Novel Approaches to Writing

Authors
Yona Zeldis McDonough ’75 and Zoë Rice ’94 share their experiences of writing their way to successful careers.
Scratching at the Service (come on) Surface

Insights Into

A Behind-the-Scenes Look into the Writing Process

This issue of the Berkeley Carroll School Magazine (still don’t like that name) is dedicated to writing, which is apt fitting since the school itself feels so strongly about writing, because Berkeley Carroll values and promotes the writing of even its youngest students as celebration. As they work their way up through the Lower, Middle, and Upper School, students learn the rigors, frustrations, and ultimate joy that comes from accomplishments that come from expressing oneself on paper (who am I kidding? No writes on paper any more. Who am I kidding?). Gertrude Stein said, “Writing and reading are synonymous with existing” (what does that have to do with anything? We were talking about writing. I know, but it’s a cool quote. You’ve used it before. I know, but the secret to life is effective recycling. THAT’S the secret to life?). (I’m hungry. Finish this and then you can see what’s in the fridge. I wonder if there’s anything on TV….). The students write, their parents write, the faculty write, the alumni write. This love for and appreciation of writing differentiates our school and elevates (elevates? That’s either really lame or really good. Sad that I can’t tell.) our students. We (that’s kind of funny, isn’t it?) taking the editorial “we” a bit too far? I invite you in to see for yourself.

Jodie Corngold
Editor

The Berkeley Carroll School Magazine is published twice a year by the Institutional Advancement Office for parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty, and friends of the school. The views expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors.

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MY WORD
An introduction to this issue from the editor

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Insights from the Head of School

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We (that’s kind of funny, isn’t it? Taking the editorial “we” a bit too far? I invite you in to see for yourself.)
Beyond the Dwelling: Onto the Road of Individualism

Emily Dickinson told us to dwell in the possibility. Dwelling back at my two years at Berkeley Carroll, I think that is exactly what we have been doing, and doing well. Whether you have been here two years or 14 you quickly embrace and enjoy the opportunity to be part of a caring school community with individuals who live life with feelings of infinite possibility. A life that flows from the classroom, to the art studios, to the stage, to the athletic fields and ever extending out into America’s greatest city—New York! That is a great gift, a gift enjoyed daily at Berkeley Carroll. We are fortunate to be part of such a dynamic community, an experience that places the world at our feet. How lucky we are to be in a community where the hearts and minds of children are molded by dedicated teachers who encourage and support young minds down the path of knowledge and onto the road of individualism. We may dwell in a comfortable asylum of Shakespeare, calculators, technology, paint brushes, sports, and self-expression, but there is always an end line in sight.

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Richard F. Barter
Head of School

Forget About Heaven
This Match was Made at Berkeley Carroll

D alienne Majors and Jim Kent were married Saturday, September 17, 2005 at St. Augustine’s Church on Sixth Avenue in Park Slope before a crowd of some 200 family, friends, and Berkeley Carroll faculty, parents, and students. The bride, who will retain her name, is chair of the Dance department at Berkeley Carroll. She wore a handmade yellow silk dress and marching hat. The groom is the school’s theater tech teacher and manages the Performance Space at 181 Lincoln Place; he wore a suit, surprising some of his colleagues, who for the past six years have been used to seeing him in the black “tech department uniform” he sports around the school.

Ms. Majors joined Berkeley Carroll in 1994, having been a teaching artist in New York and the Midwest for some 10 years before that. She continues to choreograph and teach outside Berkeley Carroll, and her work includes collaborations with the First Street Quintet, which performed at the couple’s wedding. Last year, she started a group called Parents Who Dance, which has six Berkeley Carroll parents who do just that one evening a week in the Dance Studio.

Mr. Kent came to the school in 1999, having taught for four years at St. Ann’s in Brooklyn Heights. Prior to getting into education, he was a master puppeteer. For 16 years, he was a warehouse manager by day, but at night and on weekends he worked with an Italian Commedia dell’ Arte company out of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and was a “busker” on the streets of New York, performing at such venues as South Street Seaport, Central Park, and the Caramoor Summer Music Festival in Katonah, New York. In 2004, he received the school’s John Rindy Award for excellence in teaching, given annually to a Carroll Street and Lincoln Place teacher who has been at the school between three and five years and has distinguished himself/herself by demonstrating talent, enthusiasm, and commitment in the classroom and in the broader school community.

The happy couple spent their honeymoon chaperoning a contingent of Berkeley Carroll student walkers at the Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes through Lower Manhattan and across the Brooklyn Bridge on Sunday and were back in school on Monday morning. How’s that for dedication?

Berkeley Carroll Students Learn about the Law Up Close

It’s one thing for Middle Schoolers to study the Constitution; it’s quite another for them to digest and question it, but this is exactly what 7th grade English classes at Berkeley Carroll do during a three-week long unit called “The Constitution Works.”

First introduced to the school near-ly 10 years ago by Middle School Director Jim Shapiro when he taught English and History, the program allows students to plumb the nuances of the First Amendment and learn what it means to have free speech. Students become lawyers for a fictitious newspaper defending their paper’s right to publish what they want, or they take on the role of the government prosecutors trying to keep the paper from publishing what they believe to be incendiary information, or they become Supreme Court justices who have to decide who’s right.

To get to the point where they can realistically take on these roles, the 7th grade studies case law, writes arguments and briefs, and steep itself in the First Amendment. This year the climax of the unit occurred when, accompanied by their teachers Catherine LoMéxico and Kate Singh and several parents, they held an actual hearing held in federal court (Southern District), an august building dedicated to Thurgood Marshall, the walls of which are lined with bronzed copies of the Bill of Rights. No photos were allowed during the proceedings, but if you close your eyes you can picture the 7th graders as they approach the bench, addressing the chief justice with “May it please the court.”
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At Berkeley Carroll we remain committed to a school culture in which all people value integrity in their relationships and where kindness, civility, social justice, and respectful listening to the perspectives and feelings of others is an automatic first step in any dialogue. Effective and responsible communication is given a high institutional priority. To the degree we succeed we will have made a significant contribution to the moral growth of our students. This outcome is worth our best effort and a goal we reach for every day I hope you will enjoy reading about some of the successes and personal accomplishments of students, faculty and alumni in the following pages. These essays and staff perspectives on the teaching of writing at Berkeley Carroll should be of particular interest.

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Berkeley Carroll Students Learn about the Law Up Close

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Lending Counsel to the Student Council

Student Council president, Chloé Law ’06, is unabashedly positive, upbeat, enthusiastic, mature, and ingenious promoter of the school. How could one fail to be completely charmed when she said, “I don’t like to complain. I’d rather work to fix a problem than sit around whining about it.”

Consider the Student Council. There are an unimaginable number of priorities clamoring for a high school student’s attention, not the least among them academics. It is perhaps as a result of these competing school priorities that, according to Chloé, Student Council traditionally enjoyed second-class citizenship. But not this year. “The kids serving as officers this year are excellent,” says Chloé, “in fact our theme for the Student Council is ‘this is the year,’ because our goal is to create a strong and relevant Student Council that will stay behind and thrive even after this year’s senior officers have graduated.”

Chloé has spent practically her entire life at Berkeley Carroll, even down to the fact that she was born a few blocks away at Methodist Hospital. Her pride in the school is evident at every turn. “The 9th graders on Student Council are excellent. They’re really taken the initiative, and I think they totally get it that they can use the Student Council to make a difference.”

One way in which the Student Council, under Chloé’s leadership, worked to make a difference was through its Upper School Coffeehouse, a first-ever fundraising event whose proceeds went to hurricane victims by way of Habitat for Humanity. Per Chloé, the evening promise was excellent. Berkeley Carroll jazz bands and rock bands played. Between sets, students read their own and published work, and the Student Council sold student-designed T-shirts, printed and donated by Brooklyn Industries.

The event took place in the Lincoln Place gym and owed its enormous success to the contributions of a host of student and parent volunteers. Chloé says, “It was very complicated to conceive, organize, and pull off something like this Coffeehouse, but when we do something it’s successful.”

Chloé’s brand of success touches many other aspects of the school. She organized a student group called Nia (“purpose” in Swahili) that meets on Wednesday evenings at Lincoln Place and gives students a venue to talk about diversity, and she’s a peer leader. Outside of Berkeley Carroll her leadership skills have taken her to the 92nd Street Y, where she serves as a teen representative, and to Oregon, where she spent a summer building homes through an agency for the homeless.

“Berkeley Carroll has taught me to be a part of a community,” says Chloé, who credits her role model, Madeleine Albright, with setting her in the right direction, “but each of us has to take the initiative and assume the responsibility required in order to make a difference in the world.” Change is possible, one step at a time. And under Chloé’s leadership, which will clearly follow her long after she’s left Berkeley Carroll, that change will be excellent.

Chloé Law ’06

Other Students Witnessed the Law Up Close

This fall, Upper School history chair Lorne Swarthout’s Supreme Court class visited the courtroom of the Hon. Ronald Ellis in the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse at 500 Pearl Street in Manhattan. Judge Ellis, father of two BC alumni and husband of Kathleen Ellis, librarian at 181 Lincoln Place, seated the group in the comfortable leather swivel chairs of the jury box and introduced himself and his court. After hearing about Judge Ellis’s career transition from NAACP Legal Defense Fund attorney to the federal Magistrate Judge, the class observed arguments in a discrimination suit brought by a hospital worker and denied a promotion because she was a Muslim. The public arguments were fascinating, but the class had to leave when Judge Ellis took the two parties into chambers to discuss a possible settlement.

Later, the students headed over to 100 Center Street where Frank Paone (father of Alex Paone ’06), their guide for the day, arranged for them to have front row seats in the arrangement section of the Criminal Court. They heard from the judge and witnessed the wheels of justice up close. The students were most affected by the drama of a young man, a senior in a Manhattan high school, charged with selling drugs, asking the judge to set bail so he could get back to his schooling. Frank Paone explained some of the fine points of class C felonies, cash bail, and “rap sheets” in an impromptu seminar. Quite a teacher! The afternoon proved quite a teacher! The afternoon proved

The Honorable Ronald Ellis (front row, left) on stage at a rare visit to the jury box with members of Lorne Swarthout’s Supreme Court class.

Julia Rittenberg ’11 as Gulliver’s Travels Queen of Lugnagg, flanked by Ingrid Lygene ’11 as an attendant.

The Upper School and Middle Schools each put on a production in the fall and again in the spring. Framed by the school’s state-of-the-art performance space, the productions are of professional quality and the acting and direction superb.

