

Spring 2021

# AADC CLASS NOTES FOR ALUMNAE & Friends

FORWARD TOGETHER, BETTER TOGETHER



*Class Notes submitted to the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College by class secretaries by our June 30, 2020 deadline are published here. The AADC relies on class secretaries for the accuracy of the information. We reserve the right to edit Class Notes. Deadlines are December 15 and June 30 each year.*

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The AADC reports the death of **Frieda Finklestein Feller**, age 100, who passed away on November 19, 2020, in her home in Highland Park, where she had been a resident since 1949. Condolences to her daughter **Barbara Feller Bassano** '70 and extended family. Frieda remained an active alumna throughout the years through the AADC and her involvement as a charter member of the Rutgers Oral History Archives. She served as a longtime Class Secretary and later as President. She was recognized for her service on various AADC committees with a 2007 AADC Alumnae Recognition Award. At NJC, she earned a B.A. in both French and Spanish. She also attended Seton Hall, where she

completed a minor in Italian, and the language school at Middlebury College. She returned to graduate school as a mature student and earned a master's degree in Urban Education from The College of New Jersey.

When her husband Robert, a Rutgers student who became a local businessman, was stationed overseas during WWII, Frieda became a translator in the New York branch of the U.S. War Service Office of Censorship, in Codes, Cyphers and Secret Inks. Her work contributed to the apprehension of an operative, for which effort she was awarded a Certificate of Merit. She later taught Spanish and French at Highland Park's middle and high schools before becoming an Assistant Professor at Rutgers Graduate School and also at Douglass in the Education Department. She took particular pride in teaching courses in educational psychology and curriculum. In addition to her daughter Barbara and son-in-law Michael Bassano, she is survived her son, Arthur; a grandson, granddaughter and three great grandchildren.

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We will celebrate our 75th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

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We will celebrate our 75th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

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We will celebrate our 70th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at

AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

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We will celebrate our 70th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

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I have very little news at this time. I trust that means everyone is hunkering down, wearing masks when you go out and doing all that you can to stay safe.

I have, like many, found new and different ways to mark holidays. Last fall, I enjoyed a Zoom cocktail hour during Thanksgiving, with participants in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Virginia. It worked quite well, really, but lacked hugs and kisses.

After 48 years of calling Plattsburg, NY, on the shores of Lake Champlain, home, **Joan Loewen Dermatis** has relocated to Carlisle, PA. Her three daughters, one each in Georgia, Pennsylvania and Oregon, have been urging her to move closer to one of them, and she opted for Carlisle. She usually spends winters in Douglasville, GA, to be close to her eldest daughter, Debi, who

suffered a burst brain aneurism years ago and is in a nursing home in Georgia. The choice between Pennsylvania and Oregon seems to have been decided by proximity to the most grandchildren (4 out of 5), driving distance to a cabin in the Adirondacks near Lake Placid, and the availability of post facilities attached to the Army War College, which is located in Carlisle. I added a fourth advantage: proximity to our 70<sup>th</sup> reunion in two years. Joan says that some years ago she co-wrote a young adult gothic novel, "Mystery at Woodcliff Hall," under a pseudonym Virginia Jones, which is still available from Amazon and Smashwords.

Condolences: **Billie Jane Davis Angle** died June 22, 2020, in South Carolina where she had moved late in life to be closer to family. After our graduation, Billie Jane had moved to Houston, TX, where she taught public school and met and married Henry Angle, who was serving in the US Air Force. Soon thereafter he was sent to Germany and the pair spent six years there before settling in Columbus, OH, where Billie Jane was a Resource Teacher for 10 years in the Columbus City Schools. She then moved to Fulton, NY, where she lived for 46 years. She continued teaching there until retirement, being certified to teach English, history, and German. At NJC, Billie Jane lived three years in the German House, majored in history and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Later in life, Billie Jane earned an MA from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD. She is survived by husband Henry, two sons and a daughter and their spouses, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was buried in Fulton, NY.

**Dorothy Hoehler Teller** passed away at home in New Providence on August 24, 2020, four years after she and husband Bob had moved to

Lantern Hill from Westfield. A previous class secretary, she had the perfect email moniker "dotell." A history major at NJC, she taught K-5 in the Westfield Public Schools for many years, and after getting a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson in 1989, she became a school librarian until retiring in 1993. She served for 27 years as a board member of the Friends of the Children's Specialized Hospital. She was a member of the Westfield Historical Society, Women for Women, Prevention Links and an honorary member for a quarter century of the College Women's Club. Dot is survived by her husband Bob, with whom she took great joy raising four sons: Kenneth, Stephen, James, Richard. The sons' wives, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren also survive, as does Dot's brother John.

'53

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We will celebrate our 65th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

Condolences: The AADC shares the death of **Sara Jane Karabinchak** on December 9, 2020. She was a lifelong resident of Fords section of Woodbridge, NJ, and of the home in which she was born and raised, where she would raise her own family and live until her death. She was retired

from a career as a teacher at Woodbridge High School and Colonia Middle School. She is predeceased by her husband of 47 years and is survived by a sister, brother and other relatives.

Sadly, we received news of the death of **Beatrice L. DiFrancesco** on January 19, 2021. An engaged and generous alumna, she enjoyed connecting with sister alumnae, participated in many Vanguard reunions, AADC programs and events and cherished our alumnae community. Betty was born in Jersey City, NJ, raised in East Brunswick and resided in Freehold Township for most of her life. Following Douglass, she earned a master's degree from Rutgers and went on to work for the East Brunswick School System until retirement in 1997. She was both a teacher and a school principal. Betty was an Elder of The First Presbyterian Church of Freehold and remained an active member of her sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa, of which she was the founder. She traveled the world and enjoyed gardening and antiquing. She is survived by her brother, two nieces and by three nephews.

'56

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The AADC has announced reunion festivities will be hosted virtually for classes ending in 1 and 6 and 5 and 0 on June 4-5. It will be our 65<sup>th</sup> year reunion and I hope many of you can attend. I anticipate a nice group of '56 attendees.

The pandemic continues unabated since my last column. We continue to find ourselves largely isolated and always aware of the possibility of infection from the coronavirus. The availability of a vaccine is tantalizingly close and that should make a

difference in our current style of living.

In the past, we classmates who live in the central part of New Jersey or even in northern New Jersey have met for various pleasurable occasions, which included on campus events such as the Yule Log ceremony at the Douglass Chapel and the Christmas concert at the Kirkpatrick Chapel at Rutgers. We've always enjoyed and assumed that there were others interested in joining whatever new adventure came up. The pandemic put an end to any plan to meet for any reason. We have kept in contact via phone calls or sometimes via Zoom. So far, I am happy to report that none of the classmates I have spoken with recently have been Covid-19 positive. This means, however, that they do have some feelings of isolation, being unable to see family or to meet friends for lunch or for any other social activity. One very positive addition to streaming services has been the availability of presentations from the NYC Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera, some Broadway shows, as well as classical music. The availability of various online exercise classes such as chair yoga and Zumba has continued to be helpful.

I heard from **Marcy Marcus Feldheim**, who had recently seen some of her children, a treat these days.

**Betty Holland George** is also well, though she misses frequent contact with friends and family. **Lola Fuchs Kamp** continues her private online dance class with the Arthur Murray studio and enjoys it very much. Lola and I have watched on TV the NYC Ballet presentation of the Nutcracker, masked and distanced of course. **Patty Oliver Rege** is thrilled to have met her first great grandchild, a boy, born to her grandson Frank and his

wife, who will carry on the name Frank.

I had a phone conversation with **Julie Heilemann Phifer**. She and Ken are well and are now great grandparents to a great grandson, in addition to three great granddaughters born earlier.

**Juanita "Fiesy" Fieseler**, who still lives in East Windsor, continues her lessons in Scottish fiddling, but only via Zoom. She too is well and takes the usual precautions to avoid the virus.

No change in **Barbara Gilcher Ramm's** status. She remains in her Cranford home and a move to California is on hold.

I have received Christmas notes from **Zelene McDavitt Hutchison** and husband Ralph. They are still in Pittsburgh and are also thrilled to become great grandparents to two great grandchildren.

I also heard from **Roberta Cain Zakarian** and husband Richard. They are still in Santa Cruz, CA. They have not been able to travel because of the pandemic but they hope to do so soon.

Condolences: With sadness I report the deaths of four classmates.

**Dr. Patricia Donly** passed on January 17, 2019, surrounded by family at home in Florida. Dr. Donly was an extraordinary and generous soul who helped countless people through her practice as a clinical psychologist. She was a creative problem solver, with a thirst for travel and life experiences, and was politically active, generously supporting causes in which she believed. She is survived by three children and five grandchildren. Pat was married to Dr. Anthony Pellicane Jr. and moved to Miami, FL, in 1959. She continued her education in Florida, receiving her Doctorate from the Nova School of Psychology.

**Marilyn Koitz Mozenter Spiegel** passed away on January 29, 2020 at Seashore Gardens Living Center in Galloway Township, New Jersey. A lifelong resident of Vineland, NJ, she graduated from Douglass with a degree in home economics and earned a master's in communications from Rowan University. Marilyn served as 4-H County Agent for Cumberland County for decades and in that role, influenced countless young lives. She was on the faculty of Rutgers University Cooperative Extension and was a co-author of a publication, "4-H Public Relations: A Blueprint for Expansion." In 1993, she was honored by the United States Air Force with an American Spirit Award. She was also active in Beth Israel Congregation, serving on the board and as president of the Benevolent Society. As a 50-year survivor of breast cancer, Marilyn also supported and counseled innumerable others fighting cancer. She died from complications related to Alzheimer's. Marilyn is survived by her husband Sanders Spiegel of Vineland and by two sons and daughters-in-law, and six adored grandchildren. She was predeceased by her first husband, Paul Mozenter.

**Dr. Phyllis Grant Roberts** passed away on February 20, 2020, after a long illness due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Roberts served as a practicing pediatrician in St. Joseph, MO, and in surrounding communities from her arrival in 1964 for the next 50 years. She considered healing and advocating for children her highest calling and pursued these goals tirelessly throughout her life. Her diagnostic skills were legendary. During the cold and flu season, she often saw 60-70 patients a day. For much of her career, she operated as a single practitioner.

