

**Class of 1970  
50<sup>th</sup> Year Class Reunion  
Newsletter**



**Editor's Note:** *The idea of creating this graphic design was brought up by Helen Merritt Tingley. Helen expressed to me her discouragement of the class reunion postponement and felt that most of us, the class members were also impacted by the unexpected pandemic. She asked if she could do something for our class members to overcome the disappointment by developing a design with a strong message for our newsletter. Helen is fortunate to have her son-in-law, Ron Bruyninckx, graphic designer to do the design work for us. Thank you, Ron for your professional assistance.*



### **Editor's Extensions**

*Marilyn O'Leary-Heaney*

It is heartbreaking knowing that we will not be able to meet at the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Class Reunion at Gallaudet this October due to virus pandemic. Nevertheless, Gallaudet will have us there when the crisis is over, hopefully not too long. I believe by receiving our **Class of 1970 Newsletters** from time to time will keep us staying together in spirit and of course, informed of any reports about our reunion.

The interview prepared by **Charmaine Letourneau** for this issue will be her last. Her guest is **Bonelle Liardon Amann**, the wood sculptor. You will find this article fascinating and delightful. Thank you, Bonelle, for sharing this article with us. Charmaine, thank you for your devoted work on our Newsletter.

The features, **Do You Remember?** and **Gallaudet Alumni Emeriti Club** are also discontinued. Thank you, **Celia Mae Laramie Baldwin** and **Joyanne Rasmus Burdett** for your outstanding contributions to our Newsletter. The committee reports prepared by the coordinators shall continue.

There will be a new addition (report) in this issue. The new committee has been formed to have a virtual reunion for our class members this fall. **Jack Lamberton** is the coordinator.



### **Chair's Corner**

*Kathy McIntire Sutton, Chairperson*

Several exciting things are happening despite of our not being able to attend our 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion this October. My Chair group met with Abby Drake from the Alumni Office three weeks ago to discuss the possible plans for our 50th class reunion.

We plan to have a **virtual class reunion** in October. More details will soon follow. Jack Lamberton accepted to help us plan the virtual class reunion. He sent out a survey to all the class members on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the survey asap. It is critical that he gets the information he needs to see where and how we can make this work for us to be part of the virtual class reunion. This is a big job. Thank you, Jack for doing this.

The people in the Anniversary Book Committee are doing a great job. Now the profiles are completed and ready to be placed in the book along with other interesting and fun sections. The Apparel Committee is in the process of getting the emblem designed for our vests.

We want to have our **Anniversary Book and vest** by October for the virtual class reunion. You have received an Order Form for the Anniversary Book and Vest a few days ago. Please follow the instructions and complete the form. Fred Pickering will keep record of the orders for both the Anniversary Book and the vest. You can order the Anniversary Book alone or the vest alone or both.

You may be wondering if we will have a **real live class reunion. Yes! Yes!** We will have one. 😊 It is only a matter of when. We had hoped to have it in the Spring of 2021, but Abby explained about the several phases of preparing Gallaudet to reopen for the students and later for the public. It is possible to have it in October 2021. Abby said that it is feasible and workable to have both Classes of 1970 and 1971 in October 2021. It is too soon to know for sure. Let us now focus on the virtual class reunion, the Anniversary Book and the vest.

We are excited and look forward to the virtual class reunion.



**Class Gift/Endowment Fund Report**  
*Cynthia Neese Bales, Co-chair, Reunion Committee*

### **Class Gift:**

We have cause to celebrate! We have raised **\$50,010**, an increase of \$1,950 since our last newsletter. Thanks to one new donor **Leonard Paul McComb** and three repeat donors **Norman L. Nelson, Joel M. Silberstein,** and **Kathryn McIntire Sutton,** we can now look towards our ultimate goal of **\$70,000**.

Our class giving rate based on our full alumni list of 198 class members is 40.9%. We are in contact with 162 of these class members--we do not have email addresses for 33 and three have asked to be unlisted. If we figure our giving rate based on 162 class members, we are at 50%. Let's strive to raise our giving rate as close to 100% as possible. If you haven't yet donated, please consider doing so today—no gift is too small!!!