This past fall, the Middle School Players brought to life Gulliver’s Travels. Jonathan Swift’s irreverent satire of politics and human nature. Director Harold Lehmann set the fantastical world of the novel as an unsettling dream that invades the study of the 18th century author. Featuring giant puppets, miniature circus, and a parade of dancing scholars this was an amazing production. The 10’ tall puppet, which stood in for Gulliver during his sojourn in Lilliput, was created by theater tech director Jim Kent and his theater tech class. Seventeen middle school students played a combined 33 roles, and the resulting ambitious play was, by turns, hilarious and thought-provoking.

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What drew you to teaching?

When I was a student at Bishop Ford High School in Brooklyn I connected with a couple of incredible teachers—my 10th grade English teacher Mr. Clifford and Brother Jonathan Ringkamp, an incredibly charismatic and inventive drama teacher. They both had an enormous impact on me, getting me to read, to think, pushing me in new directions. They were great teachers and great role models, and they ultimately really influenced the direction I took.

Carolyn Sloan, delve into and develop the musical abilities of the children while delighting their audiences.

Even when they’re not performing, music students excel. For the past several years, Upper School jazz students have the opportunity to work with master jazz educators and performers. During the all-day workshop held at the neighboring Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, students worked on improv skills, ensemble playing, and playing with a blues feeling. The jazz workshop is funded by parents of jazz students from the class of 2005. Additionally, the Upper School jazz band travels to the Boston area each year to compete at the prestigious Berklee College of Music High School Jazz Festival.

Like many people in the Berkeley Carroll community, I’ve been wondering about Bob Vitalo. Are there moments when this current head of the Fairfield Country Day School and soon-to-be head of Berkeley Carroll feels like he works for two schools? Between and between, are there moments when he feels he doesn’t belong to either? Why was he leaving a situation where he has been positively beloved? Why was he coming here? I tried not to get too existential about it, but it was hard not to wonder “who” Bob Vitalo was. Hence, I was quite pleased when this kind, genial, and approachable person agreed to meet for coffee so I could attempt to find out.

Q. What drew you to teaching?

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BY JODIE CORNGOLD
Many people know that Galileo discovered the four moons of Jupiter and was a key figure in the invention of the telescope as well as many other discoveries. However, how many of us are aware of the Inquisition’s involvement in silencing him and trying to prevent him from contradicting Church dogma by spreading the knowledge that the sun—not the earth—was the center of the universe? In the current climate of continuing discourse between religion and science, the Upper School production of Galileo, as directed by Joanne Magee, provoked the audience into relating past history to current events. Using Brechtian production techniques, this play aroused the senses and encouraged critical thinking.

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After graduating from Bishop Ford in 1972, Bob won a scholarship to New York University’s School of Education, where he also met his future wife, Jackie Montras. He went on to earn his master’s degree from Teacher’s College at Columbia University.

“I was never happier than the day I started my student teaching, but by now we were in the late 1970s, and New York City was in the throes of difficult, economic times. That was a really complicated situation. For economic reasons, a Dutchess County school had been forced to close its doors and assigned to teach a class of mixed-age students. Every day I sat in an empty classroom. The bell would ring, but no one came in.”

The South Bronx school became Bob’s public school swan song, he left when a teaching position became available at Grace Church School in Greenwich Village. He taught for several years and served in administrative positions, surrounded by like-minded, thoughtful people who taught because they wanted to be effective and were given the support and flexibility by their school to do so. Bob ultimately left Grace Church School to serve as head of Media-Provence Friends School in the suburbs of Philadelphia, a position he held for seven years. He left Media-Provence Friends School to begin his tenure at Fairfield Country Day School.

Q. If every teaching job is also a learning experience, what was your take-away message from the Media-Providence Friends School? “Like all Friends schools, Media-Providence is modeled on Quaker philosophy; a philosophy I readily embraced, because it’s a very sensible, livable, ethical way to live and work. The school challenged me personally and in many ways shaped me as an administrator. When an issue raised in a faculty meeting can’t be resolved until consensus is reached, you quickly learn effective communication skills. You also learn how to be a good listener.”

“T’he Quaker influence also affected me as a teacher. Although I’ve been an administrator for many years, like most of us in this position, I’m still a teacher at heart, and I’ve been fortunate at Fairfield to be able to continue teaching. I teach ethics to the 6th grade, and it’s continually fascinating to me. The boys—because FCD is a boys’ school—understand, exhibit, and can articulate their thoughts about compassion, courage, perseverance, and honesty. At times, though, they’re conflicted about honesty. I’ll say to them, ‘How do you know how to do the right thing? What is the right thing?’ and they’ll say, ‘It depends.’ I’m not a fan of moral relativism—it doesn’t ‘depend.’ My challenge as a teacher is teaching that values should not be shaped to conform to particular circumstances.”

Q. What about honesty? Adults lie every day, yet we’re forever extolling the virtues of honesty to children. Is it okay to lie, just not okay to lie if you’re young? “It’s hard to talk to kids about lying and honesty without being affected by it. Lying is a slippery slope. I don’t know that I excel the virtues of honesty’ as you say, but I have found that teaching about honesty has made me a more honest person. I challenge myself to be direct and kind as well as honest, and this is what I teach my students.”

Q. What gets you out of bed in the morning? “My goal, wherever I work, is to help make a place better. An institution and its inhabitants’ needs are always changing; sometimes I have to immerse myself in the little things, other times the needs are momentous. Either way, whatever it takes to make people and things the best they can be is my primary motivation. I guess you could say I’m fueled by the satisfaction I get from making a difference in other people’s lives. As the head of a school, I am charged with enabling people to do their jobs to the highest degree possible and rewarding them for doing so. I’m charged with creating or sustaining—or both—the best possible environment for children to learn, and I’m obligated to make sure all these sometimes disparate components come together.”

Q. How do you achieve all that? “There’s nothing more important than communicating with people. I think about Hubert Humphrey’s approach: first you tell people what you’re about to tell them, then you tell, then you let them know what you just told them. He said this more eloquently than I did, but you get the idea: communicate, communicate, communicate. You also have to evaluate and re-evaluate. Evaluating a school, evaluating one’s self—neither of these has to be a negative experience or result in negative consequences. Sometimes evaluation results in learning that everything is fine, that’s certainly worth knowing—but mostly the process of self evaluation leads to the knowledge that everything changes. That’s the fun part.”

Q. I’ve heard from people at FCD’s that you know by name every student and parent in the school. “And, in many cases, babysitters and grandparents as well. It has always felt important to me to know the members of my school. People crave being known. It’s a simple thing, but when someone knows you by name you feel that they know you. I think it helps sustain, if you will, the spirit of a school to help engender that feeling. Berkeley Carroll has more students than FCD so learning the names of everyone here may take a little longer, but it’s my personal challenge: ‘Once of the reasons I’m leaving FCD is what an excruciating school and one at which I’ve been very happy and have experienced professional fulfillment, is that I don’t want to be thought of as stale. I want to be at a school where I’m asked questions that I don’t yet have answers to. I don’t want ready access to all the answers—for me, searching for the answers—being personally challenged— is vital to personal growth. I think this is true for everyone. I want to be challenged while, at the same time, I want to challenge those around me—students, parents, teachers, and administrators. If you already have all the answers you have to ask yourself if what you’re doing is still vital.”

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I was never happier than the day I started my student teaching, but by now we were in the late 1970s, and New York City was in the throes of difficult, economic times that, not surprisingly, affected the school system. I bounced around for a while in the system—I was so young and naive and, in my own defense, eager and enthusiastic—and I happily took any teaching positions that came along. As when other teachers said ‘no’ to teaching on Roosevelt Island, I, having no choice, leaped at that as well. That was a really complicated situation. For economic reasons, a Dutchess County school had no students. Every day I sat in an empty classroom. The bell would ring, but no one came in.”

The South Bronx school became Bob’s public school swan song; he left when a teaching position became available at Grace Church School in Greenwich Village. He taught for several years and served in administrative positions, surrounded by like-minded, thoughtful people who taught because they wanted to be effective and were given the support and flexibility by their school to do so. Bob ultimately left Grace Church School to serve as head of Media-Providence Friends School in the suburbs of Philadelphia, a position he held for seven years. He left Media-Providence Friends School to begin his tenure at Fairfield Country Day School.

Q. What about honesty? Adults lie every day, yet we’re forever extolling the virtues of honesty to children. Is it okay to lie, just not okay to lie if you’re young?

It’s hard to talk to kids about lying and honesty without being affected by it. Lying is a slippery slope. I don’t know that I’ve evolved in my thinking about honesty, but I have found that teaching about honesty has made me a more honest person. I challenge myself to be direct and kind as well as honest, and this is what I teach my students.

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I had a classroom, colleagues, everything. I was used to it. A head of a school, an administrator. When an issue raised in a faculty meeting can’t be resolved until consensus is reached, you quickly learn effective communication skills. You also learn how to be a good listener.

The Quaker influence also affected me as a teacher. Although I’ve bought an administrator for many years, like most of us in this position, I’m still a teacher at heart, and I’ve been fortunate at Fairfield to be able to continue teaching. I teach ethics to the 6th grade, and it’s continually fascinating to me. The boys—because FCD S is a boys’ school—understand, exhibit, and can articulate their thoughts about compassion, courage, perseverance, and honesty. At times, though, they’re conflicted about honesty. I’ll say to them, ‘How do you know how to do the right thing? What is the right thing? And they’ll say, ‘It depends.’ I’m not a fan of moral relativism—it doesn’t ‘depend.’ My challenge as a teacher is that values should not be shaped to conform to particular circumstances.”

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BY JENNIFER CRICHTON

Middle School English and History Teacher

NOT LONG INTO YONA ZELDIS

McDONOUGH’S LATEST NOVEL, In Dahlia’s Wake, the reader learns that Naomi Wechsler’s young daughter, Dahlia, has died in a fluke automobile accident. Dahlia’s father, Rick, was at the wheel, just a few blocks from their brownstone on Carroll Street in Park Slope. The Wechsler family’s life had been a Park Slope ideal of Saturday morning dance classes, bike rides in Prospect Park, and friendly if competitive relationships with other families.

In an instant, their world changes. Yona McDonough deftly traces the ripple effect of this devastating event as it disrupts the lives of all associated with it. With a fine hand, she delineates the fissures that grief and remorse carve into Rick and Naomi’s marriage as the couple moves through their lives in a benumbed dance of guilt, blame, and counterblame.

Delving into the intricacies of grief might prove overwhelming for most of us. Not so for Yona Zeldis, Berkeley ’75 alum. Asked how she managed to navigate through this world of grief without founding herself, she laughs: “I’m actually very joyful about writing a book,” she answers, seeming surprised by both question and her own response. “Any book—even a dark book!”

