

1955 Class Notes Archives

Yearbook photo: Class of '55 in Terminale: [Click here](#)

----- From December 2015 AALFNY Newsletter -----

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In Memoriam:

- **Pierre Noth** († January 3, 2015)
- **Rita Copelow** († August 4, 2012)

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

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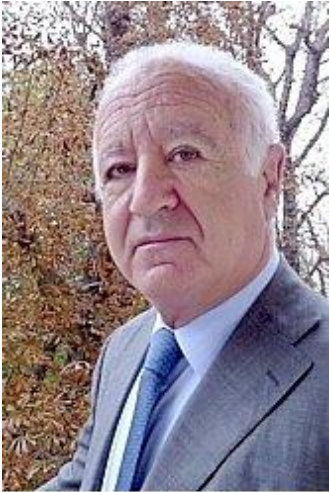
- **Bruno Quinson** (*LSY: 1ere in 1954*) wrote: "In retirement from book publishing, I have taken up watercolor painting and I will have my 3rd one man exhibition for the month of April, 2016 at the Norfolk Library in Norfolk, CT. My website is listed below. My wife, Mary Ann, and I share 12 grandchildren, ages 6 to 29." [Click [here](#) to access Bruno's website]

- « **Gala** (jeudi 8 août 2013): Françoise Gaspard et **Claude (Sadoc) Servan-Schreiber** (*LSY: 2nde in 1953*): le mariage n'a pas d'âge.

Les deux célèbres grands-mères se sont mariées à Paris fin juillet. Ce sont leurs huit petits-enfants qui l'ont annoncé dans les carnets du Monde. Françoise Gaspard, 68 ans, et Claude Servan-Schreiber se sont dit oui à Paris, le 30 juillet dernier, après avoir été pacsées pendant 13 ans.....à la mairie de Paris devant l'adjoint au maire et porte-parole d'Anne Hidalgo (candidate à la mairie de Paris).....Mais qui sont-elles? D'accord, nous vous donnons quelques indices. La première est une grande figure de la lutte féministe. Toujours pas? Elle milite aussi pour les droits homosexuels. C'est Françoise Gaspard, ancienne maire de Dreux, avec le Partis socialiste. Aujourd'hui, loin des fonctions politiques qu'elle avait occupées avant, Françoise Gaspard fait de la recherche à l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales. La deuxième est journaliste, ex-femme d'un grand patron de presse appelé Jean-Louis, née Sadoc, et porte toujours le nom de son ex-mari. Une idée? Il s'agit de Claude [Sadoc] Servan-Schreiber, journaliste et co-fondatrice de Parité-infos avec sa future femme, Françoise Gaspard. Claude a dirigé la rédaction de F Magazine, créée en 1978, destiné à un public féministe, mais qui s'est arrêté en 1982..... »

(http://www.gala.fr/l_actu/news_de_stars/francoise_gaspard_et_claude_servan-schreiber_le_mariage_n_a_pas_d_age_295752)

- **Hubert Leven** (*LSY: 3eme in 1952*) "is President of the Rashi Foundation, one of the largest private foundations operating in Israel. Focusing on "venture philanthropy," the Rashi Foundation establishes programs and creates the infrastructures needed to reduce educational gaps, promote young



TOP: Hubert Leven ('55);
BOTTOM: Monique Laurin ('55)



Monique Harpignies ('55)



TOP: by Claude (Sadoc) Servan-Schreiber ('55); BOTTOM: Marie Monique Larrain ('55)

leadership, and find solutions for children and youth at risk. The Rashi Foundation is a Founder of the Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Medicine in the Galilee. Head of the Rashi Foundation since its establishment in 1984, Leven also serves as Vice-President of Alliance Israelite Universelle (AIU) in Paris, a charitable organization established a hundred and fifty years ago by his great-grandfather in order to provide educational opportunities and aid for Sephardic Jews in the Middle East. Leven also serves as Executive Vice-President of KIAH (Kol Israel Haverim) in Israel, and is Director of both the Israel Center for Civil Society and the Jewish Funders Network in New York. Born in Paris in 1938, Leven escaped to Switzerland together with his mother and sister, while his father served in the French resistance. After the war, Leven attended high school in both Paris and New York and completed a degree in physics at Middlebury College. After joining his father's brokerage firm in Paris, Leven raised funds for the French United Jewish Appeal and took on a leading role in the AIU. In the mid-80s, he left Leven S.A. – where he was then CEO – to join the executive Committee of the Perrier Group, the mineral water company run by his uncle Gustave Leven, the Rashi Foundation's founder. He later returned to the brokerage firm, directing its operations until 2000.