Born in Bloomfield, NJ, she received her pre-med

degree from Douglass College, then attended Kansas University Medical School, where she was only one of five women (out of a 150 total) in the entering class of 1960. She specialized in pediatrics, and after serving an externship, an internship, residency and fellowship, moved to St. Joseph in 1964 to join the practice of Dr. H.E. Peterson. The rest of her career was spent in St. Joseph and North Kansas City. She married Judge James W. Bill Roberts in October 1964, and had three children prior to her divorce in 1976. She is survived by her former husband and her two sons and a daughter and by eight grandchildren. Phyllis was an avid ballroom dancer, and a lover of all types of music. She enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren, especially at water parks, boating and swimming.

**Judith Adoff Schwartz** passed away on October 11, 2020, after a brief illness. Judy's passing is a personal loss for me as we spent many years and shared many occasions together. After graduating Douglass with a degree in economics, Judy received training to teach young children and also trained as a clothing buyer for the department store B. Altman and Co. and received a certificate in interior design as well. Judy is described by her family and friends as "one of a kind." She had strong opinions about just how things should be done, what clothes were appropriate for a given occasion, style and design conscious, and even what foods made a healthy diet. Yet she was totally accepting of everyone. She lived her life with grace and went out of her way to be generous and kind to all. She was a Girl Scout troop leader and a devoted docent at the Peabody Museum of Natural History. She also volunteered extensively for the

town of Woodbridge, CT, and the school district. She served on the Senior Services Committee and eventually became a member of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. In 2011, she and husband Dr. A. Herbert Schwartz moved to a retirement community, the Whitney Center. There she was active in many community activities, most important to her being the Art Committee, the Lecture Series, and the Women's Group.

Judy was a devoted wife, mother of four accomplished daughters and sons-in-law, seven grandchildren, and two great grandsons. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Herb, whose accomplishments in the medical field were a source of much pride for her.

'57

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In a previous column, I had commented that as we all get older and our bodies impose mobility restrictions, it becomes more difficult for us to get together, thus making sharing news through our Class Notes column an excellent way of keeping in touch with classmates. At that time, I didn't have a clue that there would be an even greater international force at work to further prevent our physically being together.

I've always enjoyed planning ahead and knowing what was on the calendar for next week ... next month ... even, in my optimism, next year. So much for that idea in 2020 and, most likely, much of 2021. That is not to say that some of my previous planning ahead didn't have some advantages. The many books I had accumulated "to read some day" were a treasure when our public library closed.

A well-stocked pantry and freezer helped me worry less when supplies in grocery stores dwindled. But even an optimist has to face facts. The pandemic has forced me to let tomorrow take care of itself and focus instead on the fullness that the present day holds.

A recent "joy of the day" was speaking with my classmate **Marjorie Headley Steinberg**. Marge and I have been friends for almost 68 years since we met as first floor neighbors in Gibbons L our freshman year. Prior to our conversation, Marge had just returned from playing tennis! Her usual Master Gardeners activities have shut down, but Marge has taken several Zoom classes. She is especially happy that her public library has opened. Marge's pandemic philosophy: "Be thankful for the little things" and "We're all coping together." I'm sure our most continuously AADC-active classmate is **Inez Phillips Durham**. My day brightened when I had the fun of a recent telephone visit with Nezi. The pandemic eliminated Nezi's usual travel plans, but she has relied on Zoom to continue other activities, grateful to her daughter Jennifer for helping on Zoom. Nezi continues to serve on the AADC Awards Committee and was excited about the success of the AADC Black Alumnae Network's October 2020 conference honoring Douglass Dean Dr. Jewel Plummer Cobb. She noted the challenge this year was that the conference had to be hosted virtually. In spite of this, there were inspiring speakers, and hundreds enjoyed the conference.

I was happy to have a phone visit with **Gerry Mark Stapleton**. Gerry is remaining positive in spite of the social restrictions. She misses the YWCA-sponsored aqua aerobics, an activity she has enjoyed for 20 years. She had also participated in exercise

programs offered by Bridgewater Seniors. Gerry is pleased that her church has reopened for services and looks forward to the time when fuller programming can safely resume. Gerry's message to her classmates: "Stay safe and stay well."

I received such an emotional lift each time I talked with a classmate whom I hadn't seen for a while. I urge all of you reading this column to phone a classmate. Connecting via a low-tech telephone call is easy and fun.

Condolences: Sadly, we report the death of **Kathy McAdam** on December 30, 2020. She was a psychology major at Douglass. A retired system analyst for PSE&G, Kathy was a devoted Rutgers basketball fan, attending every home game, keeping score and making friends with the players on the Men's and Women's teams. Men's Coach Steve Pikiell said, "I saw her before every game. I saw her after every game. She's such a wonderful person, so passionate about Rutgers and Rutgers basketball." When news of her death appeared on social media, scores of Rutgers basketball players, past and present, men and women, took time to express their sympathy on her death and their appreciation of her unwavering support. Sadly, no one is allowed to attend games this season, but when things get back to normal, there will forever be one seat at the Rutgers Athletic Center that will be empty for everyone.

'58

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We did it! We were able to pull off the first ever Class of '58 Zoom Reunion in September. I was thrilled with the result and hope we can do it again in the spring and that many more of

you will join in then. The following classmates were in attendance: **Pat Kurz Ameling, Mary Coles Arena, Lu Megerdichian Bills, Mary Alice Bisbee, Lynn Schwartz Cooper, Loretta Dunkleman, Tam Martinides Gray, Joan McCance Grover, Laura Rau Hofing, Gail Phillips Houlihan, Gretchen Ehrmann MacLachlan, Emma Kuck Ohnemus, Ellen Miller Samuel, Sherry Weissberg Spiezle, and Ellie vomEigen Winslow**. Everyone spoke a little about their life and accomplishments today and some gave us insight as to what they have done in the past and hope to do going forward. The feedback I received was that everyone enjoyed it.

**Gail Phillips Houlihan** is wrapped up in the holidays. And although they will probably have passed by the time you read this, I think she has a great message. She writes, "I am writing this as I scramble to wrap Christmas gifts to mail to my families in Florida and South Carolina. The Florida family is leaving soon to ski in Telluride, so I have little time to get my Santa gifts to the two Miami grandsons. They are now 14 and 16, not exactly looking for something from Santa. What ever happened to the Elf on the Shelf? Their wish lists are filled with things like gift cards, a wall tapestry, or some technical device. Not a mention of a Hess truck or superhero dolls! I always like to have something for them to unwrap but, as I said last year, this is the last year, as next year it will be a card and check! I know I am doing things like wrapping (who even looks at it?) for me. It's hard to give traditions up, but time to make new ones. It is especially difficult facing this time of Covid-19. I wish each of you joy and hope and pray that you are well and staying strong and healthy in the new year."

**Judith Appel Werner** has been diligent on keeping us up to date with her activities. She writes, "I continue to play the organ at various churches on a substitute basis and played the whole summer at the Bay Head (on the Jersey Shore) Chapel. The music program is stellar, having been richly endowed by Lee Bristol of Bristol-Meyers Pharmaceutical. On an almost ludicrous note, I was asked to teach (I'm 84!) part time in Rumson (near where I live) and although it was temporary, I thoroughly enjoyed being useful and youthful. My daughter and her family are living in the States for the first time in their married lives and loving Newport, RI, where my son-in-law is at the Naval War College. Such a strange and stressful year; I sincerely hope that we all remain healthy. It takes courage to grow older, but Douglass women can rise to that!"

**Susan Koszeghy Naef** writes from her home in upstate New York, describing the ups and downs of her current life. She and husband Charlie are great-grandparents now. She writes, "Our great grandson by marriage, Henry, is now in third grade and lives just an hour from us. Our great grandson by blood turned two and lives with his mom in Southern Indiana. His dad is married and is raising his wife's little boy. The boys are the same age and are playmates. Perhaps to us, old timers, none of this makes sense. The long-term chair of our Concerts Committee has asked to step down and a friend and I have offered to take over as co-chairs. While the group used to bring excellent live concerts, we are now engaged in making connections to offer virtual performances. These have included the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society. I still lament that choral music is no longer a part of my life, but have signed up for a virtual

Messiah sing-in with a chorus I formerly sang with. The last time I sang Messiah with them was in 2016 on the stage of Carnegie Hall. Enriching my life are also regular videos from curators of museums I've always loved. What I miss most, as I'm sure many of you do, is live contact with friends. But the important thing now is to stay safe until there is wide distribution of the vaccine. Hang in there!"

**Lu Megerdichian Bills** submitted some random thoughts about the Pandemic: She cleverly writes, "To Zoom or not to Zoom: I must admit I am not a fan. I find it mostly frustrating. Thank goodness we can keep up with loved ones with Zoom, but having a conversation is rare. Hooray for the libraries: After going through my personal library, I was miserable until my hometown library in Scotch Plains introduced a clever plan for reserving and disseminating books. With no overdue fines! Football: When the powers that be decided to allow college football games to proceed under strict guidelines, I was happy. I am a fan of Big Ten football since my years of education were earned at Rutgers, Michigan and Iowa, where I met my husband Bing. Yay, Saturdays. Cooking: I used to love cooking and trying new recipes. Now whenever I think about what is for dinner I want to cry. And baking? If I never see another bundt pan, it will be too soon.

During this pandemic, the holidays will surely be compared to the many others we have celebrated. Remembering the holidays at Douglass, Lu continued, "A vivid memory that comes to my mind are those frenetic days before holiday break, doing last-minute research for term papers, making up missed tests, getting ready for the Christmas Formal, playing Santa at the Christmas party on Gibbons campus, and

attending the Yule Log Ceremony in the chapel, where I felt privileged to be a Stair Senior. Sharing that special night, in the darkened hall, with so many of my classmates is what I will remember during this holiday, and not the pandemic."

Condolences: Sadly, I report the passing of **Barbara Shampanore Abegg** on August 11, 2020, in Olympia, Washington. She is survived by her brother Rick, former husband Ed, daughter Sharon Abegg and husband Jeff Cook, and son Rick Abegg and wife Micki.

**Marguerite "Margo" Doyne King** passed away on November 9, 2020, after a battle with dementia. She was a social worker in Newark, NJ, and active in South Orange and Maplewood communities before becoming a realtor once her sons were older. Margo is survived by her husband Richard of 61 years, sons Richard and Ryan, and her adored grandchildren, Lindsay, Kathryn and Caroline; a sister, Roberta, and niece Marlowe.

