

1950: Class Notes Archives

[Yearbook photo](#): Class of '50 in Terminale

----- From July 2017 AALFNY Newsletter -----



TOP: Marcel Kozuch ('50);
BOTTOM: Nathalie
(Muhlstein) Josso-Gastone
('50)

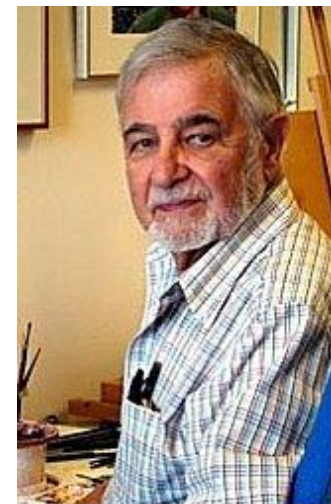
In Memoriam:

- **Francois L. Quinson ('50)** († January 31, 2016)
(See [In memoriam section](#) of this newsletter for further details)

● **Robert Gutchen** wrote: "After spending 12 delightful retirement years in sunny New Mexico, my wife, Sylvia, and I have returned back east. We have taken up residence in Rhode Island once again, where children and grandchildren live, and where I spent my career at the University of Rhode Island."

● **Anne (Benech) Cirier** (*LSY: 5eme in 1945*) wrote: "A one time LFNY alumna is now living for good at BELLE ILE EN MER, a rather large island in southern Bretagne, France. You might have heard of it since an American baritone named Richard Cowan created an international Opera Festival here 10 years ago, and famous singers perform at Belle Ile during July and August. If an alum or two from LFNY want to visit this island, for instance during a tour around France, I'll be happy to invite you to my house, provided it isn't in July or August, when I shelter my family and musicians. Just write a letter, introducing yourself as a former student of LFNY. I'd love to meet you, so that you get a first glimpse of what Belle Ile is like." (*Anne's email address is available from the AALFNY upon request*)

● **Catherine (Rocherolle) Lepoutre** (*LSY: 4eme in 1946*) nous écrit: « J'ai étudié au Lycée Français de New York en 1942-1946. J'habite dans le Connecticut, USA, suis veuve, quatre enfants mariés, 11 petits-enfants et 3 arrière-petits-enfants. However, full family gatherings have not taken place in many years. They are scattered on the east coast, west coast from Seattle, Santa Cruz, CA. to near Los Angeles, one great-grandchild with his parents in Denver. My grandchildren are all working except one who is off to Ithaca in the fall for his 4 years of college. One grandson is a professional Ballet Dancer with Les Ballets de Monte Carlo, finishing his five years with Jean-Christophe Maillot, Director. He is returning to Seattle to dance with Pacific Northwest Ballet where he started as a Professional Ballet Dancer. (You can



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

look him up: Lucien Postlewaite.) He is all over Facebook and the Ballet world because he is extremely talented and good looking besides. »
(Catherine is a painter, and she sent us some of her latest works. Click [HERE](#) to see them)

----- From December 2014 AALFNY Newsletter -----



Kitty (Katherine) McGowan
Selfridge ('50)

In Memoriam:

- **Guy Casadesus** († 18 octobre 2011)
- **Jean (John "Tito") Gerassi** († July 26, 2012)
- **Baron Pierre de Guzburg** († March 14, 2013)
- **Vera (Van der Reis) Krausz** († late 2014)

(See In memoriam section of this newsletter for further details, or click [here](#))

● **Marcel Kozuch** nous écrit: ".....Que pourrais-je ajouter qui soit important aux autres anciens élèves ? Que ma fille, diplômée de Syracuse U, est mariée et a trois enfants tous diplômés universitaires, et que mon fils, diplômé de Syracuse U et de Fordham U, aussi marié, est père de deux filles, encore trop jeunes pour le lycée. [Quand à moi, je suis] diplômé ingénieur électronique(BEE) du CCNY et aussi (MSEE) du Stevens Institute. Ma femme Gladys a reçu son diplôme (Arts et Français) de Hunter College."

Editor's Note: A touching story about Marcel's escape, as a child in France, from the Nazis during WWII and his subsequent life in the USA after the war, can be read at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum website. (Click [HERE](#))

● **Anne (Benech) Cirier** shared this: "If little stories can be used to fill a small gap in your newsletter, here are two, dealing with alumni -- quite a long time ago. When I was in 6è and 5è during the 1944-1945 years, all girls had a "boyfriend." It was the tradition. I do not remember in which class was mine, but his name was **Roland Zaharo** ['48]. When the recess bell rang, everybody rushed to the stairs, and we were sure to find the "boyfriend". It meant we would walk down the steps, holding each other's hand.

Once in the yard, we would separate to join our classmates. It meant very little, it lasted a short moment, but we knew our tradition was kept day after day. After 1945, many families went back to Europe. I lived rue de Rivoli for a time, and I found it very hard to accustom myself to the French way of living. So, one day, what a heavenly good surprise! I walked right into Roland Zaharo on rue de Rivoli, very close to my dwelling --a miracle! But we were young



TOP: Catherine (Rocherolle)
Lepoutre ('50); BOTTOM: Anne
(Benech) Cirier ('50)



Philippe Dennery (LSY: Term. in
'50)

and easy going, so we only chatted a while and that was it.