Today, Leven lives in Geneva, Switzerland. A father of four and grandfather of eight, he devotes most of his time to running the Rashi Foundation, traveling frequently to raise funds for its various projects, and bringing a message of Jewish unity wherever he goes. 'It is only natural for those who benefitted from the Alliance's activities two or three generations ago to support the same organization, which is still fighting to save those who are at the bottom of the socio-educational ladder,' he says."

(<http://www1.biu.ac.il/indexE.php?id=33&pt=20&pid=4&level=1&cPath=4&type=1&news=1660>)

- **Monique Harpignies** (*LSY: Terminale in 1955*) has been living in Italy since 1959 and is now retired and self-employed. Prior to retiring, she worked for an engineering firm where she was a manuals translator.

Videos of LFNy alumni on the internet:

- A video clip on **Hubert Leven's** achievements, presented at the 2012 Honorary Doctorate ceremony at Bar-Ilan University. ([Click here](#))

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

- **Bruno Quinson** wrote: "I have stayed in touch with my classmate **Georges de Gramont ('55)** who left the Lycée after 3e. We have lunch in NYC once every 2 months. He lives in Cliffside Park, NJ. Over the years I have communicated with **Anne Segalen** and **Georges Ripka** who were also my classmates, class of '55. They both live in Paris.

After retiring from book publishing I started painting in watercolor. I have had a few exhibitions and my work can be seen on my website www.brunoquinson.com. (Click [here](#) to access Bruno's website.) My wife and I live in NYC and Pittsfield, MA. My wife has been the President of the Barrington Stage



TOP: Pauline Rose (Laurin) Van Beuskom ('55); BOTTOM: Monique Harpignies ('55)

Company for 20 years. I mention it here because the hit musical ON THE TOWN which just opened on Broadway to great acclaim was first produced by BSC in 2013. The NY cast and the production are the same as in Pittsfield. It's a terrific show which I recommend."

- **Georges De Gramont** wrote: "I was at the Lycée for four years ('48-'52). I enjoyed it, especially my fellow students. Illustrious individuals like "Le Baron" Jean Kaiser and Bruno Quinson. In '52 I went to boarding school at Portsmouth Abbey, a Benedictine monk school. I now consider myself an alum' of that school."

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

- **Danièle Gorlin Lassner** "wife, mother, grandmother-- retired after 35 years at Ramaz where she served as Dean of Admissions, Foreign Language Department chair and teacher of French and Spanish. She owns hundreds of cookbooks. She has translated several children's books from French into English. She has recently translated *A Memoir of Sanctity* by Mayer Moskowitz (Mazo Publishers, Jerusalem, Israel) from Hebrew into English. No matter the language, food is a 'constant.' "
(<http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book-reviewer/daniele-gorlin-lassner>)

- **Georges Ripka** informed us that he recently co-authored a new book --"Unravelling the Mystery of the Atomic Nucleus" (Springer, 2012)

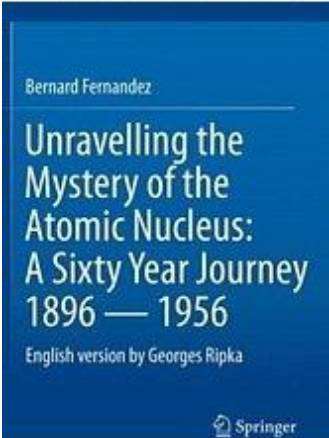
----- From December 2011 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Yves Feder** nous écrit: "Si cela vous interesse, mon CV pour nos concerts satiriques de musique classique est dans ce link. [[Click here](#)] Comme vous verrez, je ne suis pas tres serieux :-)"

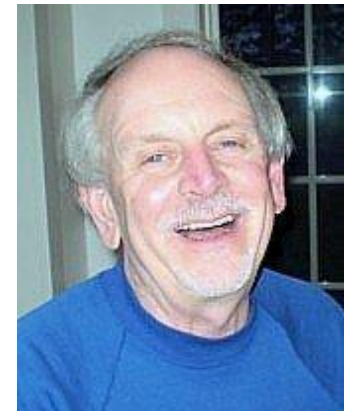
- From **Bruno A. Quinson's** website: "In 1996, after 36 years in book publishing I retired from the business and decided I wanted to be involved directly in the arts. Not just serve on some boards as a trustee, but actually physically participate in the arts. During the summer of 1996 I signed up for a charcoal drawing course at the Interlaken School of Art, now known as IS183, located just outside of Stockbridge, MA.....For the summer I have built a studio in my home in the Berkshires where I try to go work at least 5 days a week for approximately 3 hours at a time. Painting just puts me into another world.....

