjoyed visits from Vivian Fine, Ben Karp and from the Calabros.

Kimball's international career is keeping her busy. "After concerts in Aspen, I go to Australia for five weeks, then to Italy and Israel (to open the 50th anniversary of Israel Philharmonic (under Zubin Mehta)." This will be her third appearance with the Israel Philharmonic since her debut there in the summer of 1985.

**73 Deborah Morse Bruskin**  
3 Blanchard Road  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617/491-5076

During November and December of 1985, **Sigrid Burton** worked in Italy on a series of paintings as scholar-in-residence under a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation at their Bellagio Study and Conference Center in the Villa Serbelloni, on Lake Como. In the spring of 1986, Sigrid had a solo exhibition of her paintings at the Pat Hamilton Gallery in New York. That exhibition was reviewed in the summer 1986 issue of *Arts Magazine*. Her plans for 1987 include solo exhibitions at Ivory Kimpton-Gallery, San Francisco, and the Hokin Kaufman Gallery in Chicago.

**Laura Chapman** has opened up her own studio in Little Italy, in Cleveland. She says, "It's a beautiful 800 sq. ft. classroom in a renovated elementary school. I work there, use it for informal performances and exhibit small shows for local artists."

**Victoria (Tory) Ann Conn** sent word from Tucson: "To quote a recent cartoon I saw, 'Since I've been backing into middle age, I don't. Meanwhile, I'm taking fine arts courses at the University of Arizona and hosting a weekly jazz program at KUAT, the public radio station in Tucson.'"

At 5:19 a.m., May 14, 1986, **Peta Raabe** gave birth to 8 lb., 9 oz. Jessica. She and Peter Bloomfield are architects and living in Philadelphia.

**Emily Siege** will be beginning medical school this fall at the Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She's asked that we let people know she can be reached at: 3605 Haywood St., Philadelphia, PA 19129; (215) 843-4156

**74 Susan Still**  
and **Peter Bergstrom**  
14 Sellers Avenue  
Lexington, VA 24450  
703/463-6684

**Roy Wiseman** is artistic director of the New World Consort, ensemble-in-residence at Wesleyan University. This season, the group premiered Alvin Lucier's *Septet* (1985) and recorded the work for future release on Lovely Records. In October, the group will open the Composers Series at Washington's Kennedy Center with a retrospective of unpublished works by Charles T. Griltes.

**Jody Layton** is currently in a master's degree program at the New School for Social Research, doing a combined program toward a master's degree in human resources and a certificate in mental health administration. In addition to these activities, she continues to be a riding instructor and trainer.

**75 Deborah Borstein**  
900 W. Wrightwood — Apt. 3  
Chicago, IL 60614  
312/528-8306

"Greetings from Pleasantville, N.Y., home of the Reader's Digest," writes **Francie Camper**. "I am now a senior clinical social worker with the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services and also have a private practice in White Plains," she reports.

*The San Diego Union* reported that choreographer **Lisa Kraus** "has the formal intelligence, the untrammelled imagination and the individuality of a real artistic adventurer. She certainly brought the first really fresh breezes to this year's Neofest at Sushi." Her dance, "Small Spectacle," was described as "rich in poetic suggestions" and "employing video in engaging ways."

**Polita C. Gordon** writes that she is working as a freelance writer and public affairs consultant in Miami. Her clients include The Roose Company Bayside Marketplace, Hoover Environmental Group, Miami Film Festival and the New World School of the Arts.

**Alan Feuer**  
28390 Lockdale — Apt. 309  
Southfield, MI 48034  
313/357-1966  
and  
**Brant Houston**  
122 Northbrook Drive  
Hartford, CT 06117  
203/232-1500

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**Robin Brickman** heard that Ed Flaccus is retired this year and wants to extend a "heartfelt thanks" to this "extra special teacher."

**Carolyn Brooks**, a development consultant in the film industry, married David Gasperik in North Haven, Long Island last August.

**Jane Byaela** recently produced a record album of her original songs.

Having just finished six years of residency training in Orthopedic Surgery at Brown University, **Lynn Froome Ferletic** writes that she is "serving a tour of duty in Handstohl, Germany with the Army, which brings me closer to France and my husband, Philippe."

