



ou will see in the pages of this issue that Berkeley Carroll students and alums value a life dedicated to public service.

Consider, for instance:

- James Morgano's and Daniel Abramson's dedication to two political candidates
- Arthur Levitt, former head of the SEC, who began his education here
- Helen Gahagan Douglas whose passion and commitment pitted her against a formidable foe, Richard Nixon

Reflecting on students who chose the path of public service, Bob Vitalo acknowledges a section of Berkeley Carroll's mission statement that credits our demanding curriculum and vibrant civic life. I agree with our head of school but would also like to direct the reader's attention to this part of the mission statement:

The school is a creative and intellectual community where devoted teachers challenge and engage talented students.

We talk a lot about Berkeley Carroll as a creative and intellectual community—for one thing, it's true. For another, it sums things up pretty nicely. Thirdly, and I don't mind saying this, if someone were to shine a flashlight in my face in the middle of the night and say, "Jodie, describe Berkeley Carroll in only one sentence" (it could happen), that's the one I'd choose. Because, clearly, that's what this school is.

The measure of our students' effectiveness is not in whether or not they achieve their goals, it is in how they work to get there. Dreams. Actions. The attributes of Berkeley Carroll's talented students, challenged and engaged by their devoted and equally talented teachers. Teachers such as Lorne Swarthout who, armed with coffee cake, schleps to school every Wednesday at the crack of dawn in order to help a roomful of Upper School students learn how to understand—and take on—the world. Teachers who create an intellectual community that students carry with them, long after they leave here.



Enjoy the issue.

Jodie Corngold Editor jcorngold@berkeleycarroll.org

Cover Photo: Helen Gahagan Douglas '20 running for Senate in 1950 courtesy of Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives, University of Oklahoma.

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## (headlines)



BOB VITALO

#### DEAR FRIENDS,

As is made abundantly clear in our Mission Statement

...Our demanding curriculum and vibrant civic life prepare our diverse graduates for success in college and for the greater endeavor—a life of critical, ethical, and global thinking.

it is essential for all of us to look beyond ourselves. We know as educators that it is through what we do for others that we truly learn about our own capabilities.

Each division at Berkeley Carroll actively stresses the importance of service to others. While the examples of how we reach out to the community are almost too numerous to enumerate, it is illuminating to highlight a few:

- Our youngest class, the PreK3s, lead an annual food drive to benefit a local shelter.
- This past school year, kindergarten teachers and their students raised money to aid the kindergarteners' pen pals who were orphaned children from Uganda.
- Our Middle School Service Elective works on a regular basis with autistic students from a local school.
- Each of our graduating seniors perform the required minimum of 80 hours of community service during their four years in the Upper School, yet many graduates complete their time at Berkeley Carroll having undertaken hundreds of hours of community service.

In response to our Mission Statement and commitment to global thinking, Berkeley Carroll students have undertaken service trips to New Orleans and Central America for the past three years. We have thought much about the role of travel in the Upper School program, and students and their families should look forward to an increased number of trips to different parts of the world. Service will be a key component of these trips. At present we are even evaluating a program where parents and children would participate together in a foreign service trip.

I am also proud to report that Berkeley Carroll as an organization does its part to support the community. Over the last several years we have worked to make our facilities available at no cost to local churches, youth groups, and other non-profits for a variety of activities. For example, three years ago a national organization that counsels the families of cancer patients came to us and asked for our help. The organization had lost its lease in a neighborhood building and could not afford the market rate rentals in the area. We made rooms available to the group, and since they counsel families year round, our maintenance crew has worked to make it possible for them to meet even over the holidays and in the summer when the school is otherwise closed.

What we do best at Berkeley Carroll is to prepare our students for the future and in the pages of this issue of the *Magazine* we invite you to witness the inspiring work that our alumni have accomplished in their pursuit of serving the greater good. We can all be proud of this Berkeley Carroll tradition.

Warmest regards, **Robert D. Vitalo** *Head of School* 





...in the pages of this issue of the Magazine we invite you to witness the inspiring work that our alumni have accomplished in their pursuit of the greater good.







he 56 members of the senior class of 2009 graduated on June 5, 2009. Class President Elsie Vieira '09 said of her class, "We are 56 distinctive people who bring insight and artistry together in order to form camaraderie." Her words were underscored by those of fellow classmate and graduation speaker, Aaron Braun '09 who said, "The closeness of our classmates and our teachers has given us the confidence to move into larger communities and to try to make a difference. We should be grateful for Berkeley Carroll for providing us with an environment where we can form friendships with other students and

with our teachers."

The commencement speaker for the 122nd commencement exercises of the Berkeley Carroll School was the journalist and co-host of the *Today Show*, **Meredith Vieira**. She presented the graduates with a list of "stays," a few of which follow:

Stay on top of your dirty laundry (Parents are happy to see their children come home from college but not their children's dirty laundry. Especially, she cautioned, since small problems can take on a life of their own and become big ones.)

Stay away from toxic relationships. Stay in touch with the friends you have made here.

Stay true to yourself. Strive for authenticity but don't take yourself too seriously. In the end, she told the rapt group, you will be defined by human decency.

Both Ms. Vieira and **Suzanne Fogarty**, Head of the Upper School, urged the students to continue through life by asking questions. "Celebrate the fact that you do not know everything," Suzanne said, "and that you'll never know everything because not knowing something gives you the opportunity to do something about it."

## (connections)



## Closing Ceremonies

During the June 11, 2009 Middle School Closing Ceremony, Middle School Head Jim Shapiro addressed the assembled students, parents, and faculty about the school "beyond the brick walls of Berkeley Carroll and whatever college you attend...where you can become a student of your own life and the lives of others around you. No matter where you go or how you live your lives, stay alert to the weather patterns of the great outdoors. Small and big don't matter. The only things that matter are attitude, energy, and love. Please don't stint, don't be stingy about loving what you can do and what others can do."

Jim's address to the students was preceded by speeches from representa-

tives of each Middle School grade. Representing the 5th grade, **Jeremy Uys** stated, "the difference between Lower School and Middle School is that Middle School is all about responsibility." The day's other speakers agreed yet they all also agreed that the friendships, connections between students and teachers, and the tremendous amount of fun they had all year were also hallmarks of the middle division.

Sixth grade speaker **Elly Goetz** mentioned that she was surprised by how worried her "beginning of 6th grade self" sounded to her "end of the 6th grade self." Clearly, a lot of growth went on during the year for that grade, and more would be forthcom-

ing, a fact that was underscored by the remarks of 7th grade speaker **Olivia Saleh** when she said, "Sixth graders, you have more to look forward to and less to be worried about." Her fellow speaker, **Josiah Murrell**, gave what he called "the new kid's perspective" on Berkeley Carroll. Yet, he said, as the year went on "I quickly forgot that I was the new kid."

Speakers **Livia Brock** and **Corbin Hopper** provided the 8th grade perspective. Livia waxed reminiscent on the importance of friends. Corbin spoke about the power of memories. "The only way we can learn from our mistakes is by remembering them," he said.



A fourth grader comes through the Arch on her way to the Middle School

## Arch Day

Lower School Head **Ben Chant** initiated the grades 2-4 Arch Day ceremony by asking the children to close their eyes and count to five. "During those five seconds," he said, "you grew. And every day at school you grew—mentally and physically. That's the wonder of school."

Following those words, the first of the 4th grade speakers, Alessandra Inciardi, told her audience, "The Lower School teachers make us feel like we're one family." The next speaker, 4th grader Liam Cryan, referenced the 4th Grade Play, saying, "I was

encouraged to show what I was made of." The day's last speaker, **Michaela Herron**, acknowledged, "moving on can be hard." But, she hastened to add, "we'll all help each other as we move up to Middle School."



On February 27 and 28, 2009, Middle and Upper School Dance students triumphantly inaugurated the new dance space at the Berkeley Carroll Athletic Center. They performed original choreography as well as works inspired by legendary choreographers David Parsons and José Limón. The Upper School Chamber Ensemble provided live music.

Dancers inaugurate the new dance space at the Athletic Center

## (connections)



Berkeley Carroll • MAGAZINE • Fall 2009



ead of School **Bob Vitalo** told the audience gathered for the presentation of the 2009 **Dexter Earle** and **John Reidy**Awards, "We gather once a year as an entire school to celebrate teaching." The May 1, 2009 celebration honored **Eileen Mercado**, recipient of the Dexter D. Earle Award for Excellence in

Teaching, and **Phaedra Mastrocola** and **Lauren Goldberg**, recipients of the John Reidy Award.

The Dexter Earle Award is presented annually to a Berkeley Carroll teacher with over 10 years' teaching experience in recognition of excellence in teaching, dedication, involvement, passion, and the promotion of an intellectual community. Eileen Mercado is all that, of course, but is also an important behind-thescenes member of the school's technology team. "Eileen does what needs to be done, running rescue missions in her calm, quiet, steady way," noted Technology Coordinator Maureen Sheehan, who introduced Eileen. It was fitting to hear Eileen say, "It's very humbling to receive this award." By the same token, it was not a surprise when she said, "Unlocking each student's

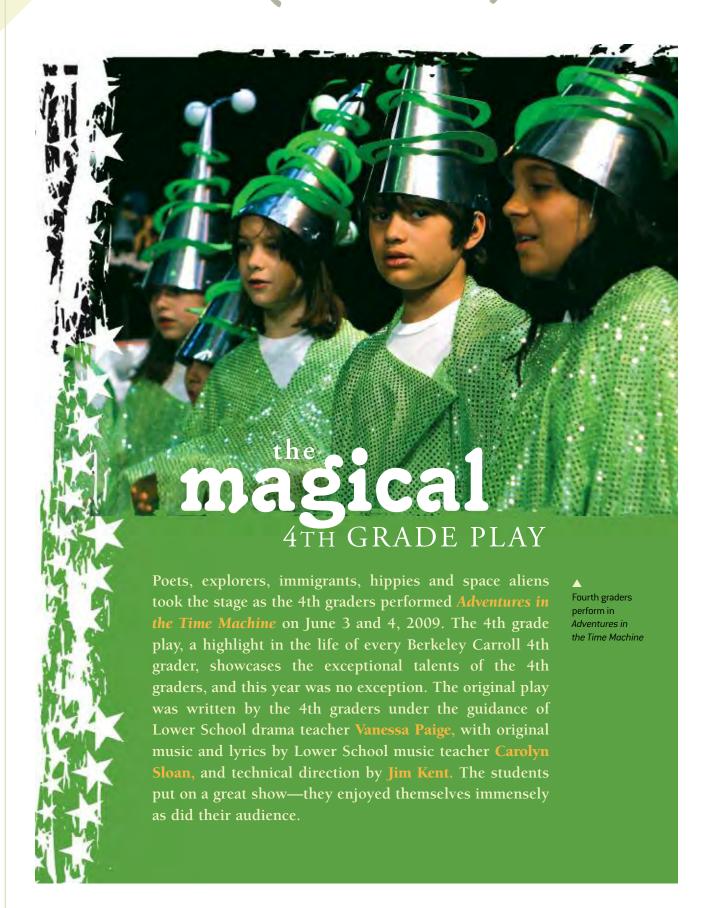
potential is what makes this profession so rewarding." No doubt that sentiment was on the minds of Eileen's colleagues when they voted for her to become this year's Dexter Earle recipient.

