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Note: This booklet includes the names and addresses of the members of the Washington University Class of 1969 who have asked to be included. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the Reflections Book information. Documents of this magnitude, however, are likely to contain some errors. We apologize in advance for omissions or errors, and we urge you to send corrected information to Washington University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 1210, One Brookings Dr., St. Louis, MO 63105-2103, or via e-mail to alumniassociation@wustl.edu. If you know that a fellow alum who is not listed as such is deceased, please let us know. Thank you.
Reflections
James “Jim” L. Arger

Favorite Campus Memories

I will always remember holding hands with my girlfriend as we strolled around the beautiful Washington University campus from the Brookings Quadrangle to Fraternity Row.

Life Since Graduation

I was a gold and currency trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, a real estate investor, and an area manager from Santa Monica to Beverly Hills, California for an international parking company.
Harley Balzer

Favorite Campus Memories/ Life Since Graduation

Given that I became a Professor, my strongest attachment to Washington University remains the outstanding academic environment it provided. The faculty I worked with in History and Political Science gave me the basic tools that allowed me to do well in grad school and in my academic career.

After graduating, I enrolled in the PhD Program in history at the University of Pennsylvania. After several years as a TA, I spent a semester in Helsinki and then a full year (1975-76) in the Soviet Union doing thesis research. My dissertation was on the engineering profession and technical intelligentsia in Russia before the 1917 Revolution.

After surviving a near-death experience, I was Visiting Professor in the History Department at Grinnell College in 1977-79. I then spent three years at Harvard’s Russian Research Center and MIT’s Program in Science, Technology and Society. At Harvard, I became involved in a project interviewing Soviet emigres who had worked in science and technology in the USSR and then in the U.S. So my first book wound up being a quantitative study more in political science/sociology than history.

In 1982-83, I was awarded an American Historical Association Congressional Fellowship and worked in the office of Lee Hamilton. One of my responsibilities was getting authorization for the Soviet and East European Research and Training Act. The bill passed, and the following year it was funded. This legislation has put $4-5 million per year into research on the region.

In 1983, I began teaching as a visiting professor in Georgetown’s history department. I spent 1985-86 in the Soviet Union, where I had a front row seat to Gorbachev’s initial efforts at perestroika. I returned to Georgetown with a large NSF grant to study the A Soviet Technostructure, and then was invited to take over the vacant Directorship of the University’s Russian Area Studies Program. I served as Director for 14 years, added a number of faculty positions, and stepped down after elevating the program to being a Title VI National Resource Center, now called the Center for Eurasia, Russian and East European Studies.

My second book was an edited volume on Gorbachev’s Unfinished Revolution, that pretty much cemented my shift from history to political science. I continue to publish in both fields.

In addition to my teaching and writing, I was involved in several projects to aid education and science in the former Soviet Union. In 1992-93 I was the Executive Director of George Soros’s International Science Foundation for the Soviet Union and Baltic States, a $100 million project to support scientists in the USSR. We administered the first successful peer reviewed grant competition in the region, and taught Soros enough about the Internet for him to allocate another $130 million for Internet centers at Russian universities.

In 2006 the Ministry organized its own competition to fund research universities. I also serve on the Board of Trustees of the European University at St. Petersburg, perhaps the most successful of the new private higher education institutions created after the demise of the USSR.

When George got bored with science, I worked with the MacArthur Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and Russian Ministry of Education to establish a program called Basic Research and Higher Education. We funded 20 centers combining research and education at universities across Russia. When we began the project in 1997, we were told to avoid using the term research university, because in the Soviet Union the Academy of Sciences did the research while universities focused on teaching. By 2006 the Ministry organized its own competition to fund research universities. I also serve on the Board of Trustees of the European University at St. Petersburg, perhaps the most successful of the new private higher education institutions created after the demise of the USSR.

