**Profile of Ellen Cochran Hirzy, Class of 1970**

Ellen Cochran Hirzy describes her life as a Venn diagram of many relationships. Her MHC friends are a big part of that and her love for them has informed the rest of her friendships since 1970. As an English major, Ellen says she felt she evolved into a logical thinker during her college years and her study of literature informed her perspective on life and learning.

Through a very long career in writing, editing and publishing, Ellen has become an expert on the many issues facing non-profit organizations today. After eleven years with the American Association of Museums, where she was director of publications and editor of Museum News, she started her own writing and editing business in the museum field. From ghost writing to exhibition catalogs, Ellen has seen non-profits reach for new business data to make them more authentic and responsive to multicultural audiences today. From the Dallas Museum of Art to the Whitney Museum, she has written and edited books about visitor experience and equity and access in museums. Working with the League of American Orchestras, she recently wrote a handbook on board governance and responsibility. Community engagement, strengthened communication and intensive programs for teens in art museums are just some of the many issues she has addressed in her recent projects. She belongs to The Museum Group, a consortium of museum consultants who are valued long-time friends and colleagues.

Ellen noted that her work continues to be gratifying, even though slowing down sounds appealing. As a first-time mother at 41, she soon found herself in the sandwich generation. She noted in her reunion profile that she is still an “unabashed liberal feminist pacifist,” and she currently lives in a split Hillary-Bernie household with her husband Bill. Her Whitney Museum project was entitled, Room to Rise, which I think is a perfect metaphor for the work that Ellen has done to use her MHC education to elevate those around her to a new level of awareness and capability for leadership in the non-profit world that is such an essential part of American life.

-Sharon Murray Lorenzo

