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“Class of 61 – Where in the USA Are We Today?”

Winchester, Massachusetts – Carolyn Domenig Latanision



After graduating from Kutztown University, finishing in 3 years, I married and moved to Columbus, Ohio, where my husband was beginning grad school. Not able to find a job teaching art in the public schools, I took a job teaching art at one of the city’s recreation center in an all Black city housing project. I was able to witness the beginning of the racial protests that began at that time. As the only White person there 6 days a week, I would forget my own skin color. The people I worked with generously taught me a lot. During this time I also attended Ohio State University to “retrain” for elementary teaching certification, teaching an inner city second grade for 3 years before moving on to Washington D.C., where Ron began post doc work at the Bureau of Standards. I am happy to still know some of those students, who have managed to do very well in spite of their early limited opportunities.

After the post doc years, we lived for 4 years in Columbia, MD before heading to Düsseldorf, Germany in 1974 with our 2 young children, where Ron worked with Max Planck Institute. My 4 years of German came in very handy, as few adults spoke English where my everyday activities took place, in schools, stores, etc.

From Germany, we moved to Winchester, MA in 1975 with the beginning of Ron's 30 years of teaching at MIT and we are still in the same house. I instantly liked New England for the landscape, the history, and even the climate. In some ways it also reminded me of Bethlehem. I didn't want to re-certify for teaching so that's when I began to finally paint seriously. In 1980 I rented a studio and began teaching watercolor classes to adults, which to this day I still do, but in a different studio. This was the beginning of exhibiting my paintings in Boston, nationally and internationally.

I began to enter national and international exhibitions with my paintings, which sometimes are inspired by our travels, often for international meetings that my husband was involved in. We continue to travel internationally, taking grandchildren with us as often as we can, to see, to do, and to meet our friends around the world.

I have been involved in fund raising for Winchester Hospital, among other things painting stage scenery for an annual Cabaret and also producing one of these shows, now surpassing a one hundred year history.

Our son lives in Middlesex, NJ with his family; our daughter lives here in Winchester with her family. We have had all 5 of our grandchildren with us to walk the Hoover-Mason Trestle to get a close-up look and to understand the paintings I've been doing of Bethlehem Steel. I had 3 private tours of the plant shortly after it was closed, so I have a great deal of material from which to work. After so many years of the plant closing, these paintings seem to stir up a great deal of interest. They can be seen on my website [www.CarolynLatanision.com](http://www.CarolynLatanision.com).

We have a house in New Seabury, Cape Cod as well, so we go back and forth year-round to enjoy the many things there are to do there. Even with the Covid crisis, it is still a wonderful place to “travel” to!

I definitely plan to attend the 60th reunion! Let's hope Covid is at bay by then. I'm glad the reunion wasn't this year!