

In Memoriam

Notices of deaths received before September 26, 2008

Alumnae

Edith Ottenheimer Miller '25, August 5, in Portland, Oregon. She was the 1922 Portland Rose Festival princess, a lifelong member of Temple Beth Israel, and a volunteer for the American Red Cross for 85 years. Survivors include her son Alan and a grandchild.



Helen Funnell

Helen Funnell '27, September 7, in Monterey, California. She was a teacher in Oakland schools for 36 years and enjoyed performing in many dramatic productions.

Frances Lee Betz '28, October 26, 2006. She is survived by three children and 12 grandchildren.

Mary Porter '34, April 29, 2007, in Sacramento. A resident of Woodland until 2001, she was a member of the charitable sorority Omega Nu and of Chapter IX, an organization that supports women's education. Survivors include several cousins.

Vernice Theisen Meskell, MA '36, December 31, 2007, in Claremont, California. A longtime resident of southern California, she was active with the Pasadena Mills Alumnae Club. Survivors include a daughter.

Celeste Malone '38, August 25, in Sacramento. She taught school for a number of years and was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church, where she helped form the Friendship Class, a Sunday school group. She often entertained friends at a summer home on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Survivors include two children and four grandchildren.

Martadel Cooper '39, July 22, in Las Vegas. She studied piano at Julliard and worked as a legal secretary. She is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Margaret Cary Tunks '39, November 3, 2007, in Los Angeles. She studied biochemistry as a graduate student at the University of Iowa and moved to Seattle in the mid-1960s, where she became an advocate for sensible transportation policies. Survivors include two sons and two grandchildren.

Marjorie Armstrong Willard '40, June 11, in San Ramon, California. Survivors include a daughter and niece Dana Wildman '53.

Patricia Paulin Davis '41, March 17, in Sidney, British Columbia, Canada.

Ruth "Elizabeth" Duncan Aley '42, June 8, in San Francisco. In 1945, she traveled to Berlin as a member of the Women's Army Corps. She wrote and published poetry throughout her life, later teaching poetry and creative writing at UC Santa Barbara, and was an avid bird-watcher. She is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

Billie Gardner Axel '42, July 14, in San Luis Obispo, California. She worked at March Air Force Base and entertained the troops on stage during World War II, volunteered for several community service organizations, and enjoyed extensive travel and creative hobbies throughout her life. She was president of Mills alumnae groups in New York and southern California, served as alumnae regional governor for six years, and hosted several fundraisers for her alma mater. She is survived by her husband, Murray; three children; and two grandchildren.

Winifred Kowallis, MA '42, June 26, in Sacramento. She was employed by the State of California as a home economist for 35 years. She is survived by two nephews.

Ruth "Deemsie" Deems Remington '43, January 12, in Ashland, New Hampshire. After college, she lived in the Philadelphia area and Williamsburg, Virginia, and worked as an elementary school teacher. She is survived by four children and 14 grandchildren.

Peggy van Horne Seligman '43, September 2, in Stinson Beach, California. A longtime resident of San Francisco and a world traveler, she and her husband retired to Stinson Beach, where she thrived with her books and garden. She is survived by three sons and three grandsons.

Shirley "Chappie" Chapler Heublein '44, June 11, in Sierra Madre, California. A PE teacher in Pasadena for many years, she was an experienced angler, skier, golfer, domino player, and all-around sportswoman. She is survived by three sons, 13 grandchildren, and a sister.

Betsy Bamberger Lesser '44, September 20, 2004, in Los Angeles.

Mildred "Patricia" Thomson Grinnell '45, August 1, in Cohasset, Massachusetts. She was a renowned floral designer who exhibited, taught, and judged flower arranging throughout New England. She is survived by her husband, James; six children; 12 grandchildren; and a sister.

Frances Sanchez Peralez, MA '46, February 7, in Lakewood, California. Survivors include her husband, Manuel.