I taught in the Government and History departments and the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown until July 2016. Since retiring, I have continued to write, done some teaching, and spent more time with my wife. Through all of the experience in and with Russia, Marjorie Mandelstam Balzer was an integral part of everything. She has pursued her own academic career in anthropology, focusing on the indigenous peoples of Siberia and the Far East. At Georgetown, she is one of the founders of a new Indigenous Studies Initiative. We met at the University of Pennsylvania, and will celebrate our 48th anniversary in September.

I deeply regret that I will not be able to join the celebration of our 50th anniversary. I was diagnosed with cancer in September, had surgery in October, and began chemo just after Thanksgiving. The treatment will stretch into early June, and the physicians do not want me in airplanes until it is over. I write about this not only to explain my inability to join the celebration, but also because while hardly enjoyable, the treatment has been remarkably free of most of the side effects some people experience. I feel it is important to emphasize both that the treatment is improving every year, and that everyone responds differently to the (continued on page 9)
medications. Cancer survivors, especially those who are lucky enough to escape the worst side effects, tend to go on with their lives quietly. It is important for people to understand that not only can cancer be beaten, but that the treatment is not always debilitating.

I will close with my single strongest memory (among many vivid recollections) of my time at Washington U. (Far less significant would be hitting the buzzer-beating winning basket in a fraternity basketball game or never finding another campus with a venue as hospitable as Holmes Lounge.) It involves our graduation. Many of you will remember that a number of us chose to wear white armbands and stand in a silent vigil to protest the war in Vietnam. Four months later, a new Freshman class arrived and quickly burned down the ROTC Building. Among a vast number of valuable lessons accumulated during my four years at the University, this has remained among the most significant.
Favorite Campus Memories

WU got a good start with a great weekend freshman orientation. I loved the monthly fraternity parties at the SAE house, featuring great live music from really good local bands. I remember advanced poly sci classes with Walter Dean Burnham (who then went by Dean Burnham even though he wasn’t a dean, because he could), who later moved on to MIT and became a nationally known expert on critical realignment elections. I also loved the hysterical April Fool’s Day issues of Student Life, with irreverent views of WU administration (“Spanky McFarland”), faculty (“William Nabisco Chamber music”) and the issues of the day, including (years before Roe v. Wade) an ad for the “Student Abortion Service” touting student providers with “good GPAs.” I also recall, fondly but sadly, lunches at the cafeteria in Umrath Hall with Jerry Wamser and Ken Miller (both LA 1968) who left this earth too soon.

Life Since Graduation

I went to law school at Mizzou. When my high school sweetheart (and SAE pinmate) Jan Schulte graduated from WU Art School in 1971, we got married and remain married today (primarily due to her tolerance and patience). The wedding was in Graham Chapel, and the reception was across the street at Whittemore House. Upon my graduation from law school, we returned to St. Louis, where I engaged in private practice with a small firm. Later I spent eight years as in-house counsel for a large (by St. Louis standards) trust company before returning to private practice, concentrating in estate planning and probate. Then I made one of the best decisions in my life by taking early retirement. It’s great because it allows me to do what I do best – NOTHING! I occasionally return to campus for presentations by the Weidenbaum Center. We have one child, now an adult, who lives in St. Louis.
Favorite Campus Memories

I remember the top floor of the tall women’s dorm, no longer in the South Forty, and how lonely it was during rush if you were an independent and not rushing. I was a member of Freelance and published a poem by Thomas Merton, corresponding with him. Remember Annelize Mertz, my modern dance classes, and my summer with Alwin Nikolais in Park City, Utah.

Remembering many hours spent in Holmes Lounge and eating many meals with professors in the WU dining hall and all the evenings spent with group programs in professors’ homes.

A member of Hillel, I was sent to Camp Starlight my freshman summer as a WU rep and met Jewish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer who called me his “Yiddish Grandmother” when I brought him water, afraid he was suffering signing books so long in the hot sun.