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Since many of us have been homebound for most of 2020, there's not much current news to report for our class column. So, instead, we will take a trip down memory lane to read about class memories from the past.

The news for this class column focuses on a group of our classmates who spent junior year abroad! No, not in France, Spain or Germany, but at Newark State Teachers College (NSTC) in North Newark, NJ, including yours truly!

My classmates and I were Elementary Education majors, and Douglass did not have those courses in New

Brunswick, so 37 of us (according to the major listed under our senior photos in the 1959 *Quair*) spent our junior year (1957-1958) at Newark State Teachers College (NSTC), in a program sanctioned by Douglass College and NSTC, where the first semester was spent on Education courses, and in January 1958, each of us embarked on two months of student teaching,

After completing our student teaching, we then returned to Newark State Teachers College, which had left downtown Newark and had moved to its new location in Union. That site eventually became Kean College!

I was one of the 37 students, whom I euphemistically call the "Study Abroad In Newark" group, so for junior year, I returned to my parents' home in Westfield after living on the Douglass campus for my first two years (in Gibbons H and Corwin S) and I commuted to Newark State each day. Fortunately, my mother was employed as a clerk at the Newark Board of Education, and so I drove from Westfield to Newark with her each day and then took the bus to NSTC.

As for housing and transportation during my student teaching in January and February 1958, I had another lucky break when I was assigned to a sixth grade at the Redwood School in West Orange. The lucky break? One of my mother's distant cousins, who lived in West Orange with his family, offered me room and board and the use of a car! Wow! Was I lucky! And my student teaching experience was top-notch!

Our cohort of 37 returned to the Douglass campus in September 1958 for our senior year, and the only other way to distinguish us from our non-Elementary Ed classmates happened at our

commencement ceremony on June 3, 1959, when those of us with Elementary Ed as our major (thereby earning a B.S. degree) walked at the end of the graduation line, behind those classmates awarded a B.A. degree.

Here are some memories from other "Junior Year Abroad at Newark State" classmates:

**Phyllis Saskin Shames** writes, "Junior year I lived at home in Bayonne and car pooled to Newark State with **Isabel Scher, Barbara Anish, and Ruthie Seiden**. Isabel did most of the driving. I did cement some good friends that year.

"I did my student teaching at 14th Avenue School in Newark. It was a seventh grade class but very slow learners. I commuted by two buses. After graduation, I taught for six years in Union City, Rutherford and Edison. Mostly first and second grade. Once a fifth grade. My first paid teaching job was teaching a first grade class.

"I remember that **Lois Rabinowitz** married during Christmas vacation of our year at NSTC. When we returned to school after vacation, she invited a few of us to lunch at her new apartment. I was so impressed that she knew how to cook! She was the first of my friends to marry."

As for her current activities, Phyllis, who lives in Boynton Beach, FL, tells us that "**Rhoda Katz Brenner, Lois Rabinowitz Steinberg** and I get together on the first Friday of each month, meeting in Rhoda's driveway and staying socially distant. My only other scheduled activity is picking up my grandson Aidan at school every day. His parents are letting him go to an actual school but don't want him to ride on the bus. So I'm it!"

From **Sherry Sabin**, "I remember several things about that year, most especially that it was a wasted year as far as

education was concerned! My friend Carol and I lived in Dr. York's Home for Young Folks in Newark. It was a lot of fun to live there because there were Rutgers Law School students living there! I practice-taught in Montclair and it was wonderful. My cooperating teacher was a marvelous teacher and I learned so much from her. Hard to believe that was 62 years ago."

When I subsequently asked Sherry about her teaching career after graduation, she replied, "Yes indeed, I became a teacher. I taught 40 years in grades three through six plus some English to adults who either had not finished high school or just did poorly in English and needed help for business. I loved it all. When I went for my interview to teach in Palisades Park, the superintendent, Dr. Profetta, was thrilled that I had graduated from Douglass College. He hired three Douglass graduates that year!"

From **Barbara Anish Chertoff**, "That time at Newark State was very hectic. We had many courses and we did our student teaching. I lived at home and commuted with **Isabel Scher Weisman**. We were on a merry-go-round. One day on our trip home, we got stuck for hours in a snow storm. Had to go to a Tasty Truck to buy cupcakes. All in all we had fun."

From **Sandra "Sandy" Lewis Sanders**, "I lived at Ford-Sayre Home for Christian Girls with **Denis Sills** and two other girls, whose names I don't remember. It was right around the corner from the original Newark State. That was the year the school moved to Union. I did my student teaching at Pleasantdale School in West Orange and it was a wonderful experience. Commuting to West Orange for student teaching, and then to Union for classes after student teaching was a whole different story."

From **Lois Rabinowitz Steinberg**, "What was junior year abroad, at Newark State/Kean College like? It meant living at home with my parents for the fall semester, taking two buses every day, and commuting to Newark State for classes; becoming happily married over Christmas vacation; and then returning to school in Union at the now Kean College campus in February. Needless to say, classes there were nothing like the classes at Douglass. But the group of us bonded and had fun. One incident stands out in my mind, and I believe for those who were part of it, as well. We were taking a class in the spring on how to teach music in the elementary school and were separated into small groups. Instead of my group finding a place to get together on campus, I suggested we go to my apartment, which was just 10 minutes away. And so the four of us, **Betty Loebel (Baer)**, **Joan Berman (Arbeiter)**, and **Carrie Sward (Chesler)** debarked for my apartment. I eagerly showed everybody around my one bedroom, three-room apartment. As we entered the bedroom, there was quite a sight next to the bed: when my husband undressed the night before, he had pulled off his pants with his underwear inside and his socks hanging out, only to leave them there. I don't know who was supposed to clean them up, but it was not me! I don't remember anything about our project, or how we did, but I certainly remember the incident."

From **Fran Pardus Carey**, "I lived at home during my junior year at Newark State. I was lucky enough to get rides into Newark State from some friends who attended NJIT. When the college moved to Union, I drove myself. I practice taught at a Hillside elementary school. My mentor was a young teacher, Mrs. Hyman, who was very helpful.

One of the classes I surprisingly enjoyed at Newark State was the shop class. I remember making a barn which I kept for many years. Being able to complete all my education classes within the one year was a blessing. All the required courses were completed within that time."

From **Ellen Sue Knopf Spicer-Jacobson**, "During my junior year at Douglass College, I attended Newark State Teachers College, because Douglass did not provide classes for elementary teachers, only high school. I think living off campus that year was one step towards my independence as an adult. I stayed with the aunt of my older sister's husband in Newark, doing my own shopping, cooking, and generally being on my own. I believe we were the first students in the newly built facility in Union, where we studied after our student teaching was completed. I must have taken public transportation since I did not have a car. I also don't remember doing any after-class activities because I was commuting. I much preferred living on campus back at Douglass. The classes at NSTC were not especially difficult. If I remember correctly, there were many practical classes that would supposedly mimic hands-on experiences in the classroom. However, I clearly remember my first year of teaching that when I did my lesson plans on paper each week over the previous weekend, I always had to change them because I never accomplished what I set out to teach. I was always behind!

"What wasn't taught and what I sorely needed was how to keep control of the classroom, although I have to say that most of the children were attentive. But I still feel there needs to be courses on classroom management and even how to help special needs

children who are mainstreamed part of the day. Finally, as a teacher, the classes at Newark State did not show me how to reach different levels of learning that I experienced in the classroom. The super smart kids were more or less able to work independently, but the slower learners fell behind because I could not juggle fast, slow, and average learners when teaching classes such as math and reading.

"I think Newark State Teachers College was a good experience, but incomplete, and I trust that students now learn about classroom management (for behavior), organizing one's lesson plans to help all levels, and having aides to help with classes in general. Teaching 25-30 children every day is an incredible task and I don't remember how I actually accomplished that with no aides or teacher-in-training as a second set of hands.

"For my student teaching, I think I did first grade in a school in Newark, but I do not remember the school. But I remember the class, because there was one little boy who would not stay in his seat and I told him I would tie him to his seat. He said, "My teacher already tried that!"

"My first year after college I taught fourth grade in my hometown district (Hamilton Township, then part of Trenton). Then I married and moved to Irvington, NJ, and taught at South Mountain School for another two years until I became pregnant. (I also taught fourth grade; I like older kids.) In between having my children, Ira and Eileen, I worked as a substitute teacher, as I also did when I moved to Suffern. But my favorite job was in Lower Merion, PA, where I switched from the classroom to working in the kitchen of a large cafeteria that had a hoagie bar, freshly made sushi, a pasta bar, a soup bar,

a salad bar and much more! Kids were much more polite in the cafeteria than in the classroom!"

Classmates, we would be happy to share your memories of "Junior Year Abroad at Newark State Teachers College" (or any other news) in the next Class News column!

**Irene Figarotta Pearse** wrote, "I wish everyone in the Class of '59 a wonderful, safe, healthy, happy, prosperous, fun-filled new year. May there be no pandemic in 2021! Let's hope we can get together soon in person."

Condolences: Our classmate **Sydell Ann Ruskin Zuckerman**, 82, passed away on July 8, 2020, in Sarasota, FL. Formerly of Somerville, NJ, and Delray Beach, FL, Sydell was born October 17, 1937, in Plainfield, NJ, to the late Esther and Earl Ruskin. She was graduated from Plainfield High School in 1955, and from Douglass College in 1959. She later achieved an MS in Psychology from Rutgers University. She became a Phys-Ed Instructor for the Bradley Gardens School in Raritan, NJ, a health teacher for The Kennedy School in Bridgewater, NJ, and a water safety instructor at several summer camps, including Camp NoAm.

She was predeceased by her former husband, Sheppard Zuckerman, and by her longtime companion, Cy Lieberman. She is survived by her sons, Edward Zuckerman, of Denville, NJ, and Allan Zuckerman, and her son-in-law, Luis, of Sarasota, FL. She also leaves behind relatives, and a loving circle of friends from her growing up years in Plainfield, NJ.