Constance Rook Piper '47, July 29, in San Clemente, California. She had a 40-year career teaching elementary school, was a member of Alpha Delta Pi, and was an experienced traveler. She is survived by her husband, Jim; four children; and 10 grandchildren.

Harry Donlevy, MEd '49, April 17, in Oakland. He became a lieutenant in the Navy before undertaking a long career as an art teacher. He worked in several high schools as well as the California College of the Arts and UC Extension and led art-centered trips in California, Asia, and Europe.

Phyllis Hill, MA '52, August 10, in Madison, Wisconsin. She was a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for 25 years, serving in both academic and administrative positions, including director of the campus Peace Corps program and director of women's athletics. After moving to Wisconsin in 1977, she continued working as an educator and curriculum specialist. She is survived by her longtime friend, Jane Ayer; a sister; and three nephews.

Mary "M.L." Conner Allen '54, May 15, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She was a world traveler and assumed leadership in numerous civic and charitable organizations. She was active with the Mills College Alumnae Club of Oklahoma and chaired a committee that endowed a regional scholarship at the College. She is survived by three sons and seven grandchildren.

Gifts in Memory of

(Received June 1–August 31, 2008)

Elsa Freudenthal Altshool '55, March 28, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She gave folk guitar lessons for many years, sold her crafts at juried fairs, and operated Valley Insurance Agency. A vocal advocate for the disenfranchised, she was active with the Democratic Party, peace and justice movements, and many progressive community organizations. She is survived by a daughter.

Kay Reiten Meyer '61, August 9, in Walnut Creek, California. She owned her own interior design business and worked for Interform Commercial Interiors.

Janet Gill '62, July 8, in Seattle. She was the author of several novels, picture books, and short stories, and organized a BookFest to bring together writers and the public. She is survived by three children and a brother.

Marcia Miller '63, August 15, in Palo Alto. A history major at Mills, she founded one of the Bay Area's top interior design firms and earned great professional recognition, including the *Sunset* magazine Award of Excellence in 2000. Survivors include two sons, three grandchildren, a brother, and sister Sally Miller Baumwell '66.

Mary van Beuren Seavey '70, August 29, in Saint Helena, California. She was a leader with the Oakland Museum, the Women's Athletic Club of Oakland, and the English Speaking Union of the United States. With her husband, she was owner and operator of Seavey Vineyard in the Napa Valley. She is survived by her husband, William; five children; and four grandchildren.

Jean Hastings '73, September 11, in Benecia, California.



Hollie Q. Hill

Hollie Q. Hill, July 14, in Mountain View, California. A Mills student pursuing library arts, she had been an employee of Nokia Inc. and the Oakland Museum. She was honored with the MS Society Mission Possible Award in acknowledgement of her outstanding fundraising efforts, and was considered joyful, artistic, and witty. Survivors include her husband, Wayne Runyon; parents Frank and Carol; and siblings Debra and Troy.

Spouses & Family

Frances Akerlund, mother of Ellen Akerlund-Gonella '68, April 2, in Sun City, Arizona.

Alexander Allison, father of Lynne Allison Phillips '75 and grandfather of Kateri Allison Rein '90, June 18, in Thousand Oaks, California.

William Cahill, husband of Ann Jones Cahill '48 and father of Barbara Cahill '76, August 10, in Seattle.

Elizabeth Yates Collender, mother of Tori Collender '74, September 11.

Thomas Greer, widower of Dorothy "Dottie" Leech Greer '43, May 23, in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

R. Theodore Leaver, husband of Bonnie Reuter Leaver '58, July 17, in Beverly Hills.

Gailard L. Piper, father of Sonja Piper Dosti '92, April 13.

Mary "M.L." Conner Allen '54, by Robert Allen, Laura Collins Neri '54

Billie Gardner Axel '42, by Doris Morton, Margaret Scott, Dwight Tate, Doris Turner

Evelyn "Peg" Deane '42, by Mary Hart Clark '42

Grace Forlenz, by Jerome D. Oremland, M.D.