Life Since Graduation

Following WU, I graduated from Saint Louis University with an AM in Special Education of the Emotionally Disturbed and Socially Maladjusted. Taught special classes in the Mpls Public Schools and attended University of Minnesota where I co-wrote the Adult Basic Education Master’s course syllabi and worked in the University of Minnesota Reading and Study Skills Center. Taught Freshman Reading and Study Skills 101. Worked for a program helping University employees move up through the system through ABE tutoring and worked for a Federal program helping minority individuals gain better jobs through basic education training. Finished courseworks and Writtens for a PhD in Special Education, but married my husband Barrie Paster, MD, whom I met in Minneapolis, and moved East. He was in Family Practice Medicine until his retirement six years ago, in Amesbury, MA, where we lived for 13 years.

I was Curriculum Head of the Peabody Regional Adult Education Program at three MA sites until the birth of our first son, Aren Yale Paster, a teacher at RPI running a Mechanical Engineering Lab. A La Leche League Leader for 40 years next year, I was Enrichment Coordinator at Lincoln Akerman School, NH, while bringing up daughter, Sara Rachael Haskin, 7th-grade art teacher and art director at Camp Tel N’oar. I received my CAGS in Gifted and Talented Education from Lesley University in 1982, a year after the birth of our third child Noah Elon Paster. Taught Gifted and Talented and All School Enrichment at the Page School, MA, and at Nottingham School, NH. We have 7 grandchildren, love to travel, and have lived 35 years in an 1892 home in Exeter, NH.

For 10 years I was head of Darkroom Photography and freelance photographer for Camp Yavneh, Northwood, NH. My husband served as camp doctor two weeks each summer. Took course work there from teachers from Hebrew College and Hebrew College in Jerusalem. Sisterhood president at Congregation Ahavas Achim, Nbpt, MA and Board member for 30 years. A Minyoneer. My husband and I were presenters for Jewish Marriage Encounter. I was one of the founding members of the Jewish Storytelling Coalition in Boston.

This year I took a Yiddish intensive at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA to become more fluent since my last 22 years I’ve been an historic role player, Sheva Shapiro, a Ukranian Jewish immigrant mother working in the same house she lived in (1919), at what is now Strawbery Banke Museum, Portsmouth, NH. My Shapiro House Cookbook is scheduled to come out later this year. I help WU by interviewing prospective WU students and attending College Fairs as an APAP volunteer.

Chair of Tellebration TM: Worldwide Evening of Storytelling and member of the Seacoast Storytellers, I’m still interested in poetry, art, yoga and ballroom dancing, with Barrie, having recently competed in ballroom dancing competitions with the Arthur Murray Studios.
Life Since Graduation

Like others of you, I can’t believe that 50 years have passed since graduation. I went on to graduate school, became an economist, and have spent most of my professional life specializing in housing and housing finance. I have lived in DC since the early seventies, and now consider myself a native. My daughter, like many of her peers, has migrated to Brooklyn, where she is an Episcopalian priest. I left my last corporate job at Freddie Mac in 2000 (deftly avoiding the financial crisis) and became an independent consultant. I still consult, but am spending most of my time painting (I always wanted to go to art school) and in West Virginia with my significant other. My memories of WashU are fond ones, ranging from life in the high rise (since demolished), playing endless rounds of bridge in the Theta room, and drunken performances at Bearskin and Thurtene Carnival. For some reason, I’ve avoided college reunions all these years, but feel that the 50th should be the exception. When you see me, I will be disguised as a somewhat elderly lady who could lose a few pounds.
Most of our class were on the roof of Givens Hall. It was after an all-nighter rushing to meet a design project deadline.
Art Submissions

Sharon Inger Katz

David Miller, oil on canvas, 57”x72”

David Miller self portrait, ink drawing, 6 1/2”x 4 3/8”
Peter Connelly, “The Seed”, oil on canvas, 68”x72”

Peter Connelly, The “Executioner/Victim” oil on canvas, 48”x60”

Curt Ribando, “The Protector” acrylic on canvas 30” x 24”