Yona McDonough begins not with a plot or an idea, she explains, but with “a voice telling me something that seems very important. I’m not creating the story so much as becoming a conduit for it. Naomi Wechsler spoke to me with a story she had to tell.” As with Yona’s first novel, The Four Temperaments, which was set in the high-stress world of a New York City corps de ballet, McDonough shifts perspectives throughout the novel, “channeling” many voices: the podiatrist Rick struggling with a sexual attraction to Lillian, the talented office manager whose career potential in life has been derailed by an early pregnancy; Naomi’s mother Estelle, installed in a nursing home, who struggles to maintain a grip on her life. As Yona says, “Everyone is in the center of their own life. Everyone has their own story to tell.” And she wants to tell them all.

In In Dahlia’s Wake, Park Slope is almost more of a character than setting—the little village that was. “The little village that was Park Slope,” as one of the book’s characters, Michael McBride, head of pediatrics at Holy Name Hospital, has come to think of it. This was no longer the “South Brooklyn” in which he grew up. “Park Slope was a name he didn’t hear back then. Their neighbors were civil servants, garbage collectors, grocery store owners, the occasional salesman or schoolteacher, not the hedge fund managers and corporate lawyers who surround him now.”

The Park Slope of In Dahlia’s Wake is a landscape of Cousin John’s fruit tarts, coffee from the Seventh Avenue Barnes & Noble, and a newly buzzing Gowanus Canal. While the novel’s Gowanus Canal is still odoriferous, this isn’t the same neighborhood in which Yona Zeldis attended Berkeley Institute back in the 1970s. “When I was a student, the neighborhood struck me as decline,” Yona recalls. “The sensors were allowed to go to the Purity Coffee Shop (then around the corner on Seventh Avenue) but even a few blocks away seemed iffy. I would babysit for a couple who lived between Seventh and Sixth Avenue, opposite Methodist Hospital. They were considered real pioneers. Now their house must be worth millions. And good for them!”

Yona Zeldis McDonough speaks from her own Carroll Street brownstone—not quite a pioneer, but not part of the latest wave of professionals discovering the Slope’s village-like charms. When their rent-controlled apartment in Manhattan seemed to contract with the birth of son James in 1991, Yona and husband Paul McDonough, who teaches photography at Pratt Institute, found themselves back in Park Slope. Yona’s response once she found her house on Carroll Street was, “What was I waiting for?” James is in 9th grade at BCS and his sister Kate will enter BCS in the fall as a 6th grader.

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Yona took myself over to admissions, I somehow managed to prep for school sounds in this day when even elementary students are prepped for school, “amazing as it always opposed the idea of private education she had experienced. “My more desirable than the public school arts program that sounded a good deal described a stimulating academic and student at a ballet program who discovered the school almost by accident, my father had socialist leanings and had always opposed the idea of private school.” Yona recalls. “impressed by my initiative, he overcame his dislike of private school.”

Marvin Locke was my teacher in European history. It was his first year teaching, and he was wonderfully inspired and inspiring.” Evangeline Thomas, a French teacher about whom Yona wrote an essay for Oprah Winfrey’s magazine, O, was another who made a difference, “with high standards and a matter of fact belief that we would meet them.” Although there were only 16 girls in Yona’s graduating class, “I adored the attention. Perhaps if you’d gone all the way through with so few girls, you might have felt somewhat confined—but I didn’t.”

Yona’s parents were preoccupied with a divorce at the time of her graduation, and Theodora Day took her under her wing, advising her on college choices. Vassar was beautiful, welcoming, and stimulating, and Yona McDonough remains deeply attached to the college. On graduating, she entered the masters program in Art History at Columbia, an experience she describes as “cold, impersonal, bureaucratic. Everyone in my department had a briefcase—into which I put my lunch and crossword puzzle.” Taking a creative writing class on campus, Yona realized that she was to be a writer—a realization that arrived as a “sudden and wonderful blow, even if it was not apparent how I was to get from that impulse to a career.”

Day jobs and freelance writing followed until Yona McDonough landed a two-book contract with the publication first of The Four Temperaments and now, In Dahlia’s Wake. She writes at home while James and Kate are in school, “even though they’re old enough for me to write while they’re home. But writing is very absorbing. I tend to get grumpy when interrupted and my children don’t deserve to have me snap at them when all they’ve ventured is ‘Mom!’”

Yona McDonough has just finished the first draft of another novel set in Park Slope, a novel in which a single mother’s expectations go awry and yet, as always with fiction, “there is always the possibility of redemption. Some things you can’t fix and some things you can make better.”

Writing in the finished basement of her Carroll Street home, McDonough is surrounded by the antique dolls she collects and “a beautiful dollhouse my husband built for me. When I get stuck with my work, I get up and move things around in the house.” And wait for the voices to tell her their stories—at least until the kids come home from school.

It’s probably safe to say that most people have guilty pleasures—some of which can even be spoken about in mixed company. For many, such pleasure takes the form of reading books that might not necessarily find their way onto the syllabi of English Literature courses but DO find their way onto the New York Times bestseller lists—the genre known affectionately as ‘chick lit.”

Hence, it was a great delight to have lunch recently with Zoe Rice ’94. Although she quickly shrugs off the compliment, Zoë is the editor of the first three books in the wonderfully appealing “Shopaholic” series (written by Sophie Kinsella, published by Delta). The trade
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M ary Susan Miller was headmistress at the time, and Theodora Day was director of the upper school. “What set the school apart was the caliber of the teachers,” Yona remembers. “I still have my poetry books from those days. My margin notes from classes I took with Carol Locke are as trenchant and compelling as anything I might think of now. There seemed to be so many PhDs on faculty. Marvin Pollock was my teacher in European history. It was his first year teaching, and he was wonderfully inspired and inspiring.”

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Try saying that ten times really fast. There are a few other similarities, she continued. "Izzy's mother has a tattoo. My mom would probably prefer I not talk about it, but..." She trailed off. "Where does the title come from?"

"A guy friend of Izzy's writes a newspaper column about the New York city dating scene, which sets the stage for the subplot. Every chapter of the book is named with a pick up line, for example, chapter 1 is called "There's Art and Beauty. Hi, Beauty. I'm Art."

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"Pick up lines don't tend to be," said Zoe, "that's part of their charm. They're silly, sometimes even shocking, but they provide a gauge behind which the user can hide while, for the moment anyway, being someone else."

Izzy understands being someone else, because she's had the opportunity to reinvent herself many times. An accomplished actress and a brilliant student at Berkeley Carroll, was she a writer? "I wrote essays and the usual assignments," she said, "but I never thought of myself as a writer. One of the great benefits of a small school is the extracurricular credit. It was so exciting to do other things."

One of those things included getting into Yale, from which she graduated cum laude with a degree in sociology. "I was always Yale bound," she said, "it's all I ever wanted."

It was at Yale that the girl who excelled in math and science in high school blossomed into a writer, thanks, in no small part, to her Berkeley Carroll education. "Freshman year, when our first college paper was due," Izzy remembers, "I was, without a doubt, better prepared than were any of my college peers to write a paper. Our first assignment was in political philosophy, and my classmates had no idea how to write a college-worthy paper, but I was ready. I got an A minus."

It was at Yale that Zoe had the opportunity to work with fabulous writing, including Robert Stone. "I won the Mildred Priest Frank Memorial Award for the highest GPA in the sociology major. Already Manhattan-bound, those two prizes paid for her first two months' rent when she got there."

"Thank God," said Zoe. "As she eagerly awaits the debut of her novel she continues to reinvent herself. Ultimately, nearly everything Zoe encounters becomes grist for her mill. During a college semester abroad she spent studying art at the University College of London, where she collected details that later found themselves recast as texture for Pick Me Up. Many of the books' technical details were derived from conversations with her boyfriend, an artist. Art imitates life, of course, but when Zoe's boyfriend began painting abstract, flat minimalist paintings along the lines painted by one of the characters in the novel, Zoe found that occasionally art imitates life imitating art as well. Zoe's next book? 'I'm eager for Pick Me Up to come out, but in the meantime, I'm writing mental drafts of my next one.'"

"Will it be a sequel or are you thinking of going in an entirely different direction?"

"Everyone asks that," she said, by way of response.

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paperback imprint of The Dial Press). In the series, the smart, sexy protagonist lives so far beyond her means that she is threatened with foreclosures at every turn. That she is able to reverse her circumstances without compromising her personality speaks to the character's charm and the charm in advertising of the books. That they read so flawlessly speaks to the great charms of the editor.

“Parently untrue,” said Zoë, over turkey burgers and ice water at the decidedly unordly ‘Old Castle’ restaurante in Manhattan. “The Shopaholic books I worked on were beautifully written. They were a publisher’s dream.”

What a metaphor. New York figuratively burns at the seams with English majors and creative writing majors trying to break into publishing. For the subways full of would-be editors arriving daily, fresh from writing programs, armed with newly minted MFAs, the notion of working with any sort of writer is a dream. One can only imagine that a dream of a dream would be a complete... well, you know, dream.

There are many dream-like qualities about Zoe Rice, not the least of which are her beautiful, erudite curls. A passerby was emboldened to ask if they were the same Brooklyn neighborhood. “Everyone asks that,” she said, by way of response. But even dreamier than her hair is Zoe’s career: her first novel, Pick Me Up, will be published by NAL this June.

The novel is aimed at young women, a category that more or less encompasses teens through women in their 40s. Although it bears no resemblance to the Shopaholic books edited on Zoe’s watch, she readily admits to having been inspired by the series. “The heroine is Isabel Duncan, ‘Izzy’ to her friends,” said Zoe. “The action is set in the New York City art world, and Izzy is a gallery director. According to Izzy, she has the greatest job in the world.”

Comparisons between Izzy and Zoe started to emerge: their names, their lives, their passions. “It’s true that I borrowed some of my life and put them in the book,” Zoe said.

“For instance?”

“Izzy grew up in Park Slope,” said Zoe, fresh from 2nd Street between 6th and 9th Avenues in the heart of the same Brooklyn neighborhood. Her parents, Rena and Shulie Rice, have lived there for nearly 30 years. “She attended private school, and she was also a scholarship student. I came to Berkeley in the 4th grade and received a very generous scholarship when I entered high school. But these are just details. Izzy isn’t Zoe.”

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“The summer after her junior year she landed a highly coveted internship at the New York magazine where she was the lone under-grad amid MFA students in the internship pool. Her New York internship dovetailed nicely with the experiences garnered previously during her Berkeley Carroll senior year internship at St. Martin’s Press, her entree into the world of publishing. As soon as she graduated from Yale, she went straight to The Dial Press (‘a dream of a publishing house,’ she said) and began editing the Shopaholic book series. Ultimately, the literary agent for the series—Kim Witherspoon at Inskool—became Zoe’s agent for Pick Me Up.