Here's the link again for new and repeat donors alike: <https://www.gallaudet.edu/office-of-development/giving-at-gallaudet/class-giving/class-of-1970>.

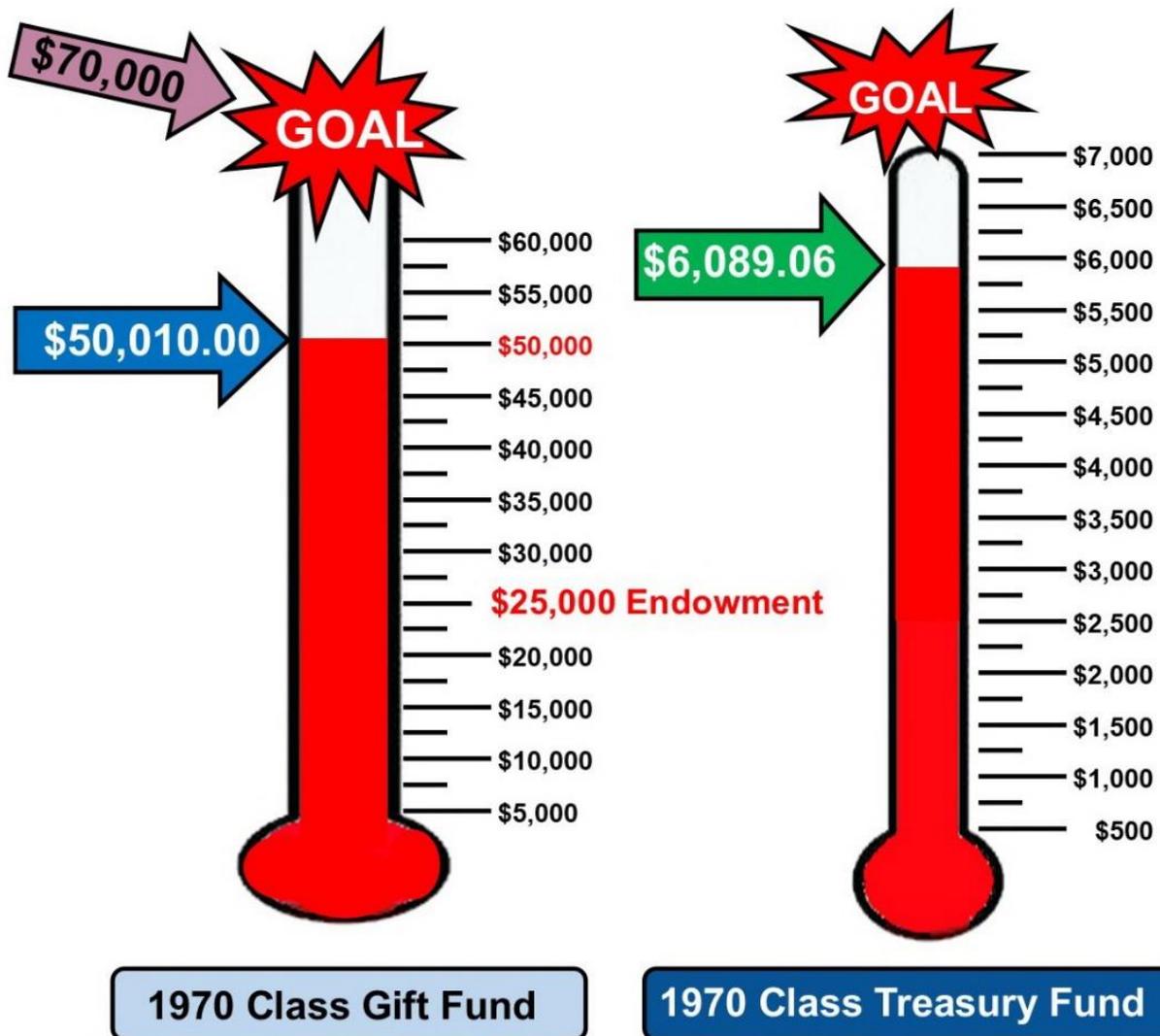
Celia May Laramie Baldwin will join me to co-coordinate the gift fund drive and establishment of our endowment fund. Our goal is to reach \$70,000 by October 2020.