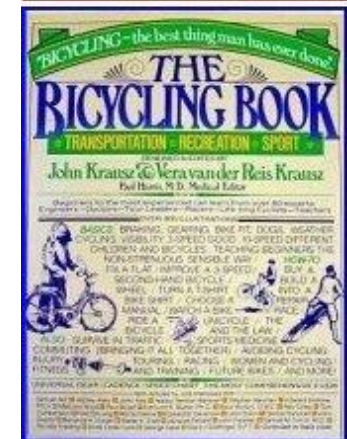
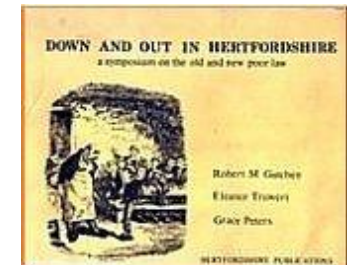
Later, I moved to Norway where I studied, learned Norwegian easily and got a job as a translator in a foreign consulate. One day, I was hiking quite close to the Holmenkollen ski jump, and whom did I meet there? --**Jean Paul Weil [50]** who was in 5ème at the LFNY in 1945. "You!! My God !! How come ? From New York to NORWAY!! Chat, chat !" He was actually living in Paris, and was in the family perfume business of the same name ! Now I live on Belle Ile in south Brittany (Bretagne). Why isn't there anyone from LFNY here? Tell me!"



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

● **Nathalie (Muhlstein) Josso-Gastone** is "presently Chief Investigator (Directeur de Recherches, classe exceptionnelle) at l'Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) affiliated with Paris-Sud University Paris, France..... A Parisian passionate for her natal city, [she] developed her professional career as an Investigator at the INSERM and a consultant in Pediatric Endocrinology in top level Parisian institutions. Nathalie first led a research team at the INSERM Unit at the Hôpital des Enfants Malades for more than 20 years..... Nathalie has always pointed out the importance of applying novel technologies to enhance the advancement of a research project..... Using novel genetic and molecular techniques, Nathalie's team cloned the bovine AMH cDNA in 1986 (almost at the same time as the human gene was cloned in Boston by Dr Richard Cate) and mapped the human AMH gene to chromosome 19 in 1987. In 1986, [she] founded the Unité de Recherches sur l'Endocrinologie du Développement (INSERM), which she directed for 12 years. The research unit was hosted by one of the most outstanding French academic institutions, the Ecole Normale Supérieure..... Dr Nathalie Josso has devoted her intellect and efforts with passion to a clearly and brilliantly delineated research subject. Her work has led world-wide research on AMH for almost 40 years and has settled the basis for the relentless search of further knowledge on the subject." (<http://paediatric-urologyonline.com/2004.html>)

● **François L. Quinson** "Principal of The Quinson Group, has consulted extensively on organizational, performance and compensation issues with senior management of corporations of all sizes from large multinationals operating around the globe to organizations with a regional or even local focus, in the industrial, financial and service sectors. [He] was educated in France and the United States. He earned a Baccalauréat ès Lettres in Philosophy, a B.A. in Chemistry from Williams College and an M.B.A. from Cornell University. He began his business career with American Cyanamid Company and Smith Kline and French Laboratories. After a 25 years consulting career with a number of firms, including the Hay Group and Mercer, he is now an independent consultant to a wide variety of organizations in



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

the United States and abroad with primary emphasis on strategic organization design; planning for management selection, development and continuity; performance management and contracts; and compensation strategies. Over the years he has conducted seminars on these topics in North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. "
 (<http://www.quinsongroup.com/About-Us/>)

- **Denise (Bystry) Kandel:** "*Health Alert: E-Cigarettes a Possible Gateway to Drug Use, Addiction, and Tobacco Smoking.* An alarming report claims that using electronic cigarettes may lead to tobacco cigarette smoking and increase the likelihood of illicit drug use and addiction. The researchers discovered that when mice were exposed to nicotine, the substance triggered biochemical alteration in the brain and activated a gene linked to the reward response. This process enhanced a subsequent response to cocaine in the mice, suggesting that nicotine may be a gateway drug for cocaine. Study author **Dr. Denise Kandel** writes, 'We don't yet know whether e-cigarettes will prove to be a gateway to the use of conventional cigarettes and illicit drugs, but that's certainly a possibility. Nicotine clearly acts as a gateway drug on the brain, and this effect is likely to occur whether the exposure comes from smoking cigarette s, passive tobacco smoke, or e-cigarettes.' "
 (*The New England Journal of Medicine, September 2014*)



TOP: Delphine Seyrig ('50) (deceased 1990); BOTTOM: Philippe Dennery ('50)

Videos of LFNy alumni on the internet:

- [Nathalie \(Muhlstein\) Josso-Gastone](#) provides her perspectives on research completed in the field of endocrinology.

----- From December 2012 AALFNy Newsletter -----

In Memoriam:

- **Dr. Marianne F. Schwob-Ferrara** († April 20, 2012)
 - **Michel Henri Berthier** († November 23, 2010)
- See [In memoriam section](#) of newsletter #32, for for further detail.

- **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,



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



Philippe Dennery ('50)

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. "

----- From November 2011 AALFNY Newsletter -----

In Memoriam:

- **Claude Duthuit** (†May 16, 2011)

See [In memoriam section](#) of this newsletter for further details.

- **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/philippedennerly.html>)

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

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

----- 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. [*Geme and Seme, 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 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 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.