“To what does she owe the success of her rapid rise? Talent? Luck? Connections? She admits to all of the above, but hastens to add that much of what has helped propel her from one step to the next she learned at Berkeley Carroll. ‘My class was so small that we had the teachers’ attention,’ she remembers. ‘Berkeley Carroll taught us how to have our voices heard. I used that skill at Yale, and I was able to use it to my advantage after I graduated.’

“When she burst upon the publishing world, Zoe also used to her advantage the fact that she was not an English major, having immersed herself in the study of sociology. Sociology incorporated her love of science with her rapidly developing interest in writing. At Yale Zoe wrote her senior thesis on a study chaired by Prof. David Yezzi, a comparative literature expert, and the book, A Thousand-Way Vow, will be published by NAL this June. In fact, it was this book, written over a ten-year period, in which she predicted the transgressive nature of the modern sexual. Her 120-page thesis won the sociology department’s best senior essay award, and she won the Mildred Priest Frank Memorial Award for the highest GPA in the sociology major. Already Manhattan-bound, those two prizes paid for her first two months’ rent when she got there.

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Throughout their career, Berkeley Carroll students are writers; like all great writers, they are also readers. The Berkeley Carroll School has an unusually rich literary culture, including many writers, editors, and publishers among its parent body, alumni, and faculty; even the neighborhood is literary—its parent body, alumnis, and faculty; writers, editors, and publishers among them. Berkeley Carroll’s Writers in Residence program. The Performance Space lights down, the slides went up, and for the next hour and a half Dr. Lubin brought the students into the world of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, a 19th century American sculptor whose flawlessly crafted masterpieces were easily a century before their time yet also told the stories of the time in which the artist lived (the Shaw memorial became the basis for the movie; Glory). Dr. Lubin, an expert in the fields of art history, popular and visual culture, and film studies, had previously presented this compelling lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A Visual Writer: Peter Arkle

In preparation for their class with Writer (or, in this case, Illustrator) in Residence, Peter Arkle, 10th and 12th grade students created their own visual pieces, emphasizing Arkle’s brand of visual, witty, and engaging art with commentary. The students created their own personal versions of the Peter Arkle News, in which, like

The Glory of David Lubin

Last fall, the junior class was treated to a remarkable afternoon when Dr. David Lubin, art history professor from Wake Forest University, presented his lecture, “Sculpting Memory: The Art of Augustus Saint-Gaudens” as part of Berkeley Carroll’s Writers in Residence program. The Performance Space lights down, the slides went up, and for the next hour and a half Dr. Lubin brought the students into the world of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, a 19th century American sculptor whose flawlessly crafted masterpieces were easily a century before their time yet also told the stories of the time in which the artist lived (the Shaw memorial became the basis for the movie; Glory). Dr. Lubin, an expert in the fields of art history, popular and visual culture, and film studies, had previously presented this compelling lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

A Look at Berkeley Carroll’s Writers in Residence Program

Jhumpa Lahiri Brings the Audience into the Story

Jhumpa Lahiri was captivated. The season’s first Writer in Residence met with 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students who sat transfixed in the Performance Space while Ms. Lahiri read to them from her novel The Namesake and from her Pulitzer Prize–winning collection of stories, The Interpreter of Maladies. Ms. Lahiri told her audiences that she would have never become a writer if she hadn’t loved reading, mentioning several of her favorite authors (James Joyce, Flannery O’Connor, and others). In addition, she shared with the 9th graders that a seminal scene from The Namesake was loosely based on a family anecdote involving a relative she’d known only in passing. Nevertheless, she told the rapt audience, she’d saved the story in the back of her mind because she’d always felt its potential to evoke miracles. When she said that decades after first hearing the story she was able to channel it into her writing, students sat forward in their seats. It would have been difficult to listen to this wonderful writer without thinking, even fleetingly, “I have stored-up memories, too. Maybe someday I’ll be a writer.”

The Meg Wolitzer Challenge

Even if one had not had the great pleasure of reading Meg Wolitzer, one could tell she was a wonderful writer just by listening to her speak. Thoughtful, metaphorical, lyrical, she challenged her audiences of 11th and 12th graders to think about what it means to be a reader and the resonance of classic books in the life of a writer. The award-winning fiction writer, who published her first novel (Sleepwalking) a year after graduating from Brown, and her most recent novel (The Position) last year, told the students about her experiences as a reader but really engaged them when she asked them about their own. When she asked, “What does reading do?” hands shot up. “It lets you escape into a different world”; “It leads you to find out the truth about yourself.” Ms. Wolitzer agreed. “Fiction can contain more truth than nonfiction. It can give you access to something in yourself.” Another student volunteered that literature encompasses all the great themes. Ms. Wolitzer concurred, saying that good prose can be described as “muscular.” She went on to say that the companion to muscularity is “flexibility,” and that being flexible as a reader allows you to develop as a more complex thinker. She spoke of numerous great books and significant short stories that have influenced her, many of which she rereads every few years knowing she will find intriguing new depth in them. She counseled the students to think of the “imperative” in a work of fiction and challenged the writers in the group to be aware of this imperative, which forms what she called the “engine” of a written work. In closing, she told the seniors, “Books make you aware of ambivalence you might not otherwise face in your life. Art elevates life; heightens our perceptions of the world we live in.”
A Look at Berkeley Carroll’s Writers Residence Program

Throughout their career, Berkeley Carroll students are writers, like all great writers, they are also readers. The Berkeley Carroll School has an unusually rich literary culture, including many writers, editors, and publishers among its parent body, alumni, and faculty; writers, editors, and publishers among Berkeley Carroll students; like all great writers, they are also readers. The Berkeley Carroll School has an unusually rich literary culture, including many writers, editors, and publishers among its parent body, alumni, and faculty; writers, editors, and publishers among Berkeley Carroll students; like all great writers, they are also readers. The Berkeley Carroll School has an unusually rich literary culture, including many writers, editors, and publishers among its parent body, alumni, and faculty; writers, editors, and publishers among Berkeley Carroll students; like all great writers, they are also readers.

Visiting writers reveal their creative lives, the genesis of their ideas, the challenge of revision, and the deep love and commitment they have for their art. The following provides a highlight of the 2005-06 Writers in Residence Program at Berkeley Carroll.

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A Visual Writer: Peter Arkle

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Berkeley Carroll • MAGAZINE • Spring 2006
Three Perspectives On Literacy at Berkeley Carroll

Lower School

In the Lower School, literacy can be thought of as a puzzle: how can we teach children to make sense of seemingly arbitrary squiggles on the page. As children mature, develop their skills, and are better able to express their thoughts, the hope is help them develop an opinion, express it, and make it into an argument. Such arguments, be they poetry, fiction, or even paragraphs that will later develop into essays, form the basis of their writing.

Brownstone Brooklyn values opinions, and whether it’s an opinion on politics, real estate, religion, or any of those other things you aren’t supposed to bring up in polite company, the goal in the Lower School is for children to be able to form opinions, back them up with careful thought, and express themselves clearly. Whatever passions Berkeley Carroll children develop, whatever career they ultimately choose, they need a voice, and that’s what we hope to teach them as we show them how to read and write.

BY BENEDICT CHANT

Lower School Director

JAMES SHAPIRO

Middle School Director

SUZANNE FOGARTY

Upper School Director

Middle School

At the end of four years of Middle School we have held our children in thrall for over 5000 hours. What are they ready for as writers? Can you really say to a youngster that the world of facts trumps the world of imagination? Children in Middle School are beyond delightful.

When you read a story they act as a shadowing presence acting out with the sounds and the barely restrained mimetic gestures of a rapt audience the skulking movements of Grendel, the silly burblings of a fool in a Grimm tale, or the grandeur of a concert pianist of verse like Shakespeare or Edgar Allan Poe.

Kids effortlessly incorporate subtle and arcane distinctions of fantasy worlds with hierarchies of potency, mayhem, and majesty. In their own quest for identity, they are, in fact, engaging with the world of facts and logic. Through language and through writing they can honestly—by their lights—become the thing itself. They respect language more uncritically than any adult. When you pick up that slender piece of paper and glance over the spidery lines of cursive graphite, you have a complete, unwittingly complete, essence and complex portrait of a child.

A piece of writing is an indelible watermark that to the trained eye yields forensic clues about a child’s nature, tone, tenor, the complex crossing of mental habitus we call personality. Language allows you to travel everywhere, be everything and do everything. That gives them the confidence to die, to fly, to be a hero, or to be cast into the most sangamatic of ghost stories. Middle schoolers stand in a door frame: half in dark; half in light, looking out on a world in which they are fully rooted but from which they are simultaneously absent.

In fifth grade the paragraph is “litz.” We train the young eye in deciding what fact, what concept reigns supreme and then proceed to justify that topic sentence with further development of logic, reasoning, and proof. In sixth grade paragraphs are located in a basic sequential structure. The rudiments of an argument begin to appear. The sustained voice of persuasion takes its first extensive shape. In seventh and eighth grade our young writers begin to find the beginnings of their true voice. They locate a thesis and proceed to develop and sustain their argumentative claims.

Middle school students approach the highly magnitized vector of creativity from a multitude of directions: imagining yourself as a drop of water in the ecosystem or as a Puritan settler in New England, composing briefs or legal opinions in a Supreme Court suit on a first amendment/national security dust-up, issuing autobiographical sum-

Upper School

E.M. Forster once said, “How do I know what I think until I see what I say?” This question is the driving force behind our writing curriculum in the Upper School. We teach writing to help our students better understand how they think. But learning how to express oneself requires a lot of patience; writing is not a skill that is mastered by high school graduation. It is a lifelong challenge.

We live in a world that is increasingly dependent upon sound bites and instant messaging, modes of communication that are sorely lacking in reflection. Therefore, one of our greatest responsibilities as educators is to teach our students to slow down, to pause, and to reflect. Every time we assign a paper, ask students to sum up their observations for a science lab, or require students to explain a math problem, we are asking them to search for the right words and phrases that reveal the integrity of their logic, their imagination, and their opinions. Writing is also a process of discovery. We never quite know what will hit the page until our pen starts moving or our fingers start tapping.

Teaching writing to high school students is daunting for they are willing to take risks to make their discoveries. During the process, students share and critique each other’s prose and poetry on a daily basis. This kind of work requires a strong balance of honesty, sensitivity, and the patient discipline of revision.

