Name: Judy Jurgensen Vartan
School/Year: SESP 1966
City & State: Atherton, CA

Personal Bio:
For over forty years, my professional life has revolved either directly or indirectly around the education of children. I have a K-12 teaching certificate and have been a classroom teacher, multiple subject private tutor, and SAT prep instructor.
During the years my own children were growing up, I focused my interest in education by volunteering in their schools. I was able to channel my professional background into numerous roles including writer and editor of the district GATE newsletter, member of the steering committee for a new middle school, founder of Fine Arts Festival, founder of parent groups for football and track, member of the human relations steering committee, artist-on-call for several publications, and PTA president. This direct contact with children over the years and at varying ages has enhanced my understanding and appreciation of the world of young people and my passion for writing and illustrating picture books.
In addition to education, I also have a California Real Estate Sales License and have sold residential real estate for several years. Additionally, I staged houses, decorating homes for real estate sales.
My avocation over the years has been the exploration of avenues for creative expression. As a self-taught artist, I work in a variety of mediums – watercolors, acrylics, pen and ink, hand-cast paper, silkscreen and encaustic. Embellishing baby clothes with my original, whimsical designs has become a virtual canvas and led to the creation of my infant wear business, Do-Dah Doodles.

Northwestern Connection:
Both my husband and I have valued our Northwestern connection over the years. We have attended virtually all our 5-year reunions (‘66 for me, ‘65 for my husband) which allowed us to re-connect with friends and keep current with the developments at the University. Frequently, I served on the reunion committees. We are members of the John Evans Society and Leadership Circle. We have hosted numerous Northwestern gatherings in our home ranging from fireside talks by a professor to Sally Blount, the Dean of Kellogg. We support and participate in the SF Bay Area Club. Recently, we suggested and seeded a fund at SESP, The Compassionate Relief Fund, which aids students who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in a dire, emergency situation. My husband has served on and chaired the Kellogg Alumni Council. A fun integration of my personal life and NU was creating a whimsical Willie the Wildcat design that was put on onesies and used by both SESP and Kellogg for various alumni occasions.

Family/Hobbies:
I live in the San Francisco Bay Area with my husband Gerron. We have two adult children, Courtney and Brent. Courtney who graduated from Northwestern is married with a boy and a girl and lives 10 minutes from us. Brent and his wife live in NYC. We enjoy the company of two yellow labs.
My leisure time revolves around art, gardening, travel, and, most importantly, enjoying our family.