

March, 2008



Dear Sister Alumnae,

It is a pleasure to re-connect with you as we look ahead to our 35th reunion. At our last reunion in 2004, when I assumed the position of Class Vice President, I encouraged us to devote our mini reunions to “gatherings with a purpose.” The goal was to make service to others a more intentional part of the mini reunions that occur among class members.

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Knowing the commitment to service of Wellesley women, I’m sure many such gatherings with a purpose have taken place. I’d like to share one of several examples from my own life. In July of 2007, while attending a National Education Association (NEA) National Assembly in Philadelphia, I gathered together with sister alumnae crossing several classes ’73, ’74, and ’76. We partied, New Orleans style, and we also committed our spiritual and financial support to the New Orleans NEA delegation as they prepared to go back home to continue rebuilding their public school system.

When it became necessary to step up to the Class President position, it was not difficult for me to identify the perfect person to assume the Vice President position. Our newly appointed Vice President, New Orleans native, Sheila Berniard Burns, has been a treasured friend since we shared Wellesley classes focused on various aspects of urban development. Over the years, our professional and personal lives have intersected more times than we would ever have contemplated. Now, with Sheila’s guidance, our entire Class has a profound opportunity to focus collectively on supporting the continued resurrection of lives and meaningful structures of New Orleans.

While we direct our attention to New Orleans and other affected Gulf Coast areas — a theme I hope we’ll commit to through my tenure as President — we are also called upon to focus ourselves on the upcoming greatest gathering of all time: the Wellesley College Class of ’74 35th Reunion, June 12–14, 2009!

The Class of ’74 officer team attended the Wellesley Alumnae Leadership Council October 12–14, 2007. We arrived at Council exhausted from our professional/personal obligations, but left with rejuvenated spirit and a deeper commitment to be of service to you our classmates. We renewed and strengthened our friendships, while being informed about College and campus developments, including being provided details of the planning process for reunions.

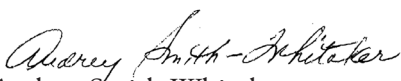
Now, a bit more about the proverbial Wellesley tradition of stepping up when needed... I felt no hesitation stepping up to the Class President position because the officer team in place is so talented, resourceful and

nurturing of one another. I have good naturedly cajoled and spent many hours soliciting, encouraging classmates to also fill several crucial positions now necessary to plan for our next treasured reunion. Please contact me immediately if you are willing to serve in the following positions:

- Reunion Co-chairs. Two classmates are needed. It's a chance to have big fun with an old friend or develop a new one! Several classmates stand ready to serve on the reunion committee. We just need some creative leadership to get us all on our way!
- Nominating Co-Chairs. Two classmates are needed along with one or two other committee members to develop the slate of new officers that will assume leadership directly following reunion.

We will all work together to make your service to Wellesley in any of these capacities a fun and meaningful experience.

I look forward to being in more regular contact as we prepare for reunion. Please know that I send my best wishes to you and your loved ones as we all live our lives to the fullest.

  
Audrey Smith-Whitaker

I encourage you to share examples of your mini reunion stories via our class notes and our class website.

## From Your Vice President

Dear Classmates of 1974,

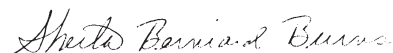
Many of you may be wondering why, in the aftermath of Katrina, I would take on the challenge of being your Class Vice President. I will briefly explain myself and get to the heart of my message.

First let me thank those of you who worried about me, searched for me and kept checking on me immediately after the Hurricane. I can't tell you what a comfort it was to know that my Wellesley friends were concerned and cared about my well being. Today, I am back in my restored home and working to improve my beleaguered city. Progress is slow but I am hopeful that our young people will turn this city around. That brings me to my message.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting several dynamic young students from Wellesley who were in New Orleans on their spring break to help rebuild several damaged homes. These young women embodied what we were taught at Wellesley "Non ministrari sed ministrare". I was so inspired and proud of their commitment to my City. Imagine giving up one's holiday to work in less than ideal conditions! I was even more astounded when I learned that several of the seniors wanted to return upon graduation to live and continue their work here. I felt such a connection to these women and I realized that it was time for me to give something back to the institution that had given me so much. So, it is in this spirit that I volunteered to serve as Class Vice President. I am looking forward to working with you all as we head towards our 35th Reunion. My job is to encourage, coordinate and follow up on your individual chapter "Mini Reunions". I hope that I can also inspire you to add a community service component that will focus on helping the Gulf Coast Region. There is so much more work to be done. But I know that we are up to the challenge. I will be contacting your chapter presidents soon to get the ball rolling.