Students themselves contemplate the process: “I’m excited about taking my work to the next level, with the help of others’ feedback. Ironically, this is also what I’m worried about. Things I write never sound as good outside my head as they do inside…” “Basically I want to learn to write better so that I don’t create anymore teen-age angst garbage that’s all cliché metaphors and ignores real language.” “Writing has always intrigued me but I’ve always been hesitant about actually doing it—for fear of not being good enough, not having enough discipline or time… but I want to find ways to express myself…”

The annual fund supports our faculty and ensures that the school can continue to attract and retain our most valued educational resource—our teachers.

Your gift to the 2006 annual fund will help sustain the Berkeley Carroll legacy.

For more information, contact the Berkeley Carroll School Institutional Advancement Office at 718-789-6060 x 6586 or email advancement@berkeleycarroll.org.
Three Perspectives On Literacy at Berkeley Carroll

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In seventh and eighth grades our young writers begin to find the beginnings of their argum entative claims. They are extraordinarily sensitive about their writing. Hard as it is for them to learn to absorb a critique, it’s equally hard to learn how to give worthwhile criticism. The human ego in regards to writing is extraordinarily dry soil. It takes a lot of watering, a lot of affirmation for robust expression to take deep root.

Perhaps that’s not so surprising. Writing is about your competency, your loveliness, your understandability and your ability to reach others. Ultimately, our students learn, the most persuasive voice is their own. Writing takes us by the hand and we discover, ultimately, who and what we are meant to be.

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Keeping up with a very active WHITEHOUSE.

Despite being officially retired from her job as Director of the Sayville Sayville Historical Society in 1989, Trudy (Gertrude) Colson keeps in touch with her classmates for many years.

**Class of 1950**

**Last Spring**

Barth.

I.

**Honorary Alumna**, Lenora Brennan ’43 sends her fond regards to alums with special regards to her honorary classmate of 1941. “I am doing some consulting in board development and fundraising, and a lot of traveling with my family.” She is off to Rome in early November.

**Jean Russ Rother Keyses ’40**

is busier than ever. Joan retired from teaching school in 1994 and is anything but retired. Joan is the author of the Oxford Picture Dictionary for Kids series. How did she end up writing this impromptu series? Joan taught ESL for all ages for over 20 years and was presenting at a convention for educators where an Oxford editor spotted her. She was asked to write for Oxford on the spot after Joan convinced them that they needed an interactive children’s dictionary—a dictionary that would talk with the kids so they could hear their new language.

**Gloria Alberta Carbonell ’43**

is not acting as a real estate broker, she travels and spends every summer in Cambridge, England, studying the Middle Ages in Cambridge’s summer school program.

**Last Spring**, Arlene Williams Buchholtz Beloff ’43 participated for the sixth year in the Prejudice Reduction Program for elementary age children in the NYC public school system. She reports, “It is still exciting for me to try and reach these kids on a subject dear to my heart.” Arlene stays in touch with her classmates.

**Arlene loves living in NYC** and says that she is “grateful that I can still use the wonderful city that has been my cultural home for so long.”

**Susan Strois Wecker ’46** has, in her retirement, become a student again at the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement and is “enjoying it immensely”!

**Martha Davis Schoonder ’47**

has moved with her husband, Fred, to a retirement community in upstate New York where they are slowly getting used to. Her children and grandchildren all live in the local area as do many of her longstanding friends. As Martha says, “We are very lucky!”

**Jane Bennett Smith ’47**

is now retired, and pursuing some of the interests that she had at Berkeley—working for the library and preparing local newsletters. Both her husband, Fred, and she enjoy singing and traveling with choral groups. They are also golfers; though as Jane states, “Fred is, and I am still trying after unspent years.” She has three grandchildren: Ellery, 13, Mack, 12 and Leah, 10, who live within 2 hours of her. As Jane says, “I’m lucky!”

**Caroline Moody Roberts ’48**

is “busy relaxing,” going to Florida and staying in touch with her classmates, Barbara Meyer Bognar ’49 and Gloria Diann Darby ’48. Caroline left Brooklyn for Pittsburgh 50 years ago and stays active by sitting on the board of a local children’s center.

**The Class of 1950** had a reunion last April in Boston. Carla Linscheid Lerman, Judy Arken Ajmera, Betty Mussen Pyte, Norma Gage Smith, Ann Mackey Peters, and Gladys Buchholtz Beloff attended along with their husbands. Ann reports that “we all had a marvelous time and will certainly meet again in the next year.”

**Ann Mackey Peters ’50**

officially retired from her career in fundraising and development a while ago and now volunteers as a board member of the St. Paul Conservatory of Music. She also started the planned giving program at the Minneapolis Cathedral. Last fall Ann and her husband had a romantic holiday in New York City to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

They tried to escape without their three children knowing their whereabouts, but somehow the couple received multiple, and anonymous, room service orders at their hotel, the Waldorf Astoria. Seems the kids caught up with them and sent their congratulations via bottles of champagne, delicate cheeses, rosés and cheddar, a special favorite of Ann’s.

**Elizabeth Whitney ’50** is using the knowledge and experience she gained from being the Assistant Director of Financial Aid (retired) at Brandeis as a trustee for METCO’s scholarship fund. The Metropolitan Council for Economic Opportunity (METCO) is located in Weston, Massachusetts, and has the mission of developing and promoting quality integrated educational opportunities for students from economically disadvantaged East Palo Alto neighborhood to her former school, along with other local independent schools, for an intensive summer academic enrichment program. When Elizabeth is not occupied with board work, she enjoys playing bridge, “having fun,” and traveling. For fall 2006 she will be traveling from Sweden to Iceland on an ice breaker wildlife tour. Always the educator and life-long learner, Elizabeth travels to England every summer to Marlborough College to take classes.

In 1979 Elizabeth Root ’51 founded and then headed the Phillips Brooks School, an independent elementary school, in Menlo Park, California for many years. Though she has been retired since 1996, she sits on the boards of several schools in her local area. She is particularly proud of the Phillips Brooks School’s involvement in the Summer Bridge program. This program brings middle school aged children from the economically disadvantaged East Palo Alto neighborhood to her former school, along with other local independent schools, for an intensive summer academic enrichment program. When Elizabeth is not occupied with board work, she enjoys playing bridge, “having fun,” and traveling. For fall 2006 she will be traveling from Sweden to Iceland on an ice breaker wildlife tour. Always the educator and life-long learner, Elizabeth travels to England every summer to Marlborough College to take classes.
Despite being officially retired from her job as Director of the Sayville H.S. plantations, Elizabeth Emilie Whitehouse remains busier than ever. Betty is in the process of publishing a series of children's books that she wrote and illustrated about astronomy and is fun for adults as well. The books are aimed at pre-K to first grade. She is also the president of her local Garden Club, a past president of the Rotary, sits on the board of the Sayville Historical Society and is a member of a number of other local organizations that provide scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors. As part of her work for the Sayville Historical Society, Betty has garnered over $45,000 in grants for the town's 9/11 memorial park. On a personal note, Betty has 10 grandchildren with her. Caroline Mayhew ’39 is busier than ever. Joan retired from teaching school in 1994 and is anything but retired. Joan is the author of the Oxford Picture Dictionary for Kids series. How did she end up writing this impressive series? Joan taught ESL for all ages for over 20 years and was presenting at a convention for educators where an Oxford editor spotted her. She was asked to write for Oxford on the spot after Joan convinced them that they needed an interactive children’s dictionary—a dictionary that would talk with the kids so they could hear their new language.

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Last Spring, Arlene Williams Davis ’48 participated for the sixth year in the Prejudice Reduction Program for elementary age children in the NYC public school system. She reports, “It is still exciting for me to try and reach these kids on a subject dear to my heart.” Arlene stays in touch with her classmates.

Barbara Birch Smyth ’48 and her husband are currently in the midst of planning for their move to a local retirement center in the summer of ’07. In the meantime, though, they have been busy traveling: first to eight national parks this past summer and soon to Russia with their daughter. With nine grandchildren, two of whom live down the block from her, the Smyths’ lives are full and active. As for the Berkeley Institute traditions, Barbara reminisces that her class of 1948 was the last class to have flower girls chosen from the lower grades. As soon as Ms. Mason took over as head from Mr. Arvid, she decided that the competition and social maneuvering that occurred as the rising seniors hand-picked their flower girls was best left to the dustbin. The flower girls presented each graduating senior with her bunch of roses.

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Ellen Waters Singer '53 is an avid traveler in pursuit of her art, having visited many parts of the globe as evidenced in her work. She travels to England almost annually to work and collect subject matter.

Joan B. Berstein Bernan '53 left Berkeley at the end of 7th grade, but still keeps in touch with several classmates. She transferred to Birch Wathen in Manhattan when her parents moved there from Brooklyn. Joan graduated from Barnard College with a major in art history. She went on to work for American Home magazine, and the hose magazine at the Institute for Radio Engineers. After time off to raise two sons, she volunteered at the Asia Society Art Museum in NYC. She later attended the West Barron School for TV Acting and Commercials which led to several small acting spots. Her special loves include her grandson in San Francisco and the French language.

Barbara Smith Bernardo '53 celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary last year. She has 4 sons and 6 grandchildren. A cancer survivor, she enjoys vacationing most winters in her Florida home.

Ann Dillon Byrnes '53 was named one of the 50 most influential people in the world by Time Magazine in 2007 for her work in the US Senate. She is also on the council from Columbia School of Public Health at the University of Pennsylvania.

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Barbara Smith Bernardo '53 celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary last year. She has 4 sons and 6 grandchildren. A cancer survivor, she enjoys vacationing most winters in her Florida home.

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Ellen Waters Singer ‘53 is an avid traveler in pursuit of her art, having seen many parts of the globe as evidenced in her work. She travels to England almost annually to work and collect subject matter. Ellen graduated from Columbia School of Dramatic Arts, taught at the Art Student’s League of New York, and is on the council of The Society of American Graphic Artists. Her work can be seen in the gallery of the Graphic Artists. Her work is on the council of The Society of American Graphic Artists. Her work was a Woodcut in the Institute for Radio and the House Magazine at American Home School for TV Acting and Commercials which led to her grandson in San Francisco and the French language.

Barbara Smith Bernardo ‘53 celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary last year. She and her husband are living in New York City. She has kept up her piano playing, and last year won an award for a play she wrote. While she continues to write, she is also involved in numerous other activities. She has been happily married to her husband, Bob, for 31 years.

Judith Yellin Jacobs ‘53 has recently moved to the Tucson area from New York. Having visited the area, she fell in love with the climate and the people. While still living, Judy sculpts and paints and continues a long career in Interior Design. She is also active in the “Red Hats,” an organization that raises funds for charity. She is very excited that one of her two sons will be moving to the area with his family and her first granddaughter—a girl.

