

## **DEBORAH (DEBBA) ROBINSON SEKOU '71**

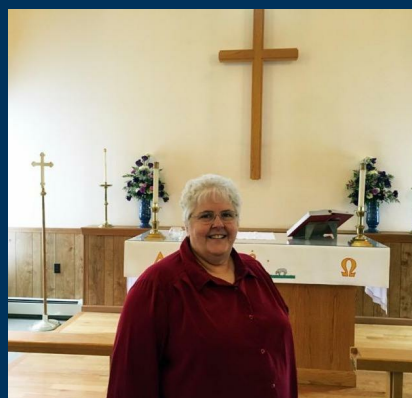
### **How did Linden Hall affect your life after graduation?**

Academically and socially, I had much more self-confidence than I had before attending. I had teachers who held us to high standards. By maintaining those standards and study habits in college, I was leaps and bounds ahead of my peers who attended less rigorous high schools and who focused on their new-found freedoms rather than their studies. Socially, while I still had a long way to go, I wasn't so afraid to say what I was good at and to promote my strengths when working with others.



### **What piece of advice would you share with girls at Linden Hall today?**

Take pride in all you do. Don't be afraid to take risks and don't be ashamed if you fail at something. At the end of the day, all we really have is our personal integrity - if you can always be trusted to be honest, to do what you believe is the right thing at that moment in time, and to build others up by your supportive words, you will never be sorry.



### **What did you love most about Linden Hall?**

There are far too many things for me to list here. I loved life at Linden Hall in general, my teachers, classmates, activities ... but, to be 100% honest, the riding program was my all-time favorite. Give me a horse to ride, care for, and love, and I'm in heaven.

### **Describe your experience at Linden Hall. What is your favorite memory?**

My favorite memories (I could never pick just one) certainly involve the traditions - Gretna Day, graduation, choir and Lindenaires, mail call, freshman and penthouse dorms and the crazy things we would do to each other (short-sheeting beds, shaving cream in pillow cases, dill pickles hidden between the sheets at the foot of the bed, etc.), apple goo, graham cracker fluff, Alma's baked beans, Sunday morning sticky rolls, cottage cheese with apple butter, and so many other foods. Dining with our teachers and house-mothers at family style meals created a special atmosphere. I remember when I came back years later and most meals were cafeteria style, I felt a huge piece of LH's personality had been lost. I'm a sentimental old fool, and Christmas is a special time of year for me. Christmas Vespers and the year we did French carols always gave me goose bumps, and I shed tears of joy. Caroling for our teachers and local friends was fun each year - but when our senior year rolled around,

it was just another marking on the last time for something - I can still see us gathered around Mr. Sloat in his home, singing to him, and realizing that the chance of him being alive the next time I came back was going to be pretty slim, and that our lives were changing much too quickly. I treasured each and every moment with my teachers and reminded myself how very lucky I was to be a Linden Hall Girl!

### **How many years did you attend Linden Hall?**

I was a four-year girl!

### **What clubs or sports were you a member of?**

Glee Club, Choir, Lindenaires, Future Teachers, Basketball manager, Vanguard's, Ski Club, Bit and Spur Club, Drama Club, HomeEc Club, Activities Council, Student Cabinet.

### **What Blue and White team were you on?**

BLUE-BLUE-BLUE!

### **What college did you attend?**

I attended Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio (BA Elementary Education and Speech); University of Vermont in Burlington, VT (MA Reading and Language Arts); and Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH (CAGS - Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) to get my Principal's certification.

### **What is your occupation?**

I am an Educator (Elementary Educator K-8; Reading Specialist K-12; Principal K-12). I taught elementary school from 1974 - 2005. I became head of school in Bali, Indonesia from 2005 - 2008 and then head of school in Niamey, Niger from 2008 - 2011. Over the years I have taught in Zanesville, OH; Thornton, NH; Tripoli, Libya; Casablanca, Morocco; Gilmanton, NH; N'Djamena, Chad; Nagoya, Japan; Surabaya, Indonesia; Kerobokan, Bali, Indonesia; and Niamey, Niger

### **Do you participate in any professional organizations?**

Yes, the NEA (National Education Association); AISH (Association of International School Heads); AAIE (Association for the Advancement of International Education); BHOSA (Bali Heads of School Association); AISA (American International Schools in Africa); MAIS (Mediterranean Association of International Schools); EARCOS (East Asian Regional Council of Overseas Schools), among others.

### **Do you participate in community service? If so, what organizations? Any leadership roles?**

I have always been active in some way. Most recently, I volunteer at our local hospital; in local schools to support students in reading and math; via my church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Laconia, NH; I support our food pantry, disaster relief, fund raising for various charities, I assist with bookkeeping records and serve on various committees from time-to-time. I also support foster children through Compassion International and have actually visited two of my children, one in the Philippines and another in Burkina Faso (Africa). I hope to foster pets for the animal shelter, too. I play French Horn in the New Horizons Musical Organization of the Lakes Region and the Center Harbor Town Band and we play concerts in the Veterans'

Home, local nursing homes and assisted living facilities, community events, churches, etc.

## JUST FOR FUN

### What is your favorite book?

This question kills me! Many of the books I read for my summer reading are still high on my list of favorites: *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Good Earth*; *Green Mansions*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Gone with the Wind*, and *A Light in the Forest* to name a few. But, I'm going to have to recognize the *Outlander* series by Diana Gabaldon as my favorite in recent years.

### What is your favorite movie or TV show?

My favorite movie is *Gone With the Wind* (as well as MANY other classics). For TV shows, I'm totally hooked on the shows that talk about real crimes and mysteries.

### Name three things you couldn't live without.

My family and friends, my faith, my memories.

### Class notes and Alumnae Updates

Linden Hall is always delighted to hear from you!

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