Sydell loved swimming, playing bridge, dance, reading, entertaining, and all of the arts. Before becoming ill, she regularly delivered a mean game of Scrabble of 450 points, or more. She had a special relationship with

Judaism and more recently Humanist causes. She was a longtime member of Temple Shalom in Bridgewater, NJ. Sydell volunteered most recently for a literacy campaign at the Sarasota Jewish Federation. Most of all she loved her sons, to whom she was particularly close.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sydell's family.

**'60**

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Due to the spread of the coronavirus and cancellations, we will celebrate our 60th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021. Stay tuned for more information from our class president **Phyllis Talluto Logie**.

**'61**

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We will celebrate our 60th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021. Mark your calendars and join the celebration!

**'62**

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**Bernice Proctor Venable**, who is from Somerville, NJ, shares, "Somerville installed a 75-foot mural commemorating Black History Month and it showcases many of our folks from the Somerset County

area, among the numerous historic figures, such as Paul Robeson and Sojourner Truth. This mural was featured on News12 and I posted it on Facebook. I do plan to visit. Well, by happenstance, one of my League Chapter colleagues sent me a photo – and what a surprise to see that I am included on the mural! I never thought of myself as an historic figure, except for my age!"

The Downtown Somerville Alliance unveiled the Black History Month walk-through mural as an exhibit on Division Street in early February and it will be on display through March 5. The artwork is a public tribute to African-American innovation and pays homage to important figures in history.

**'63**

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Thanks to **Christine Pattee** for hosting the DC Class of '63's monthly Mini-Reunion Zoom gatherings: topic discussion on the second Tuesday and book discussion on the fourth Tuesday, always at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. To be included on the announcement link list, please email her at . Email her at c2pattee@aol.com.

**Lynne Agress** tells us that last fall she was teaching "Great Writers in Small Doses: The Short Story" on Zoom at Johns Hopkins again. She writes, "Because so many registered, I have two sections. Douglass classmates **Susan Goldfine** and **Penny Freedman** are in one of my classes. I am still writing op-eds for "The Baltimore Sun," walking through my community and reading more than ever. For the AADC, I have been calling classmates to see how they are coping during the pandemic and to find out if they are retired or still working or just to say hello. I've spoken to

nearly 50 classmates and it has been most interesting. Many went to graduate school and our classmates live all over the country."

**Susan Goldfine** shares: "I have been keeping busy organizing my travel photos in albums. Reviewing the trips makes one long for the time when one can travel again. **Chris Patee** was inspired to organize a mini monthly Zoom for interested class members. In addition, there is a monthly book club hosted by various classmates and a film club, which is hosted by **Ruth Weiner Ross**. The discussions have been interesting. Pre-discussion there is a show and tell of unique projects that some of our classmates are involved with, either as a hobby or in their work. People can participate at their convenience. It is a good way to keep in contact and socialize.

I also subscribed to a short story course through Johns Hopkins' Odyssey program, which was given by our own **Lynne Agress**. The course got me to read some short stories that I had never read before and to reread others. Discussing the meaning of the plot with others was interesting. Also looking for alliteration and onomatopoeias was fun. I would recommend any literature course that Lynne teaches since this was so interesting."

**Roberta Headley** informs us that: "I have Lymphoma and earlier this year I was diagnosed with lung cancer. Luckily it turned out to be just stage 1, and it was removed. On my recent visit to my hematologist, he said everything looked good! I have stopped tutoring adults and I order groceries online. My daughter lives only 15 minutes away and teaches fourth grade in person. I have seven grandchildren ranging from 12-24 years old. My twin sons live in Seattle and Pasadena so I

don't see them and their families very often, but they call. I live in a condo with my husband. My main interest until recently was oil painting."

**Jean Schonhoffer Herzo Humecky** has been retired for 18 years after being a math, computer programming and Russian language teacher. She writes, "I received my master's degree in Mathematics from Montclair State University. I have three children. Daughter Pamela graduated from Cook College. She works as a project manager for Storch Engineering. My son John graduated from Rutgers and Whittier Law School. He is an International Trade lawyer in Washington, DC. I have four grandchildren, ages from 13 to 23. I travelled to many countries and lived for 12 years in North Carolina. I live at the Jersey shore and still love to travel."

**Elizabeth Grieder Ricci** notes that she retired from high tech a year ago, the last 12 years as a software development executive. "Currently keeping busy on the Board of Directors at my 55+ community and working as a 2020 Census taker. On the plus side, learning all the streets in my new hometown of Londonderry, NH. On the negative side, taking a risk with the pandemic going door-to-door, in spite of mask, gloves and hand sanitizer, and discovering that there are some people who do not cooperate. It has been a humbling experience, since I'm used to calling the shots and being treated with respect. In the meantime, I enjoy my getaway on Lake Winnepesaukee, a tranquil respite when I was working, and spending time with my six grandchildren and four grand-doggies. My grandkids range in age from 10 to 20. My eldest is a sophomore at Temple University, studying actuarial science. My youngest enjoys horseback riding, dancing and

sailing. I am a proud grandma. The world is in so much turmoil, it is hard to stay positive, but I am trying. I count my blessings every day and pray for my family and the country."

**A Broken Heart — In Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsburg**  
By **Connie Borde**, *Co-Chair of the DAFrance Women's Caucus, formerly DNC Representative and Chair of Democrats Abroad France:*

Today is a sad day. Like many Americans, I mourn the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. And like many American women who came of age in the 60s, I lost the woman who stood for everything I believed in and who had our backs: equal rights for those who were deprived them, for women like me, but also for the many in our society. Here's what Bill Clinton said when he appointed Ginsburg to the Supreme Court:

"Throughout her life, she has repeatedly stood for the individual, the person less well off, the outsider in society, and has given these people greater hope by telling them that they have a place in our legal system, by giving them a sense that the Constitution and the laws protect all the American people, not simply the powerful."

All of RBG's written opinions reflected her beliefs; she never wavered. When the Court sadly moved to the right, her dissenting opinions were eloquent monuments to the cause of equal justice under the law for all — minority rights, voting rights, women's rights, workers' rights, gender equality, and more. While we mourn her death, we'd better get ready for the fight. "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," she said.

**Betty Jane Crater Meulenbroek** says that "not

much has changed since the virus here. My husband and I live on Lake Winnepesaukee, allowing us to both see family and stay put this past summer. No big gatherings, remote meetings and all travel postponed. Our garden and hobbies keep us active. Not exciting, but rather safe. Hopefully this new norm can return to the old sooner rather than later. Best wishes for good health to the rest of our class."

**Diane Mason Davenport** reports: "We moved from New Jersey to Eastern Pennsylvania in 2012 and our life has been pretty much family visits and doctor appointments. Ned has had leukemia since 2005 and I was diagnosed in 2019 with a sarcoma in my leg, which was removed, but metastasized later that year to my lungs, which also required surgery. I am now dealing with stage 4 cancer and under the watchful eyes of a team of doctors from the Summit Medical group in Florham Park, NJ. All in all, when I read about other folks' health problems, I still feel lucky to have worked all my life, have good health insurance and excellent care. Most of my working life was as a librarian at the County College of Morris, but I also worked for St. Peters hospital as a dietitian and Rutgers Library of Science and Medicine. I loved helping others learn how to research! I hope all of my classmates are coping and keeping safe. At this point of my life I really think each day about the impact of staying away from my friends and family members and hope that our sacrifices are making a difference."

**Theresa Perri Ammirati** says: "Having retired from my long tenure at Connecticut College, I am currently living in Brookline MA, enjoying city life, being near at least some of my children and grandchildren (even at a distance) and

fervently hoping for the end of the pandemic. Like everyone else, finding ways to keep busy reading, playing piano (badly) sewing, walking, and volunteer work, as well as getting involved politically at a level I haven't attained since the sixties. Stay well and safe!"

**Florence Morcheles Weisz** recently shared some of her artwork in the fall through a Zoom program hosted by the AADC NYC Regional Connection Group. Her exhibit of presidential manipulations collages she created during the last 40 years about six American presidents from Reagan through Trump was on exhibit at the InLiquid Gallery in Philadelphia through mid-November.

**Sydell Kessler Levy** states: "Not much new to report. Probably my husband and I are doing what everyone else is doing these days which is masks, distancing and staying home. The pandemic and age dictate the current adventures. Yet, this down time together has its positives: walking with a new sense of purpose, appreciating husband and connections with friends, acquaintances and family. My wishes are that this turn in our lives and in this country's history bring health, well-being, peace and positive events."

**Jane Freed Polgar** echoes the feelings of many of us: "Thanks to **Christine Pattee**, I've found a silver lining to our new way of living and rediscovered my classmates. I never dreamed of seeing some of you again, yet here we are, getting together monthly on Zoom. Chris has come up with themes, discussion topics, even an exhibition platform for our artwork, poetry, collections, special interests. I've never felt so in touch. Life goes on far from Douglass (in San Diego) in our large house with a big back yard. For once I'm glad

not to have scaled down! Stay well and safe, everyone."

**Patricia Molnar Hunt** tells us: "We visited my husband's son and family in Melbourne, Australia, last Christmas. It was a family reunion in that his other son who lives in France also joined us there. We spent five days in Melbourne, and a few days in a rented house at the beach. That was an exceptional time. The Aussie son and family went to Tasmania with us for a week. We rented a car and drove all around the island. The coast line is quite rugged, but the interior consists of rolling hills where there are many sheep farms and only two-lane roads. His son and wife from France met us in New Zealand. We spent only a short time with them since they camped their way through both North and South Island. We just got together for a few hours in Queenstown. South Island is spectacular. We especially enjoyed seeing the blue penguins, the fjords and waterfalls. It was an outstanding trip. Shortly after we got home in January, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. We were fortunate to travel when we did without getting the virus. We've been home since then, still virus free, staying safe and wearing masks."

**Karen De Waal** says: "My activities with the Guild of Glimmerglass Festival were mostly put on hold this year, as well as playing viola with the Baroque Ensemble of the Palm Beaches. Hoping for more live concerts in 2021!"

**Maxine Greenberg** notes: "I am hunkering down here in St. Mary's by the Sea in Bridgeport, CT. I live in a wonderful community; it reminds me of Park Slope in the '60s. I still have a small psychotherapy private practice, use Zoom and am slowly retiring! I love gardening, cooking, reading, and visiting with friends in our garden (quaranteams I call them) one

couple or two at a time. It is wonderful but I wonder what winter will be like. Got a fire pit, but don't think that will do it! Have been doing tai chi, and want to keep active, but I must admit I need a nap once in a while! Lol! My husband is retired, a professor emeritus at Fairfield University. We have been married 53 years! Oy vey! My daughter and her husband are professors at the University of Illinois, Champagne Urbana. The distance is hard and we cannot see my two grandsons often enough. All in all, it's a good time except for the terrible Covid-19-19 and political circumstances. Regards to all."