Phaedra Mastrocola, a recipient of the John Reidy award, teaches Lower School art. She told the students that although she had been happy in her former life as a graphic designer, she realized something was missing. That "something," she told the crowd, "was you"—the daily interactions with colleagues and students.

Lauren Goldberg's mentor, Jennifer Crichton, introduced this Middle School English teacher and recipient of the John Reidy award, by saying that "Lauren is all about community building." Lauren accepted her award by painting a beautiful portrait of her late grandfather, making it clear that for her, "community" included family, colleagues, and students.

The talent and warmth of all three of these outstanding teachers has long been recognized by their peers and most importantly, their students. The May 1, 2009 ceremonies merely put a name to it.

## (connections)



#### 



In the fall of 2008, three members of the Class of 2009 earned the distinction of being named National Merit Semifinalists: Rebecca
Ballhaus, Emily Graham, and
Deborah Shapiro. The following spring, all three earned the distinction of National Merit
Finalist, and one, Emily Graham, was designated a National Merit
Scholar, the highest award and one based on academic abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition that awards recognition and/or scholarships based in part upon scores earned on the PSAT taken during the student's junior year in high school.

(I to r) Emily Graham '09, Deborah Shapiro '09, and

### SCHOLASTIC WRITING Awards

In April 2009, three students were awarded national Gold and Silver awards from Scholastic's Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Rose Mintzer-Sweeny '14 won a Gold Medal Scholastic Writing Award for her humor piece, *Getting Out the Door.* Aliza Goldberg '09 won a Silver Medal for her nonfiction writing portfolio. Julia Harris '09 won a Silver Medal for her general writing portfolio.

To earn the extremely prestigious national Gold or Silver Medal, regional winners (two-dozen of which were Berkeley Carroll students) are judged against the work of more than 100,000 students from around the country.

# *The Blotter* is Outstanding

The Upper School newspaper, *The Blotter*, won not only First Place from the American Scholastic Press Association in its annual review and contest (achieving a perfect score in the editing category) but also, "Most Outstanding High School Newspaper of 2008," an award presented to only about ten schools in the country. Congratulations to Co-Editors-in-Chief Rebecca Ballhaus '09 and Abigail Hopper '09, faculty advisors Liz Perry and Wil Wilmot, and the editors and staff of *The Blotter*.

## connections

CONGRAT

CLAIRE DIANA BYRNES ARDITO

Maryland Institute College of Art

**ROXANA SARA BALDOVIN** *Arizona State University* 

**REBECCA BALLHAUS** *Brown University* 

**EMMA GLORIA BELLEL** Clark University

**STEPHANIE KAYLA BOYLE** Bates College

ONIWABIOLORUN ENI JUBA IDILE BRAITHWAITE University of Maryland

**AARON WARWICK BRAUN** *Oberlin College* 

**LUCIAN RAY BUSCEMI** *Bard College* 

**VANESSA CARVAJAL**Wesleyan University

**OLIVER VITAL CHANIN**Lewis & Clark College

GEORGE BARTHOLO DESDUNES

Cornell University

JONATHAN SHEA EDELSTEIN

Eugene Lang College

KELSEY ENG

Washington University

MARY ALICE ESTREICH Ithaca College

THEA GLASSMAN

University of Kansas

**ALIZA JANE GOLDBERG** *Barnard College* 

JESSE ABRAHAM PUTTERMAN GOLDBERG Oberlin College

**MELISSA NICOLE GOLDIN** *University of Rochester* 



**EMILY KATE GRAHAM** *Yale University* 

**JOHN CHARLES GREENLEAF**Columbia College

**THEO JAMES GUEST** *University of Dayton* 

MICHAEL DEVIN GUTTERMAN Emerson College

**BROOKLYN SELIGMAN HAGEN**Oberlin College

MOLLY ALICE HANESSIAN Wesleyan University

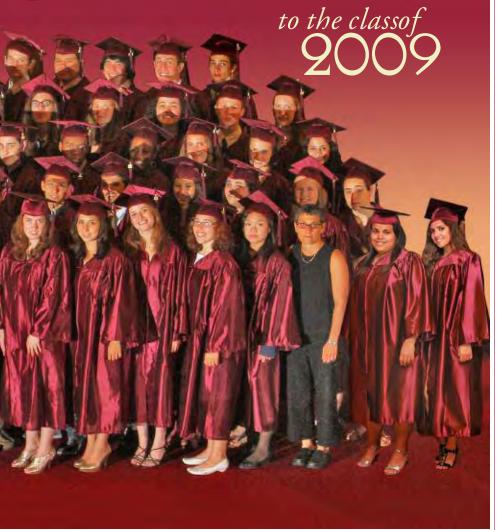
JULIA BANKS HARRIS Lewis & Clark College

**GIANCARLO LUISI HIRSCH** Occidental College

**ABIGAIL KATHERINE HOPPER** Amherst College

**DANIEL LEONARD HORWITZ** *Skidmore College* 

# ULATIONS



RUTH ALMA KACE Hampshire College

**JACKSON KENT**Oberlin College

**AKIL LAMONT**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**ANNA JUDE LONGO** *Tufts University* 

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JAMES REDDEN McDONOUGH
Trinity College

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**DEXTER NICHOLSON** *University of Rochester* 

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MARC ALEXANDER PIERRE Emerson College ASHLEY CAROLE PRIVETT

Goucher College

**SALVATORE LEE PUMA** *University of Miami* 

**MAX RUSSELL RAINEY** *University of Arizona* 

**LEIGH JACOB RAZE**Rochester Institute of Technology

**POLLY CARLIN RITTENBERG** *Guilford College* 

**SANTOS RIVERA III** Binghamton University

**ADA LILIAN SANTIAGO** Middlebury College

PHILIP VALENTI SEAY
Denison University

**DEBORAH ANNE SHAPIRO**Carleton College

**TAYLOR E. SHULMAN** Eckerd College

**BRANDON JARRID SUTTON**College of Wooster

**ELIZABETH MERCEDES VIEIRA** Stephens College

**KATHARINE JANE VILLIOS** *Hartwick College* 

**CALVIN WAGNER** *Clark University* 

**COLLETTE BEBHINN WALSH**Allegheny College

**LAWRENCE MICHAEL WEISS**University of Chicago

**ROXANNE NATHALIE YOUMAN** *McGill University* 

**KENDA RAVEN ZAPPASODI**Warren Wilson College

## (connections)

# WINTER & SPRING ATHLETICS

# SEASONS TO REMIEWEER

2008-2009

#### BY WALKER HARRISON '10

Berkeley Carroll athletics had exciting winter and spring seasons, complete with championships, playoff runs, personal bests, and of course seniors enjoying their final seasons as high school athletes.

Lion Award recipients, Giancarlo Hirsch '09 and Philip Seay '09 led a robust Boys Varsity Basketball team that advanced into the second round of the Athletic Conference of Independent Schools (ACIS) playoffs. A guard-heavy squad (no members of the team surpassed 6 feet 2 inches), the Lions relied primarily on sharp outside shooting, fast break points, and hustle. Hirsch, who will play basketball for Occidental College this winter, averaged more than 20 points a game, capping off an impressive high school career during which he spent all four years on the varsity team. The highlight of his season came in a game against St. Ann's in which he scored 48 points—a school record—and sunk two free throws in overtime to help Berkeley Carroll escape with an 88-83 victory.

The boys finished 15-11 and secured the fourth seed heading into the ACIS tournament. Behind Hirsch's 32 points they defeated Packer in the first round, 71-66, despite trailing by double digits at halftime. Next, the Lions looked to upset the Dwight School in the semifinals after losing two close games to them during the

regular season but alas, victory was not within reach as the season came to a close.

The Junior Varsity Boys
Basketball team also advanced to the
ACIS semifinals, despite a 5-12 regular

The Junior Varsity Boys
Basketball team also advanced to the
ACIS semifinals, despite a 5-12 regular
season record. Unfortunately, they
could not defeat Friends Seminary,
which would go on to win the championship. The team was led by Adam
Kochman '12, who scored 26 points in
the final regular season contest against
UNIS.

The Girls Varsity Basketball team

finished their season with a flourish, defeating the powerful Dwight team (16-2 in the regular season), and then advancing to the Private School Athletic Association (PSAA) semifinals before being knocked out by Martin Luther. Ashley Privett '09 provided both a presence in the key and accurate midrange shooting, and her prowess on the court led to an all-league selection. Keyanka Bailey '11, the team's leading scorer, was unstop-

pable off the dribble, fearlessly slashing her way to the basket whenever she got the opportunity. She too was voted all-league.

