

HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT

2013/2014
Journal

Marina Katherine Tsakis Skea

Class of 1973

Marina attributes much of her success to the strong educational foundation provided by all of her K-12 teachers. She was strongly encouraged to pursue writing and art by Hank Grimaldi and David Kresley. Ben Scannella's classroom techniques greatly inspired her style of teaching and Nick Bilotti's public speaking class prepared her to design and deliver presentations.

She was a member of *Folio*, Humanities Club, and Student Council and fondly recalls serving as Editor-In-Chief of *The Maverick* student newspaper. She enjoyed watching her sister Nanette ('74) perform in the marching band and orchestra and delighted in hearing Principal Walter G. O'Connell sing "Oh Holy Night" at the Christmas concerts. She wrote a column for the *Amityville Record*, was a Brunswick Hospital candy striper and an officer in the Organization of Triangles.

She received a BS in art education from St. John's and an MS and CAS in educational administration from Hofstra. Her career progressed in marketing, design, finance, teaching high school and eventually becoming a chief business administrator. She later served as Senior Administrator for *New American Schools Development Corporation's* national design team at Metropolitan College of NY. Her most rewarding responsibility involved writing grants which provided underperforming schools with millions of dollars in *Comprehensive School Reform Design* funding, while also guiding them in strategic planning, curriculum development and teacher training to improve test scores. She was recognized as an outstanding school reform administrator by the Mississippi Delta Schools Consortium and the San Jose, CA USD.

Marina served on the Board of Directors of Literacy Volunteers of America and the Advisory Board for the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors for NY Outdoors Women, Inc. She is an award winning educator, baker and textile artist. She is writing an instructional art quilting guide for children while working to execute an international children's quilt based on her original design. Marina and her husband Russell share their time between the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Thurman, SC where they enjoy participating in a multitude of outdoor sporting activities.

**"Destiny is Not a Matter of Chance; it is a Matter of Choice;
it is Not a Thing to be Waited For, it is a Thing to be Achieved."**