Sts. Philip & James School

359 Clinton Avenue

St. James, New York 11780

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www.sspjschool.net

Alumni's Name : Samson(Maiden name) (Last Name) Mary Margaret (First Name) 1968 (Graduation Class)

Your email address: mmelmaya@ncsu.edu
(For publication and contact from Sts. Philip and James School and other school alumni)

High School Attended: Smithtown High School Year Graduated: 1972

Please share information on your high school experiences and any awards you may have received:
N.Y. State Regent's Diploma; Received an award for the best student in German & best student in Chinese!

College/University Attended: Duke University Year Graduated: 1975
University of Southern California 1979
North Carolina State University currently a PhD student

Please share information on your college/university experiences and any awards you may have received: I graduated from Duke University in 3 years with honors; voted into Delta Phi Alpha (German Honor Society). I graduated from the nation's #1 school of physical therapy for my Master of Science in P.T. degree.

Any personal information that you wish to share (family, business, etc…):
I attended SSPJ from 1st through 7th grade. The first and second grades were in the old original school building adjacent to 25A where more than one grade was initially in a class. I was only one of 5 girls in the first grade class in 1960. Near In Spring of second grade we moved into the 'new' school building. Since I was baptized at Sts. Phillip and James, and spent my entire childhood in St. James/Head-of-the-Harbor. I would LOVE to be included in any plans for a reunion. (I understand my former classmate SSPJ classmate, Nanette Montaldo(sp?) is organizing this reunion.)

Upon my early graduation from Duke University, I worked for Bishop Joseph Gossman at the Diocese of Raleigh before starting grad school. After graduation from Southern Cal, I worked for years at the City of Hope National Medical Center. I became a contributing editor to a graduate textbook, organized and spoke at continuing education workshops, taught and lectured at various L.A. area college programs and did pioneering work in the field of cancer rehabilitation. I won an "Outstanding Professional Volunteer Award" from the American Cancer Society. I became a full-time assistant professor at Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. I continued to be involved in Catholic Young Adult Ministry and Catholic Social Justice. I was trained in Cavalletti (similar to Marie Montessori) with young children's religious education, taught 'Sunday School' for years, & was awarded "Master Catechist" certification.

After teaching working as a physical therapist, I also became a secondary school science and ESL teacher. I won a coveted national award as an outstanding new science teacher. Then I became a T.A. at NC State University to work on my doctorate. I was elected into the Kappa Delta Pi education honor society. I have just finished my required doctoral courses and plan to complete my research and dissertation. I have spent the past few summers at the Exploratorium Teacher Institute in San Francisco, and doing studies in Vienna, Austria. I currently live/work in Raleigh with my 2 grown daughters. I help out my elderly parents who recently moved here from NY. I REALLY want to attend my SSPJ reunion!