While the basketball teams were battling on the court, the swim teams were triumphing in the water. At the AAIS championship the Girls Swim

team climbed as high as second place during the meet and finished in fourth, a year after finishing last at the same event. Montana Lampert Hoover '10, Emma Goldberg Liu '10, Kate Villios '09, and Megan Gilbert '10 made up the winning team for the 200-meter freestyle relay. The following day, both Boys and Girls Swim teams traveled to Philadelphia for the Easterns Swim



Invitational held at Germantown Academy. While many members of both teams posted their best times, it was Henry Schwab '11 who impressed the most, shaving almost 30 seconds off his original 500-meter freestyle time at the meet.

As the spring rolled in, the focus shifted from the basketball court and swimming pool to the diamond, where Berkeley Carroll had a banner year. The girls' softball team won seven games, earning them second place in the ACIS and a bid in the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS) state tournament. The Lions were led offensively by sluggers Molly Hanessian '09, who was selected as an honorable mention for league MVP, and Ashley Privett, a Lion Award winner, while defensively they benefited from Stephanie Boyle's '09 solid work as catcher and Kate Villios's superb range in the outfield. On the mound, staff ace and league MVP Lauren Malotra-Gaudet '11 did her best Jennie Finch impression, dominating virtually every lineup she faced.

In the NYSAIS play-in game, Malotra-Gaudet confounded the Packer Pelicans with her signature rise ball (deemed "unhittable" by the Poly Prep coach), but the Lion bats could not back her up and Berkeley Carroll fell 3-0. Nevertheless, the season was a successful one, and the Lions look to return to the state tournament in 2010.

The boys, however, left no room for improvement. Even in team meetings as early as the fall, the players could sense that something special was within their reach. Longtime coach Walter Paller urged his players to keep things in perspective, but all the Lions could think about was bringing Berkeley Carroll its first ever athletic state championship. And why not? With a pitching staff loaded with

fireballers James McDonough '09 and Phil Seay '09 and crafty southpaw Theo Guest '09, and a lineup including slugger Robbie Paller '11 followed by co-captains Giancarlo Hirsch '09 and Walker Harrison '10, the Lions surely had the talent.

The team got off to an auspicious start, winning four of six games during spring training in Florida, a year after going winless in the Sunshine State. Their success continued back in New York, as the Lions, led by McDonough, the league MVP (no-hitter, 17 strikeouts vs. Xaverian) and Seay (team leader in homeruns, runs, hits, and RBIs), won fourteen of sixteen regular season games. They closed out their first league title since 2006 with a gritty win, 5-4, over the Steamers from St. Ann's in the championship game played at Keyspan Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones.

But the Lions were still hungry. After securing the second-seed in the NYSAIS tournament, the boys steamrolled into the championship game by defeating St. Ann's once again in the quarterfinals and then demolishing the boisterous boys from Collegiate 15-2 in the semifinals to set up an all-Brooklyn final against the highly touted Poly Prep team. The Blue Devils had only lost five games in the previous three years and had won the state tournament in 2007 and 2008. But the Lions could not be intimidated. and they sent the indefatigable Seay, on only two days' rest, to the mound to challenge Poly Prep's deep lineup. After giving up an unearned run in the first inning, Seay shut down Poly until the sixth, when the Lions finally broke through. Seay, Paller, and Harrison each doubled and Max Rainey tacked on two insurance runs with a clutch RBI-single to give Berkeley Carroll a 4-1 lead. Seay whizzed through the sixth but ran into trouble in the bottom of seventh and final inning. With two

outs and two on, Poly first basemen Richie Carbone drove a ball into the right center field gap, and the Berkeley Carroll crowd held its collective breath. Out of nowhere came a streaking Guest, the rightfielder, diving to make the catch of his career and set off the celebration. Berkeley Carroll had won a state championship!

Although the team will lose five seniors starters, look out for the Lions to repeat their outstanding performance in 2010 with a talented roster of players prepared to defend the title.

Berkeley Carroll found success on the tennis court too, as Allan Malievsky '10 spearheaded a young squad that finished the season with five wins, including two against Dwight. The left-handed Malievsky, armed with a vicious serve, took home one of the two Lion Awards, with the other going to speedy Johnny Steines '11. Yet the season's defining moment belonged to Jason Grunfeld '13, who saved several match points in the deciding contest against his opponent from Dwight en route to securing a hard-fought victory for the Lions. The match was held at the West Side Tennis Club at Forest Hills, the former site of the US Open, making the victory even sweeter.

While victory was never quite within reach for the boys' volleyball team—they were winless in 13 attempts—the season was still enjoyable and full of exciting moments, including very close matches against St. Ann's and Packer. Captain Taylor Shulman '09 never hesitated to sacrifice his body, routinely diving to the floor to keep rallies alive. Ultimately, his efforts were recognized with the Lion Award.

Whether it was basketball, swim, softball, baseball, tennis, or volleyball, the Lions put on an impressive performance, making the winter and spring seasons extraordinary ones.

## (connections)

## College Alumni | December 17, 2008

Alumni from the classes of 2004 to 2008 were invited back to school for an afternoon of art, athletics, and meeting with friends. Many alumni were spotted at the Athletic Center

and at 181 Lincoln Place. Congratulations to Brett Chalfin '06, the winner of our raffle prize, a \$50 gift certificate to the clothing store Something Else.







#### [left]

- 1. Elena Levi '08 and Zoe Cohen '08
- 2. Matthew Fong '08, Maya Shelton '08, Laura Renfro '08
- 3. Featured alumni artist, Katie Gately '01, with Middle/Upper School art teacher, Susan Haber
- 4 Raffle winner, Brett Chalfin '06 (holding gift certificate), with David Gregory '06, Max Posner '06, James Morgano '06, Daniel Bogart '06, Justin Bogart '06

#### (below)

- 1. Student and alumni players
- 2. Dan Hopard '98, Ben Weisberg '00, Al Reyes '99 celebrating Al's homerun in the early part of the game
- 3. Alumni players in the dugout with Coach Walter Paller [left]

## Alumni Baseball Game 1 June 13, 2009

Despite the chill and damp, alumni from past baseball teams reunited in Breezy Point to take on the NYSAISAA (New York State Association of Independent Schools Athletic Association) state champs, the Berkeley Carroll 2008-2009 varsity boys baseball team. The alumni took the lead early in the game but couldn't hold off the varsity team who won 5-3, ending the game just as the rain began to fall. Parents and friends cheered both teams on, and all enjoyed a picnic lunch in the clubhouse

after the game.



## (connections)

### REUNION 2009 | April 17-18, 2009

n Friday evening, April 17, Head of School Bob Vitalo and his wife, Jackie Montras, hosted our first reunion cocktail party at their home. The party was a resounding success with classes from 1959 to 2003 represented. Our eleven inaugural members of the Founders Society were inducted at the party with Janet McCauley Stark '60 and David Kochman '77 attending in person. On Saturday, reunion activities moved to 181 Lincoln Place where Emmy award winner Celia Costas '68 and Jane Nerlinger Evans '69 spoke about their careers together in film and television. A ceremony was

also held to honor Elizabeth
'Bitsie' Root '51 and Sloan Gaon
'87 who received awards for their
service to the school and the
community at large.

#### Founders Society

Formed this year, The Founders Society honors our exemplary

- 1. Members of the class of 1989 (I to r): Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt, Denise Kenny Touchet, and Heather Cunningham
- 2. Janet McCauley Stark '60, Honorary Chair of the Founders Society, displaying the school's gift to Founders Society members—an archival photo of the school
- 3. Polina Bekker '94 and Kate Rubin Witherwax '94
- 4. Michelle Menendez Olgers and Victor Brown, both class of 1984
- 5. Jane Nerlinger Evans '69, Ann Bailinson Kleinman '68, and Celia Costas '68
- 6. Isabel Slotnick Dresdale '64 and Helen Epps '64
- 7. For their 50th reunion, the class of 1959 recreating their graduation photo on the main stairs of 181 Lincoln Place









alumni donors who have, over time, given from \$25,000 to \$99,999 to Berkeley Carroll. Members of the society who were honored at the event:

#### **GOLD LEVEL**

Cumulative Donations Between \$75,000-\$99,000 Ruth Fitch Wallace II '41\*

#### SILVER LEVEL

Cumulative Donations
Between \$50,000-\$74,999
Gwendolyn Glass '42
Jennifer Gordon '71
Katherine Babcock McCurdy '41
Janet McCauley Stark '60

Bronze Level Cumulative Donations Between \$25,000-\$49,999

David Kochman '77
Peggy Preston Palmer '34
Dorothy Sarnoff Raymond '31\*
Catherine Roraback '37\*
Barbara Birch Smyth '48
Winifred Raab Weber '26\*

\* Deceased

#### Elizabeth 'Bitsie' Root '51

#### ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD 2009

Bitsie was honored for her work and leadership in the field of independent school education.

#### Sloan Gaon '87

#### LIONS AWARD 2009

Sloan was honored for his service and commitment to Berkeley Carroll. Sloan joined the Berkeley Carroll Board of Trustees in 1998 and served as co-chair of the Committee on Trustees as well as on the Legal Committee through June of 2007. He also has served on the Berkeley Carroll Alumni Council.







(Upon hearing that Eileen was the 2009 recipient of the school's prestigious Dexter D. Earle Award for Excellence in Teaching, Ben nodded sagely. "I'm not surprised that her teaching talents have been formally recognized. She was an excellent preschool teacher." Wait. Back up. No one's questioning Eileen's excellence but she taught him over 20 years ago and he was three. Ben smiled, ever charming and ever political and that, in a nutshell, is the essence of Ben.)

Ben got his political start at Berkeley Carroll. Now as a communications consultant for M&R Strategic Services—a group that provides campaign planning and management advice to politicians and nonprofit organizations—he uses those skills every day. "Politics at Berkeley Carroll isn't as complicated or as intense as it is Washington," he admits, "but nevertheless it taught me some important lessons." Oh? Well, as it turns out Ben lost his first campaign. "I ran for student council vice president when I was in Upper School. At morning meeting, all the candidates were to make presentations, but I had never prepared and I hadn't written a speech." He lost. "My classmate Shari Ajayi won. That experience taught me an important lesson."

