

1950: Class Notes Archives

Yearbook photo: Class of '50 in Terminale:

----- From December 2012 AALFNY Newsletter -----

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In Memoriam:

- **Dr. Marianne F. Schwob-Ferrara** († April 20, 2012)
- **Michel Henri Berthier** († November 23, 2010)

See In memoriam section of newsletter #32, orr for further details, or click on link:

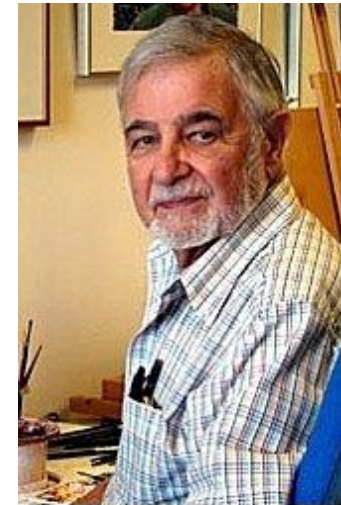
[-- In Memoriam: Dr. Marianne F. Schwob-Ferrara & Michel Henri Berthier](#)

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● **Robert Gutchen**: "Retiring in 1997 after 35 years as a professor of history at the University of Rhode Island, Robert Gutchen took up watercolor painting. He and his wife moved to New Mexico in 2004. He is a member of The Artist Studio in the Hoffmantown Center. His work has been shown at numerous juried exhibitions, including the Watercolor Society of New Mexico, MasterWorks of New Mexico, the Western Federation of Watercolor Societies and elsewhere. He has a number of awards to his credit. His work will appear during October at the fall 2011 shows of the New Mexico Watercolor Society and the Portrait Society of America, both in Albuquerque. He was elected to the Board of ACS in 2011. He specializes in portraiture, and he is glad to accept commissions. He can be reached at 505-296-3887 ."

(<http://www.abqcs.org/bob/biography/index.htm>)

Robert also shared this with us: "My wife Sylvia and I enjoy our life in Albuquerque, where we continue to take part in a variety of social activities as well as in our work in music and art. We are also delighted when our children and grandchildren come to visit. "



Robert Gutchen ('50) and at work on a portrait

----- From November 2010 AALFNY Newsletter -----

In Memoriam:

- **Claude Duthuit** (†May 16, 2011)

See [In memoriam section](#) of this newsletter for further details, or click on link below:

- **Anne (Benech) Cirier** wrote: "I like the video [that you] added to **Ted Morgan's** name [in Class Notes]. We are almost twins: We had our first communion together in D.C. at The Sacred Heart's Church, then were together at the LFNY, then also as students in Paris for a while. My parents knew his, and he is my daughter's godfather."

- **Catherine (Rocherolle) Roger Lepoutre** nous écrit: "C'est grâce a mon amie **Anne (Benech) Cirier ('50)**, ancienne du Lycée Français de New York, que je vous envoie quelques nouvelles et quelques photos. Elle me parle souvent de l'Association des Anciens du Lycée avec beaucoup d'enthousiasme....."
To continue reading Catherine's message, which was accompanied by numerous photos of her family and of her art, [click here](#).

- **Philippe Dennery** is a Trustee of The American University of Paris: "From 1990 to 1999 [he] was President, Director General of Société Dennery where he directed this European interior construction company. He managed major projects in the Middle East and Africa, and in France. Previously, Mr. Dennery was a research physicist at the University of Pennsylvania and at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland. He is the recipient of the Silver Medal of the French Academy of Architecture for outstanding accomplishments in the field of architecture. Mr. Dennery's undergraduate and graduate degrees are in theoretical physics. (B.S., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D., Columbia University)"
(<http://auptrustees.com/philippedennery.html>)

----- From November 2010 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- "**Michel David-Weill**, né à Paris le 23 novembre 1932, est un banquier français, dirigeant de



Top: David Weill ('50);
Bottom: Bernard Begue ('50)

la Banque Lazard de 1977 à 2001. Il fait ses études au Lycée français de New York, puis à l'Institut d'études politiques de Paris. Il est élu membre libre de l'Académie des beaux-arts en 1982. Il est également membre de l'Automobile Club de France et du Cercle de l'union interalliée. En avril 2007, il est promu Grand officier de la Légion d'honneur." (<http://blog-top-secret.over-blog.com/article-michel-david-weill-47730504.html>)

● **Catherine (Rocherolle) Lepoutre** nous écrit: "Ayant fait des rangements récemment dans une boîte de vieilles photos, j'ai retrouvé une photo de notre classe dans le Yearbook du Lycée Français, 1945-1946, publié pour célébrer le dixième anniversaire du lycée. Nous étions en Quatrième, ma dernière année au lycée. From there I went to the Ursuline School in New Rochelle, N.Y., and graduated from high school in 1949.....Dans la photo de la classe de Sixième, il y a mon frère **Didier Rocherolle ['52]**, et dans la classe préparatoire, notre soeur, **Marie-Laure Epron, née Rocherolle ['57]**. Le temps passe vite !"