**Diann Krevsky** works as a recreational therapist for retarded adults. She is also on the advisory board for services to the disabled at Lincoln Center. In addition, Diann is a choreographing and performing member of Dancers of the New Jerusalem, a dance company based in New York City.

In July 1985, poet **Liz Rosenberg's** first book, *The Fire Music*, won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and was also recently published as part of the Pitt Poetry Series by the University of Pittsburgh Press.

**Stephen Smith** just moved to San Francisco, and "loves it." He is now executive director for the San Francisco Opera Guild.

**77 Elisse Ghitelman**  
16 Hamblin Road  
Waltham, MA 02154  
617/891-9307

**Betsy Rae Goldberg Waldron** died June 11, 1986 in Boston after a long illness. She was an artist whose work was shown in Maine, Boston, Dublin and London.

**Ellen Garey** wrote to us about her new job: "I decided to take on the editor post at Lookout, a new Burlington-based magazine that profiles unusual people and events in the area. If it hadn't appealed to me as full of potential human interest and as a viable contribution to the community, I would have opted for the serenity that comes with

'staying at home' and freelancing. But I feel deeply committed to helping Lookout realize its goal as Burlington's People magazine." Her husband, Jeffrey, writes fiction and is senior writer/producer at the Burlington CBS affiliate. They have two children, Sarah, 8, and Benjamin, 4.

**Elisse Ghitelman** was married on August 31 to John S. Allen at Hyannis, Mass. Photographing the wedding was **Stuart Waldman '76** John is a freelance writer with expertise in bicycle maintenance and riding. They are living in Waltham, Mass., where Elisse is starting a new job as chair of the math-computer science department at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School.

**Katherine Cheney Humpstone** has joined the interior design firm Carleton V as an in-house designer.

**Marion Markham** married Randolph G. Abood in Watch Hill, R.I., on June 21. **Jill Wisoff** sang at the wedding with other friends. Marion and Randy are living on Riverside Drive and she is still pursuing her theater career. He is a partner in the law firm of Burke & Burke.

**Allyn Bridgman Petit** has a new baby and a new home. Elizabeth Thomson Petit was born April 13, and in June the Petits moved to New Jersey. Daniel Petit will be head of public relations for Peugeot Motors of America in Lyndhurst, and Allyn hoped to get a job as a photo editor for a publishing company.

**Karen Schneider** has received a painting fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

**78 Wynn Miller**  
40 Riverside Avenue  
Riverside, CT 06878  
203/637-3902 (h)

**Marylou Meriam** received a masters degree in fine art from Columbia University in 1982. She is now director of the Bennington Art Exchange in New York City.

**Alexander Tolstoi Foster**, a second-year law student at Emory University, married Michele Elizabeth Norton last July in Alexandria, Virginia.

An outdoor wedding was held last spring in Colstrip, Mont. for **Sandra Louise Howe** and James St. George. They will honeymoon in the South Pacific this winter.

From Winter Park, Fla., **Tish Tyson** writes: "Since moving to Florida, I



have worked as a regional planner. I am currently a registered landscape architect with Hansen Lindmeyer, the largest architecture firm in Orlando.

**79 Lexey Lee Russell**  
403 Normandy Road  
Madeira Beach, FL 33708  
904/384-1744

**Cate Noyes Boddington** writes: "We had a wonderful visit from **Wynn Miller** who is as thoughtfully charming as ever and told the little boys the best bedtime story they ever heard." She also said that she hopes he comes again soon, as he told them some great stories, too.

**Jill Rosenthal Hugick** writes that she has been married for six years and has an 18-month-old son, Peter. She received a master's degree in counseling from Rider College in 1983 and currently is an employment counselor.

**Beth Kantner** has begun a new position with an organization called "Arts Market," a marketing management firm for non-profit organizations. Beth also reports that she was married on September 14 to Walter Halvorsen, a musician. **Marta Stevens**, Beth's former roommate, attended the wedding.

"Thirty past, present and aspiring Bennington students gathered at the home of **Erin Quinn Mico** in Los Angeles this past spring for absolutely no reason but to have a good time," reports **Amelia Sawelson Landes**. Surprises of the evening were appearances by drama faculty member **Leroy Logan**, on sabbatical from the College, alumna **Francesca Brenner '82** and current student **Kate Aichele '88**. Everyone was impressed by the exclusive screening of the new "Students on Bennington" video.