Barbara "Bobby" Coleman Frey '68, by Laurel Kathryn Burden '68

Helen and William Gaw, by Jane Farrell Gaw '52

Ruth Gillard '36, by Estate of Dorothy Gillard

Nancy Laston Gilmore '68, by Elaine Elliott Flynn '68

Sara Amodei Grosskettler '58, by Drusilla Eaton Binney '58

James Harper, P '78, P '90, husband of Nancy Gene Harper '80, by Kristin Harper Bush '78

George Hedley, by Mura Kievman '64

Barbara Jacobson '68, by Susan Stern Fineman '68, Margaret Stern Thornton '65

Marion Tonkon Kaufman '51, by Jane Simonton Abts '51, Rena Houston Du Bose '51, Bette Dreyfous Goldsmith '51

E. Alison Kay '50, by Constance Black, P '74, Betty Chu Wo '46

Mary Larkin '86 and Don Larkin, P '77, by Sheila Larkin Brethauer '77, MA '89

Charles Larsen '69, by Mura Kievman '64, Catherine LaRoche '85, Lisa Lemon '86, MA '93

Boitumelo "Tumi" McCallum '07, daughter of Tebojo Moja, by Steven Burrell, Dennis Coll, Margaret Moja, Hilda and Tiisetso Moja, and Tebojo Moja

Madeleine Milhaud, by Katherine Farrow Jorrens '57, Mura Kievman '64

Marcia Miller '63, by Palo Alto Area Mills College Club

Patricia Taylor Milligan '47, by Donald Milligan, P '73

Franklin Ott, husband of Margaret Saunders Ott '40, by Margaret Saunders Ott '40

Irene Damis Papan '58, by Loretta Hirsh Shine '58

Jane "Jinx" Rule '52, by Jane Robinson Shoemaker '64

Carolyn Nissen Rathbun '68, by Gayle Rothrock '68

Flora Elizabeth Reynolds, by Sandra Ong '59

Lawrence Shrader, by Grayson and Jenifer Kirtland

Gildee Abercrombie Vaughn '68, by Gretchen FitzGerald Chesley '68

Imogene and Franklin Walker, by Katherine Farrow Jorrens '57

Helen and Reynold Wik, by Katherine Farrow Jorrens '57

P=parent

For information about making a tribute gift, contact 510.430.2097 or donors@mills.edu.

Learning from experience

By Sarah J. Stevenson, MFA '04



In fall 1957, Ravenna Helson, an adjunct professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, visited Mills College armed with a battery of questionnaires, inventories, and assessments. Her goal: to select a representative sample of the Class of 1958 to participate in a long-term study on “creativity, leadership, and plans for the future in modern young women.” The study would enable researchers to investigate changes in personality and gender roles over time, against the complex backdrop of historical and social change.



Just over 50 years later, on September 18, 2008, a lively group of Mills women from the Class of 1958 gathered during Reunion to hear a presentation by Helson, who has tracked the class through significant life changes. Helson’s research team, now headed by Berkeley Professor of Psychology Oliver John, followed up with the Class of 1958 sample and another group from the Class of 1960 a few years after their graduations and again at periodic intervals spanning five decades.

“When we entered into the study, I don’t think that we knew it would be this long,” laughs Margi

Roberts Tomczak '58, who introduced Helson that afternoon.

One of the recent areas of study has been the concept of integrity, which psychologist Erik Erikson describes as the acceptance of one’s past as inevitable and meaningful and which Helson terms “the last major task of adulthood.” The study has revealed that integrity may not simply be a matter of acceptance, but that there is also an active component of “making yourself the person you want to be, or finding your authentic self.”

Many study participants reported feeling freer in their 60s and 70s to pursue creative work that they had been unable to commit to earlier in life, due to employment, health concerns, life events, or social expectations. Satisfaction with relationships tended to increase, and even losses and late-life regrets could be a source of strength and integrity.

