

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Barbara Lombardo



Barb and Dom Perignon celebrate the debut of her Done With Deadlines blog after concluding a 38-year career at The Saratogian in July 2015.

Each month, we feature one of our members to get to know each other a little better. This month, we shine the spotlight on Barbara Lombardo... a member since 1980!

Barbara Lombardo is looking forward this year to several family milestones and fun travel: A trip to Chicago in May to watch son Joe defend his thesis for a Ph.D. in computational neuroscience; her 40th anniversary with husband Jim (on July 8; she hasn't yet told him they'll be celebrating at the Secret Gardens Tour); a summer weekend with Jim at the Newport Folk Festival; the September wedding of local son David to his wonderful long-time girlfriend (both reporters at the Times Union); and a seventh trip with Mary Huber's Edventures group, this time to Italy in the fall. Whew!

Way back in the last millennium, Barbara felt honored to be invited to join the brand-new Saratoga Soroptimist club co-founded by her boss Linda Toohey, who was then publisher at The Saratogian. Barb still enjoys being among so many interesting, talented women who accomplish so much, in and beyond Soroptimists.

Barbara spent 38 years at The Saratogian, most of them as its top editor during a time of incredible changes, some good and some not, in the news business. She left the paper two years ago, starting a blog called Done With Deadlines as an occasional outlet for writing. She's happy to have time to play daytime tennis during the week (as a perennial beginner), more time in the garden (still learning about perennials), and guilt-free reading (often historical fiction; presently enjoying "Darktown"). But she's not retired: Barb is in her tenth year as a part-time journalism teacher at the University at Albany.

Barb has discovered that since leaving full-time employment, she cooks less often than ever and has not become handier around the house. She has lived in Saratoga Springs for about 40 years, in walking distance to her favorite downtown restaurants (Chianti, Boca Bistro and Osteria Danny) as well as to the track and even to SPAC, where she loves soaking up the ballet and orchestra under the stars. Just strolling through Congress Park to admire the Spirit of Life and watch children chase the ducks is a lovely, treasured way to spend part of a day.

Barb is grateful that Jim is still working full-time to finance travels abroad (over last few years: Barcelona, London, northern Italy, Iceland, Scotland, Prague) and quick Amtrak getaways to New York City's MoMA, the Met and a Broadway show. Two favorites this year: Come From Away and Springsteen on Broadway.

Current community service includes serving on the boards of the New York News Publishers Foundation and the Women's Press Club of New York State (which is currently organizing a #metoo what's next program), and volunteering with the Rural Food Delivery in Saratoga County. Impending major projects: Tennis lessons, helping with the Secret Gardens Tour, and finding the perfect mother-of-the-groom dress.

Photos below are from July 2017 on the first day of the Lombardo Family's first and only family vacation with both sons and their girlfriends, at one of Barb's favorite getaways, The Hedges in Blue Mountain Lake. Her older son, David, proposed to his girlfriend the next day atop Blue Mountain! (The only ones who weren't in on the engagement plan were his new fiancé and Barbara.)



## Growth and Development

The Growth and Development (G & D) Committee met on March 28th to finalize plans for the New Member Orientation Breakfast held on April 7th at the Saratoga Golf and Polo. During the New Member Orientation prospective members were informed about the club, Soroptimist International organization, expectations and responsibilities of membership.

Attached is the annual membership form. Dues, along with membership form, must be paid by May 9, 2018. You can bring your completed form and check to our **May 9th** meeting.

It is an honor that the G& D Committee with SISC Board approval, present to club members the following seven prospective member nominations:

**Elizabeth Rose Meliski:** Elizabeth works in Intraoperative Neuromonitoring and resides in Queensbury. She previously was a SISC member before relocating to Washington DC. Beth possesses a passion for volunteering and enthusiasm for fundraising that would be an asset to the club. Her unique skills include public speaking, member of Toastmaster's International, time management, speaker for Parent-Child workshops and volunteering for numerous organizations.

**Sponsor:** Marie Hoffman

**Mary C. Meliski:** Mary is a teacher at the Turnpike Elementary School, Troy, NY and resides in Stillwater. Volunteering is important to Mary and she has lead various clubs including Girl Scouts Troop 660 and PTA at School 12 Troy. Currently, she runs a Mended Hearts Chapter and organized 5k's for the American Heart Association. Mary is the mother of Elizabeth Rose Meliski.

**Sponsor:** Marie Hoffman