The Southern California alumni are hoping to make these semi-quarterly no-strings-attached-potluck parties a tradition. Watch for the next one in the fall.

**Mary Anne Sgarlat** has accepted a position as public relations coordinator at **Graham Gund Associates** architecture and planning firm.

**80 Kim Kafka**  
Bennington College  
Bennington, VT 05201  
802/442-5401

**Diane Peepas** has recently moved back to the East Coast from San Francisco. Not only is she enjoying some leisure time and unemployment while looking for something permanent, but also playing music and writing lyrics whenever possible. She says she's establishing "new roots and new life in a sane world."

**Rodi Rovner** recently completed a master's degree in glass with **Joel P. Myers** at Illinois State University, Normal, Ill. She planned to return to the New York area to prepare

for her future goal: travel to other parts of the world (for example, riding bike around Europe, etc.). **Rodi** also hopes to travel to Japan and other countries.

**81 Donzia Franklin**  
426 George Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203/789-8666

**Amanda Degener** is teaching eastern and western papermaking at Minnesota Center for Book Arts. She's also the publisher of a semi-annual magazine, called "Hand Papermaking." For more info, write: P. O. Box 10571, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

New York actress **Constance Humphrey** is engaged to **James Murray Egan**, a dealer for the N.Y. Municipal Bond firm of **Gabriele, Heuglin and Cashman, Inc.**

After completing work on a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University, within the next year, **Michelle Pearl Murrain** writes that she will do post-doctoral work at the anatomy department at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

**John J. Sullivan** is in his third year at Brooklyn Law School.

  
**82 Michele Plaut**  
237 Bergen  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
718/858-7824

A German dog food account is taking **Pamela C. Docters** to Germany while working for Grey Advertising. She writes, "For my friends trying to keep track of me (and Blacky), here is yet another address: Hohe Stasse 23, 4000 Dusseldorf 1, West Germany."

Currently a manager at Sixth Avenue VideoPhile in Denver, Colo., **Jamie White** "will soon be a partner in a bookstore and gallery (hopefully)."

**Roshan Houshmand** writes from Barcelona: "In 1984, I received my MFA in painting from Rosary Graduate School of Art, Florence, Italy. I then lived and worked in New York City for a year-and-a-half. I was married in June, 1985, to **Alan R. Good**, who is also a painter. We lived for 8 months in Nicosia, Cyprus, and in June settled in Barcelona. My two most recent painting and exhibitions have been in Nicosia (April, 1986) and then in Copenhagen, Denmark (August, 1986)."

**83**

**Libby Lyman** is marketing director for **Lopez and Church, Inc.**, an office equipment dealer in Portland, Maine. **Libby** has opened a studio and has had three shows since

## Alumni House opens; fees and guidelines announced

The Virginia Todahl Davis '40 Alumni House has been dedicated and is now available for use by alumni. An advisory committee of **Barbara Henry '85**, **Sally Winston Robinson '47** and **Sarah Knapp Auchincloss '41**, working with chairperson **Constance Payson Pike '47**, has recommended guidelines and a fee structure for the use of the house. Since this is the first experience with such a venture, the fees and guidelines recommended are the best estimate for the present. After several months of use there may need to be some revision or amendments. For the moment, however, the following apply:

### Fees and Guidelines for use of Alumni House:

- Weekday rental (one night): \$50 for one or two persons; \$25 for each additional person, maximum of 10.
- Weekend rental (Friday 5:00 p.m. to Sunday 5:00 p.m.) — 2 nights required; \$50 per night for one or two persons; \$25 for each additional person, per night (3 - 10 persons).
- Exclusive use of entire house: \$150 per night (weekdays or weekends).
- One night's deposit required in advance.
- 24-hour cancellation notice required for refund.
- Weekend check-in and key pickup/return at security booth.
- Weekday check-in at alumni office.
- Kitchen available for use; also meals available in college dining hall.
- Children 12 and under: half price.
- Towels and linens provided.
- No pets permitted.

For more information, please contact the Alumni Office.

moving to Maine. She also collaborated with her sister, **Mary Lyman '79**, in **Mary's** dance concert in November 1986.