We have sent out a survey to confirm your agreement with the selection criteria for an undergraduate student scholarship fund: (1) good academic standing; (2) financial need; (3) to include international students. Thus far, 90% of those who have responded

indicate support for these criteria. If you have not completed this survey, here's the link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/15MsAqQDVAbN0UwaRJKXNOYqIn2MgkyCX9GlaQc2-keo/edit>. The deadline for responding to this survey is July 18, 2020.

Our aim is for all class members to participate in our decision. We are continuing to explore how to be as inclusive as possible. Based on the results of this survey, Celia May and I will determine the next steps towards establishing our Class of 1970 Endowment Fund.

### Class of 1970 Fund-Raising Barometers



*Updated by Paul Stefurak*



**Class Treasury Report**  
*Fred Pickering, Treasurer*

We now have a total of \$6,089.06 in our 1970 Treasury Fund. This is great. Please do send your donation by writing a check payable to “Gallaudet University Class of 1970” and send it to **Frederick Pickering**, 1114 Morningwood Lane, Great Falls, VA 22066-1609. Thank you for your donations.

**Memory Lane**



*Our final class gathering at a graduation party hosted by Mary Telles' Aunt and Uncle at their house in Maryland (May 1970.)*



**The Virtual Reunion**  
*Jack Lamberton, Coordinator*

I just sent out a survey on the Virtual Class Reunion. It would be greatly appreciated if you would complete the survey and submit it by **July 21, 2020** – the day before we have our monthly meeting and we hope that we will have all the information then so that we can better support you for the sake of a positive Virtual Reunion experience.

Please be sure to complete the survey and submit as soon as possible if you have not done so. Hope to see you all there.

Thanks



### **The Interview with Bonelle Liardon, A Wood Sculptor**

*Charmaine Letourneau, Contributor*



In her heart, Bonelle knew she was an artist. When she was a youngster, she loved to draw and she began to dream of becoming an Interior Designer. She was disappointed that Gallaudet didn't offer this kind of course so she majored in Home Economics as she felt it was close enough to what she wanted. She was advised to attend another university in Interior Design. However, she took a different career path and became a teacher for many years at the New York State School for the Deaf and Phoenix Day School for the Deaf. During all those years as a teacher, she still wanted to be an Interior Designer so she decorated her house as if it were her dollhouse.

Eventually, she discovered her interest in wood sculpture and taught herself the necessary skills. She has created some exquisite wood art. She uses only 3 tools: scroll saw, sander and screwdriver. Screwdriver is used to make dents in the wood to give wood sculpture more realistic characteristics. She uses pine wood as it's cheaper and softer to shape, but it is not so durable as other kinds of wood. Acrylic paint is her preference for adding color her work. Bonelle faithfully relies on google for safety procedures.

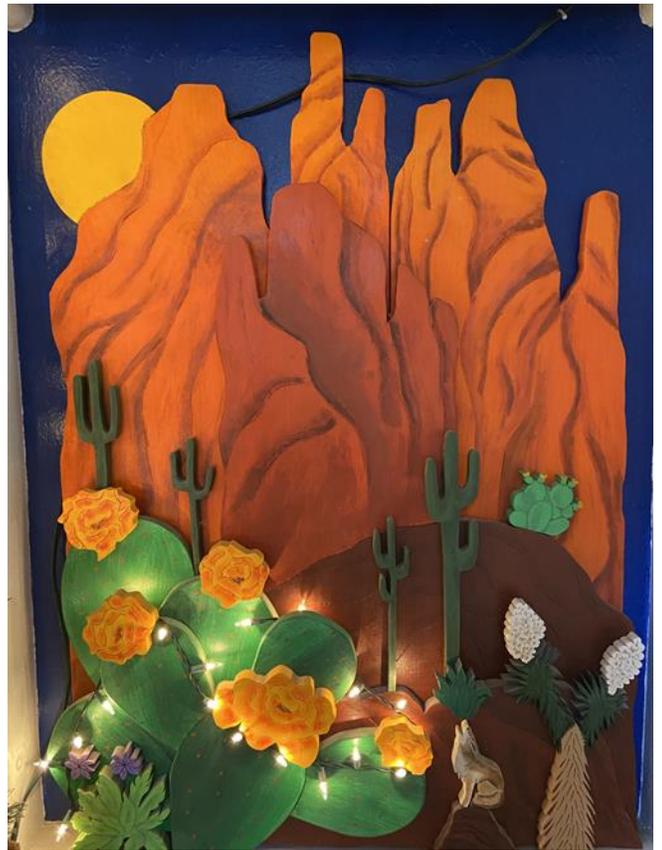
Bonelle finds wood sculpturing brings out her creative skills. It also gives her quiet time to mediate and enjoy the feeling of the wood in her hands. Bonelle's wood art represents the land, people, culture and heritage of her ancestors, the Choctaw tribe (Cherokee).

