

1954: Class Notes Archives

Yearbook photo: Class of '54 in Terminale: [Click here](#)

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



● Le **Général Philippe Verlot** (retraité) est ancien président de la Fédération des Amicales de Chasseurs à Pied (F.N.A.C.) et a été capitaine commandant la 3^e compagnie du 31^e bataillon de chasseurs à pied.

● **Jean-Pierre Cauvin** wrote: "I retired on August 31 from the Department of French and Italian at the University of Texas at Austin and am now Professor Emeritus. I'm enjoying my retired status and, most important, good health."

----- From December 2011 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** wrote: "Nothing that great to report other than enjoyment of travel and duplicate bridge, on line, in clubs and at tournaments. Other involvements include politics, blogging, metal detecting, bottle digging and occasional hikes. It would be fun to learn news of former classmates and what is going on in their lives. Perhaps more class stories will show up next year? That will be a great deal more fun than hearing echos of my own voice!"

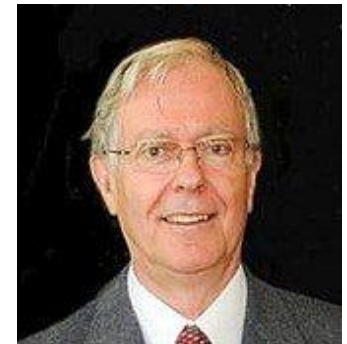


TOP: Philippe Verlot ('54);
BOTTOM: Fabrizia (de Ferrariis
Salzano) Pratesi ('54)

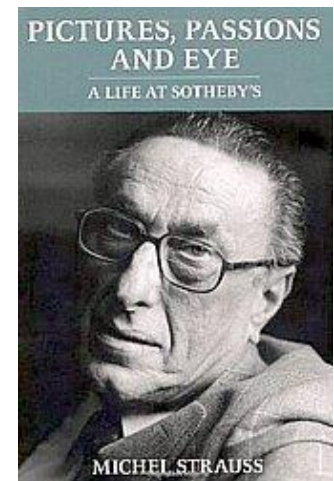
● *Pictures, Passions and Eye: A Life at Sotheby's*, by **Michel Strauss**: "[He] embarked on an enduring love affair at the age of six when he saw for the first time paintings by Manet, Monet and Degas: the passion aroused by these artists never left him. This passion, this 'eye' as he calls it led to his becoming Head of the Impressionist Department at Sotheby's where he remained for forty years. He describes the personalities he met along the way: the collectors, the dealers, the colleagues and even the forgers, as well as the clients who shared his passion....."

http://www.boomerangbooks.com.au/Pictures-Passions-and-Eye/Michel-Strauss/book_9781905559213.htm

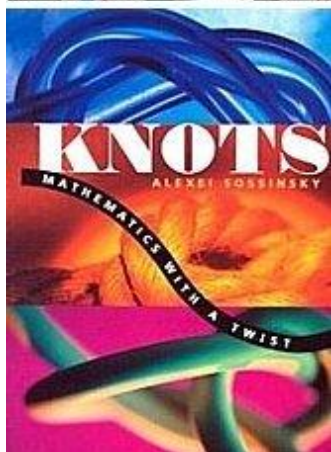
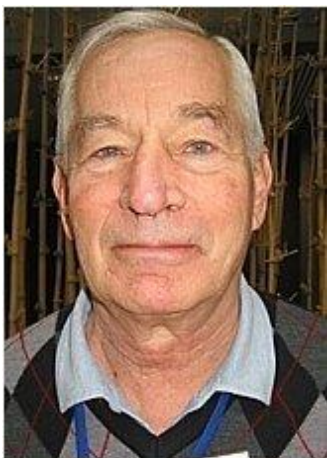
● **Alexei Sossinsky**: "Born in Paris (1937) of Russian emigre parents. French primary and secondary education, BS degree from New York University (1957), MS (1961) and PhD(1965) from Moscow State University. Taught at MSU (1963-1974) as assistant and then associate professor of the Topology Chair..... He was forced to leave MSU for political reasons in 1974, worked as the math editor of Kvant magazine (1975-1989), wrote several articles and did a lot of creative rewriting of popular science materials for Kvant. He was (and still is) active in the International Mathematics Tournament of Towns (in particular in its Summer Schools). He resumed teaching at the university level after perestroika (1989), first at the Moscow Institute of Electronics and Mathematics, and then at the Independent



Jean-Pierre Cauvin ('54)



Michel Strauss ('54)



