

Memories of Pat Carini
Margaret Himley

For over 40 years Pat has been a through-line in my life, and her death has been difficult.

When I was struggling in graduate school to find a methodology for understanding children as writers, I read her North Dakota Study Group monographs, with awe, and then gathered all my courage to call her. And there she was, on the phone – warm, supportive, and easy to talk with, inviting me to my first Summer Institute.

There my appreciation for Pat's intellectual range grew and grew. We read philosophical texts, did descriptive reviews, and had a chance to meet one-on-one with Pat to talk about our own projects. I learned something – and something important – every time Pat spoke, especially every time she did a summary of one of our discussions or reviews.

Pat had an extraordinary capacity to listen, draw out themes, craft compelling language that stayed close to what we had contributed, but deepened and enriched it.

As I was working on my book *Shared Territory*, I had the great fortune to meet with Pat every week for a semester. Together, we shared books related to this project. We talked through the Prospect school and its philosophy and practices. She chaired a review of my son's early writing. She supported me fully and generously, and even contributed an essay on expressiveness (39-56) to the book.

Certainly the best parts of this book are Pat's words – and it has been so moving to hear her voice again in those written words, as I have reread sections of the book after she died.

After I had been on the Prospect board for a while, I invited Pat and Lou to my home to talk about the possibility of publishing Prospect work. Prospect is oral in so many ways – the reviews, the workshops, the many, many talks Pat gave all over the country. We often said, 'you have to be there' to understand the philosophy and processes, to value the depth of understanding that emerges, to experience the power of it all.

But I'm a writing teacher, and I wanted a larger audience for Prospect. We spent many hours considering ways to 'write' Prospect, and eventually came up with the plan for *From Another Angle*. We invited folks in the Prospect network to tape reviews (with permission of the parents, of course), and selected three for the book. The book is multi-authored, multi-voiced. It sets up context and implication. And mostly, I hope, it introduces the descriptive review of the child in instructive, important, and inspiring ways.

Pat was great to write with. She was a brilliant writer herself, a moving storyteller, a profound thinker, always setting a high standard for herself with each new writing task. She was also a generative reader of others' work, sensitive to the goals of other writers, detailed and kind in her suggestions and responses, always present, always interested.

I enjoyed the years we had together, co-editing and writing for the books in the Prospect series, and then later the phone calls, as we kept in touch, suggesting books to each other, sharing news, exchanging stories about grandkids, talking about the changes that aging brings, maintaining the friendship that had developed over the years.

I will always be profoundly grateful for the gift of her extraordinary presence in my life.