

# Neighbors

## College honors teacher's life of service

By **CAROL CHILD**  
Special to The News Journal

Anne Rogan Herndon's parents wanted to give her an education that would provide her with a sense of purpose and place in life.

Seventy years after graduation, Herndon, of Brandywine Hundred, has been awarded the Ursula Laurus Citation by the College of New Rochelle in New York state. Herndon, an alumna, was presented the award in June by the college's president, Stephen J. Sweeney.

The Ursula Laurus Citation honors alumni and alumnae and friends of the college for outstanding leadership and generous devotion to furthering the high ideals and rich traditions of Ursuline education taught at the school.

"Anne Rogan Herndon is a role model for all women, and we are especially proud to claim her as one of our own," says Eileen Niedzwiecki, director of alumnae/i relations at the College of New Rochelle. "Seven decades after graduation, she is full of energy, driven by a pure love of learning and commitment to service. She lives with a zest for life that is undeniably contagious."

Herndon was raised on Long Island and in the Greenwich Village area of New York City. She was sent to an Ursuline high school and to New Rochelle, where she earned her bachelor of arts degree with a major in history and a minor in philosophy. She also studied for a year at the Sorbonne in France.

"I loved Paris," says Herndon. "It gave me another perspective on life."

After Paris, she married John M. Herndon, whom she had met through her college roommate from Wilmington. He died unexpectedly after 19 years of marriage, leaving her to raise their two daughters and son.

"It was a shock," says Herndon. "But I believe you take what you've been given and go with it."

Herndon taught fifth grade in the Brandywine School District for 16 years.

"I love teaching," says Herndon. "At 10 years old I was a teacher. I started to teach at church. I still have students writing to me whom I taught 30 years ago." While teaching, she at-



Anne Rogan Herndon relaxes in her home in Brandywine Hundred. The News Journal/LESLIE LLOYD

tended night and summer school at the University of Delaware, earning her master's degree in 1964 in the philosophy of education, with a minor in history.

Herndon took her students on field trips to Winterthur museum, ultimately accepting a position there heading the program to organize tours for elementary school children. She also guided adult tours through

the museum.

In 1980, Herndon joined the Academy of Lifelong Learning, serving for 20 years as lecturer, council member and on various committees. The academy provides opportunities for adults over 50 to learn, teach and travel.

"Herndon was interested and dedicated," says Ruth Flexman, University of Delaware coordinator with the Academy of Life-

### PROFILE

#### Anne Rogan Herndon

**Age:** 90s  
**Family:** 2 daughters, 1 son; 4 grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren, including one set of twins.

**Residence:** Carcroft, in Brandywine Hundred

**Education:** Bachelor of arts degree in history from the College of New Rochelle in New York; master's degree in the philosophy of education from the University of Delaware, 1964.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Loves to teach; loves people; reading, walking, swimming, history, antiques

**Her message:** Children should be raised with discipline, taught a sense of responsibility to themselves and to a place where they can make a contribution to society. This starts at home, in the churches and society.

long Learning. "She was at the forefront, at the academy from its beginning in 1980."

Herndon taught American history and antiques.

"I like to teach about places and personalities who contributed to the country," she says. "I like to bring out the characters' personalities, tell a story. My classes generally applauded when I finished a story. But when I ended one such story about John Adams, the class sat in silence. 'Uh-oh, I've really done it now,' I thought. After a moment, they broke into applause. They said they were so moved by my story they just sat there stunned."

"It's the people who make the Academy," says Flexman, "We do want to honor people's lives."

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two years ago to devote time to maintaining her two homes. She recently bought a condominium in Naples, Fla., where she swims, walks, attends performances at the Naples Philharmonic hall and teaches English as a second language.

"It's hard to catch me at home during the day," she says. "I'm in and out like a butterfly."

Herndon has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She says she is distressed at what is happening in the public schools today.

"They keep raising SAT levels without raising the level of discipline," she said. "Kids were good when I was teaching. Now they leave the teachers worn out. Discipline starts at home and in the churches and society. Children need to be taught a sense of responsibility - to themselves and to achieving a place in society."

"My parents gave us time and love, taught us respect for ourselves and our elders. Now parents negotiate with their kids. My husband and my parents gave me the world, but there comes a time when you hold the world in your own hands and you run with it."

"My plans for the future? Ha!" Herndon laughs. "I'm in my 90s! I won't tell you exactly how old. Some people call this the winter of your life. I like to view it as the French do - 'the third stage.' This is a time for reading and peace and quiet."

"There is a reckoning with yourself at this age, to get all the loose ends tied up. It's a new time. You begin to see life in a different manner. It's interesting. I see it as having a half-glass of water rather than a glass half-empty. I've had a good life. I'm indebted to God for all I've been given. This is not without arguments, however."

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