His Berkeley Carroll career helped shape his professional career in other ways, as well, particularly his experiences as a peer leader during senior year. "Being a peer leader got me interested in sociology," and he ultimately majored in sociology as an undergraduate at Northwestern University. "What I liked best about sociology were issues relating to governing," he said. Those interests led to politics.

He worked on now City Council member David Yassky's 2006 congressional campaign ("we lost, but it was still fun"). Ben initially strikes people as quiet—the type who might prefer to watch for a while before jumping right in. He agrees. "Working on Yassky's campaign was a learning experience. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and I met people with a completely different world view." A field

organizer, Ben had to travel around Yassky's proposed district, engaging local constituents. How did he win them over? Without a trace of irony, Ben replied, "By being genuine. I had to convince them that their actions would have an impact on politics."

In short, the Yassky campaign provided Ben with a crash course in grassroots politics. It also introduced him to the people who helped him find his next job (working for Senator Ted Kennedy) because that's the way it's done in politics. The job for Senator Kennedy led the way to the next break, working on the Obama campaign.

As the Deputy Press Secretary for the Obama campaign in Minnesota, Ben had the distinct pleasure of working 16-hour days, catching what little sleep he could on couches provided by sympathetic local democrats, and eating food that that spilled out from vending machines—and he wouldn't have changed a minute of it.

"What other kind of work would enable me to have such a positive impact on people's lives?" he asked, rhetorically, since it's clear that Ben's commitment to politics is there for the long haul. He quickly makes it clear that he has no aspirations to run for elected office; nevertheless, politics for Ben is so all-consuming that it has taken the place of sports in his life. Given how much Ben loves politics, one can't help wonder what Ben thinks of politicians. "I try not to admire them too much," he concedes. "They're a means to an end." Okay, okay, but by this point he's done a lot of traveling and met a lot of people. Who among those were the ones worth going the extra mile? Ben doesn't hesitate a minute. "The late Senator Kennedy and President Obama."

No question one can be a means to an end and, at the same time, be someone worthy of going that extra mile—that's politics and that's Ben.

RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE

CHARLIE JACOB'02



ur Courts is the vision of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, concerned that today's students, particularly at the middle school level, are disengaged from politics. In particular, Justice O'Connor focuses on civics, which, she says, "sounds really boring to most young people." Our Courts takes on the basic supposition that middle school students are not getting the information and tools they need for civic participation, and that civics teachers need better materials and support. It was from this need that Our Courts was born.

Justice O'Connor is not a Berkeley Carroll alum. Nor do Berkeley Carroll students graduate from high school without studying the three branches of government. What ties *Our Courts* to Berkeley Carroll is Charlie Jacob '02.

Two years after graduating from Columbia University with a degree in political science, Charlie began law school at Northwestern University—litigation is his calling and he hopes to land a clerkship after he graduates in 2011. In the meantime, he spent the summer of 2009, following his first year of law school, in Washington working on the *Our Courts* project. In Charlie's words, it was a "fantastic gig."

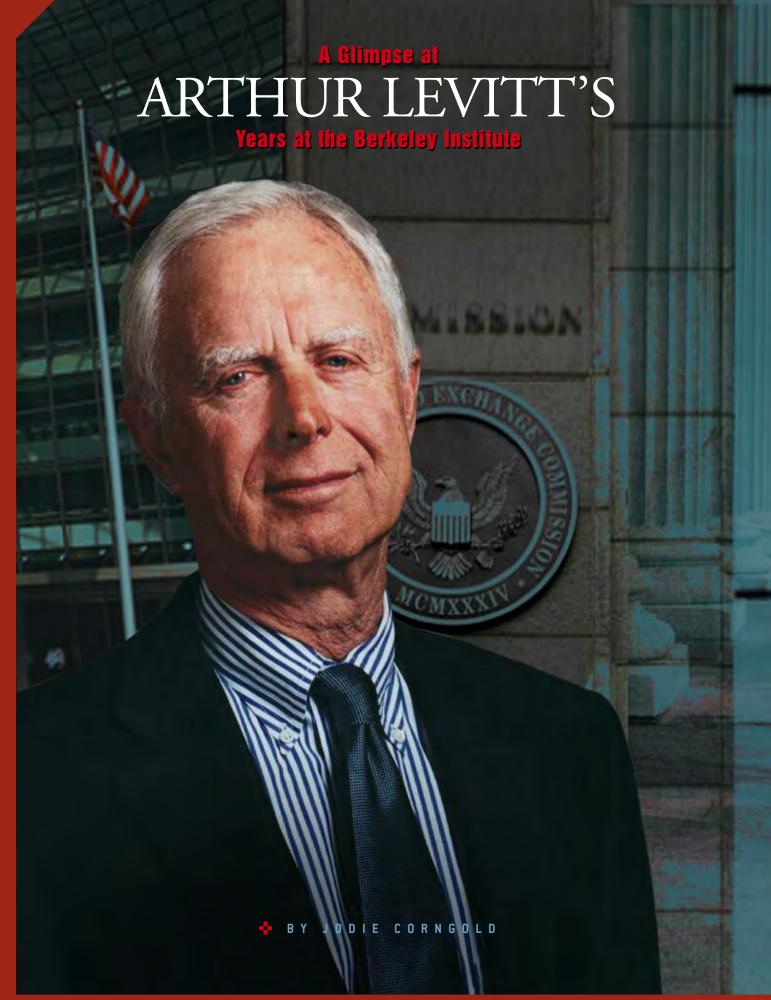
The hiatus between college and law school found Charlie in the political arena, but an arena different in nearly every way from that afforded by his native Park Slope. "I was a field organizer in Kentucky, working with other staffers down in the trenches on behalf of the Obama campaign," he explains. "Twelve hour days, seven days a week. It was fantastic!"

With his interest in politics and his background in political science, his role at the *Our Courts* project helping devise the tools through which young people learn about politics was a natural fit for Charlie. He characterizes his experiences at Berkeley Carroll as "fantastic" and one shaped by exceptional teachers. In particular, the

With his interest in politics and his background in political science, his role at the *Our Courts* project helping devise the tools through which young people learn about politics was a natural fit for Charlie.

history lessons he learned from Lorne Swarthout and Marvin Pollock still inform his world view but Charlie, whose sister Shawna graduated in 2000 and brother Oliver in 2008, doesn't stop there, crediting his 1st grade teacher, Jennie Benipayo, with helping him become a student whose insights will help train the next generation of students. After that? Charlie hopes to serve—not unlike the Justice for whom he worked during the summer—on one (if not ultimately both) sides of the Bench.

And for that ultimate goal, he's already in practice: towards the end of the summer he was in Justice O'Connor's chambers working with her clerk on one of Justice O'Connor's speeches. For a break, Charlie and the clerk went up to the Supreme Court's basketball court, located directly above the room where the Court holds oral arguments. Charlie says, "We shot hoops for a while in the 'highest court in the land."





#### rthur Levitt may have been

the head—and the longest serving one, at that—of the United States

Securities and Exchange Commission but there's a lot more to the man than his tenure at the SEC.

Arthur Levitt is a graduate of Berkeley Carroll.

Berkeley Carroll was still the Berkeley Institute, of course, in the 1930s and '40s when Mr. Levitt attended. His memories of his grammar school alma mater remain sharp:

"Mrs. Musgrave was the head of the elementary school," he says, "and my first grade teacher was Miss Wheat." But the school official he remembers most vividly was Mrs. Chambers, the school nurse. "I was often in the nurse's office."

By his own admission, Mr. Levitt was a troublesome boy. The class clown. "I was constantly in trouble," he remembers. This was during the 1930s. "I spent a lot of time in the 'punishment chair." The punishment chair? "The one in the corner." In order to humiliate him into behaving appropriately, the Berkeley administrators ultimately moved him into a class otherwise populated by girls. "I was a pretty difficult kid," he said, "but I calmed down eventually."

These days, Mr. Levitt serves as a consultant to the Carlyle Group—an investment firm—is a member of the board of RiskMetrics Group, and chairs a commission on regulation reform, among other activities. But prior to his financial life? "I played football at the Berkeley Institute," he says, "and I loved drama." As was the case for all Berkeley Institute boys until the 1970s, he left the school after 6th grade. He ultimately graduated from neighboring Poly Prep and, from there, Williams College. One might be tempted to think that the rest if history, but actually, he says, "my first job was as a drama critic." Sometimes life takes a circuitous route.

In order to humiliate Arthur Levitt into behaving appropriately, the Berkeley administrators ultimately moved him into a class otherwise populated by girls. "I was a pretty difficult kid," he said, "but I calmed down eventually."



defeated Jimmy Carter. What went wrong that allowed for an incumbent President to lose an election? We spent hours in the Brooklyn Public Library and Daniel's basement trying to answer that question.

My interest in politics began the year prior to that AP class, when I took Mr. Shapiro's Speech and Debate class, learning the fine art of extemporaneous speaking and how to conduct a mock congress. Those experiences, which greatly influenced me, helped me develop my own unique solutions to problems being debated among policy experts and elected officials.

High school flew by and before I knew it I found myself at Drew University. Consumed by the sense of community and interest in politics I developed during my high school years, I declared myself a Political Science major and became treasurer of the Political Science Club at Drew University. When I learned about American University's program that brings undergraduate students to Washington DC for a semester to study government through first-hand experience, I applied immediately and was accepted.

Thanks to American University, I got the chance to have a real look at how national politics operates. It was an amazing experience and I learned a great deal, but at the same time I missed Brooklyn tremendously. I loved politics, but as I also loved Brooklyn, I knew that I wanted to get involved in politics—but at the local level, not the national level.