Woman of integrity: Suzanne Munk Ragen (above left); Pauline Wood Bauer, Bonnie Reuter Leaver, and Sylvia Gerber Bruce (above right); Anne Sheridan Tiber (right).

“We are truly more our real selves—more at ease with who we are, and more accepting of ourselves and each other,” says Cynthia Foskett Nestle '58. “I sensed it in many of the classmates I reconnected with at Reunion.”

Simply participating in the study imparted a sense of perspective. “I’ve looked forward to sitting down and reflecting on where I’ve been and where I’m going,” says Mary Stuart McCullough '58.

Nestle also notes the broader historical context of her classmates’ lives: “I have come to see our class as part of a ‘bridge generation’ caught between the traditional roles for women and the radically changed roles that emerged in the ‘60s and ‘70s.”

“The idea of ‘integrity’ as a final thrust in life is compelling and true,” according to Marilyn Winans '58. “I see the strengths that have been developing during my journey. I notice how they relate to my past, and how that has shaped what I have done these 50 years after graduation. I am looking at what I need to do now to truly have a life of integrity.”

The findings of the Mills Longitudinal Study have resulted in more than 100 scholarly publications on personality, emotional experience, relationships, and life satisfaction. Details can be found at the project website, <http://millslab.berkeley.edu>.

Even as our society changes with respect to gender roles and attitudes toward aging, so too does this dynamic group of Mills alumnae continue to change, learn, and grow—and show alumnae across the age spectrum how we, too, can approach each decade with grace and integrity.

“I have come to see our class as part of a ‘bridge generation’ caught between the traditional roles for women and the radically changed roles that emerged in the ‘60s and ‘70s.”

—Cynthia Foskett Nestle '58



Total Solar Eclipse over China ↷ July 15–24, 2009

An Extraordinary Event

- Witness the total solar eclipse from the centerline of the path of totality, where viewing will last an extraordinary 5 minutes and 55 seconds.
- Enjoy lectures and commentary by California Academy of Sciences astronomer Bing Quock.
- Explore the highlights of Beijing, including the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, the Olympic Village, and the Forbidden City.
- See Xian's terracotta warriors, and the Bund in Shanghai.
- Extend your China Adventure with an optional Yangtze River cruise through the famed Three Gorges.

For more information, please contact the Alumnae Association of Mills College at 510.430.2110, or email aamc@mills.edu

Program Costs

Main Program	
(Per person, based on double occupancy)....	\$3,895
Single Supplement	\$ 695
Yangtze River Cruise Extension	
(Per person, based on double occupancy)....	\$1,995
Single Supplement	\$ 525



Nominate your choice for Alumna Trustee

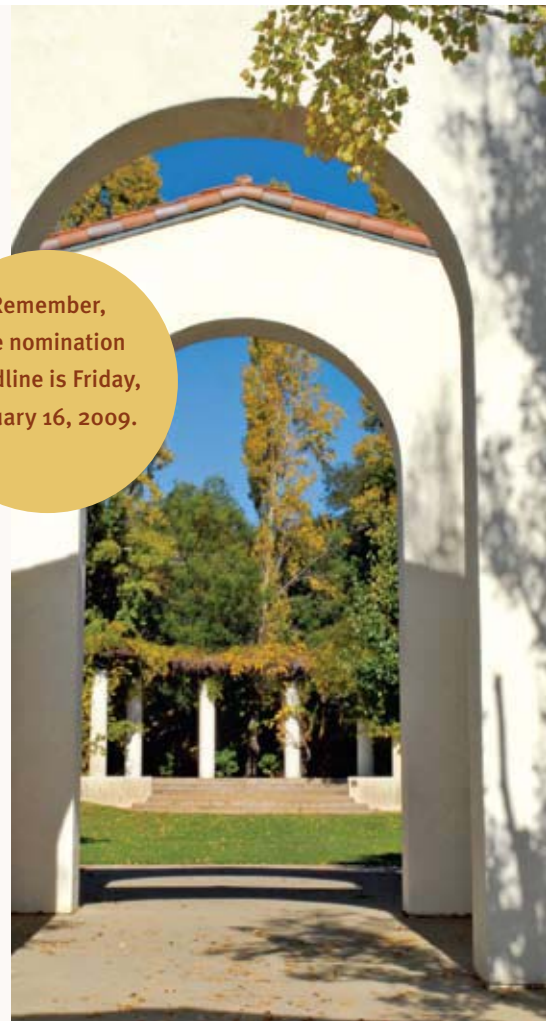
The Alumnae Association of Mills College Nominating Committee is seeking alumnae/i who have demonstrated service and support to the AAMC and the College to serve as Alumna Trustee, 2009–2012. We invite you, the alumnae of Mills College, to submit candidate nominations before January 16, 2009.