She often donates her wood art to the Deaf organizations like the National Association of the Deaf, Arizona Association of the Deaf, Phoenix Deaf Women Organization and others for their silent or live auction. What an admirable generous person!!

You can see from the photos that her wood sculpting is beautifully detailed with 3-dimensional and vibrant. Her favorite theme is generally of Southwestern scenes.



Charmaine's favorite



So beautifully detailed especially the wolf



What a creative way to use hands



Amazing 3-dimensional work of woodwork



**Excerpts from the Knob Hill News**

*Helen Merritt Tingley and Ursula Klim Attia, Coordinators*

My First Impressions  
 Michiko Morimoto

I can laugh now at how I was puzzled at people on the campus last fall. Although I studied English for several years at School in Japan, I hardly knew how to sign what I wanted to say in English, so as soon as I arrived here, I was really surprised at the way people sign. Signs you use every second are very different from none, as well as your language, which is not the same as mine. At all. I think your signs are more expressive than mine.

There were many unexpected things about which I could not help feeling uneasy, in spite of knowing something about the American way of life from movies, books, etc. Do you know that in Japan every car must be driven on the left side of the road? At first whenever I was waiting for a bus here which, of course, is driven on the right side of the road, I found myself searching for the bus in the opposite direction as though I were a rustic sight-seer. What would happen if the front of the bus had struck my precious head?

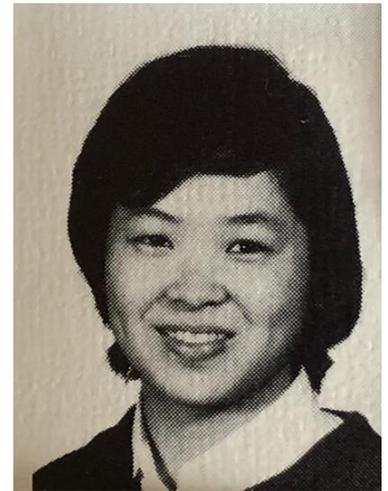
The other day when I was just about to pull open a door, a boy behind me instantly pulled it and made me go in first. This event seems like nothing to you, but it was the first experience I had ever had, and I decided that I must make up my mind to forget about being a Japanese girl. Well, I would no longer like to relate anymore of my blunders.

I notice that most American people are very out-going and friendly. They all smile at each other. They seem to know how to enjoy themselves by means of parties, movies, and so on. While I lived in Tokyo, I sometimes attended parties, but no one thought that we had to dance at every party.

Everybody on campus knows how to state his own thoughts and to get along with others. Some young get along with others. Some young people in Japan are so shy that they can't do what they should do. To become better acquainted with one another young people at home are going to have to absorb some American habits.

In regard to the studying attitudes of students in both America and Japan, I found there is no difference. Whatever they study there are lazy students, ambitious students, etc.

In conclusion, it is true that foreign students will have to "do in Rome as the Romans do." and I hope our life will develop more fully due to various experiences while we are living and studying here.



*Michiko Morimoto*



**The Anniversary Book Report**

*Bernie Brown, Coordinator*

This is an exciting time now! We have received 124 profiles. They are ready to be put in the Anniversary Book. Thank you to those who sent their profiles.

We need more names of those who went up the Tower Clock. Please let me know if you did go up the Tower Clock – [berniepbrown@gmail.com](mailto:berniepbrown@gmail.com). More names the better!