Thus, the summer of 2009 found me working long days in Brooklyn—in the Park Slope, Williamsburg, Brooklyn Heights, and Greenpoint neighborhoods—campaigning fulltime for Evan Thies, a candidate for City Council for Brooklyn's 33rd district, which also happens to be my district. I jumped at the opportunity to volunteer for his campaign because of all the candidates, Evan seemed to have the most in-depth positions on policy issues. He was also the only candidate who



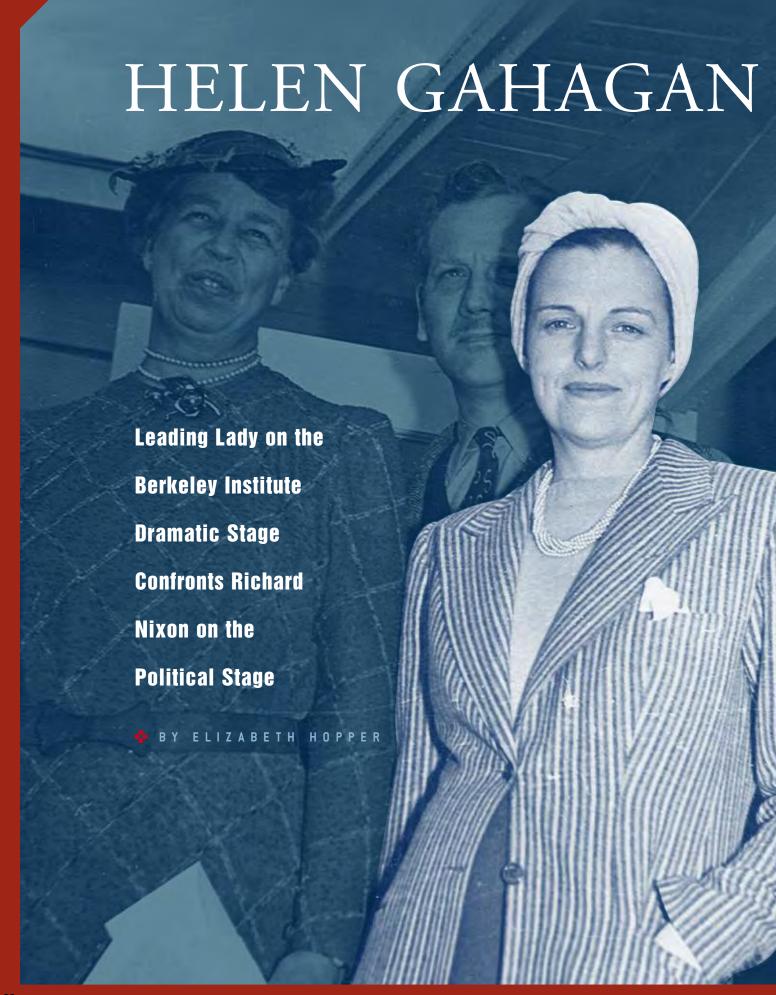
Daniel Abramson '06 (right) with City Council candidate Rrad Lander

previously worked in the City Council. His progressive policy agenda combined with his experience convinced me that he would be the best Councilman for my district.

At the start of the summer, during my first week of campaign work, I ran into a familiar face on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. It was Daniel Abramson, my partner on that history project. He too wanted to be involved in local politics and was volunteering for Brad Lander's campaign for City Council for Brooklyn's 39th District, which includes the half of Park Slope not covered in the 33rd District.

At first it struck me as a coincidence that two of the 49 students from Berkeley Carroll's class of 2006 found themselves involved in local politics at the same time and in the same neighborhood. However, after looking back on our Berkeley Carroll experience, it makes sense that we would both find our ways back to political activism in our local community. Berkeley Carroll lead the way in developing our sense of community and our responsibility to be active members.

(left) James Morgano '06 with City Council candidate Evan Thies



# DOUGLAS '20

elen Gahagan Douglas, the actress turned political and social activist, passionately pursued the causes in which she believed. "I never undertook anything that I wasn't interested in," she noted in her autobiography, A Full Life. Somewhat impetuous, she continually sought new challenges, dropping a successful acting career for that of an opera singer, only to then turn to politics and serve as a member of Congress from the state of California. Here too she grew restless, feeling "frustrated, furious, and heartsick" at the inability to push social legislation through Congress without making sacrifices. Thus, abandoning a safe congressional seat, she ran for the Senate in 1950, hoping to be the fourth woman ever elected to that governing body, a desire that was dashed by Richard Nixon during a particularly notorious campaign. While she eagerly pursued that which interested her, Helen was completely indifferent to that which bored her, a trait that was quite evident even as a young girl at the Berkeley Institute, predecessor of the Berkeley Carroll School, where she was a student for nine years.

Helen was born in New Jersey in 1900; when she was two, her family moved to 231 Lincoln Place in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Their house, which like the other houses on the street was large and surrounded by gardens, was on the same block as the Berkeley Institute. Helen noted in her autobiography, "the reason Mother bought our home was so that her two little girls, going down the street, wouldn't have to cross the street to get to school." As she grew older, Helen characteristically thought it was boring to walk down the same side of the street, so unbeknown to her mother, she would sometimes cross to the other side of the street and then cross back over.

From a very young age, she loved to perform and made her first speech when she was five years old. She promptly forgot her lines—perhaps not Helen spent a great deal of time under the tutelage of Berkeley Institute's drama teacher Elizabeth Grimball. Miss Grimball ran the drama department at the school and her arrival "dazzled the stage struck person I was. My dreams had a focus—her department."

an auspicious beginning. Nonetheless, whether or not she remembered her lines, Helen was always acting and making up stories. She loved drama but recollected that there were many activities, in addition to drama, at the Berkeley Institute. She played basketball and enjoyed debating. "I was always on the debate team," she explained in *A Full Life*, "and girls would try to get me on their side, whether I was interested in their issue or not." She added, "Debating was an important course in the development of the students and I was learning a lot even though I wasn't working at my books the way I should have been."

Helen spent a great deal of time under the tutelage of Berkeley Institute's drama teacher Elizabeth Grimball. Miss Grimball ran the drama

[I-r] Eleanor Roosevelt, Melvyn Douglas, and Helen Gahagan Douglas '20 visiting a Farm Security Administration Camp, California 1940

She quickly became a Broadway star at the age of 22. However, after appearing in a succession of plays and garnering rave reviews, she left the theater to pursue a career as an opera singer, perhaps hoping to fulfill her mother's own ambition to sing.

department at the school and her arrival "dazzled the stage struck person I was. My dreams had a focus her department. She became my advisor, coach, and ally." Miss Grimball's school productions, in which Helen acted, attracted professional critics and Miss Grimball ultimately left the school to produce Broadway plays. When Helen wasn't acting, she was either attending matinee performances in Brooklyn playhouses, or cutting classes in order to sell war bonds from the steps of the New York Public Library—an enterprise at which she was quite successful. Not surprisingly, Helen had no time for academics; in fact, "school bored me and I just didn't study." At the end of her second year in high school, she failed everything—"they didn't pass me."

Her father, believing that an uneducated woman would be nothing but, in his words, a "breeding machine," was determined that she attend college. Accordingly, she was sent to the Capen School for Girls in Northampton, Massachusetts, "a starkly scholastic no-frills institution," to prepare for college. With no distractions or entertainment of any kind, she passed her college entrance exams and headed off to Barnard College in 1920, no doubt chosen for its

proximity to the theaters of Broadway. She spent two years at Barnard, and during those years she continued her interest in theater, appearing in many Barnard productions and, as was the case while at the Berkeley Institute, devoting little time and attention to her coursework. During her second year, she caught the attention of a Broadway producer who offered her the principal role in a Broadway play, Dreams for Sale. Against the wishes of her father, who firmly opposed her choice of profession, she signed a contract, made her Broadway debut, left Barnard, and never looked back.

She quickly became a Broadway star at the age of 22. However, after appearing in a succession of plays and garnering rave reviews, she left the theater to pursue a career as an opera singer, perhaps hoping to fulfill her mother's own ambition to sing. She took voice lessons and performed in Europe where she was moderately



Helen Gahagan Douglas '20 as a Broadway starlet

successful, but it was theater where she shone. In time, she resumed her acting career, returning to the stage to play opposite the well-known actor Melvyn Douglas. They married and moved to California.

In February of 1939 the Berkeley Institute hosted a vocational conference, inviting six speakers, one of whom was Helen, to address the students and representatives of other Brooklyn schools. According to the editors of The Blotter, the school's newspaper even then, the conference was a "stupendous, gigantic, colossal, history-making affair [that] turned out to be quite an event, to the delight of all." The highlight, noted the editors, was Helen's talk about the theater profession, during which Helen noted (in her "melodious" voice) that "any girl with the instinct to act—if the instinct is great enough—will act despite education and lack of character." Berkeley Institute alum Betty Catlin '40 recalled



this event, noting that although Helen was very glamorous and spoke beautifully, many of the students deserted her to run outside and catch a glimpse of her actor husband, Melvyn Douglas, pushing their baby carriage outside the school.

It was in California that Helen turned to politics, having fewer opportunities to perform, either on stage or as a singer. In fact, Hollywood bored her and she needed another stage upon which to perform. The turning point was a 1931 cross-country trip she took with her husband. The trip opened her eyes to another America that existed outside her heretofore-insulated world. Helen quickly became an advocate for the plight of migrant workers who were streaming into California by the thousands each month seeking refuge from

Helen Gahagan Douglas '20 emerging from a voting booth during the 1950 senate campaign in California

The turning point was a 1931 cross-country trip she took with her husband. The trip opened her eyes to another America that existed outside her heretoforeinsulated world. Helen quickly became an advocate for the plight of migrant workers who were streaming into California by the thousands each month seeking refuge from the Dust Bowl.

the Dust Bowl. She also worked with the Farm Security Administration and became close friends with Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1944 she ran for the United State House of Representatives, won, and served three terms. As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and an alternate delegate to the United Nations, she was very much involved in arms control and postwar foreign relations. Her years as a congresswoman were also defined by her support of civil rights and social welfare legislation, and her attacks on the House Un-American Activities Committee and its increasingly blatant disregard of civil liberties. During these years, Helen would often turn to fellow congressman and mentor Lyndon Johnson who, to this day, has been thought to have been, perhaps, more than just a friend.

