A Celebration of Life
A Zoom Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Sixtieth Reunion
Class of 1961
Wellesley College
Sunday, June 6, 2021
1:00 pm EDT
Musical Prelude

“Prelude in C Major” by Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Willinda McClung McCrea

We welcome you today to our 60th Reunion Memorial Service in which we remember and honor the classmates we have lost over the past five years. Because of the Coronavirus and the many restrictions it has placed upon us, we feel more than ever the need to connect with one another and embrace our community. We want to share with our classmates the richness that our common Wellesley heritage has brought us over these past sixty years. And as we come to grips with our increasing maturity, we value the feeling of community more than ever, of being a part of that ephemeral but ever-present something that gives us strength and comfort and brings harmony to our advancing years.

Call to Worship

Nancy Palm Felton-Elkins

Let us gather together to remember our classmates and to honor their lives. Let us join together to reflect upon their lives and to celebrate the Gift of Life. Let us believe that they enjoy immortality through their spirits in our lives.

May the source of Peace send power to all who mourn and comfort to all who are bereaved. For today we celebrate our friends and the lives they shared with us. May our minds be filled with warm memories that will lead us over the bridge from sadness to joy.

Amen.

Reading

Isabel Johnston Stewart

“Our Lives Matter” by Reverend M. Maureen Killoran

We come together from the diversity of our grieving,
To gather in the warmth of this community
Giving stubborn witness to our belief that
In times of sadness, there is room for laughter.
In times of darkness, there always will be light.
May we hold fast to the conviction
That what we do matters.
And that a caring world is possible after all.
Hymn

“We Gather Together” by Adrianus Valerius

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing…
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

We all do extoll thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Reading

Native American Prayer

Charlotte Ripley Sorenson

I give you this one thought to keep.
I am with you still. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on the ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning’s hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone... I am with you still
In each new dawn.
Reading

Myra Katzen Levenson

Kaddish (Mourner’s Prayer)

Let the glory of God be extolled; let the great Name be hallowed in the world whose creation God willed. May God's reign soon prevail, in our own day, our own lives and the life of all Israel.

And let us say, Amen.

Let God’s great name be blessed forever and ever. Let the name of the Holy One be glorified, exalted, and honored, though God is beyond all praises, songs, and adoration that we can utter.

And let us say, Amen.

For us and for all Israel, may the blessings of peace and the promise of life come true.

And let us say, Amen.

May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens let peace descend upon us, and on all Israel, and on all the world.

And let us say, Amen.

May the source of peace send power to all who mourn and comfort all who are bereaved.

And let us say, Amen.

Musical Interlude

“Les Barricades Mysterieuses” by Francois Couperin
The Reading of Names
Jo Anne Pierson Albright, Co-President
Martha Mel Stumberg Edmunds, Co-President
Sue Ballenger Bottigheimer, Vice President

In Memoriam

Suzanne Allen  
Meredith Baldwin Weddle  
Lynette Buchanan Bennett  
Phyllis Bywaters Singer  
Cigdem Cizakca Kagitcibasi  
Marsha Cohen Roth  
Lisa Cook Koch  
Mary Cravens Wysong  
Nancy Davenport Brown  
Judith Diekoff Cohen  
Catherine Drummond Nickerson  
Linda Frankenhoff Ettie  
Suzanne Gallant  
Virginia Green Highstone  
Carol Hart Field  
Susan Hattox  
Susann Hayes Hoke  
Julia Howe Rhodes  
Carol Jansen Monchick  
Shirley Johannesen Levine  
Margot Kittredge  
Alice Luethi Ritcheson  
Joan Marx  
Mary McCulla Wold  
Claire Meo Broder  
Nancy Norris-Kniffin  
Karen Peterson Davidson  
Ellen Raab Bienstock  
Beth Randall Arnold  
Victoria Sanborn  
Elaine Story  
Gretchen Smith Truslow  
Mary Townsend Rossbottom  
Allison Tupper  
Jean Tyler  
Helen Tyson Muller  
Carol Wentley Singer
**Hymn**

“Abide With Me” by William Henry Monk & Henry Francis Lyte

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me.

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**Reading**

“Passing” by Marjorie Felker Wagner

I want to pass as the daylight goes,  
At the close of a summer’s day,  
I want the sky to be gold and rose;  
And I want the gentlest breeze that blows  
To carry me on my way.

I want the lake, like a mirror bright,  
To stretch to its fringing trees,  
So still with the promise of coming Night  
There’s never a ripple or wave in sight;  
But all of the world at ease.

I want to pass as the daylight goes  
On the breath of a summer sigh;  
Dropping the weariness life bestows  
To be one, at last, with the gold and rose  
Of the placid lake and sky.
“Blackwater Woods” by Mary Oliver

Look, the trees are turning their own bodies into pillars of light,  
Are giving off the rich fragrance of cinnamon and fulfillment,  
The long tapers of cattails are bursting and floating away over  
The blue shoulders of the ponds, and every pond, no matter what its name is, is nameless now.  
Every year everything I have ever learned in my lifetime leads back to this: the fires and  
The black river of loss whose other side is salvation, whose meaning none of us will ever know.  
To live in this world you must be able to do three things: to love what is mortal;  
To hold it against your bones knowing your own life depends on it; and,  
when the time comes to let it go, to let it go.

Musical Interlude

“The Mission: Gabriel’s Oboe” by Ennio Morricone

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep; and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
Benediction

by Henri Amiel

Life is short, and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of the One who made us and goes before us be upon you and all those you love, this day and always.

Musical Postlude

“Requiem: In Paradisum” by Gabriel Faure

May the Angels lead you into paradise: may the martyrs receive you at your coming, and lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

May the choir of Angels receive you, and with Lazarus, who once was poor, may you have everlasting rest.
The Memorial Service Committee

Willinda McClung McCrea
Charlotte Ripley Sorenson
Sue Ballenger Bottigheimer
Kitsy Curtis Rigler
Peggy Hilsinger MacGregor
Isabel Johnston Stewart
Myra Katzen Levenson
Nancy Palm Felton-Elkins
Jo Anne Pierson Albright
Stephanie Shevlin Peek
Martha Mel Stumberg Edmunds