I sign my paintings "Grand-Pere Quinson" to remind my grandchildren and great grandchildren when they do come along of my French heritage.

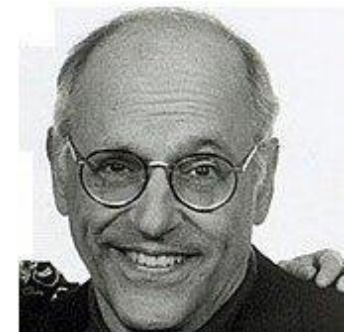
My book publishing career began at Simon & Schuster in 1960 after I graduated from Williams College and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. After 5 years I went to Golden Books for another 5 years and then became President of Larousse & Co., a subsidiary of Librairie Larousse in Paris, France. I stayed 12 years



TOP : Danièle Gorlin Lassner ('55) ;
BOTTOM : by Georges Ripka ('55)



André Moraillon ('55)



TOP: Yves-Albert Feder ('55);
BOTTOM: Bruno Quinson ('55)

then moved to Macmillan Publishing as President of its General Books and Reference Division. In 1988 I became CEO, Publisher and President of Henry Holt & Co a subsidiary of the Holtzbrinck Publishing empire out of Stuttgart, Germany from which I retired in 1996.

Today I serve as a Trustee of the Museum of the City of New York, the Leopold Schepp Foundation, Graywolf Publishing. I have also served on a number of other boards, among them, the Eudora Welty Foundation, Manhattan Theater Club, the Robert Frost Place and the Lycee Francais de New York to name just a few."

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

- "In spring 2006, the Petergailis publishing house released a Finnish translation of **Nadine Vitols-Dixon's** book: *A Life's Journey: Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia.*" (From: *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia*, <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/news/press-releases/2006/august/09-1/>) Nadine wrote to us and added: "The biography was originally published in French in 2005, then updated and translated into English (by myself) in 2006, and finally into Italian last year (not to mention a Finnish edition which was out of my control.)"

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

- "February 13, 2007: Mrs. **Danièle Gorlin Lassner** recalls a 1987 visit with Rebbitzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, wife of the Lubavitcher Rebbe - Rabbi Menachem M Schneerson of righteous memory. In their meeting, a glimpse of life as a Rebbetzin is revealed." [Click here](#)

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

- The publishing career of **Bruno A. Quinson** (now retired) "has included positions as President and CEO of Henry Holt and Co., Inc. and President of the General Books Division at the Macmillan Publishing Co."

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

- **Georges Ripka** is a theoretical physicist, now retired. He lives in his country house 50 km south of Brive la Gaillarde, France and would love to have some news of his former classmates. For more info type 'Georges Ripka' on Google.

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

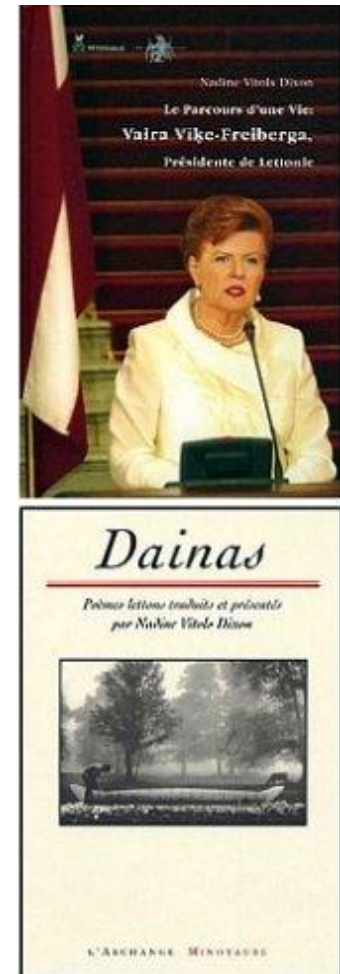
- **Bruno Quinson** writes: "I retired from Henry Holt & Co. in May 1966. I now sit on various-book publishing boards and not-for-profit institutions' boards. I also study watercolor painting at the National Academy of Design in NYC."

-----From Winter 2002/2003 AALFNY Newsletter -----

- **Georges Ripka**, a physicist in Paris, dropped us a line to say: "Anyone still alive, who might remember me, please make yourself known!"



TOP: Georges Ripka ('55); BOTTOM:
By Georges Ripka and others



TOP: By Nadine Vitols Dixon ('55); BOTTOM: Translated by Nadine Vitols Dixon