**Linda Summers Kirsch** tells us: "I am well and getting out more (church and singles group plus grocery shopping. The virus is not as bad here as elsewhere). Having fun on Ancestry with 27,000 cousins. I didn't know that was possible. I met 10 cousins I didn't know I had after moving to Western PA in 1996, but Ancestry is way beyond anything I ever dreamed of. Some of the cousins I contacted by email are very kind, and one of them actually took the time to show me (long distance) how we are related. Our common ancestor goes back to the 1600s. Many stories have grown out of the contacts I have made. Recently I recovered from breast cancer after two years, but I still have to take the meds and see my oncologist regularly. That will be for another two or three years. Some time ago I dragged my guitar out of the closet to play in a church band started by a friend of mine who is very musical. We also played in a trio with me on the piano, my friend on the cello and another woman on the violin. We played a hymn based on Beethoven's Ninth (Joyful Joyful)."

According to **Barbara Drushell**, "During this pandemic, **Chris Pattee's** mini-reunions on Zoom have been a

welcome addition to my life. It has been wonderful for me to see the artwork, listen to the poetry (and read my own!), and learn of the outstanding accomplishments of many of my fellow classmates. What an impressive group the Class of '63 is! Though I only taught university classes sporadically during my working career, mostly following my oil-exploration husband all around the world (we lived for many years in Egypt, Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam). After retirement, I became a regular teaching-volunteer for the OLLI program in my college town of Davis, CA. That and volunteering for various church groups and the local hospital have taken up some of my time, and travel and get-togethers with friends and family have occupied most of the rest. Both of my children live near me, which is especially welcome since my husband died, and my grandchildren are now very interesting teenagers. We're seeing each other on Zoom these days."

**Esther Barcun** is coping with the times. She wrote: I Do What I Can  
I do what I can to make the world better by making a call or writing a letter  
To ask my congressman or state legislator to take the right action or be a creator of progressive new measures turned into laws that promote social justice and get rid of the flaws in our social fabric that make life so hard  
for so many of us whom we can't disregard.  
So do what you can, make the right call,  
fight for the things that benefit all  
like clean water, clean air and food safety too.  
You'll be glad when you realize it will benefit you!

**Sue Ellen Knoblauch**  
**Chelico** writes from Canada: "Appreciated your surprise

phone call and hearing about our Guelph & Weldon Library connections & sorry if I blabbed so long, it was the highlight of my week! Our latest hobby is a new car which replaces decrepit 2017 model. Figuring out how all the updated bells and whistles work, though challenging, is a distraction from the pandemic. Lifting the intimidating 10 ton bilingual owner's manual is excellent exercise. We are blessed, amen. Stay safe, Sister Sue."

As for me, **Carole Shaffer-Koros**, I am busy with academic work on Edgar Allan Poe and Edith Wharton. I have given several Zoom lectures to adult organizations. I currently serve on the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Historical Society, Bridgeway Rehabilitation (mental health), and the Edgar Allan Poe Association. As Class Secretary of DC '63, I await your news for the next AADC class notes.

Our condolences to the husband and family of **Ruth Welch Kolkner**. After 57 years of marriage to Ron, Ruth passed away on July 13, 2020 due to cancer. They were married in August 1963, had a wonderful life together and have two married children and five grandchildren. Ron misses her terribly.

The AADC recently learned of the passing of **Adrienne Viola Strubel Doll** on August 16, 2019, in California. Her son David shared the news and wrote, "she was the best mom anyone could ask for and she loved that she was a graduate of Douglass." In addition to her son, she is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren and a sister.

'64  
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For all I've spoken with we agree it's been a year like no other. Zoom is a verb, an adjective, a gerund and more. That being said, and even hunkered down, here's what's sort of new.

Although she and Doug, Rutgers '63, have retired as co-presidents of the Art Society of Monmouth County, in October **Stephanie Strassner Frank** did her first virtual art show. Otherwise she and Doug have been limiting their activities and reading whatever her book club suggests. Stephanie's been keeping in touch with **Sheila Herbert** (who hibernated briefly in Vermont) and **Alice Pancza Milchanoski**.

#### **Marilyn Barbisch**

**Zawoyski** emails that all is well with her in this odd year. In the summer she was able to get in more golf than usual but she says this unfortunately did not improve her game. Being outside with friends had a greater benefit.

Given the excitement of an election year, **Karen Goldsmith Adelman** couldn't stay out of it and found some challenge in being a Democrat in a Republican Florida county. She became secretary of the Democratic Club and helped with various election-related activities. And while she loves the advantages of living in Vero Beach she found the election work gave her new insight into the community. Otherwise, although she hasn't seen them in almost a year, Karen keeps up with her 7 grandchildren, walks a lot and plays bridge daily, on-line.

Another classmate enjoying her bridge, as well as tennis and golf, is **Arlene Asper O'Connor**. When I caught up with her she had just driven north to New Jersey from Naples, Florida, where she and her husband had spent a quiet month. They will be back south in a month or so. In the meantime she keeps up with her seven grandchildren.

Three are in college, one has graduated and three are still deciding what's next.

And speaking of Florida, **Carrie Popiolek DeCarbo** says she now lives there full time and loves it. One change she's found is that she used to prepare school lunches for 26,000, served on time, in the New Jersey school district where she worked. Now, says the former Home Ec major, sometimes it's a challenge doing lunch for one on time. When I called Carrie was working on a sandwich for husband Jerry of mortadella, capicola on jalapeno bread. Mmm. Like many in the past year we're both doing a lot of reading. She's been doing hers on an iPad and we compared authors.

**Gail Waldstein** had a busy year, first Covid-19 (she's recovered) and then a knee replacement, which took her a while to get used to. She has seven grandchildren, three in Paris, two in San Diego and two relatively nearby in Colorado. I asked if she was still writing and the answer is yes, sort of. Gail is doing a book on CRISPR for her grandchildren. She also won a Faulkner prize for a poem and has been working on a medical memoir. She says her challenge is deciding if the latter should be one book or two. Gail acknowledges she is a good writer, just not good at submitting her work. Both of her published books are available on Amazon: "To Quit This Calling: Firsthand Tales of a Pediatric Pathologist" and "The Hauntings."

And thinking of books, **Barbara Genser Avrahami** has been busy getting her books out for sale. With Covid-19 so prevalent in Israel she is no longer teaching and has turned down the opportunity to give private lessons. Barbara has written four vocabulary books for junior high and high school and 11 for learning ABCs and reading. The

vocabulary books have Hebrew and Arabic glossaries. Everything is being put in a catalogue by her graphic designer.

For those of us still working, even part-time, it was fun to compare notes. **Judy Fischer Feld** is still doing executive coaching. Although we're in different lines of work, we compared interview techniques and had an interesting discussion. She now focuses on certain populations and has a virtual practice. Additionally she just finished an article for "Choice" magazine (the magazine of professional coaching). Although spending much time hunkering down with her husband and not seeing their 13 grandchildren, she is still active professionally with the Network of Executive Women, Dallas. Judy says she finds it interesting that with Zoom calls people seem to be even closer than in the prior luncheon meeting format.

#### **Elizabeth Troccoli Boris**

emails she remains active in the AADC Washington, DC, Regional Connection Group. Otherwise she is happy to have finished her "big" project, adding on to her home so she and Jay may age in place. The addition has also given her a new study with lots of windows. Elizabeth enjoys this as she works on several research projects for her organization, the Urban Institute. Although traveling is currently out she says she looks forward to seeing her newest great-granddaughter.

Because I get her emails I find it interesting that **Rita Wald Sklar** has started using the net (and our social distancing) to describe how she creates some of her art work. The description goes beyond her typical Californian scenes; e.g., in one she draws silver colored objects then uses a glue gun to achieve a 3D effect. After this, color is added, the background is

darkened, silver acrylic paint is added and more differentiating occurs. Check out her website: [www.ritasklar.com](http://www.ritasklar.com) to see what I can't do justice to describing in this column.

Condolences: In the sad news department, we offer condolences to the family of **Dolores Heck Jones**, who passed away on May 19, 2020 in Mequon, Wisconsin. After Douglass, Dolores taught German and was awarded a National Defense Educational Act Institute scholarship sponsoring summer programs for teachers of German at Princeton University, followed by a second round of programs in Freiburg, Germany. She then earned her master's in German from Middlebury College. Dolores continued to teach German in New Jersey and Chicago before moving to Mequon, where she not only taught but became a certified aide for the education of challenged students. Dolores was always a warm, interested and caring woman which showed in her continuing activities in her community. She is survived by her husband Bob and sons Brian and Kevin and his wife Mary.

#### '65

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We will celebrate our 55th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5.

At present, I am the only officer for our class. If anyone would consider stepping up to serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer or Alumnae Representative please let me or the AADC know. I enjoy keeping up with classmates and contributing Class Notes.

In November, **Nancy Spence Morrow** won re-election to her local school board in North Hanover Township for a third term! Added to this good news, her grandson, Decker, was graduating from Clemson.

Have you ever met anyone who has served in our country's Foreign Service? If you know our own **Margot Reiner**, then you know a Foreign Service Officer. From seventh grade, Margot had set her eyes on a career in the Foreign Service. She finished her degree in Political Society at Douglass in three and a half years and worked for Dr. James Rosenau, coding data for his book, "Public Opinion and Foreign Policy," until our graduation in June 1965. Margot moved to DC and roomed with classmates **Mary Nicolini** and **Maggie Sullivan**, and went to work for a congressperson from Texas. She took the exam in December 1965 and entered the Foreign Service Class, one of 30, in February 1966. Margot found every assignment given to be her favorite. Each was a different job and environment; as Consular, Administrative Officer or Country Personnel Officer in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Lima, Peru; Saigon, Vietnam, during the war; Manila, Philippines; and Brasilia, Brazil. Assignments within the US were with the Board of Examiners and in the State Department's Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs. She was the Deputy Administrative Officer at the National Commission of International Women's Year Conference in Houston, TX, in 1976, when Bella Abzug was Chairperson. In the course of her service, Margot trained in Spanish, Portuguese and German and studied law in Manila. She has many stories to tell about each assignment. Margot left the service in 1981 and moved to California to

paint and lecture. She lives in Los Angeles, where she lectures on current events and contemporary issues. It has been very difficult to reduce her career to these few paragraphs. I am hoping she will write a book!