Barbara Papone Barreneche ‘53 has lived in various places in California since 1971, most recently in Roseville. Now retired, she previously worked for a printing company and was a journeyman printer for 15 years. She later worked for a newspaper that owned a printing company. Barbara still misses the East Coast, though she is pleased to be near daughters, Heidi and Elizabeth, and her 5 grandchildren.

Joan R. Bernstein Bernan ‘53 left Berkeley at the end of 7th grade, but still keeps in touch with several classmates. She transferred to Birch Whiten in Manhattan when her parents moved there from Brooklyn. Joan graduated from Barnard College with a major in art history. She went on to work for American Home magazine, and the house magazine at the Institute for Radio Engineers. After time off to raise two sons, she volunteered at the Asia Society Art Museum in New York. She later attended the West Barron School for TV Acting and Commercials which led to several small acting spots. Her special loves include her grandson in San Francisco and the French language.

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Ann Dillon Byrnes ‘53 has been out of contact with her classmates for a number of years but recently in 2001, she visited her 50th class reunion because she was moving to Chapel Hill, North Carolina from Cleveland, Ohio area at the time. A former 6th grade Social Studies teacher, Marybeth recently worked as a Media Specialist in Ohio for 21 years. Now retired, she pages part time at the Chapel Hill Public Library, celebrating the people and setting. “It’s a fabulous alternative to joining a gym.” Her daughter, Molly, is pursuing graduate studies in Shepherdsport, West Virginia where she is a Civil War re-enactor. Her daughter, Melissa, works in Charlotte. Marybeth now goes by the family name of Berry, “because there were too many first names to juggle.”

Ann Hurley Trubeliski ‘53 remembers the class 50th reunion with fondness; she says she enjoyed reconnecting with friends. But her heart and home are in Massachusetts where her two children and one-year-old grandson reside. Ann is a Director of The Berkshire Bank in Pittsfield, and is also on the board of the local downtown development group there. Fascinated by the French language, Ann has attended classes in our society. Ann was a past Chairman of the Board of Berkshire Health System where she now serves as Trustee.

W. Katherine Hooke ’54 had been unable to hear from her classmates. Demetria lives in Brooklyn and works in public relations. She has her own website, Gotham Gossip at www.demetriadaniels.com, featuring news about events around the city. Demetria can be contacted at demetria571@yahoo.com.

Valerie Perrins ’63 has moved back to her home city of Troy following the death of her husband, Newton, in August 2004. Valerie does get back to Brooklyn occasionally to visit her son, Tim, who lives in Park Slope. Valerie’s other son, Doug, lives in Albany.

Heilen Epp ’64 is a psycho-terapist in private practice in Arlington Virginia, and lives in Washington, DC.

Karen Andreozzi ’65 is currently the Systems Training Coordinator for the Division of Human Resources at the NYC Department of Education.

Karen Brown ’79 has been with the NYC Fire Department for 16 years and is looking forward to getting to his 20th. He is now a decent at the Ground Zero site and was at the World Trade Centers on 9/11.
1980s

- Jamie Smida ’93 is a beloved kindergarten teacher here at Berkeley Carroll and is married to BC athletics director, Joe Wood. Joe and Jamie are the parents of BC first grader, Jillian Smida-Wood.

- Michelle Menendez Uijes ’94 writes, “My husband and I just finished restoring half of our 200-year-old plantation house. (Nice term for a termite-eaten, large wooden structure that costs a fortune to upkeep and used to employ slaves!) We closed our antiques store in Peteburg, Virginia and will be opening his new store, Sutherland Tavern Antiques, in this half of the house. Life should become a lot less complicated for us and our two-year-old daughter, Emma, with his working ‘out of the house.’ ”

- Eve (Walter) Walfenamour ’86 received her PhD in epidemiology and specializes in violence, particularly intimate partner violence and methodology. She is the Criminology Program Coordinator for the Sociology Department at SUNY New Paltz. After getting her BS in Communications, she knew that the media was not for her, began working with at-risk youth, and went back for her masters, in Community Health. Eve hopes that any alumni hoping to go to New Paltz will look her up.

- Chia Castor ’87 is currently studying culinary arts at Le Cordon Blue in Minnesota. Chia is in the process of starting her own business, selling her baked goods to small coffee and tea houses in the Twin Cities area.

- Kristin Jaska Mukhney ’97 has a dual career of Mom and teacher. She is an Adjunct Lecturer at Kingsborough College.

- Congratulations to Brad Siemer ’98 on the birth of his third child, Charles, last fall.

- Heather Cunningham ’85 is both producing and performing in plays in New York City. She is the founding artistic director of the River Heights Production Company, www.riverheightsproductions.com, and her newest production, Mrs. California, began in March. Heather has had continual success in nearly every performance medium since her days under the lights on the Berkeley Carroll stage.

- Carissa Slater ’85 has graduated from medical school and passed the US medical licensing exam step 2. She can now apply to be a resident physician.

- Former Head of Berkeley Carroll, Bonsoone Zabary, connected with Matthew Simser ’91 (Wesleyan University ’86) for lunch in Manhattan and had a wonderful time reminiscing. Upon completing his B.A. from Wesleyan Matthew received a master’s degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism and is now an assistant city editor at The Stamford, Connecticut Advocate, overseeing the night city desk. Matthew met his wife, Shola Olujato, at Wesleyan, and they are expecting their first child in 2006. Matthew and classmate Salima Matthews Milliot ’91 are neighbors.

- Janine Kenna Deitzer ’91 and her husband, John, welcomed their first child, Jack, on April 21, 2005. Jack weighed in at 8 lbs, 4 oz and continues to delight his parents, aunts Jordan, ’94, and Justine, ’96, and his grandparents with new tricks every day. Janine is currently the Director of Family Wealth Services for the Private Bank at Merrill Lynch and can be reached at Janine.deitzer@gmail.com.

- After graduating from Amherst Andre Horwitz ’92 spent several years in video editing and teaching math at Prospect Heights High School. He graduated from Tulane Law School and is now back in New York.

- Daniel Lipman ’92 currently attends Columbia Business School. He is scheduled to receive his MBA in 2007.

- When Josh Prinsky ’92 and his wife, Julie, came to visit classmates, Sarah Brennen ’92, Nina Rosan ’92, and her husband, Karl Minkelwitz, in Boston, they decided to call on Rachel Klein ’92 at her new restaurant, OM, in Harvard Square. Since it was opening week, Rachel was busy making sure everything was perfect, but she did manage to sneak away from the kitchen to say hello to her BCS classmates.

- Amy Strauss Teichman ’94 gave birth to twins on Valentine’s Day. Amy and her husband Andrew have named their two little ones Zoe and Theo.

- Leah Foster ’91 is attending law school at CUNY Queens College. Her mother, Sheryl, is continuing her BCS involvement, too, appearing in last fall’s Readers Theater production.

- Alex Horwitz ’95 is currently getting her MBA at Barnard.

- Kenan Aska ’95 is currently a bartender at South Paw by night and an artist by day.

- Sean Walbroen ’95 is making the big move! Instead of working and taking pictures for someone else, he will work as a freelance photographer.

- Nicole Apgel ’96 received an MS in Public Policy and Management from the Heinz School at Carnegie Mellon University in spring, 2004. She was recently promoted to Assistant Vice President & Investment Product Manager at Mellon Financial Corporation in Pittsburgh, and became engaged to Val Fournet of Queens, a fellow alum of Carnegie Mellon.

- Vanessa Apgel-Jones ’96 (Yale ’00), is now studying at Columbia University’s Institute for Research in African American Studies. Ms. Zuhay met up with Vanessa and Michael Tram (BCS faculty on leave) for a late afternoon lunch last September and was fascinated to learn about Vanessa’s recent experience teaching middle school in Atlanta and also her prior job working for Prisoner Activist Resource Center, a not-for-profit organization in San Francisco.

- Shantia Guitierrez (NS ’96) is working in Panama for Las Garzas, which runs movie and international TV festivals. The Movie Festival Las Garzas recently presented a TV program on the Manhattan Neighborhood Network here in NYC. The program included short movies and the work of Pan-American and Latin American directors. For more

Berkeley Carroll Alum Featured on THE FOOD NETWORK

Following her passion and making a bold move, Nic Sims ’84 left her career as an established project manager at a website company to become a professional chef. Her bravery was rewarded by a new sense of professional fulfillment and the Food Network. One of several things that inspired her to realize her dream was an inscription on a sculpture in a museum near her Ann Arbor, Michigan home that read, “What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?” Nic knew exactly what she would do—she would cook. It was her love of cooking that led Nic to begin a successful catering business, Mop to My Roux, as well as enroll in the culinary arts program at Schoolcraft College. It was that same, unmistakable passion that appealed to producers at the Food Network when they viewed her video application for a $50,000 kitchen makeover contest. Nic’s kitchen was one of five selected to be redesigned with the input of a celebrity chef. In Nic’s case that chef was Alton Brown, her personal favorite.
After graduating from Berkeley Carroll and finishing roughly half of our 200-year-old plantation house (nice term for a termite-eaten, large wooden structure that costs a fortune to upkeep and used to employ slaves!), we closed our antiquities shop in Peterburg, Virginia and will be opening his new store, Sutherland’s Tavern Antiques, with his working ‘out of the empire and specializes in this half of the house. Life is good, and I would love to hear from my old classmates at michelsshallart.com.

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information check out their web site at www.lasgarzas.org

■ Justine Kenna ’96 married Matthew Fludgate on April 30, 2005 in New York City. “My sisters Janine Dozier ’91 (who had my nephew Jack 9 days before!) and Jordan Kenna Smith ’94 were my matrons of honor. We had a wonderful time celebrating with friends and family and it is hard to believe it has almost been a year since the wedding! I’m am currently working in the asset management group of Bank of America. Matt and I live in New York City and can be reached at justine_fludgate@yahoo.com.”

■ Timothy Chev ’97 is leaving New York to travel around the world!

■ Cleve Christian ’97 is currently teaching at Tilden High School and is considering attending law school in the future.

■ Zoe Klein ’97 has been designing lights, dancing and performing acrobatics in NYC since her graduation from Hampshire College in June 2001. This past summer she took a break from her position of Technical Director at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange and DanceSpace Project, Inc to give her the time to design the lighting for Eva Dean Dance Company’s Dance Theater Workshop performance, continuing a four year working relationship with the company. Zoe has been performing, teaching and training salsa and acrobatics in Los Angeles, Germany, Holland and Montreal with her partner, Dave Paris. During their August 2005 Asia tour, they visited Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, and Australia. Zoe continues to collaborate with Marlene Clary at BC doing the lighting for the fall 2005 Readers Theater production of Prison Stories from Death Row.