In 1950 she sought the U.S. Senate seat from California, running as a progressive Democrat against Richard Nixon, a Republican. The campaign took place amid a growing fear of internal communist subversion. Richard Nixon was considered by many to have waged a campaign characterized by smear tactics and innuendo, attacking her leftist outlook and ardent support of FDR's social welfare policies, alleging that she was "soft on communism," and saying at one point that she was "pink, right down to her underwear."

Helen lost that election and never ran for office again, although she did continue to campaign for liberal causes until her death in 1980. She never wanted to talk about the 1950 campaign or about Nixon and what he did. She merely noted in her autobiography, "there's not much to say about the 1950 campaign except that a man ran for Senate who wanted to get there, and didn't care how."

## LORNE SWARTHOUT

The Pageantry of Politics: an Interview with Upper School Chair

BY ELIZABETH HOPPER

ome people have a passion for sports, others for the arts, but for Lorne Swarthout, Upper School History Chair and creative force behind Berkeley Carroll's World Affairs Breakfast Club, the overriding passion is politics. It is a passion that drives his love of history,

from the presidency of Andrew Jackson to the organizing of Theodore Herzl to the constitution writing of Ito Hirobumi. And it is a passion that he seeks to pass on to his students, especially the early risers who come to the Breakfast Club.

A native Minnesotan, Lorne grew up in the turbulent 1960's. Change was in the air, and he saw politics as the conduit for that change. He first got involved in student government in high school and then went on to study political science at Macalester College in St. Paul. It was there he met professor Theodore Mitau, a charismatic dynamo of a teacher (think five foot drill sergeant) who influenced the lives of many students, including Lorne. Mitau revered Western American democratic institutions as perhaps only a refugee from Nazi Germany could. Lorne uses notes from Mitau's Constitutional Law class to teach about the Supreme Court today. In 1970 he moved (fled?) to New York. There in graduate school Lorne studied international relations with Hans Morgenthau and political philosophy with Hannah Arendt at the New School for Social Research. Morgenthau was an organizer and system builder; Arendt was an intellectual high wire act. They were both mesmerizing teachers. Lorne's take-away from their classes was that all political systems can be put on the lab table, dissected and categorized, while at the same time, political ideas can arouse the deepest emotions and the dearest dreams of mankind.

Discussions of major ideas and events can also be found at Berkeley Carroll, starting at 7:30 every Wednesday morning. Dozens of indefatigable Upper School students and teachers, searching for the latest news and critical issues, crowd the dining room at 181 Lincoln Place for 45 minutes of discussion. Full disclosure: some come primarily to partake of Lorne's wife Joan's muffins and coffee cakes. This is the World Affairs Breakfast Club, providing in-depth discussions of salient current events facilitated by Berkeley Carroll teachers and outside experts, or as Lorne explains: "assorted world travelers willing to share their expertise and insights." Some of the topics discussed during the 2008-2009 school year included the war in Afghanistan, the search for Justice Souter's replacement on the Supreme Court, the struggling economy, the closing of Guantanamo,

and the H1N1 flu virus. The high point of the year, of course, was the 2009 presidential election, and discussions extended far beyond the dining room and the early morning time frame. Students would grab Lorne's arm in the hallways, excited to talk about the election and its impact.

Lorne, who received Berkeley Carroll's esteemed Dexter D. Earle Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006, doesn't necessarily dwell on the political questions raised by the event at hand as he facilitates WABC discussions. Instead, he urges participants to delve deeply into the people and forces that shape that event. The resulting story, or "pageant," as Lorne likes to say, offers a worldview of the event and a viewpoint that goes beyond what he calls the "liberal, democratic sea the students swim in now." To supplement this far-reaching perspective, Lorne provides the students with a subscription to The Week, a magazine that serves as a weekly distillation of the best of US and foreign news. He would also like to think that the WABC has motivated students to read the newspaper on a daily basis.

Lorne has passed on his love of politics not only to Berkeley Carroll students but also to his son Luke who works on the Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Lorne is happy that Luke has moved beyond the academic observer role of his father to take an active hand in shaping—through study and argument and compromise—the politics of our time. When he is in New York, Luke is often dragged into Berkeley Carroll to meet with the Breakfast Club. Most recently he spoke to the seniors in April about recent changes in college loan options.

Seven thirty too early for you or you live too far away to attend? The WABC is available via blog, at worldaffairsbreakfastclub.blogspot.com. It is just about all there—the experts in the realms of politics, policy, foreign affairs, science, and more; the riveting discussions; the probing questions. Not there are the banana chocolate chip muffins. For those, you will want to show up in person.



## «faculty»



- Middle School English teacher Lauren Goldberg was married on July 3, 2009 to Nicholas B. Obourn. Rabbi Marjorie Slome (and Berkeley Carroll parent) officiated at Crabtree's Kittle House, a restaurant and inn in Chappaqua, NY. A graduate of Northwestern University, Lauren received a master's in English literature from Stanford University and a master's in education from Columbia University. Nick, a freelance writer and editor who contributes to *Art in America* magazine and the True/Slant web site, is a Public Affairs Officer at Columbia University. He graduated from the University of Vermont.
- Middle School dance teacher Missy Mitchell was married on August 1, 2009 to Harold Lehmann, a former Berkeley Carroll Middle School theater teacher. The wedding took place at a restaurant located on the Williamsburg waterfront with striking views of the Manhattan skyline. Looking beautiful with her upswept hair and long satin dress with rhinestone straps, Missy looked, according to a guest, as though she was having the time of her life, as did her new husband, Harold.

■ Luke Kuchavik, who was head of dining services at 181 Lincoln Place, is now the Chef Manager at the Dwight-Englewood School in New Jersey where he has a 35 minute commute from home and his own parking spot! Luke is looking forward to having more time at home especially since his second child is due this fall. Shaun Spellman who has been cooking up his specialties for FLIK dining services for many years at 181 Lincoln Place has moved to a new position as well. He is the new Chef Manager at the Horace Mann Nursery School in Manhattan. Shaun promises that he will come and visit and still sing with us.



Shaun Spellman (on the left) with Luke Kuchavik

#### **NOTE FROM HOLLY:**

In addition to the MAGAZINE, class notes are published in our alumni newsletter. On the first of the month during the school year, we email the newsletter to all alumni whose email addresses are on file in our office. If you aren't receiving the newsletter and would like to, please contact Holly Kempner at hkempner@berkeleycarroll.org with your current email information. You can also submit class notes online at www.berkeleycarroll.org/alumni/alumnin\_classnotes.asp or by mail to:

Holly Kempner, Berkeley Carroll School

808 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

1950s»

■ Susan Siris Wexler '46 had her artwork shown in February 2009 at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement where she is studying and teaching art history for the fourth year. The show consisted of Susan's portraits and nature and figure drawings. Susan told

Holly a bit about her art and inspiration, "My first memory as a very little girl was sitting at a table drawing. That fascination has always been with me, though I took degrees in social science and creative writing along the way. When my youngest child started nursery school, I began studying privately with artists Barbara Swan, Carl Nelson, and Albert Alcalay.

The painter Conger Metcalf introduced me to the Boston University College of Fine Arts where I received a BFA. From there I studied informally at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum for several years and was introduced to the concept of studying original drawings. This was marvelous to me, and I con-

"Iso Papo" by Susan Siris Wexler '46



tinue to take great pleasure in visiting drawing studies in this country and Europe. Although I worked in oil for some time, I find that drawing a variety of subjects such as portrait, the figure, and nature in different mediums such as silverpoint, terracotta, and pen and ink is my calling—one for which I will always be grateful."

# **Len Esta Kupferstein Lipton '56** writes, "Fred and I are still in our Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey home where we have lived for 36 years. We now spend about four and a half months in Palm Beach

Gardens, Florida every winter, which is the best of all worlds. We have four grand-children: eight-year-old twin girls who live near us in New Jersey and a ten-year-old grandson and seven-year-old granddaughter who live in Atlanta. In October 2008 we took a fabulous Mediterranean cruise to celebrate our 45th anniversary. I would like to hear what my classmates from 1956 are doing; please get in touch at travell@aol.com."

mary Hunter Lachi '57 retired from her job as an elementary school teacher in 2001 and now enjoys living on the family farm in the Pocono Mountains region of Pennsylvania. The management of that property, which includes the possibility of getting a conservation easement, keeps

her busy. She also volunteers twice a week at a local middle school, Clear Run, where she works with atrisk teens—an activity that she enjoys tremendously. Mary is active in her church as well. She spends a part of each summer at the family's summer home on Orrs Island, Maine where sister, Jane Hunter Smith '64 lives full time.

■ Cornelia McCreery '58 retired in November 2008 from the New York City public school system where she worked as an Assistant Principal in a middle school (her favorite age group). She immediately started to travel, embarking on a three-month round-theworld cruise, a life-long goal.



(I to r), Ann Mackey Peters, Carla Linscheid Lerman, and Judy Acken Aylward

■ The inspiration for a class of 1950 mini-reunion was the 2009 American Planning Association National Conference in Minneapolis, which was attended by Carla Linscheid Lerman '50 in April of 2009. Ann Mackey Peters '50 and her husband Ken hosted a gala weekend experience, including sightseeing, a symphony performance, trips down memory lane via Ann's amazing scrapbooks and gourmet home cooking at the Peters' lovely home in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. In attendance were Carla and Judy Acken Aylward. They shared the following news of other classmates: Bobbie Dittmer Atkinson'50 served as the chair of her 55th reunion at Mount Holyoke College. Gladys Buchholtz Beloff '50 and her husband Marv have been enjoying more adventures on Elder Hostel trips. Norma Gatje Smith '50 continues to winter in Florida and summer in Michigan, and she creates with words and/or artists supplies wherever she is. Steve, the husband of Nina Koldin Solarz '50, has recovered well from a long bout with cancer, which is great news for all!

