

Profile of Nancy Thorndike Greenspan: Mount Holyoke College—1970



It is my pleasure and privilege to share with my classmates a profile of one of our own who has led a distinguished career in the years since her graduation from MHC. Nancy went to work for the World Health Organization and then completed a masters in health economics at the University of North Carolina in 1973. She then spent almost a decade at the federal agency, Health and Human Services, and married Dr. Stanley Greenspan in 1975. They had three brilliant children who are Sarah, an opera singer in Berlin; Elizabeth, a PhD anthropologist and noted author of The Battle for Ground Zero; and Jake, co-founder of The Floortime Center in Bethesda MD and author of The Floortime Manual, a legacy of Stanley's work with children with autism.

From 1982 to the present, Nancy has worked as an environmental activist and published six books, the most recent of which will launch in 2020 with Viking Press. Atomic Spy—Klaus Fuchs: Brilliance, Betrayal and the Bomb interweaves the story of Fuchs' fight against the Nazis in Germany, his brilliance as a physicist, and his betrayal of the US design of the plutonium bomb to the Russians in 1945. Her interest in physics stems from her 2005 biography of physicist Max Born, The End of the Certain World, who won a Noble prize for his work in quantum physics.

After the tragic death of her husband in 2010, Nancy has kept active with ice dancing, power walking, and weight lifting. She adores her two granddaughters and is a board member and past president of the children's theater, Imagination Stage, her civic pride and joy.

We are all so proud of Nancy and her many accomplishments as a tribute to the depth and breadth of our Mount Holyoke College legacy from 1970.

Sharon Lorenzo