■ Michael Edsutzer ’98 received his BS in corporate communications from the College of Staten Island in 2004 and is now a candidate for the MBA program at Ithaca College scheduled to graduate in 2006.

■ Until this fall, Kirsten Tempel ’98 worked for CAMBA, a Brooklyn based community development and social service organization. As of this past December, she has been going to school in Austin, at the Texas College of Chinese Medicine to study acupuncture and other forms of Eastern healing techniques.

■ Kara Von Blasingam ’99 spent her 2005 spring semester at the University of Witswaterstad Law School in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is now back for her final year at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School.

■ Alyssa Whitbeck ’98 is currently in South Korea teaching English in a winter camp program. She admires how they grow vegetables all year round despite the cold winters and have comprehensive recycling programs that include composting; waste goes partially to feed their pigs and the rest to nourish fields. After she leaves South Korea, she will travel for a month in Israel before setting off to the University of Santa Cruz for an apprenticeship in ecological horticulture. Deb will be learning about small-scale sustainable agricultural techniques with the goal of working with urban youth in city-based agricultural projects. She just finished an apprenticeship at Hawthorne Valley Farm “learning how to grow beautiful vegetables and milk cows!” As Deb says, “food helps connect all of us,” and she wants to be part of that process!

■ Eric Naisen-Phillips ’99 has moved back to New York and “really enjoys” his job at the Winged Keel Group, an insurance brokerage firm. His family is doing well, and Eric became an uncle last year which is “very fun!” Eric keeps track of BC’s baseball team and tries to catch a game or two when possible.

■ Jael Colton ’03 has joined Berkeley Carroll’s Institutional Advancement office in the position of Development Assistant. In addition to working with the Annual Fund, Jael will also work on alumni affairs.

■ Rebecca Kleinhandler ’00 is currently studying for her MA in Jewish literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Brooklyn. Rebecca graduated from Cornell in 2004 with a BA in Near Eastern Studies and Comparative Literature.

■ Cole Matteson ’00 is working at his father’s newly opened Thai restaurant, Long Tan, at 1965th Avenue, Berkeley, between Union and Berkeley Place. Cole graduated from Syracuse University with an economics degree. His girlfriend, Rebecca Rent, and Cole are the proud parents of Claire.

■ Jael Colton ’03 graduated with honors in 2005 from Wesleyan with a degree in studio art and a concentration in print making. He spent a summer abroad studying in Tasmania and this fall began teaching in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

■ Annie Devine ’01 is an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at the International Rescue Committee. While a student at STAR Institute in 2000, Eric joined Berkeley Carroll’s Institutional Advancement office in the position of Development Assistant. In addition to working with the Annual Fund, Jael will also work on alumni affairs.

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Karen Kellner ’00 is the Program Director for the Ambassadors to the Environment Program in Santa Barbara for Jean-Michel Cousteau’s Ocean Futures Society (www.oceanfutures.org). How did a Brooklyn girl end up at the Pacific Ocean side of the US? Aside from her persistent curiosity in and jealousy of her parents’ annual Caribbean diving trips, Karen credits her career and life path to Cindy Molk, Karen’s Upper School Science instructor at BC. After completing an independent study project in marine biology with

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In October Bongzon Zabuy and her husband, Geoff, went out to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California where Geoff is a visiting scholar. While there they were thrilled to run into Ayana Johnson ’08 (Harvard ’03), and invited Ayana and her boyfriend Chris for dinner one evening. Ayana is currently working on her PhD in marine biology at the University of California, San Diego.

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Karen Venn Blasingam ’00 spent her 2005 spring semester at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. While in South Africa, Kara had the chance to hear Jean Aisteve speak on campus and was able to tour around Soweto and Alexandra with her friends, normally no-go areas for tourists.

Alyssa Whitbeck ’98 is engaged and has just purchased a house in Connecticut with her fiancé. She will finish her graduate studies at University of Connecticut in May 2006 with a double degree—an MSW and a JD. Her wedding is planned for October 2006. Alyssa got bad in touch when, during packing for her move, she found her BC’s class ring.

Matthew Fleck ’93 is now teaching at Lehman High School in the Bronx. He just received his masters degree in education from City College here in NYC.

Deborah Greig ’99 is currently in South Korea teaching English in a winter camp program. She admires how they grow vegetables all year round despite the cold winters and have comprehensive recycling programs that include composting, waste goes partially to feed their pigs and the rest to nourish fields. After she leaves South Korea, she will travel for a month in Israel before setting off to the University of Santa Cruz for an apprenticeship in ecological horticulture. Deb will be learning about small-scale sustainable agriculture degree, with the goal of working with urban youth in city-based agricultural projects. She just finished an apprenticeship at Hawthorne Valley farm “learning how to grow beautiful vegetables and to milk cows.” As Deb says, “food helps connect all of us,” and she wants to be part of that process!

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A design for the future.

Ben Downard ’01 graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design this past spring with a goal of being a freelance designer and illustrator. Ben initially wanted to be a fine arts painter but moved to illustration to improve his technical skills and career opportunities. He is now interviewing with small companies that are more interested in hiring young artists to do graphic design. He is also doing independent web design and graphic work.

Robert Provine. A hard act to follow.

Clara Sofia Brabham ’03 was an exchange student from Norway and spent her senior year at BC. Clara returned to Norway to complete 11th year (common at schools in Europe) and then went overseas for her “gap year,” the year that European students take between high school and college. She spent her first year in Paris living with a family and learning French and then moved on to South America where she worked as a volunteer and picked up her fourth language, Spanish. Accepted at many medical schools in Europe, Clara will begin her medical studies in February 2006 in Copenhagen. Clara’s brother, Edward Now, also spent a year at BC. Clara hopes that all is well with her classmates and invites everyone from her grade to come and see her if they are traveling in Norway/Denmark. She can be contacted via email at clara_cow_2008@yahoo.com.

Marlene Clary ’87 and Jonathan Judge-Russo ’01

Crystal Naden ’01 learned about the economics of a premier sports team, the NY Yankees, as a paid summer intern with the franchise. A varsity athlete in three sports while at BC, Crystal hopes to attend the sports management program at George Washington University.

Jennifer Hudson ’02 graduated from Columbia Union College in July and will remain in the Washington, DC area where she hopes to become a physician’s assistant for a few years before heading off to medical school.

Even though Jonathan Judge-Russo ’01 decamped to Regis for high school—he attended BC for lower and middle school—his strong bonds to BC remain. He recently returned and met with one of his BC faculty mentors, Marlene Clary.

Jonathan was on the Regis speech and debate team and found he loved the speech-making part of the competitions. From Regis Jonathan went on to attend Loyola College where he realized that if he went into the theater he became so good at it, that while still in college, he auditioned at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Maryland’s well-known classical theater company, and was cast as the lead, Troilus, in their production of Troilus and Cressida. Jonathan is now back in the heart of theater—land, wants to become a full-time professional actor and is in the process of applying to graduate level acting programs. He thanks Marlene for “setting the bar” high for her theater productions, and Mike Tran who worked his BC students “hard” but taught Jonathan a lot.

Jamie Winkel ’01 graduated this spring from Clark University receiving a BA in studio art.

Leo Hartman ’02 has transferred from Boston College to Bard and is studying music and education and is composing music and writing. He recently performed for the Brooklyn Community Chorus playing a Corelli violin solo to great applause. He hopes to open a music club in NYC.

Austin Irving ’02 spent last summer photographing for Sports Illustrated before heading back to NYU for her senior year.

After spending fall 2004 studying abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland, San Nathan ’02 was an operations intern at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan during the summer of 2005. He is majoring in diplomatic relations at the University of Pennsylvania.

Eric Iwanska ’02 has recently become engaged to Tom Frazee, a fellow Gettysburg College graduate. The wedding date is set for August 26, 2006, and the event will take place in Michigan. Erin will graduate from Gettysburg in May with a degree in English and psychology. This fall, in Boston, she will pursue a master’s degree in developmental and social psychology.

Anthony Pardo ’02 worked for Newsday this past summer and is president of the St. John’s University Young Democrats organization.

Adam Ottavino ’03 was an amazing pitcher and shortstop during his four years as a Berkeley Carroll Upper School student, averaging 17 strikeouts per game and once striking out 54 batters over a three-game stretch. Adam ended his senior year at BC as a captain and as a draft pick of the Tampa Bay Rays. Luckily for Northeastern University, Adam decided to pursue baseball at the collegiate level and postpone his aspirations to play professionally. Adam has proven to be perhaps the teams’ most valuable asset as their starting pitcher. During his sophomore season, in a game against Holy Cross, he struck out 11 batters and only gave up seven hits and two runs.

Michelle Doshi ’03 is studying abroad this fall in Melbourne, Australia. She attends Vassar College.

Julia Leonin ’03 continues her line play on the Bowdoin College basketball team and scored 16 points in their Eastern Connecticut Tournament game against Endicott (Bowdoin won 75-29). She made 6 of 9 shots including
Even though

After spending fall 2004 after graduating from 2001, Annie worked with a goal of being a freelance designer and illustrator of fine arts painter but moved to Washington University. He is now interviewing with small companies that are hiring young artists to do graphic work.

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Jennifer Nadeau ‘02 graduated from Columbia Union College in July and will remain in the Washington, DC area where she hopes to become a physician’s assistant for a few years before heading off to medical school.

Even though, Jeremy Friedman ‘02 graduated from Emerson College in June as a film major and did a summer internship with a New York based studio.

After graduating from Smith College, through the School for International Training, Annie spent part of a semester living with a family on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda. She loved an ‘easy life there—the family had one spigot in their courtyard for running water, and she took local buses in her classes. Annie became fully aware of the on-going political strife affecting the northern part of Uganda where children, in particular, are subject to kidnapping and mutilation by the rebels. On returning to the US, Annie has worked with UNight (www.unity.org), an international organization to assist the children of Uganda who are adversely affected by the political instability. As an IRC Vista/AmeriCorps volunteer here in NYC, Annie is the Youth Program Coordinator. She works with refugee children ages 4-20 from all over the world and helps orient them to New York and American life, including the public school system. She administers an afterschool program at the International School in Prospect Heights. Annie credits Berkeley Carroll with nurturing her interest in international affairs. Her ability to get involved and pursue her interests while at BC only reinforced her growing passion. Annie hopes to return to Africa in the near future to work on clean water projects.

Patricia Defline ‘01 graduated from Emerson College in June as a film major and did a summer internship with a New York based studio.

Jeremy Friedman ‘02 graduated from Pace University in 2003 with a BA in biology and environmental studies.