## 1960s»

# ■ Valerie Hallenbeck Perrins '63' sent us this note in December 2008: "I have a new job. In October 2007 I started with Unity House in Troy, New York (my home town) where I worked a number of years ago. I am a case manager in

the Transitional Apartment Services program for the mentally ill doing home visits and helping residents meet goals to become independent. It's challenging and fun, and of course there is lots of paperwork. I sing in my church and take dulcimer lessons. My son Tim got married in June to his girlfriend

## (classnotes)

of several years. They are living in Brooklyn and adopted a French bulldog puppy named Scout, so I guess I have a granddog! Son Doug works at Novus Engineering just outside of Albany, doing 'green' things. He lives in Albany with his girlfriend and their two cats, Marcellus and Micronesia. Last January I said a sad goodbye to Nemesis, my old orange cat, who had been coping with kidney disease. My remaining five are still with me—Goblin, Casey, Miss Kitty, Gordie, and Blaise. I joined Facebook. If vou are there, too, look me up! I have located a few friends, and I enjoy some of the games. But my main email fun is still on Ecunet, where I keep in touch with my cat friends. I read, read, read, when I can, mostly mysteries, though I try for more serious stuff now and then."

## **Susan Hermann Ginsberg '65** is a fashion consultant with



a new line of business—"closet consultation." She has always loved fashion, and her website bio states, "Over the years my eye for fashion and design took me to the notfor-profit world. I chaired and



Bruce with Celia Costas '68

■ Bruce Hendrix '68 is an environmental and training coordinator for Con Edison. He lives in the Bronx with his wife Merry who is a teacher in the New York City public schools.

developed events; opened the first retail shop on the Promenade of Avery Fisher Hall for the New York Philharmonic and was always asked by friends and others to decide what to wear. I returned to the fashion business in the late 1980's with an affiliation to Carlisle and Per Se, a direct marketing company with a showroom in New York. Since I always loved helping people feel good about themselves, this provided a perfect arena. I advised, dressed and then started to redevelop relationships with fashion designers. The latest and most rewarding aspect of my business has been my 'closet consultation.' This was always something I did as an addendum. It is now a priority. Budgeting is key, looking right for less money is essential. What better way to shop than in your own closet making old things look new again!" To find out more about Susan's business or to get in touch, visit her website www.shopyourclosetwithsusan.com or contact Susan via email at susanginsberg@aol.com or by phone at 646-707-2551.

Jane Steinberg '67 would love to hear from her classmates. She writes, "Email me if you get a chance so we can try to get together. Hope all is well—sounds like it is. My email address is jsteinberg@charter.net."

#### **■ Colette Berkeley Bronstein '68**

sent in this info: "My husband, daughter, and I still live in Jupiter, Florida though our daughter Caitlin recently moved into her own apartment. She is doing great. I am working full time in an OB/GYN practice and loving it, although I must admit that I am thinking about retiring more and more. We are thinking that when my husband retires in a couple of years then I will too. Wasn't it just last year I graduated

from Berkeley? It can't possibly be 41 years ago. That's all of the news from paradise."

- Lorrie Ader '69 is now an event planner at Butterfield Market, a full service food market that has been in business since 1915 and which is located on Manhattan's Upper East Side, www.butterfieldmarket.com.
- Linda Berkeley '69 lives in Washington, DC with her husband Will Pecau, a partner at Steptoe and Johnson, and her two children Jack, nine years old, and Julia, seven years old. Linda is the president of National Geographic Enterprises and executive vice president of National Geographic. As president of Enterprises she is responsible for managing National Geographic's merchandising businesses. As executive vice president Linda is responsible for the National Geographic brand around the world.

## 1970s»

Yona Zeldis McDonough '74 has two new books out as of September 2009. One is for adults and the other for kids. Set in Park Slope, the novel for adults, Breaking the Bank, is a story about a single mom, Mia Saul. Struggling to make ends meet, Mia develops the kind of relationship with her bank's cash machine that we can only dream about. The advance copy that we received describes the book as an up-to-the minute urban story that has just a whiff of magic. The book for



children is called *The Dollshop Downstairs*. Watch for them at your local bookstore!

■ Kenneth Simurro '75 is the lead chemistry teacher at New Dorp High School in Staten Island, New York. Ken who is a pastor told us that Courlney Roach '12 is a member of his congregation and is a great example of a Berkeley Carroll education.

## 1990s»

#### **■** Heather Ackerman Chittum

'90 came to visit one afternoon this past January with her dad, Lee. They spent some time reminiscing with Ken Corfield (Upper School History teacher) and took photos of the alma mater. Heather is now the pastry chef at Hook (www.hookdc.com), a restaurant in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, DC that features sustainably grown seafood. Her desserts feature locally grown fruits. She comes to the chef profession after a stint on Capitol Hill working for Daniel Patrick Moynihan and after working for Share Our Strength, a Washington DCbased non-profit. Heather recently was awarded the prestigious 2008 Pastry Chef of the Year award.



■ Eric Chapman '92 is now Middle School director at the Calhoun School in New York City, moving from the Town School in New York where he served as director of diversity, interim head of the

Middle School and teacher of English and Life Skills. Eric is also the newest alumni member of the Berkeley Carroll Board of Trustees, beginning his term in July 2009.

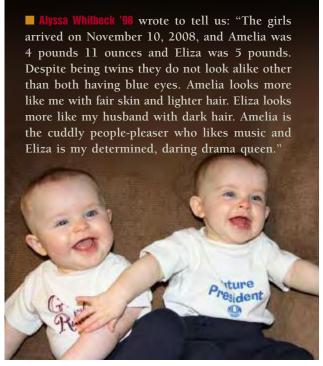
- Kieran Juska DiTullio '91 gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in June of 2009! Chloe Eva Anne DiTullio and Kieran are doing well.
- **Zuhairah LaMont '95** is a claims supervisor at Amica Insurance Company. She

graduated from Yale University in 1999.

■ Carmine Giovino '98 is the new assistant coach to the Berkeley Carroll Junior Varsity and Varsity boys' basketball teams. He has also been a big booster of



**Kristin Juska Mulvaney '87** is back in the Berkeley Carroll classroom as a head Pre-Kindergarten teacher. Her daughter, Annie, attends Berkeley Carroll and is in kindergarten.



## (classnotes)

the Friday evening pickup basketball games at the Berkeley Carroll athletic center.

- **Sudan Martin '98** is the chief graphic designer at New-Flash LLC. He graduated from Lehigh University in 2002.
- Andrea Phillips '99 graduated from Brooklyn Law School in June 2009 and was president of the law school's Brooklyn Entertainment and Sports Law Society. She graduated from Boston University in 2003 with a BS in Communication.

## 2000s»

- **Jaael Cudjoe '00** is a health and nutrition counselor currently enrolled at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City, the only school that integrates all the different dietary theories. Jaael says that she believes in a holistic approach to nutrition, looking at how all the areas of our lives are connected and affect our eating habits. She has her own website www.salubrianyc.com or can be reached at jaaelcudjoe@gmail.com.
- Steffani Maxwell '00 is a development associate at PCI-Media Impact. She graduated from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development in 2008.
- **Nicole Quinn '00** will be running in the New York City marathon, her first ever race, this fall. She is feeling great



**Casey Scieszka '02** sent us this note. "I'm living in San Francisco right now, working on a graphic novel with my partner about our two years spent living in China where we taught English in Beijing, and in West Africa where I had a Fulbright Scholarship to research the role of Islam in the educational system of Mali. Roaring Brook Press is publishing the book and it is due out in fall 2010. It is tentatively called *To Timbuktu*. We've also created a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that helps create, print, and distribute local language books to school kids in Mali. We recently raised enough money to give over 1,500 kids their own books. We had help from a fellow Berkeley Carroll student, Sam Zagnit '14 (son of Carolyn Sloan, Lower School Music Chair). We've got information and pictures up at www.americanfriendsofiep.org

and says that she is "looking forward to what I know will be a rewarding and extremely challenging experience." Nicky is running for Team Continuum, a charity that cares for the immediate needs of cancer patients, and hopes to raise \$2,950 for the organization. For more information, check out their website at www.teamcontinuum.net.

- Naeem Webster '00 is a project manager for Geographic Outreach at Prep for Prep.
- Sarah Murphy '01 is now a law student at Fordham University in New York City.
- Helen Olamipo Ogbara '01 graduated from Columbia Law School in 2008 and is now an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP.
- Charles Jacob '02 is at law school at Northwestern University. He began last fall after working as a field organizer for the Obama campaign in Louisville, Kentucky. Read more about Charlie on page 18 of this issue.
- On February 17, 2009 **Michelle Dushi '03** became engaged to Geoff Corbett. Michelle and Geoff met at



(I-r) Brian Geraghty, Shawn Jacob, Zachary Firestone, Karen Keltner, and Ben Weisberg, all members of the

On August 2, 2008 **Benjamin Weisberg '00** and several of his classmates celebrated Ben's wedding to Lauren Kaplan. The wedding took place on the Rhode Island waterfront and **Greg Covey '00** was the best man. The rain stopped just 20 minutes before the ceremony. This must be a good luck sign!

tional focus groups, or Instant Response dial sessions, we find the exact words and phrases that make a real difference."

- Julia Loonin '03 is now living in California where she works for the Girls Leadership Institute. GLI sponsors programs that "give girls a personal foundation of assertive self-expression, emotional intelligence and conflict management skills for success in leadership and life." Such programs include a summer camp in the Berkshires in Massachusetts.
- Adam Ottavino '03 is a starting pitcher for the Memphis Redbirds, the AAA team of the St. Louis Cardinals. In March he pitched for Team Italy in the World Baseball Classic.