So girlfriends, as we say in N'Awlins "Laissez les bontemps roulez".

God Bless,

  
Sheila Bernard Burns

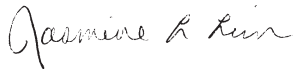
## From Your Class Secretary

Greetings from Northern New Jersey! It was great to meet up with our classmates who attended the Alumnae Leadership Council in October. Again, we were blessed with beautiful weather.

To those who have sent in news, much thanks. Whether I knew you at Wellesley, have met you in the intervening years or have yet to meet you, I love hearing from you. You and your families come alive when I get news in your own words. To those who have remained incommunicado, please send news. I can assure you that our classmates love to hear what is going on in your life.

Soon we will be calling for new class officers. After three years on the job, I can tell you that I love being class secretary. I have had the opportunity to connect with classmates I never knew at Wellesley (including most of my fellow class officers) and reconnect with others I met as a student or at reunions. I hope that there are several of you out there who will volunteer to take on this role in the next term.

Hope to see you at our 35th!



Jasmine Lim

## From Your Webmistress

Dear Fellow Classmates,

It's hard to believe that our 35th reunion is fast approaching - it seems like just yesterday that we celebrated our 30th! As many of you may recall, our domain name ([www.wellesley74.com](http://www.wellesley74.com)) and our web site both "materialized" with our 25th reunion in order to help facilitate the planning of that reunion. I was involved with that effort and have worked to provide you with a class web site in the ensuing years.

I'll be the first to admit that the site has languished from time to time, but our approaching reunion has motivated me to start restoring it to a site that I hope will encourage communication and help with the logistics of planning our 35th reunion. At minimum we will provide a way for you to submit your Record Book entries, as we did with the last reunion. The site will also be used to disseminate information about the reunion and provide a means for you to offer suggestions as well as to volunteer to help.

I encourage all of you to visit the site over the next few months as we gear up for our 35th to see the new reunion-specific functions. In the near future, I invite you to use the site's bulletin board to tell your classmates how you are doing. And don't forget to take a look at our Insignia Store!

As always, please send me suggestions for how the site can better serve you as a member of the Wellesley College Class '74.

Thank you,



Nancy Anderson Brown

## From Your Annual Giving Representative

Greetings, Classmates!

I have been your Annual Giving Representative since our 30th Reunion. This task has provided a wonderful opportunity to learn about the most important way to support the College and to become more acquainted with our class as we share our joys and concerns of midlife around this conversation. We have a very capable and dedicated team of '74s; annual giving is truly a collaborative effort. In October, I shared the pleasure of Alumnae Leadership Council with our fellow Officers. The campus was spectacular in its full fall glory and the changes brought by the Campaign are stunning. The first years — 2011! — were engaged with their courses, fascinated by the Alums, vibrant and focused. Blink, 2015 and there she'll be out in the 'wide, wide world'.

What will be her touchstone from Wellesley that will encourage and inspire her as she sets forth on that June? How well at our own thirty plus years hence we know the struggles that will require brave and difficult decisions. Will she feel equipped intellectually to speak up for her beliefs and will her thought process be guided by good will and an open mind? How will she bring excellence and purpose to her work, service and personal life? I would imagine these questions are familiar and on occasion you have shared them with a '74, a favorite Wellesley professor or an Alumna both in times of challenge and of celebration.

For whatever private, personal reason you value your time spent at Wellesley or in the world since, I am writing to ask that you give careful thought to our common goal. Help to ensure that a Wellesley education is an option for a young woman today who chooses to prepare for the world at Wellesley. Give her the hope and confidence to do something she has never done before; help her to break barriers of her own expectations or those of others.

All gifts of any amount count and help us to reach the mark. Participation is powerful when shared among many. From our thirty years plus vantage point, we know well that excellence is a creative endeavor that assumes many forms. Equip a young woman who deserves the chance to know which form will be hers. She will be well served by your generosity and belief in her.

I hope that our letters find you and your family and friends well and content. Thank you.

Warmest regards,



“Believe that a farther shore is reachable from here”

Seamus Heaney

## From Your Record Book Co-chairs

Dear Classmates,

We hope you are all well. It is hard to believe, but our class officers and reunion team have begun planning for our upcoming 35th reunion in June of 2009. We are part of that team and will be serving as co-chairs for the Class of 1974 Record Book.