Alexei Sossinski, ('54) and one of his books

University of Moscow. Was the Moderator of the Panel Mathematiques et Grand Public at the First Congress of the European Mathematical Union (Paris 1992).....He has written several popular science booklets in mathematics..... Alexei is basically a research mathematician (algebraic and geometric topology) and university teacher, without any published research work in mathematical education, but has always had a strong interest in mathematical education, mathematics competitions, and the popularization of mathematics." (<http://www.amt.edu.au/icmis16participants.html>)

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

● **Michel Mendès France** wrote: "You may like this photo from our family album. It is 8eme in 1946. On the back row, first left **Richard Pini**, third from left **Bernard Mendès France**, **Jean-Pierre Cauvin**, and fifth from the left **Michel Mendès France**, unknown, maybe Sybil At the far right **Michel Strauss**. At the far left **Alain Brodin**. The front row far right **Murielle Milshtein**." For a larger version of the photo, [click here](#).)

● **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** shared this with us: "Not all that much to report from here. I am involved in the congressional and state senate campaign, play as much on line bridge as I can find time for, and for exercise, hike and go on coin and bottle digs. I don't expect to find anything of great value, but it's great fun."

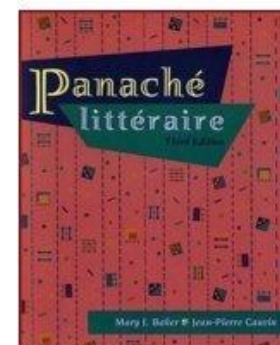
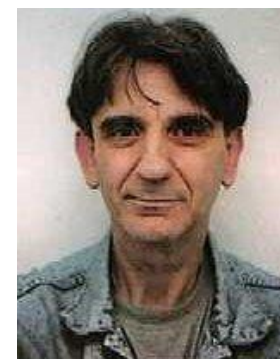
● "**Michel Strauss** brings to Fine Art Wealth Management over 43 years of experience advising many great collectors and has been responsible for the sale of numerous important paintings and collections. An Art Historian and renowned expert in the field of Impressionism and 20th Century art, his expertise covers the period from 1865 to 1973, from the birth of Impressionism to the death of Picasso. Michel Strauss was Head of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department and Board member from 1965 to 2000. During this time he assisted the British Rail Pension Fund in building their collection from Impressionist paintings from 1974 to 1979. Following his successful career at Sotheby's, he went to work for Bernard Arnault of LVMH to build their corporate collection in Paris followed by a brief period at Phililips de Pury & Luxembourg before becoming an independent consultant." (fineartwealthmgt.com)

Videos of LFNY alumni on the internet:

● **Philippe De Montebello** interviewed on WNYC ([Click here](#))

----- From December 2009 AALFNY Newsletter -----

● **Avis de Décès:** From a friend and neighbor, who wrote this to us: **Sylvine Van Merlen** "passed away on April 2, 2009, at Pleasant Bay Rehabilitation Center in Brewster, MA. She succumbed after a lengthy



Above: Michel Mendès France ('54)

Below: Panaché Littéraire, by Jean-Pierre Cauvin ('54) (with M. J. Baker)

battle with cancer and left no survivors. Prior to her illness, Sylvine had served for many years as a housekeeper/companion *par excellence* to my elderly (age 94) neighbor and we both became very fond of her. In fact, we were at her bedside at the moment of her demise. She will be sorely missed, as will the entertaining (but often conflicting) accounts of her life with which she regaled us...."

- **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** told us that she took a Caribbean cruise last year with her son and family. Her son "took a picture of me holding a giant python." She calls the picture: "Travel Often - Meet New Friends!"

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

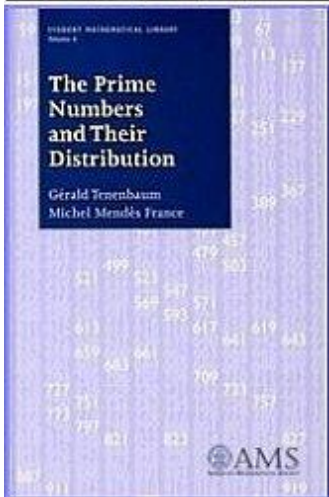
- "The Metropolitan Museum of Art, founded in 1870, is enjoying a golden age. And if a single person can be said to have shaped this extraordinary era, it's **Philippe de Montebello**, the director of the museum since 1977. The announcement last winter that he would step down by the end of the year has provoked stock taking and soul searching inside the museum and beyond...."
- "Ending months of fervid speculation, the Metropolitan Museum of Art reached into its own ranks on Tuesday and chose Thomas P. Campbell, a 46-year-old English-born tapestries curator, to succeed Philippe de Montebello as director and chief executive. The appointment, effective Jan. 1, was approved in a late-afternoon vote by the museum's board of trustees after a suspenseful eight-month search that began when Mr. Montebello, 72, announced plans to retire after 31 years in the post...." (*The Atlantic.com & the New York Times*)