Three Alumnae Trustees sit on both the Board of Trustees of Mills College and the Board of Governors of the AAMC. They are expected to attend several annual meetings of each board and serve as a liaison between the two boards. The term begins July 1, 2009. Contact Cynthia Guevara, Nominating Committee chair, at guevaracyn@yahoo.com, or call AAMC offices at 510.430.3373 or 510.430.3374 for further information.

Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee, AAMC, PO Box 9998, Oakland, CA 94613, or via email to Cynthia Guevara, guevaracyn@yahoo.com. Please include your nominee's name, class year, address, telephone, and email address, as well as your own name.

Up to three final nominees will be featured in the winter *Quarterly*. All alumnae/i are eligible to vote using the mail-in ballots provided in that issue.

Remember,
the nomination
deadline is Friday,
January 16, 2009.



Giving Free Play to the Imagination

Celebrate the reopening of Mills College's historic Concert Hall, where for more than 80 years the Music Department's performances have shaped the course of music in our time. Experience the hall's renovated acoustics, seating, and stage, and see the restored frescoes, choir panels, and ceiling details by artist Raymond Boynton, who aimed "to produce a scheme of decoration that would give free play to the imagination."



Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009

OPENING NIGHT

Pauline Oliveros with Tony Martin, Terry Riley, Joseph Kubera performs Roscoe Mitchell, Joan Jeanrenaud

8:00 pm

Solo performances of works by pioneers in the experimentalist tradition. A champagne reception follows.

Free admission for the first 80 alumnae who reserve seats by January 16. RSVP to alumnae-relations@mills.edu or 510.430.3363.



Pauline Oliveros

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009

A Celebration of the Center for Contemporary Music

3:00 pm

More than 40 years of electronic innovation.

Pre-concert talk with performers at 2:00 pm.

Friday, Feb. 27, 2009

Legendary Composer and Improviser Muhal Richard Abrams

8:00 pm

With special guest Roscoe Mitchell.

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009

Darius Milhaud's Brazilian Connection

8:00 pm

Dazzling orchestral works conducted by Nicole Paiement. A celebration of the Concert Hall naming follows.

Sunday, Mar. 8, 2009

Arditti Quartet

3:00 pm

The world-renowned string quartet plays works by Mills composers past and present.

Sunday, Apr. 5, 2009

The Music of Fred Frith

3:00 pm

A rocking birthday concert of new music. A special birthday reception follows.



Admission for alumnae: \$12 for each concert; \$60 for the series

General admission: \$20 for each concert (\$12 seniors); \$100 for the series (\$60 seniors)

Series tickets make great holiday gifts! To purchase tickets for individual concerts or for the series by credit card, visit www.boxofficetickets.com and search for "Mills Festival." A limited number of tickets will be available at the door before each concert for purchase by cash or check. For more information about the festival, visit www.mills.edu/musicfestival or call 510.430.2296.

Mills Quarterly

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