The following is an excerpt from an email from **Pamela Kraft** with the year-end news from her work with the Tribal Link Foundation, Inc. She writes, "After a long and difficult year, we hope this letter finds you well. Along with everything else, the pandemic has greatly affected our work and indigenous people in general. Our annual Project Access training program was cancelled along with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous issues conference. Indigenous peoples are suffering disproportionately from the pandemic. However, it has been remarkable to witness the resilience and we have been adapting to this new world as well. We are developing an online training program and hosting Zoom sessions."

'66

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Thinking back to last year at this time! Who would have guessed that we would be facing a pandemic? I hope you will take a few minutes and contribute to our class column. I am looking forward to hearing from you!

The big news is that we will celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021. Our Class Vice President and Reunion Chair **Trudy Feidelseit Burdman** looks forward to connecting with classmates at Reunion. Remember we do have a

FaceBook page. Posts are welcome. Please check it out. I hope you stay safe!

'67

Nancy J. Schumann  
68 Overlook Drive  
Clinton, NJ 08809  
nancyjeanneschu@hotmail.com

Greetings! When I composed our last class notes in June, we were only a few months into the Covid-19 shutdown. I needn't review what has come to pass during the succeeding time, as we've all been living it. That having been said, I happened upon a phrase which pretty much describes 2020 for us: It has been an "annus horribilis." One need not have Latin to be able to understand the meaning, does one? Let us join together with hope that 2021 will bring better times.

Class President **Janet Sage** sends the following message from Florida: "I would like to convey most sincere wishes for all the strength, patience and perseverance we all need during this challenging time. Stay well and happy as best you can. One day at a time! Godspeed and lots of love." These wishes were sent as Janet awaited hip replacements.

Included in my recent request for news from our classmates, I asked, "How are you doing?" A couple of our classmates summed up our current situation succinctly. **Phyllis Koczela Wolfe** responded, "Sorry, nothing this time, wishing all peace."

**Susan Lipton Malin's** description of her life sounded all too familiar to me: "No trips. No visitors. Just Zoom and Netflix."

**Elaine Auerbach** reported that she's working on her next book, which is now scheduled to be released in this spring. She also spent time making pre-election calls.

I hope you have had a chance to read the wonderful contribution our classmate

**Kathryn Ruth Bloom** made to the ongoing AADC project, "Sharing Our Stories." Kathryn and I chatted by phone a few times, but more information about her life post-graduation was included with her story. An English major at Douglass, Kathryn enjoyed a long career in corporate communications in the biopharmaceutical industry. After retiring, she completed a Ph.D. in literature at Northeastern and now has a second career leading literature classes in retirement communities in the greater Boston area. Kathryn's story from the pandemic was titled, *Marie Kondo was going to be proud of me*. Her description of her intent to "get rid of all the stuff that no longer sparked joy" had me nodding my head in agreement. After working on this project for weeks, she finally made the decision "not to downsize right now: Many of the very things she was originally tempted to discard had taken on renewed purpose and usefulness." I can relate. After all, the one project I'm continuing to avoid is returning my bedroom closet to its original walk-in status! Thanks so much for sharing your story with us!

**Holly Elissa Bruno** described the current status of her writing and speaking as having grown "topsy turvy." However, her book, "Happiness is Running Through the Streets to Find You," quickly sold out. The subject matter, "translating trauma's harsh legacy into healing," proved relevant in today's society. All of her keynote speeches have been postponed. In her inimitable fashion, Holly describes herself at present as a VKAD-WUP (Virtual Keynoter Appropriately Dressed from the Waist Up) during Zoom sessions! She is working internationally with inspiring clients and loving her work. Her parting comment is meaningful: "I do love how things fall into place, even

when at first the abyss threatens.”

**Jane Schwanwede**

**Cowan** hopes that we're all taking good care of ourselves during these crazy times. She and husband Archie have been spending a lot of time isolating at their vacation home in Whalehead Beach, Corolla, NC. The gulls, tides and sunsets continue as normal, which I'm sure lifts their spirits while at the beach. Jane's been doing a lot of reading, crocheting and painting with watercolors. Like Kathryn, Jane says she has not made much progress on her ambitious household to-do list items. Her parting comment: "I'm giving myself a free pass on most of them. Stay safe! Better days ahead!"

**Diane Alberti Gallo** and I have been in during the months of shutdown. Diane and her husband are doing what they can to make the world a better place. It's been hard not visiting their children and grandson, but working on the election campaign, continuing with her art, and moving back to Summit have kept her busy. She's been keeping in touch with classmates, including **Jo Potuto, Mary Lou Fenili, Holly Bruno, Barbara Crooker, Mary Cunningham, Gail Price** and others. She's anxious to step in line for a Covid-19 vaccination and hopes that all of us are staying safe and keeping sane. Diane is looking forward to an our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2022!

**Sharon Matlofsky**

**Karmazin** is missing the days when AADC friends from all classes joined her in NYC for a great lunch and a matinee performance of whatever the latest show she was co-producing on Broadway (*Eclipsed, Dear Evan Hansen, Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*, etc.). She looks forward to the return of those wonderful days when we can be together

again. She notes that her next show will be *Sing Street*.

**Carolyn Verse**

**Steinbuck**, who has not been in touch in 50-plus years, reached out in November. After receiving a Master of Music degree from University of Wisconsin, she got married and moved to Elk, a small coastal town in northern California. She and her husband had three sons, and she now has six granddaughters. Carolyn was widowed at age 39 and has since married her best friend and fellow musician Francis Rutherford. She retired after more than 30 years of teaching music at two community colleges, performing solo piano and chamber music, directing three choruses and working as Executive Director of the Mendocino Music Festival for 10 years. She's still performing at the Festival and at local chamber music series and sings in a women's ácapella group, "In the Mix" (inthemixsingers.com). Carolyn would love to hear from anyone who remembers her, especially her roommate **Barbara Helfrich Mason**. Carolyn sends good wishes to all during this strange and challenging time! Note from Nancy: I have Carolyn's contact information if any of you would like to reach out.

As for me, I've been keeping in touch regularly with dear classmate and friends **Peggy Smith, Cheryl Masingill, Ellie Rand Giovanielli, Maryann Langen, Ellen Fischer** and **Jane Schwanwede Cowan**. All of us have been following pandemic guidelines, staying safely at home. The best phone chats we've had have included laughter, even when we're laughing at ourselves! I'm working hard to count my blessings each day. Recognizing the role of humor in maintaining balance, visits with two of my "pod" contacts, Peggy and Bill Smith, have

included laughing at "Maxine" cartoons. We carefully avoid stressful topics, keeping conversation on the light side. We've also been sharing enjoyable movie DVDs which lift our spirits ("The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," "The Runaway Bride," etc.). I finally conquered the "art" of Zooming, so have attended various AADC virtual events and programs, as well as my local book group! I also spend some time most days online with sites that offer cultural programs (WQXR, the Met Museum of Art, NJ Symphony). I enjoy time coloring, as well as doing jigsaw and crossword puzzles. In other news, I'll be chairing our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion planning committee. Let's hope our Reunion in 2022 may be held on campus. The AADC planning timeline suggests that we should form our committee sometime this summer, with meetings and planning to take place between September 2021 and June 2022. If you'd like to join the planning committee, please let me know!

There is something exciting that we'll need to keep in mind as we plan: Our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion coincides with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AADC! A committee is already at work planning events and program to honor this milestone. The theme is "AADC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Proud History to Bright Future." It will be great to celebrate our reunion and participate in this exciting time.

Well, dear classmates, that's it for this edition of our class notes. Only a few of our classmates responded to my request for news this time around, but I'll welcome any responses to my question "How are you doing?" between now and next June. In the meantime, I wish you good health, comfort and peace!

Condolences: Sadly, I report death of **Joyce Helen Smoyak** on April 25, 2020 at

the Venetian Care Center in South Amboy, NJ. Helen was born in and was a lifelong resident of the Fords section of Woodbridge Township. She was a member of John Calvin Hungarian Reformed Church of Woodbridge. Joyce was a Research Engineer/Study Supervisor for Bristol-Myers Squibb for 14 years before her retirement in 2003. Our condolences to her family and friends.

'68

**Bonnie Frost**  
48 Crestview Drive  
Bernardsville, NJ 07924  
Bfrost2@comcast.net

Sadly, we report the death of **Katherine Sunday Bernhardt**, on December 26, 2020, from complications from pneumonia and Covid-19. Kathy and her devoted husband of 52 years, Ken, met the summer after she graduated from South Brunswick, NJ, High School and married after her graduation from Douglass. They moved to Ann Arbor, where she earned a master's in Library Science at the University of Michigan and then became a children's librarian at the Detroit Public Library. Kathy was a voracious reader who delighted in every opportunity to instill her passion into the minds of young children. In 1972 they relocated to Atlanta, where she served as head librarian at the College Park Branch Library and the Stewart-Lakewood Branch Library. After the birth of their daughter Karen, Kathy became a project manager for Focus Interior Contracting. From 2007 to 2018 she served as the volunteer Executive Director for the Honduras Agalta Valley Education Foundation. She loved time spent with her walking group, book club, Moms' Group and many friends. Traveling to new places around the world brought her great pleasure and she relished bringing treasures

home, no matter how great the challenge of fitting them into her suitcase. Her energy was boundless as she gave time generously as a volunteer to Trinity Presbyterian Church, The Westminster Schools, Susan G. Komen and the Alliance Children's Theatre. In addition to her husband and daughter, she is survived by her mother and two sisters. The family is grateful for the loving care provided by Roxie Ebanks after Kathy suffered a stroke three years before her death. A celebration of her life will occur in summer 2021.

'69

Terrese Williams Martin  
Terre.martin3710@gmail.com

'70

Linda P. Clark  
Lpclark48@verizon.net

Thanks to the coronavirus, we were unable to celebrate our 50th reunion in June. We look forward to a joint celebration with the Class of 1971, who will also celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5. Stay tuned for more details and save the date to join us.