This past June, composer **Eric Klein** was one of six New York composers who presented work at a composers concert at the Ann Goodman Recital Hall in New York City. "I probably wouldn't be a struggling composer/concert-producer without Bennington. You guys encouraged me," he wrote after the concert.

**84 Susan T. Dimm**  
c/o Marisa Delre  
Gallery, Inc.  
New York, NY 10022  
212/688-1843

**Lynette Brawer** married **Steven Smith** in December 1985, and they are now living in Greensboro, S.C., where **Lynette** works at the Montessori Education and Performing Arts School. She tells us that her students there will be performing her play, "The Magical Musical Box." She and **Steven** "are pursuing a joint musical career composing, playing (their) instruments and singing for (their) peaceful area of the United States."

The Ann Peter Gallery in Bolton Landing, N.Y. exhibited work by **Matt Chinian** and **Samuel Coe** this past August.

I'm getting geared up to apply to grad school" writes **Adam Heath**. He has been working at Massachusetts Mental Health Center, a psychiatric hospital, since July of 1984.

**Charles Miller** spent the summer in New York working with **Rob Barnstore**. This fall he began his second year at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in architecture.

**85 Michael Goldstein**  
226 East 25th St., Apt 1A  
New York, NY 10010  
212/685-2127

**Rich Kronfeld** (also known to some as **Col. Steve Austin**) writes, "I don't know how I've done it, but I've gained over 40 lbs." He is currently a sales professional at **Kinney Shoes, Inc.**

**C.C. Stark** is living in Los Angeles and sharing a place with **Jesse Katz**. She writes: "I have a job with a one-of-a-kind paper company, which deals in all the best papers for artists. It's hard to make it sound as good as it really is. I love it. I am combining it with another job which will pay me to go to Mexico and find peasant craftsmen to supply an importer, **Arte de Mexico**, here in L.A. All is very great." She would like to hear from the area '83-86 graduates.

**Margaret C. Best** wrote us from Canada that she is currently involved in theatre in Prince Edward Island.

**Christopher Abel Hill** is working as a geologist.

**Julia McCamy** is currently working at the Source Theatre Co. in Washington, D.C., as production manager. She has designed lights for productions of "Agnes of God" and "Cowboy Mouth." She presented a full evening of her own dance work this past August.

**Lynn Kesler\***  
**Greta Edwards-Anthony**  
c/o Oxford University Press  
200 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10016  
212/925-5619 (h)  
212/679-7300 x 7104 (w)  
\* All mail to **Lynn Kesler** should be sent to **Greta Edwards-Anthony** at the above address.

**86**

## Byaela sings her way from streets to recording studio

Commuting to work in New York City is hardly unusual; thousands do it daily. Imagine, however, commuting daily from Boston to New York to work as a street musician and earning enough to support yourself.

**Jane Byaela '76** was such an orthodox commuter, by day playing classical guitar on the steps of the New York Public Library and by night playing folk clubs in Greenwich Village.

"The classical music fans always paid more than the folk music fans," she said.

While performing daily she also was writing songs "constantly" and with some friends she met in New York, launched an in-

dependent record label, **Spark Records**, and produced her first solo album, titled "On the Edge."

**Byaela's** music shows folk, classical and jazz influences and her clear soprano and vocal style are reminiscent of **Joni Mitchell**. Each song is simply arranged, and the main accompaniment is **Byaela's** nylon guitar work.

"I tried to create songs with commercial appeal without overly commercial production," **Byaela** said.

After graduating from Bennington with a degree in music, **Byaela** went to Boston, where she spent several years moving from job to job.

"I wanted to be working on my music," she said.

She decided to start playing in Boston's subway stations, and soon moved out to the West Coast, continuing her street musician's life. She also traveled through Europe, supporting herself by playing in the streets.

**Byaela** has moved from Boston to New York City, where she has been doing much of the promotional work for the album herself. It's been a slow process, she said, but college radio stations have been playing the album and she has found a distributor for it. The next step, **Byaela** hopes, will be export of the album. - **Terri Ezekiel**





Lou Calabro conducts the Sage City Symphony.

