

# Wendy Berman Bloom '70

## Outstanding Service Award



A lifelong bibliophile, Wendy Berman Bloom used her avocation as a springboard to a long and successful career in library service. In 2015 she retired as director of Ramsey Free Public Library in northern New Jersey, where she managed the complete renovation of the dated facility. By the time she left, residents had access to a 21st-century community hub with robust digital resources and a top-notch staff. Since then, Wendy has been devoting her time to local nonprofits and a national organization that supports families at risk for genetic cancers. She had already been “paying it forward” for decades as one of Skidmore’s most dedicated alumna volunteers.

Wendy traces the roots of her professional journey to Skidmore, where she spent her junior and senior years serving as assistant to the director of Lucy Scribner Library (a work-study position). During several summers, she interned with the Nassau County Library System.

The courses she took at Skidmore, observes Wendy, “were the foundation of learning how to think,” particularly those taken in pursuit of her American studies major. Singing with the Sonneteers, who were often hosted by alumni families while on the road, she says, was “a total joy.” Campus life opened new vistas. She enjoyed cultural performances, lectures and art exhibitions that exposed her to new genres and forms of expression. Equally important, she notes, were conversations with friends “that opened my eyes to other perspectives.”

In 1971, Wendy completed a Master of Library Science degree from Rutgers University and launched a four-decade career. She spent a year at New Jersey’s Morris County Library, subsequently honing her skills at New York Public Library. In the mid-1970s, she moved to the Westchester County Library System, starting in teen and adult services before transitioning into administration as the director of Mount Kisco Public Library. She served as director of Ramsey Free Public Library in New Jersey for 14 years. Throughout her professional life, Wendy chaired numerous library consortia committees, served as president of the Westchester public library directors’ association and fulfilled multiple terms on the executive board of New Jersey’s Bergen County Cooperative Library System.

Through the years, Wendy has always stood ready to answer Skidmore’s calls for volunteers. A longtime class agent, she has always dug in deep to help make “the final push before May 31,” often following up on calls and notes for other agents who were unable to complete their assignment. A seasoned Reunion planner, Wendy enjoyed serving as co-class historian and a regional club volunteer. She is celebrating her 50th year as class president and class agent.

“Some of my wonderful Skidmore friends were only acquaintances during our college years, but we have grown closer working together as volunteers. It continues to be a pleasure,” she reflects.

Wendy credits her husband, Harold, and their children, Stephanie and Jeremy, for their support of her Skidmore activities through the decades. “Harold has never missed a Reunion, so special recognition goes to him too!”

There are also deep family connections that include Wendy’s sister, **Susan Berman Bell '66**, her brother, **Morri Berman '76**, and nieces **Eliza Berman '13** and **Naomi Shapiro '24**.

A financial aid and scholarship recipient throughout her four years at Skidmore, Wendy is a firm believer in paying forward opportunities to today’s students.

“As an alumna, I am excited by every new student who arrives at Skidmore with financial need. I understand the opportunities that they are about to encounter and the support they will find to realize their vision of their future selves, even if that picture is not yet clear.”

A consistent donor for the past 50 years, Wendy hopes she is helping to perpetuate a legacy of gratitude. “It brings joy to my life.”