● **Anne (Benech) Cirier** wrote: "The invitation to celebrate the LFNY's 75th anniversary in Paris was particularly attractive. Easier of course to travel from Bretagne to Paris, than flying to New York.... Though all this happened a long time ago, the Lycée remains vivid in my memory. My elder brothers and younger sister arrived in October after the beginning of school. We came from Martinique and I had completely forgotten the English language during our stay there, though I had started school in Washington DC and had grown up as an American child.

So my schedule at the Lycee in 6ème was special: Our first hour was always American language and history, in order to get back to fluent English, and I did not take Latin like all the others. After two months, all the English language which had remained hidden in my brain came forward, and that was it. I still have the book of American History in my library.

Going to school as a child: I remember my friends well, and when the bell rang when it was time for recess we would rush to the stairs, and immediately look for our boyfriend. It was something natural: We would hold each other's hand for a while, pronounce a few tender words, and that was it.

Then we would play very noisily in the yard, and seek those who collected "camcards." I have kept my album all these years. It was our way of making an exchange, a child's business. Some valuable camcards were prints of famous paintings, which opened a door into the art world.

So if any of you are still interested in camcards, come to Belle Ile, visit me, bring yours and we shall "exchange again !" Be sure to click first on www.belle-ile.com then send a few words to

ac.tournesol@orange.fr I can accommodate 2 to 3 persons a few days between April and end October. But, I have 5 children who all live on the continent plus 12 grandchildren plus friends (often musicians) so you might to have wait for your turn."

Videos of LFNY alumni on the internet:

● **Delphine Seyrig** (deceased October 1990) in the movie *Le Lys dans la vallée*:

Also, archives: 'On the Internet, Delphine Seyrig': <http://www.lfnyalumni.org/en/news/no.21/53/351>



TOP: Catherine (Rocherolle) Lepoutre ('50);

BOTTOM: Anne (Benech) Cirier ('50)

----- From January 2009 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● "**Philippe Dennery** is a French citizen who spent his early years in the United States. In the late 1960s, he worked as a research physicist at the University of Pennsylvania and CERN in Geneva where for the first time in its history, he was chosen to be exchanged with two physicists from the National Academy of Science in Moscow. Up until 1999, Dennery spent many years running the family business, Société Dennery. Under his direction, this European interior design and construction company conducted major projects in the Middle East and Africa, as well as museums and most of the major national buildings in France in the last two decades. Over the years, Dennery has also acquired other companies, notably Cassegrain, a leading luxury goods retailer in Paris and Madrid, of which he remains principal owner. Dennery is also a director of the J-Net group, an ecology communication company." (*Carnegie Council*, http://www.cceia.org/about/trustees/members/philippe_dennery.html)

----- From July 2008 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Anne (Benech) Cirier ('50)** wrote: "The four of us, my two brothers, my sister and I, went to school at the French Lycee of NY for two years. A long time ago. [*6eme and 5eme, 1944 and 1945*] Our family name is BENECH, and my father was in the French Navy. This is just to let you know [that] I live on the island Belle Ile en Mer. Hectic and busy during July and a great part of August. But I like visitors once in a while, or a chat on the phone with people from New York or the States. I was in South Carolina in April 2008 (one week) at Furman University's Music department with Tamara Matthews, soprano, who teaches lyrics there and who asked me to come and improve the French pronunciation of her students."

----- From June 2007 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Robert Gutchen ('50)** wrote: "It is exactly sixty years since I attended the Lycee. Now I'm retired from my tenure as Professor of History at the University of Rhode Island. I live with my wife, Sylvia, in New Mexico just outside of Albuquerque. Our house overlooks the Rio Grande Valley and we have an uninterrupted view of the 11,000 feet-high Sandia Mountains. In my retirement I am a portrait painter, belong to an artists' studio, and show my work at various venues. What a life! It couldn't be better. Robert Gutchen (Lycee: 1947-49)"

● On the Internet: [Denise \(Bystryn\) Kandel](#)

----- From Winter 2003-2004 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **In Memoriam:** From Bernard Bégué '50: "My good friend **Alexis Kalioujny '50** (aka Alex Kalven) died last year. He fought for five years a rare and incurable blood cancer. Alex had a wife, Theresa, but no children."