Class President **Sheila Kelly Hampton** shares that **Judy Dolin Bentkover** has been hosting their Old Woodbury B group on Zoom.

**Gae Pisciotta Chilla** welcomed her first grandchild, Frank Joseph Chilla. Sadly, we also offer condolences to Gae on the death of her mother, Louise Pisciotta, on April 12, 2020.

We also offer condolences to **Rocki Cadematori Lorenc** on the death of her mother, Ann Cadematori, on May 30, 2020.

In addition, class condolences to **Barbara Feller Bassano** on the death of her mother, Frieda Finkelstein Feller '41, on November 19, 2020, at the age of 100.

Condolences: Sadly, I report the deaths of three classmates. **Vivian Veis Grossman** passed away on April 15, 2020.

**Nancy Witt Mulick** passed away on December 24, 2020. Nancy spent most of life in both Columbus, OH, and in Millville, N.J. She was Chair of the Art Department and an Artist-in-Residence at The Wellington School in Columbus for 27 years, retiring in 2011. She also taught classes at the Rhode Island School of Design and The Gordon School when she lived in Rhode Island. As Director of Special Programs at The Barn Studio Art, she founded the Maurice River School of Art Workshop in 2009 to bring landscape artists from throughout the U.S. and overseas to her native South Jersey. Following Douglass, she earned an MEd from The University of Vermont and an MFA from the University of Massachusetts. Her work is in collections in the United States, Europe and Japan in permanent collections at The White House, The Dard Hunter Paper Museum and The Ossabaw Island Collection. She is survived by her husband, son, her mother, a sister and brother and their families.

**Denise Mauler Kurish** passed away on April 21, 2020, from lung cancer. After graduating from Douglass, Denise went to Rutgers Medical School and then completed her education at Tufts Medical School with a fellowship in general radiology. She and her husband of 46, Dr. David Kurish, did their residency together and moved to Sharon, CT, where they worked at the community hospital and raised their family. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their three children, two grandchildren; two sisters and a brother.

'71

Jean Lindsay Mervine

15 Groff Street  
Clayton, NJ 08312  
jmervine@comcast.net

We look forward to a joint celebration with the Class of 1971, who will also celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

Condolences: We offer condolences to the family of **Dr. Mary Ann Conover Jensen**, of Franklin Township, NJ, who passed away at home on December 17, 2020. Mary Ann was born and raised on her family's farm in a 200-year old farmhouse. At Douglass she majored in Spanish and met her husband, Peter Haakon Jensen, who was attending Rutgers College, and was married in 1972. She pursued her doctorate and took a position in the Counseling Department at Glassboro State College (now Rowan University). She spent the next several years working in the counseling department and raising a family before transitioning to a position as Director of Psychological Services at Douglass College. During this time, she also worked in a private practice. In 2002, she moved back to Franklin Township to a home next door to the family house where she grew up. In 2011, Mary Ann retired from Rutgers University after more than 20 years, but continued working as a psychologist in a private practice, seeing clients until the day she passed. She loved spending time with her family and friends and was an active member of the churches she attended, teaching classes and volunteering with charitable services. In addition to her husband, she is survived by their three children, her brother and sister, an aunt and several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

'72

Beret Erway

24 Meeker Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
Originalberet@yahoo.com

Do you realize that 2022 will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion, making us the Vanguard Class the same year that the AADC will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary? What a special time for the Class of 1972! We expect plenty of special celebrations to mark these very special occasions. Meanwhile, send us your own personal news or let us know about gatherings you and your classmates celebrate together.

'73

Pamela Merrill Zysk  
233 Mansfield Grove Road  
East Haven, CT 06512

'74

Lori Krevsky Miskoff  
41 Wilk Road  
Edison, NJ 08837  
lmiskoff@yahoo.com

'75

Donna Lee Iozia Jones  
3035 Carriage Trail  
Hillsborough, NJ 27278  
Donnaleejones13@hotmail.com

We will celebrate our 45th reunion. **Ellen Shopowich Horowitz, Meryl Orlando, Jenny Wong, Jeanne Fox and Jacqueline Gray Travis** have been meeting and we will keep our classmates posted. It will be a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

'76

Denise K. Busby  
keandkb@yahoo.com

We will celebrate our 45th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021. Save the date!

'77

Marcia Murchio Hannigan  
20 Dogwood Terrace  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
Mmhannigan55@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Nancy Mencil Jenkins** on the birth of her third grandchild. Daughter **Katie Jenkins Cooke** '10 and her husband welcomed son James Edward on January 31, 2021. He joins a big brother and big sister. Best wishes to all.

'78

Kathleen Skettini Bailey  
1190 Gator Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
kasbailey@gmail.com

'79

Anju D. Jessani  
501 County Road 639  
Bloomsbury, NJ 08804  
ajessani@dwdmediation.org

**Debbie Lynch** is serving as co-chair of the AADC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee is already at work planning events and programs to honor this milestone. The theme is "AADC 100th Anniversary: Proud History to Bright Future." There will be many events leading up to the official anniversary on June 10, 2022. Debbie invites all alumnae to get involved and stay tuned!

'80

AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

We will celebrate our 40th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration, hosted virtually, with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Mark your calendars to join us.

'81

Randi Greenberg  
17 Catherine Court  
Lawrence Harbor, NJ 08879  
Rsg224@optonline.net

We will celebrate our 40th reunion at a double celebration of milestone class years ending 5 and 0 and the 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

Class Vice President **Dr. Jocelyn Briddell** will host a gathering via Zoom on March 18 to discuss ideas for a class gathering during Reunion celebrations in June. Please copy and paste below link to RSVP and join us at the gathering:  
ahttps://bit.ly/3q9guGX.

'82

Maria Vitale Loos  
62 Lincoln Drive  
Clementon, NJ 08021  
formavml@yahoo.com

'83

Elizabeth A. Asaro  
51 Delaware Avenue  
Lambertville, NJ 08530

'84

Lisa Berry  
106 Yardley Pl, Apt. 5B8  
Hockessin, DE 19707

'85

Kim Thompson Demopoulos  
914 Willow Avenue  
Hoboken, NJ 07030  
Kim\_paul\_nyc@yahoo.com

We will celebrate our 35th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration, hosted virtually, with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Save the date.

'86

Anne Dudajek Fogarty-Santomauro  
227 Cold Spring Lane  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
anne9598@gmail.com

Our 35th reunion celebration will take place at a joint reunion with the milestone class years of 0 and 5, as well as 1 and 6. Save the date for AADC

Alumnae Reunion Weekend, on June 4-5, 2021.

'87

Marie Arnold  
1101 Overlook Terrace  
Union, NJ 07083  
mearnold@verizon.net

'88

Marianne Ficarra  
33 Tyson Drive  
Fair Haven, NJ 07704  
ficarra@aol.com

Wishing all a kinder, safer and more hopeful 2021. This past year has been one of enormous losses for many who have experienced the death and illness of loved ones from Covid-19; and lost jobs and financial stability. Everyone has experienced isolation and distancing, losing the ability to be face-to-face with family members and dear friends.

The AADC has been instrumental in enabling us to come together virtually via virtual events and programs over this past year, and will continue to do. Personally, this has proven to be a touchstone for me, to my alumnae friends. I hope that you will use our class notes as a vehicle to communicate your experiences and discoveries realized during these isolating times, or just to check in and say hello. Let's stay connected!

**Phoebe Godfrey**, Ph.D. will deliver the Zagoren Lecture virtually hosted by the AADC on Saturday, March 6.

We also look forward to the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of **Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt** '42 in April (and the sixth year of her annual career development symposium in the fall). And in June of 2022 we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AADC!

Sending virtual hugs and hoping to hear from or see you soon at a virtual program.

'89

AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'90

Victoria Sonshine Pasher  
v12sp@aol.com

Our class will celebrate our 30th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Class Co-Presidents **Joan Henderson Collier** and **Sandra Sinnicki Rogan** encourage classmates to save the date and stay tuned for more details about Reunion, which will be hosted virtually.

Congratulations to **Caprice R. Jenerson** on her new position as the President & Attorney-in-Charge for the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York. Most recently Caprice served as the Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer and Director of the Pro Bono and Volunteer Unit for the New York Legal Assistance Group, where she addressed systemic issues of racism in the criminal legal system.

'91

Sarah Shopland Skelton  
skelton@optonline.com

Our class will celebrate our 30th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. This virtually-hosted reunion will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Save the date.

'92

Carla Haynes Harper  
19 Dudley Court  
Sterling, VA 20165  
carlahaynes@msn.com

Please send news to share with classmates!

Condolences: Sadly, the AADC reports the death of **Aleece Marie Isoldi** on January 6, 2021. Aleece was born in Belleville, NJ, and was a lifelong resident of Lyndhurst. She earned a Bachelor's degree in sports medicine and

went on to work for Axa Equitable in Secaucus for over 20 years, where she became a manager. She is survived by her mother, her brother and his wife, two nephews, an aunt and uncle and by many other family and friends.

'93  
Carol K. Dougherty  
1204 Wynnbrook Rd  
Wilmington, DE 19809  
museumchick@yahoo.com

'94  
Haydee Perez-Livingston  
hycus6@msn.com

'95  
Mary Hrywna  
38 Lenox Avenue  
Green Brook, NJ 08812

Our class celebrates its 25th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. Save the date and stay tuned for more details about this virtual celebration. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Email from our class officers, including Class Historian **Melissa Barnett Schrier**, was sent about Reunion and encouraging classmates to consider serving as a class officer for the upcoming term.

'96  
Tara M. Strickland  
1922 Ravens Crest Drive  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536  
taramrogan@aol.com

We will celebrate our 25th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. I hope you will all join the virtual celebrations. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Classmates received email about Reunion from class officers Fund Agent **MaryBeth Musumeci** and **Maggie Moran Doherty**, our Alumnae Council Representative, and myself.

Save the date to celebrate and please send updates to share.

'97  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'98  
Jean L. Cook  
jeancook@gmail.com

'99  
Stephanie Kaminetsky  
sorr2@mac.com

'00  
Christina Vassiliou Harvey  
15 Stafford Court  
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690  
christinajv@yahoo.com

We will celebrate our 20th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. Save the date for virtual celebrations. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6.