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

- **Avis de Décès: Cecile (Muhlstein) Nourrissier** passed away on May 5, 2007.
- "On the occasion of the 65th birthday of Professor **Michel Mendès France** the university of Bordeaux [organized] an International Colloquium in September 2000. The topics of the conference [were] Number Theory (analytic number theory, Diophantine approximations, uniform distribution), Combinatorics and Physics." (<http://www.math.u-bordeaux.fr/~stan/Colloque/mmfenglish.html>)

----- From December 2007 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** wrote: "Salut! [I am] now publicity chair of The Hudson Trail, a proposed 300+ mile hike from NYC to Mount Marcy. Visit me and friends on our blog: hudsontrail.wordpress.com or contact me at coolchatte [at] hotmail.com if looking to volunteer. I also hang out at the Manhattan Bridge Club when in the City. Have yet to discover a Lycee alumnus at the card table."



TOP: Philippe De Montebello ('54);
BOTTOM: by Michel Mendès France ('54) and Gerald Tenenbaum



TOP: Fabrizia (de Ferrariis Salzano) Pratesi ('54);
BOTTOM: Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher ('54)

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

- **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** wrote that she "would like to hear from classmates interested in finding as many of our *camarades perdus* as possible."
- [Click here](#) for news of **Jean-Pierre Cauvin**.

----- From December 2006 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Anne-Renee de Fontnouvelle** ('54) saw her name listed in our newsletter's *A la Recherche des Anciens Perdus* section and wrote: "I am not 'Lost', but to help with your alumni data, I.....am the daughter of the Founder of the Lycee, Charles de Ferry de Fontnouvelle. He was President of the Lycee from the day it opened its doors and was active in his office at 3 East 95th Street until the age of 79. He continued to commute from our home in Locust Valley, Long Island to the Lycee until the week of his death in 1956. My brother **Charles de Fontnouvelle ('43)** also attended the Lycee and died in battle during WWII."
- [Click here](#) for news of **Marguerite (Stein) Lederberg**

----- From February 2006 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Jean-Pierre Cauvin** wrote: "Several of us who shared classes in the early fifties had a festive reunion near Paris in June 2005: **Guy de Catalogne ('54)**, **Alexis Sossinsky ('54)**, **Renaud Segalen ('54)**, **Dominique Lucet O'Cornesse ('54)** and myself. I continue to teach but am looking forward to retiring in a couple of years. My wife Louisa and I will be moving into a new house some time this spring or early summer."

----- From June 2005 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- Honors and Awards: **Dr. Marguerite (Stein) Lederberg ('54)** ([Click here](#) further details)

----- From November 2004 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **In Memoriam**: Michel Mendès France ('54) informed us that his brother **Bernard Mendès France ('54)** passed away in 1991.

----- From July/August 2001 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Elizabeth (Reiss) Baecher** writes: «Too much to catch up on after over 50 years of silence --so to cut to the chase, any duplicate bridge players out there? If so, prière de me faire signe.»

----- **From November/December 2000 AALFNY Newsletter** -----

- **Jean-Pierre Cauvin** wrote: "A festive reunion of Anciens des années 1952-1954 took place just outside of Paris, last June 24. After much sleuthing to track down those with whom contact had been lost, and thanks to much e-mail communication across continents and oceans, the following alumni spent a memorable afternoon together at the home of Guy de Catalogne and his wife, Denise, in Le Vésinet: Maryse Haan Anderson (Falls Church, VA), Alain Brodin (Paris), Jean-Pierre Cauvin (Austin, TX), Fabrizia de Ferrariis-Salzano Pratesi (Rome), Dominique Lucet O'Cornesse (Paris), Gisela Mangones Vallat (Orlando, FL), Renaud Segalen (Neuilly-sur-Seine), Alexis Sossinski (Moscow). We were privileged to have our "prof de philo" of yore, Jacques Fauve (Paris), join us. In most cases more than forty years had elapsed since we had last seen each other. Yet the closeness and depth of the friendships that had been forged in the Lycée years were immediately and joyfully revived. Plans are already set to meet again in 2002."

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

- **Maryse (Haan) Anderson** organise une réunion des membres de sa classe à Paris le 24 juin 2000.