● **Dorothy G. Barnhouse** writes to us: "I just happened upon the website of the Lycée Français alumni organization and was pleased to read news of a few people I remembered, sad to not find news of so many! I



TOP: Delphine Seyrig ('50) (deceased 1990);

BOTTOM: Philippe Dennery ('50)



Catherine (Rocherolle) Roger
Lepoutre ('50) and her children

was in 4eme '45 to '46, repeated the class '46-47 (I knew very little french when I entered) and then was in 3eme '47-48 . At the time, I believe that Kitty McGowan and I were the only two US Americans at the school. She and I are still in touch. Some of my other friends were Claudette Jobin, Jean-Pierre Radley, Philippe Guerlain, Georges Steiner.

After leaving the Lycee, I finished high school in Toronto at Branksome Hall, then Radcliffe. After college I taught the 3 R's in Spanish at a small school in Tangier, Morocco where my students were semi-literate adults, refugees from Franco. Then I married a German and lived in Germany for about ten years where my twins were born; I studied voice at the Berliner Hochschule für Musik, and had a modest career as a mezzo-soprano soloist in Lieder and Oratorio.

After divorce, I returned to the United States, lived near Boston for 6 years where I continued to sing, also taught languages and then was assistant head of the Arlington School, then of Milton Academy. I moved to San Francisco where I lived for 18 years, singing, teaching voice and languages for singers at the SF Conservatory of Music and the SF Community Music Center.

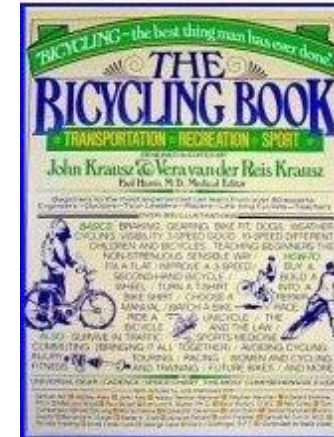
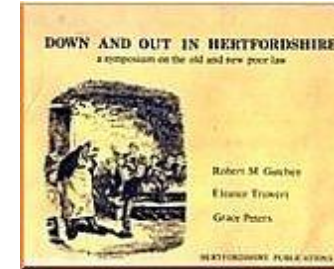
In the '80's, (because I had spoken Spanish since childhood) I became involved with Central Americans who had come to the US fleeing the turmoil in Salvador and Nicaragua. This led me to spend time first in El Salvador working with human rights organizations, and eventually to move to Nicaragua where I lived ten years teaching. First I helped establish an English Department at the Agricultural College, and then gradually moved into doing music with small children in some of the poorest barrios of Managua. What began with my spending 1 hour a week with 8 little children expanded into a program in which I taught about 20 teenagers to teach music to children. Today there are about 400 children in about ten barrios and schools involved in Musica en los Barrios. Now I live in San Francisco again, near my son and his little girl, and teaching voice part time.»

----- From February/March 2001 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Robert M. Gutchen** attended the Lycée from 1947 until December 1948. During the 47-48 year, he was in the class of 2nde. Robert fills us in: "For a few years after leaving, I kept up contact with Georges Gourévitch, Jean Gerassi, Michel David-Weill and Sanche DeGramont, but long ago lost touch with them. Gourévitch went to Princeton as a researcher, Gerassi wrote books and articles on Latin America, DeGramont (who changed his name to Ted Morgan) is a prolific and successful writer, and David-Weill is a prominent banker. I went on to be a professor of History and research administrator at the University of Rhode Island; I am now retired, although I still do considerable consulting on research administration."

----- From March 2000 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Anne Benech Cirier** nous envoie le bonjour de Belle-Ile-en-Mer (Bretagne). Veuve maintenant, ses 5 enfants sont tous en France. Elle est restée en contact avec Catherine Rocherolle Lepotre (habitant au



TOP: By Dr. Robert Gutchen ('50) and others; BOTTOM: by Vera (Van der Reis) Krausz ('50)



Philippe Dennery ('50)

Connecticut), Francis Dognin (Paris), et Bernard Bégué (Salt Lake City).

----- From November 1999 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Bernard Begue** lives in Salt Lake City, Utah with his wife and four children; his mother, Mme. Louise Begue, taught at the Lycee in the 40's and 50's, later becoming a professor at Sarah Laurence. Bernard, an engineer, worked at U.S Steel, American Cyanimid, General Foods, and Abbot Labs, for 20 years.