Vassar College and were best friends for two years before they started dating. They currently live in Jersey City, New Jersey and plan to be married in September 2010. Michelle's



Michelle Dushi '03 and Geoff Corbert

other big news is that after one year with Luntz, Maslansky Strategic Research, she has been promoted to Associate Project Director. In addition to project manage-

> ment and writing responsibilities, Michelle also oversees the internship program and runs the media department in Luntz's NYC. office. Michelle told us that the firm "delivers a unique combination of strategic communications and market research. We are the only market research firm in America that truly specializes in language. Whether using surveys, tradi-



Since leaving Berkeley Carroll Michael Micalizzi '03 has been building a successful career in theater and film. In spring 2009 he was chosen to be a member of The Bats, the resident acting company of The Flea Theater, www.theflea.org, located in New York City. Each year over a thousand actors audition to become a member of The Bats. Last spring Michael appeared in The Flea's production of Love/Stories (or But You Will Get Used To It).

## (classnotes)



■ Veronika Fernandez '04 wrote us, "I've been in Buenos Aires, Argentina for about one year now and have started a real estate agency, NivelBA, catering specifically to tourists and expats seeking temporary rentals in Buenos Aires. More information about the agency whose focus is to provide quality furnished apartments in the city can be found on my website, www.nivelba.com. I studied abroad here for five months while a student at Williams College, and I am quite happy to have been able to come back since I absolutely love Argentina. It is an amazing country with so much to offer: incredible waterfalls, beaches, stunning European-style architecture in Buenos Aires, wine country, Andes, deserts in the north, Patagonia, etc. Come summer, I want to start working from a city other than Buenos Aires because my work can be done mostly online. I am thinking of either the quaint beach town, Mendoza, which is the center of the wine country or Cordoba, a city surrounded by nature and ample outdoor activities."

Nicholas Renzler '03 is a first year student at Harvard Law School. Before entering Harvard, he was the international litigation and arbitration paralegal at Foley Hoag LLP in Washington, DC. Nick looks forward to hearing from any BC alumni in the Boston

area. He can be reached at nickrenzler@gmail.com

Nora McTwigan '05 participated in Emory University's Italian Studies Summer Program 2009, which emphasizes Italian culture, classics, medical humanities and psy-

chology. Nora traveled throughout Italy and also worked as an appointed TA to one of the faculty professors on the program.

■ Isabelle McTwigan '06 spent the fall semester of 2008 in Paris as part of Trinity College's Paris program and her fall break in Israel traveling with her Paris roommates. She visited many sites throughout the country and was invited to be part of an extended family that lives and works in Israel.

**James Morgano '06** worked on the campaign of Evan Thies,



■ David Meister '09 who graduated in June 2009 from the Hill School was recently interviewed by the Pottstown, Pennsylvania newspaper, *The Pottstown Mercury*. Not only was he the executive producer of a short film about Ernest Hemingway, but he also has founded two businesses. The first is KnowHuddle.com, an informational website about professional football, and the second, which he runs with Jonathan Messina '09, is Graf Limited, a clothing line featuring designer t-shirts. See the article at www.thehill.org/home/news\_item.asp?id=1240&newsArea=home

who ran for New York City Council for the 33rd district, representing sections of northern Brooklyn. Read more about James in this issue's feature about him and why he is working on the campaign trail.

- Maryse Pearce '06 visited Berkeley Carroll during her January 2009 break to say hello before she headed off to spend the spring semester of her junior year in Paris. Despite not knowing about her host family before departing for France, Maryse was excited about spending the six months in Paris and France. She is majoring in history with a minor in drama/theatre at Washington University in St. Louis. In the fall of 2008, she campaigned for Obama at school.
- Aydan Puth '07 has transferred to Northeastern University where she is a junior. She enjoys being closer to home and family.
- Anna Friemoth '08 is a sophomore at MICA, the Maryland Institute College of Arts, and her work was recently highlighted in their admissions presentation to prospective students and their families.
- Natasha Scantlebury '08 is a resident advisor for a freshman dorm at Trinity College for the 2009-2010 school year. Becoming an advisor is a highly selective process, and Natasha is pleased to have been chosen among many applicants.



# During his four years at Washington University, **David Shapiro '05** devoted a great deal of time to politics.

#### He writes:

In 2006, I worked on Missouri Senator Clair McCaskill's US senate campaign. In February 2007, I traveled to Springfield, Illinois with the Washington University College Democrats to witness Obama formally announce his bid for the presidency. Later that year, I went door-to-door for St. Louis Alderwoman Kacie Starr Triplett. Abroad for my junior year, I did all I could for Obama money-wise, but my ground game was limited.

Back at Washington University as a senior, I was selected to volunteer at the 2008 Vice Presidential Debate, hosted at WU. I gave tours, provided security, and served as an usher on debate night. All volunteers received Secret Service-approved badges and met some of the luminaries who attended, including Howard Dean. The debate, particularly when seen live, was capti-

I voted in my first presidential election at 5:45am

vating.

and then campaigned throughout the day and later celebrated with friends when the results came in. A few months later, I found myself on my way to Obama's inauguration and swearing-in ceremony. Luckily, I went with a student who had an extra purple ticket (reserved for campaign staff), but we still waited over four hours to get in. We ended up in front of the entire Washington Mall, but in back of the thousands of people who had tickets.

I want to continue to explore politics, but now I am attending Brooklyn Law School. I am a member of the class of 2012, along with fellow BC'ers Sam Baris '03 and Rosa Cohen-Cruz '03 (see photo, below).



#### **DEATHS** IN THE BERKELEY CARROLL FAMILY

Mary Anderson Seymour '34 died in August 2008 at Kimball Farms in Lenox, Massachusetts. She graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Mount Holyoke College

Kappa from Mount Holyoke College in 1938. From 1939 to 1941 Mary was the assistant secretary at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. From 1941 to 1945 she was the personal secretary to Laurance Rockefeller as well as to Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. from 1943 to 1945. Mary was active in public health areas including child abuse, the Humane Society, cancer and polio crusades. Two sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren survive her.

■ Ruth Fitch Wallace II '41 died on July 5, 2009 at the age of 85. Born in Brooklyn in 1924, Ruth lived all her life in the family home on Garfield Place in Park Slope where



her grandparents were the original occupants, purchasing the home from the builder in 1892. Ruth attended the Berkeley Institute from kindergarten until 12th grade

and graduated in 1941. After Berkeley, Ruth attended Dickinson College in Pennsylvania where she earned her undergraduate degree in 1945. Ruth spent her career at Pfizer, becoming part of the groundbreaking post World War II research on antibiotics, working on teams that studied streptomycin, tetramycin, erythromycin, and similar drugs.

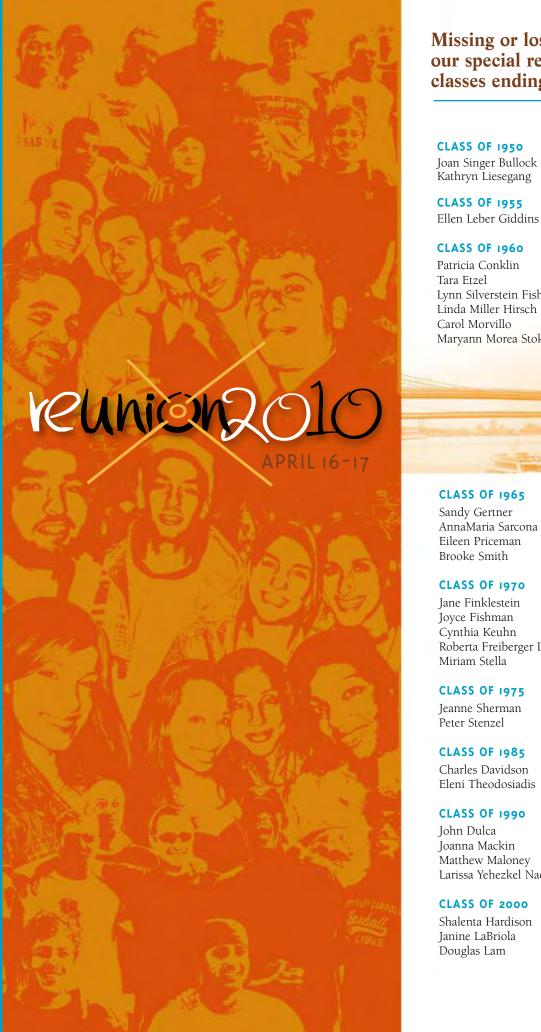
Ruth was a tireless supporter of Berkeley Carroll serving on the Berkeley Carroll Alumni Council for over four years and was inaugurated this past spring into the Founders Society—those alumni who have contributed over \$25,000 to the school. Because of her work at Pfizer and her contributions to the life of Berkeley Carroll, Ruth was given the Alumni Service Award in 2003.



■ Edward Martin died on June 15, 2009 at the age of 59. He was a longtime and gifted Upper School English teacher who taught at Berkeley Carroll for 23 years. A native of Bayonne, New Jersey, Ed received his bachelor's degree from Indiana University and received his master's degree from Fordham University. Prior to his arrival at Berkeley Carroll in 1986, he taught at Friends Seminary in Manhattan; Gill/St. Bernard's School in Gladstone, New Jersey; and St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City.

During his time at Berkeley Carroll, Ed served in every possible role from department chair to college counselor to advisor for award-winning publications. Ed was a scholar, and it was generally accepted among faculty and students alike that he knew everything.

Fifteen years ago, Ed pioneered the teacher mentoring program at Berkeley Carroll, which is considered a model in professional support. In 2004 Ed was selected for the Dexter Earle Award, Berkeley Carroll's highest recognition of teaching excellence.



Missing or lost alumni in our special reunion classes: classes ending in '0' or '5'

Kathryn Liesegang

Lynn Silverstein Fishbein Linda Miller Hirsch Maryann Morea Stokner





AnnaMaria Sarcona Maher

Roberta Freiberger Lewis

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Matthew Maloney Larissa Yehezkel Nachum





















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