



Member Spotlight

Welcome to our newest feature, “Member Spotlight”! Each month, we hope to give you some information that you might not know about our members. I will randomly select someone each month, so be prepared...it may be your time to shine in the Spotlight soon!

I am continually inspired and impressed with our membership, and you will be too when you read about this month’s Member in the Spotlight, Mary Caroline Powers Van der Veer!

As we know, Mary Caroline has been a member of SISC since 1980! At the time she joined, there were about 25 members. She has been on the board, served as President, and has been an integral part of the Secret Gardens Tour committee since its inception. Mary Caroline and her husband John have three children, and three grandsons (seen here in Quebec City this summer). After having as many as four dogs, a cat, a big turtle and a gerbil all at the same time...she is currently pet-less.

In her fascinating life, Mary Caroline is the oldest of five (two siblings deceased) and she grew up in Scotia, N.Y.

She lived and worked in Peru in a small city named Puno on Lago Titicaca in 1966, a major point of transfer of guns from Castro's Cuba to Che Guervara's troops in Bolivia. She later studied in Madrid, Spain, when Generalissimo Franco was in power. He had the international students' dorm surrounded by barbed wire during the student riots in Paris in 1968.

She started her television career with WMHT when it was in the basement of the Riverside School in the Stockade section of Schenectady. Mary Caroline did a children's history show once a week while also teaching English at Scotia-Glenville High School.

She has been an editor for one newspaper, six different magazines and five books. She loves classical music; among her favorite pieces are Rachmaninoff's Piano Concert in C minor, Goldberg Variations and Carmina Burana.

Wow!

If you've never met Mary Caroline before, be sure to seek her out at a dinner meeting. You never know what other bits of interesting information you will find out!

Until next month,
Marie