While details of the Record Book are still in progress, we do know that we will contact you early in the Fall of 2008 with information about the submission process. We hope that most of you will submit your stories electronically, though hard copies will be an option as well. We plan to have an early deadline so that we can have the booklet printed and mailed to you before reunion, so you'll have time to catch up on classmates beforehand and get inspired to return to campus in June 2009.

You'll be hearing from us again over the next year. We look forward to hearing about your lives and what the (gulp) mid-50's has brought you. So, start composing! We also hope that we won't get the reputation of being Record Book nags!

Best wishes,

*Nancy Brown Genie Ware*

Nancy Brown and Genie Ware

## From Your Class Treasurer:

### Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Your Class Treasury But Were Afraid to Ask

The year after taking office as your class treasurer, I attended Alumnae Leadership Council at Wellesley; there, in class officer classes, I learned how much I did not know about the class treasury.

So here I share with you what I learned:

- What is the purpose of the class treasury?  
The class treasury provides funding for various class activities such as mailings, mini reunions, Executive Board phone calls, travel expenses to Alumnae Leadership Council, and memorials. It can be tapped for seed money for class record books and reunion expenses — including entertainment and reunion aid to classmates — as well as for miscellaneous class expenses approved by the Board. Also, treasury funds can be used to augment our class's reunion gift if so voted on by a quorum at reunion.
- How does the class treasury grow?  
The class treasury gets its monies from annual dues payments, donations, the sale of insignia items (post-reunion), and interest income from life membership dues, the latter (interest) provided annually by the College. Most classes, including ours, choose to have the College manage life-membership funds and forward the annual income to us. The life memberships constitute our class endowment — which, at some reunion in the future, our class can vote to give to the College.
- How much do we earn annually from life memberships?  
Our interest income has grown to over \$2,000 per year.
- How much are life membership dues — and why?  
Life memberships now cost \$100; the original amount (\$40) was set by the first Class of 1974 board — and was increased by vote at a recent reunion.

- Can life memberships be paid for in partial payments?  
Yes, we appreciate any partial payments; I can keep track of them.
- How much are class dues?  
\$19.74 !!
- Are class dues counted as gifts to the College when calculating class stats?  
NO!
- Who are our life members?  
Over 230 members of the Class of 1974 are life members! I obtained the current list from the Alumnae Association; however, I know that there are some problems with it, as I know there are some class members who have paid but whose names do not appear on the list. I promised myself that before the end of my term I would go through all of our class's financial records in hopes of compiling a definitive list.
- Are payments toward class dues and life memberships tax deductible?  
Yes — 100%!!
- Last but not least, how can you help your class financially?  
You can fill out the dues/donation form and mail to me, your treasurer:

Bailey Silechnik  
1037 Green End Ave.  
Middletown, RI 02842-5747  
Telephone: 401-846-3318  
E-mail: silechnikgf.ctr@npt.nuwc.navy.mil

You can purchase some past insignia items. Since this is the perfect time of year to think about giving gifts, why not “immortalize” the Class of 1974 and add to our treasury at the same time?! See the order form on the next page.

P.S. I just want to add how rewarding it has been to serve as a class officer — especially since it has given me the opportunity to get to know classmates I did not know while at Wellesley. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2008 — and I look forward to seeing you at our next reunion!



Gail (a.k.a Bailey) Silechnik

## Class Dues Form — Wellesley College Class of 1974

Please fill out and send this form with a check made out to *Wellesley College Class of 1974* to:  
Bailey Silechnik  
1037 Green End Ave.  
Middletown, RI 02842-5747

Please sign me up as a life member of the Class of 1974:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 lifetime  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 20 partial payment  
\_\_\_\_\_ other partial payment

Please accept my annual dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$19.74

Please accept my donation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Class of 1974 Insignia Items

Please fill out and send this form with a check made out to *Wellesley College Class of 1974* to:  
Laurie Shahon  
181 Berkeley Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11217-3801

All prices include shipping plus one free blue plastic Wellesley College lunchpack!

T-shirt: 3-button cotton polo T-shirt with purple WC logo [note: these do not shrink very much]

\_\_\_\_\_ size MEDIUM      x \$12.74 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ size LARGE      x \$12.74 = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ size EXTRA-LARGE x \$12.74 = \_\_\_\_\_

Purple, lined canvas tote bag; folds flat; water-proof lining; white WC logo in lower right corner

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.74 = \_\_\_\_\_

Purple fleece blanket [throw] with embossed WC insignia

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$19.74 = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 1974  
Wellesley College Alumnae Association  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481-8203