"I met Lou Calabro in New York several decades ago. He was the most brilliant Juilliard composing genius around town. I immediately recommended him to the Bennington Composers and Chamber Music Conference as a composer member. He got hooked on Bennington and vice versa, first as an assistant and then as a heavyweight in the Music Division.

"Besides teaching he produced a long list of fine compositions and organized the Sage City Symphony and has conducted it for 11 years. The orchestra has commissioned and performed a long list of American works since then; a unique record in the American scene.

"I understand his voice resonates with undiminished vigor in the Green Mountains and as long as he is around, music in general and American music in particular will continue to grow."

Otto Luening  
Bennington faculty member  
1934-44

## Bennington in 1955: Calabro arrives at "unusual institution"

by Thomas P. Brockway

When Louis Calabro joined the music faculty in 1955 Bennington was still a women's college with some 325 students and the Trustees and Faculty Educational Policies Committee were soon to agree that the college "neither can nor should expand." Alumnae daughters were beginning to enroll and a weekend was devoted to luring more.

In 1956 the American Alumni Council announced that Bennington College stood fifth among all colleges in the percentage of its graduates who contributed to an alumni fund (but where is the swimming pool for which the seniors of 1954 started a drive?).

In that year Bennington was re-accredited "as an unusual institution which strikes an audible but not discordant note in the varied and complicated orchestration of higher education."

Upon his arrival, Calabro was assigned the duties of a percussionist but he found himself teaching the basic courses, Music I and II, he and Lionel Nowak shared the students of composition and he soon announced a course in which an analysis of Bach's Mass in B Minor was followed by a study of contrapuntal styles from 1300 to the present.

However busy Calabro was as teacher he was steadily composing. In 1958 he could list nine works including a motet in 42 parts. Some thirty years later he had composed 82 works for all instrumental and choral combinations and his composing continues.

Recognition of his musicianship has brought Calabro numerous awards. Among them are six fellowships the Vermont Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts have taken turns in awarding him.

Unwilling to confine his musical life to the college Calabro founded the Sage City Symphony in 1973. This town-and-gown organization of all ages has flourished under Calabro's direction and the local community has enjoyed a rich fare of new music.

## Calabro hopes his music "excites people"

by Terri Ezekiel

"When I heard the sound of the first piece I composed, I was hooked," Lou Calabro says. Some 40 years later, 32 as a member of Bennington's music faculty, Calabro still loves, and is a bit awed by, his life as a composer.

"I'm very grateful that I can compose," Calabro said. He thinks the unusual road he took to composing helped him succeed, and he believes his experiences can show the young composers he teaches that if he can do it, they can, too.

"I kept thinking, 'if I can be good enough, I can get out of this mess I'm in'," Calabro said of his early musical experiences.

That "mess" included a period in an orphanage after his mother died and school problems which led to his exit from high school shortly after he started. Despite little encouragement and training, Calabro was playing drums in a combo, which often performed in burlesque houses, by the time he was 14 years old.

When he was drafted during World War II, Calabro had given up music, but a few years later was convinced by friends to perform again. He also began some crude attempts at composing, teaching himself from books as he went along. "The pieces I wrote then were terrible," he said, "but something about composing was wonderful."

After the war, a friend told Calabro that he "had to go to Juilliard." He spent three sometimes difficult years there, because of some faculty members' suspicions that he was not adequately prepared for a music career. He persevered, however, and eventually was offered a position at Bennington.

Calabro's unorthodox musical education has had an impact on the music he creates, he said. "I can't say exactly what it is, but it's had an impact," he said. "Before Juilliard, my whole attitude about music was pretty set."

Calabro's music is difficult to categorize, because it can range from light and easy waltzes to fierce 12-tone music. He "accepts different kinds of music as a challenge," Calabro said.

In the last few years, Calabro's composing has been in a lighter vein and he has become prolific, although he says he is at a loss to explain why he has become more productive.

"It used to be that the minute the term ended, I would collapse and sometimes it was a

month before I would begin composing," he said. More recently, he begins work within a week after the start of Field Work Term, when he does much of his composing.

Calabro said that as he becomes more prolific, he becomes a better teacher, because he is constantly adding to his experience. He likes to make music as spontaneous as possible for students, and wants them to get "fired up" about composing. It's a shared experience, too, he said, because he gets many ideas from his students.