'01  
Rebecca Springswirth  
117 Barcroft Drive  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
bspringswirth@gmail.com

We will celebrate our 20th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Save the date for the virtually-hosted celebrations.

**Ikecia Lenese Mapp** is serving as co-chair of the AADC 100th Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee is already at work planning events and programs to honor this milestone. The theme is "AADC 100th Anniversary: Proud History to Bright Future." There will be many events leading up to the official anniversary on June 10, 2022. Ikecia invites all alumnae to get involved and stay tuned!

'02  
Aimee Slabinski Linke

294 Gatzmer Avenue  
Jamesburg, NJ 08831  
aslinke@aol.com

Congratulations to **Aimee Slabinski Linke** and her family on the birth of her third child and first daughter, Olivia Mary, in November.

'03  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'04  
Nicole Givelekian Donnolly  
nicole419@gmail.com

'05  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

Reunion will be hosted virtually this year. We will celebrate our 15th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Save the date.

'06  
Stefanie Lachenauer  
steflach@gmail.com

Reunion will be hosted virtually this year. We will celebrate our 15th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend June 4-5, 2021. It will be a double celebration with the milestone class years of 0 and 5 and 1 and 6. Save the date Please send news.

'07  
Danielle Josephs  
danielle.josephs07@gmail.com

It would be great to hear from classmates. Please send news!

'08  
Ariana (Ria) DasGupta  
arianada@gmail.com

**Amanda Ackerman** began working at Rutgers as an Assistant Dean in the SAS Honors Program in January

2019. She and her husband had an eventful 2020, buying a new home in the spring and welcoming their third child to the family in September. She hopes all her fellow alumnae are staying safe and healthy!

**Rachel Fee** is still living in San Francisco, CA. She just celebrated her second anniversary at Snapdocs, a technology company building software for businesses and professionals that operate in the mortgage industry.

**Sharae Allen-Martin** is currently in the middle of her eighth year as a Special Education teacher in Brooklyn. This past fall, she landed a three-book deal and her paranormal romance will be published next year by Grand Central Publishing. She looks forward to training for her next race and writing her next novel.

As for me, after moving back to New Jersey from San Francisco last March, I was hired as an inaugural Chief Diversity Officer for Georgian Court University in Lakewood, NJ. I am still dancing and part of the teaching faculty for The Leela Academy and an ensemble dancer with The Leela Dance Collective.

'09  
Brittany DeRonde  
48 Kingsley Street  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
Brittany.deronde@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Rosanna lancau** on her new position as Director, Learning, Change Strategies & HR Analytics at L'Oréal.

'10  
Kathryn Jenkins Cooke  
13 Stratton Circle  
Troy, NY 12182  
kmjenkins87@gmail.com

We will celebrate our 10th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

Congratulations to Class Secretary **Katie Jenkins Cooke** and her husband on the birth of their son James Edward on January 31, 2021, who joins a big brother and big sister. Best wishes to Katie and family, including her mother (and proud grandmother to the new baby) **Nancy Mencil Jenkins '77**.

'11  
Alexandra Anastasia  
215 East Mountain Road  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844  
Alex.anastasia11@gmail.com

We will celebrate our 10th reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021. Please send news!

'12  
Karin Oxford  
Karin.oxford@gmail.com

'13  
Melissa Gabilanes  
mgabilanes@gmail.com

'14  
Leslie Holt  
leslieholt@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Kelly Gugger**, MA, CCC-SLP'S, on her new position as Speech Language Pathologist at Summit Medical Group of New Jersey.

Congratulations to **Kate Thomas**, who shared that, "I went on a socially-distanced road trip and came back with a fiancé. Kyle Green has my heart now and forever." Kate notes that she is looking for a new position in social work in the Boston area. Kyle recently passed the bar and became an attorney.

'15  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

Save the date for Reunion 2021. We will celebrate our first five-year reunion at a double event with the milestone class years of 5 and 0 and 1 and 6 at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

**Allie Kroeper** was named a recipient of a PIT SNL (Saturday Night Live) Scholarship as part of a program that aims "to engage comedy students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds and initiate significant steps toward progressive recruitment of diverse candidates." Allie regularly performs improv and was active on stage during her days at Douglass. You can see some of Allie's work on YouTube.

'16  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

We will celebrate our first five-year reunion at AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend, hosted virtually on June 4-5, 2021.

'17  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'18  
AADC

classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'19  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

'20  
AADC  
classnotes@  
douglassalumnae.org

### Bunting Alumnae Notes

Marianne Ficarra  
33 Tyson Drive  
Fair Haven, NJ 07704  
ficarra@aol.com

Wishing all a kinder, safer and more hopeful 2021. This past year has been one of

enormous losses for many who have experienced the death and illness of loved ones from Covid-19; and lost jobs and financial stability. And everyone has experienced isolation and distancing, losing the ability to be face-to-face with family members and dear friends.

The AADC has been instrumental in enabling us to come together for virtual programs this past year via Zoom. Personally, this has proven to be a touchstone for me, to my alumnae friends.

Our annual Bunting Connections Affinity Group Virtual Holiday Party was held in early December. Thanks to **Jean D'Amore '09** for her endless energy in organizing this gathering.

We also look forward to the 100th birthday of Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt '42 in April (and the sixth year of her annual career development symposium in the fall). In June of 2022 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the AADC!

I hope that you will use our class notes as a vehicle to communicate your experiences and discoveries realized during these isolating times, or just to check in and say hello. Let's stay connected. Sending virtual hugs!

## Mission:

*The AADC is an independent 501(c)(3) organization. The AADC develops and promotes connections among Douglass alumnae by providing programs, services, networks and life-long learning opportunities that represent the interests and needs of our diverse alumnae. The AADC provides prudent stewardship of the Douglass Fund and other endowed funds held by the AADC for the benefit of Douglass; distributions from these funds contribute financial support to Douglass and her students.*



**Forward Together.  
Better Together**

Spring 2021  
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**AADC Board of Directors**  
*Listing as of January 1, 2021*

Valerie Anderson '81, MBA  
*Executive Director*

Jeanne M. Fox '75  
*President*

Lisa Dorio Ruch '89  
*Vice President for Administration*

Linda Caldwell Epps '73  
*Vice President for Development*

Karen Lynch '79  
*Vice President for Alumnae Relations*

Tina B. Gordon '72  
*Vice President for Marketing & Communications*

Stephanie Cayne '89  
*Secretary*

Kathi Love '75  
*Treasurer*

Elizabeth A. Murray '87  
*AADC Annual Appeal Chair*

**Members**

Ruth Toni Armstead '74  
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Linda P. Clark '70  
Tynisha Coleman '08  
Debra Lynch '79  
Dianne Mills McKay '69

Yesenia M. Perez '12  
Evangelia Repousis '00  
Heather E. Tedesco '12

**AADC Staff**

Eileen M. Cotter  
Cathleen Fitzgerald  
Natalie Harrington '87  
Lizeth Martinez '13  
Egypt Pringley '16  
Anne Marie Russo  
Susan Wallace

**Design:** Patricia Downes,  
Dutch Hill Design

## Upcoming Virtual AADC Events and Programs

To register, visit [www.douglassalumnae.org/event-registration](http://www.douglassalumnae.org/event-registration)

**Saturday, February 27, 2021**

**AADC Black Alumnae Network Virtual General Body Meeting**

Hosted via Zoom, 1:00 pm EST

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**AADC Commemorates Women's History Month featuring the AADC 2021 Zagoren Lecture**

Featuring Phoebe Godfrey '88 Ph.D., Associate Professor-in-Residence in Sociology at the University of Connecticut and co-founder CLICK (Commercially Licensed Co-operative Kitchen). 2:00 pm EST

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**Guided Career Journaling Virtual Event**

Reset your goals and regroup at this event hosted by the AADC Victoria Dabrowski Schmidt '42 Workshop and Professional Development Symposium Planning Committee. 6:00 pm EST

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

**AADC Mabel's Alumnae Mentoring Program Circle: Finding Work-Life Balance in the Time of COVID**

A new opportunity to connect virtually to learn and share experiences about work-life balance during the pandemic. Hosted virtually 7:00 pm EST.

**Thursday, March 25, 2021**

**AADC Excellence in Inclusion and Equity Initiative Workshop**

Featuring Cynthia Bowman, Chief Diversity & Inclusion and Talent Acquisition Officer at Bank of America.

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

**AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend 2021 Planning Committee Meeting**

Hosted virtually from 6:00 to 7:00 pm EST.

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**

**Spring Alumnae Council**

*New time!* Virtual doors open at 10:30 am EST; Meeting begins at 11:00 am

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

**Virtual Evening Honoring AADC Benefactors**

Our annual invitation-only event to honor benefactors will be hosted virtually this year.

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

**AADC Celebrates Founders Day and AADC Awards Ceremony**

We will honor 2021 AADC Awards recipients.

**Monday, May 10, 2021**

**AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend 2021 Planning Committee Meeting**

Hosted virtually from 6:00 to 7:00 pm EST.

**Friday, June 4, and Saturday, June 5, 2021**

**Virtual AADC Alumnae Reunion Weekend 2021**

This double celebration for milestone class years from the 0s & 5s and 1s & 6s and heralds the Vanguard 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion of the Class of 1970 and 1971.

**Deadline, Friday, June 25, 2021**

**2021 AADC Society of Excellence Nominations**

**Upcoming AADC Alumnae Travel**

**Morocco:** November 12-21, 2021

**Egypt:** January 25-February 5, 2022

**Spain & Portugal:** June 22-July 3, 2022: Marks AADC 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Please note, due to the unprecedented pandemic, alumnae travel trips may be disrupted or rescheduled in accordance with our travel vendor, AHI Travel.*

### **AADC 100th Anniversary: Proud History to Bright Future Reaching a New Milestone in June 2022**

It takes many hearts, minds and hands to plan our memorable celebrations as we build up to our exciting milestone. We need you! Volunteer to serve on subcommittees, including Marketing and Communications, Development, Alumnae Relations and Memorabilia. Alumnae interested in volunteering for the 100th Anniversary Committee, please email the AADC at: [douglassalumnae@douglassalumnae.org](mailto:douglassalumnae@douglassalumnae.org).