Even though, Jonathan Judge-Russo ‘01 decamped to Regis for high school—he attended BC for lower in 2003 with a BA in biology and environmental studies.

After graduating from Spellman College with a degree in economics, Crystal Nadler ‘01 learned about the economy of a premier sports team, the NY Yankees, as a paid summer intern under the franchise. A varsity athlete in three sports while at BC, Crystal hopes to attend the sports management program at George Washington University.

Jennifer Nadeau ‘02 graduated from Columbia Union College in July and will remain in the Washington, DC area where she hopes to become a physician’s assistant for a few years before heading off to medical school.

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After graduating from Spellman College with a degree in economics, Crystal Nadler ‘01 learned about the economy of a premier sports team, the NY Yankees, as a paid summer intern under the franchise. A varsity athlete in three sports while at BC, Crystal hopes to attend the sports management program at George Washington University.

Jonathan was on the Regis speech and debate team and found he loved the speech-making part of the competitions. From Regis Jonathan went on to attend Loyola College where he realized that if he went into the theater. He became so good at it, that while still in college, he auditioned at the Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, Maryland’s well-known classical theater company, and was cast as the lead, Troilus, in their production of Troilus and Cressida. Jonathan is now back in the heart of theaterland, wants to become a full-time professional actor and is in the process of applying to graduate-level acting programs. He thanks Marlene for “setting the bar” high for her theater productions, and Mike Trano who worked with his English students “hard” but taught Jonathan a lot.

Jamie Winkel ‘01 graduated this spring from Clark University receiving a BA in studio art.

Leen Hartman ‘02 has transferred from Boston College to Bard and is majoring in studying music and education and is composing music and writing. He recently performed for the Brooklyn Community Chorus playing a Corelli violin solo to great applause. He hopes to open a music club in NYC.

Austin Irving ‘02 spent last summer photographing for Sports Illustrated and was selected from among 54 batters over a three-game stretch. Adam ended his senior year at BC as a captain and as a draft pick of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Luckily for Northeastern University, Adam decided to pursue baseball at the college level and postpone his aspirations to play professionally. Adam has proven to be perhaps the team’s most valuable asset as their starting pitcher. During his sophomore season, in a game against Holy Cross, he struck out 11 batters and only gave up seven hits and two runs.

Michelle Duski ‘03 is studying abroad this fall in Australia, where she attended Vassar College.

Julia Lounibos ‘03 continues her line play on the Bowdoin College basketball team and scored 16 points in their Eastern Connecticut Tournament game against Endicott (Bowdoin won 7-2-19). She made 6 of 9 shots including.
Amari Richardson ’03 is currently studying abroad at Smolny College in St. Petersburg, Russia. She recently returned from a winter study program in Treblisi, and had six rebounds.

Julie Ebsenstein ’05 reports she is “loving Vassar” and is already in a student theater production this fall, “Hysteria,” by Terry Johnson. “It’s about Freud,” says Julie, “and I’m sort of playing a fragment of his imagination.”

Last fall, Mara McElwain ’05 took part in an international “Emory Cares” day at her college. She and fellow students filled shoe boxes with personal toiletries and fun items for children and teens who will be entering a foster home in Newton County, Georgia, near Oxford College, where she is a freshman.

Sonia Nayak ’04 is at Brown University and is studying music. She has performed for the Brooklyn Community Chorus performing Mozart’s, Un Moto di Gioia. She is directing her vocal studies more towards opera.

Chloe Kroeter ’04 is enjoying her sophomore year at Barnard College where she intends to declare her major in Art History with the hope of focusing on art in the 19th century. She also is pursuing an interest in Deaf culture and American Sign Language. Over the winter break a group of 2004 classmates got together at a gathering hosted by Alex Dean ’04 and his family. Chloe says, “It was wonderful to see some BC friends again, reminisce about high school, and catch up with everyone’s latest passions.” Chloe is pictured here along with Alex, Rachel Lew ’04 and Joanne Amor ’04. Chloe sends her best wishes to all her classmates.

Elizabeth Schafer Dorsey ’34 on January 30, 2005. She always had fond memories of Berkeley, and her three daughters—Lucy Solomon ’72, Melissa Gevertz ’75, Wallis Lamsque ’79—attended as well. Elizabeth ran a program through her Neptunian Woman’s Club for young artists. For over 12 years she held an annual art contest with at least 100 elementary to high school age children competing for first prize. She will be greatly missed in her community of Manhattan Beach, California.

Dorothy Ashton Coleman ’34 on Christmas Eve, 2004. After having surgery in May 2004 Dorothy experienced a decline in her health. She was always proud of having attended the Berkeley Institute and kept in touch with her classmates, Elizabeth Schafer Dorsey ’34 and attended reunions every May, many times with her brother, George Coleman, or with her daughter, Nancy Mily.

Florence Fiske (Friskie) Wheeler ’36 passed away suddenly in December 2005 of natural causes in Branford, Connecticut. Active in the Branford community for many years, Friskie is survived by her son, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Jeanne Barth ’78 died on November 28, 2004 at Augusta Medical Center in Fisherville, Virginia. Helen had lived in Virginia for the past nine years. After graduating from Katherine Gibbs, she taught accords and piano at the Manda Music School in Deer Park, New York. She is survived by her husband of many years.

Elizabeth Eldert Townsend Fogt ’40 on December 12, 2005 in Woodlawn, Washington. Elizabeth had life-long loves of classical music, playing the piano, French, and other romance languages. She also loved the outdoors. Accomplishments that brought her joy included being a co-founder of Grace Episcopal Church in Duval, and co-authoring a book on birds of the Northwest with her husband. Doug Doug died in May 2005.

Doris Chandler Smith ’43 on October 31, 2005. She is survived by her daughter and son.

Elizabeth Soden Hansen ’48 died on September 30, 2005 after battling colon cancer. She is survived by her mother and siblings.

Susan Evans ’74 passed away suddenly on January 31, 2005. She is survived by her mother and siblings.

William Mulliestein, father of Life Trustee, Mary Shuford and grandfather of Rebecca Shuford ’90 and Virginia Shuford ’95, passed away last April.

Raleigh Cox, former Trustee and mother of former students Amanda Cox and Samuel Cox. Raleigh played an instrumental role in the 1982 merger that formed the Berkeley Carroll School and was an influential presence in the Parent Association. She is survived by her children.
3 of 4 three pointers. In a recent game against the University of Southern Maine, Julie made 15 points (including 4 of 6 three-point shots) and had 6 rebounds.

Amari Richardson ’03 is currently studying abroad at St. Petersburg, Russia. She recently returned from a winter study program in Trebiz, Amari is a Russian/French and Political Science major at Williams College.

Sonja Nymark ’04 is at Brown University and is studying music. She has performed for the Brooklyn Community Chorus performing Mozart’s, Un Moto di gioia. She is directing her vocal studies more towards opera.

Jill Eisenstein ’95 reports she is “loving Vassar” and is already in a student theater production this fall, “Hysteria,” by Terry Johnson. “It’s about Freud,” says Julie, “and I’m sort of playing a fragment of his imagination.”

Last fall, Mara McKelvey ’95 took part in an international “Emory Cares” day at her college. She and fellow students filled shoe boxes with personal toiletries and fun items for children and teens who will be entering a foster home in Newton County, Georgia, near Oxford College, where she is a freshman.

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DEATHS IN THE BERKELEY CARROLL FAMILY

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THE ALUMNAE/I COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

It’s great to be a Berkeley Carroll School alum. It’s even better to be a member of the Berkeley Carroll Alumni Council, because the Council plans fabulous alum/ae activities.

The Alumni Council is looking for new members. Responsibilities include:

• Talking about the good old days
• Thinking of activities that might appeal to your former classmates
• Meeting over lunch at Berkeley Carroll 4 times a year... if you’re local! Joining the group via conference call if you’re not
• Being creative, having fun, re-establishing a connection to your alma mater!

If you’d like to become involved or would like more information, call, email, or visit Holly Kemper, Director of Alumni Relations 718-789-6650 x 6583, hkmper@berkeleycarroll.org

The Berkeley Carroll School
801 Union Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215
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• You can leave a legacy for future generations of Berkeley Carroll students.

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For more information, contact the Berkeley Carroll Institutional Advancement Office at 718-789-6060 x 6580 or via email at advancement@berkeleycarroll.org.

You can make a gift tomorrow that costs you nothing today.

Berkeley Carroll 10th grader Zoe Cohen was awarded the girls’ varsity Most Valuable Player Award. But rather than dwell on what must have been an incredible moment, Zoe would rather talk about her teammates and her coach, Walter Paller.

Zoe COHEN’08

‘Mr. Paller is a great coach. He’s funny but also serious and he totally knows how to bring out the best in us. The other coach, Anthony Ginutse, is very cool,’ she said. ‘As for our team, well, we’re like family. We’re all really close, and our team captains, Katie Rentler and Izzy McTigian, are great. We practice every day, of course, but what makes our team so great is our closeness. No one’s a prima donna. We all play together, and since we know each other so well we know how to play together.’

Mr. Paller called Zoe a ‘coach’s dream.’ Zoe received the Most Valuable Player plaque in November 2005. The girls’ varsity basketball team earned its first ever BC tip-off championship, during which Zoe, a forward, made 29 points. There were only nine girls on the team, so the effort of everyone really counted. This effort, combined with tenacious defense and leadership, propelled the team. Zoe averaged 13 points per game as well as four assists. One of her best qualities as a player was her ability to make her teammates better. Mr. Paller, Zoe, who also plays on an intramural team outside of Berkeley Carroll, is unselfish and extremely coachable.

Zoe entered Berkeley Carroll in the 9th grade after graduating from Mark Twain middle school. She already knew a few girls here, but what really eased the transition for her was sports. As a freshman she played tennis as well as basketball. Being a member of the team helped her meet other people and quickly gave her a sense of belonging.

‘You become friends with one girl on the team,’ she said, ‘and the next thing you know you’re friends with her friends. Playing sports at Berkeley Carroll really makes you feel like you’re part of the school. My sports life is really valuable.’

Ina Clayton Atwood Society

Named in honor of distinguished headmistress Ina Clayton Atwood who served as head of the Berkeley Institute from 1917 to 1947, the society honors those members of the school community who have made a provision for Berkeley Carroll through a bequest or other planned gift. The Ina Clayton Atwood Society celebrates the generous and forward-looking support of those who provide for Berkeley Carroll’s future.

If you have already included Berkeley Carroll in a bequest or other planned gift, we hope you will let us know, so that we can properly recognize and thank you.

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Novel Approaches to Writing

Authors
Yona Zeldis McDonough ’75 and Zoë Rice ’94 share their experiences of writing their way to successful careers.