### Sage City Symphony celebrates Calabro's 60th birthday

Sage City Symphony honored Lou Calabro with a 60th birthday celebration concert on November 1. Over 100 current and former colleagues of Calabro performed in the concert.

The program, which covered works by Calabro from the past seven years, featured a premiere of Calabro's "Concerto for Viola and Cello," performed by Jack Glick and Maxine Neuman.

Calabro's involvement in the Sage City Symphony, which he founded in 1972, has allowed him to expand that hands-on musical approach to the wider Bennington community. The symphony includes performers from both the college and the nearby towns and pays no one except the composer because, Calabro believes, "a composer needs interpretation."

One area of frustration for Calabro is that he has never completed an opera. He spent three years collaborating with John Gardner on an opera, but when Gardner died, Calabro "lost heart."

"I loved John's response to the writing," Calabro said. "We had a wonderful rapport."

Looking back on his long career, Calabro said he hopes his music has "done some good," offering both enjoyment and encouragement to listeners.

"I like it when my music excites people in an emotional, gutsy way," Calabro said. "If people don't have that reaction I don't feel I've written a good piece."

## F A C U L T Y N O T E S

The Vermont Chapter of the National Education Association chose a radio program about Vivian Fine and her work as its entry for the National Education Association's Communications Awards. The hour-long program, entitled, "Vivian Fine: A Celebration of Her Music," was sponsored by the International League of Women Composers and was aired in April by both National Public Radio and American Public Broadcasting. This was the first time the Vermont NEA nominated a radio program for their national awards. According to the program's producer, Ev Grimes, they decided to nominate this one because Fine is "such a teacher."

The final movement of Fine's piece for orchestra, *Alceste*, will be included in the *Historical Anthology of Music by Women*, to be published by the Indiana University Press. *Alceste* is from a dance score commissioned by Martha Graham.

Over the Labor Day weekend Pat Adams was visiting critic at Vermont Studio School and presented a public lecture on "The Question of Subject." On September 18, she participated in a colloquium on "Making Art, Making Artists" with David Pease, Dean of The Yale School of Art, and Paul Arnold, President of the College Art Association. The colloquium is in celebration of the Inauguration of Ofelia Garcia as President of Atlanta College of Art, Atlanta, Ga.

From October 10 to November 16 at Maryland Institute of Art her print, "Fair, Fair" (offset lithograph) and a work on paper titled "On the Table" was on view in conjunction with the Institute's project Painters as Printmakers. Twenty works on paper were exhibited at University of Virginia in Charlottesville from October 23 to November 18. Stefanie Newman '77, who is teaching painting at the University, curated this exhibition.

Tony Carruthers performed with Meg Cottam

in Burlington, Castleton and the Town of Bennington in May.

With dance alumna Christina Svane, students of the college and members of the local community, made an event for Lake Paran which took place in late July. It included dance, performance, music, fire sculpture, kids and a horse!

With Mat Monaghan, who graduated in Architecture and Stage Design, Carruthers has been setting up "Cow Video," an independent editing facility for the area.

Mansour Farhang has the following new publications: *The U.S. Press and Iran: Foreign Policy and the Journalism of Deference*, co-authored with William S. Dorman, professor of Journalism, California State University, Sacramento: University of California, Berkeley Press, 1987. "How the Clergy Gained Power in Iran," *The Islamic Impulse*, edited by Barbara Stowasser: Georgetown University Press & Croom Helms, 1986. "Iran-Iraq Conflict: An Unending War Between Two Despots," *The Nation*, September 20, 1986.

Three members of Bennington's faculty played key backstage roles in the Berkshire Opera Company's performances of Mozart's "L'Oca Del Cairo" and Bergolesi's "La Serva Padrona" this summer.

Kenneth Rothchild served as set designer, Daniel Michaelson designed the costumes, and David Groupe was technical director of the production, part of the Berkshire Opera Festival in Lenox, Mass. Hilarie Blumenthal and Anne Kenney were part of the production staff.

Allen Shawn's Woodwind Quintet was premiered by the Aspen Quintet on July 1 at the Hart School of Music. His new orchestral work commissioned by the Atlanta Ballet Company will be giving its first performance this March with choreography by Lynne Taylor-Corbett.