Welcome
FREDA REBELSKY

Freda moved to Mayflower from Newton, MA, last summer. To the surprise of her friends, the move to the midwest, after living in the east most of her life, has proved satisfying as she enters a new era of life.

Born in New York City, Freda graduated from Fieldston High School, in 1948. She continued her education at the University of Chicago, received a B.A. degree in Philosophy and Law, followed by a M.A. degree in Human Development. She later received a Ph.D. doctorate, also in Human Development, from Radcliffe College and Harvard University.

In 1955 Freda married William Rebelsky who died at the age of 49 in 1979. Their son, Sam Rebelsky and his wife, Dr. Michelle Rebelsky, M.D. and their three sons, live in Grinnell.

Freda’s career began in Chicago, then Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Boston, MA; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; visiting professor at Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands; Radcliffe College and Harvard University, Cambridge. She culminated her career with 34 years as Professor of Psychology at Boston University. She retired in 1996 as Professor Emerita.

A published author of six books and numerous articles, Freda is a member of various professional societies and the recipient of many professional awards and honors. She has served on many professional and cause-related Board of Directors, both during her career and in retirement.

Freda has been a community activist for social justice all her life, particularly in the areas of anti-race and peace issues. Her community work has also included promotion of the arts. She’s been associated with the Boston Dance Collective, the Boston Lyric Opera Company and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has lectured to various community organizations sharing her experience with these social and cultural causes. In more recent years she has enjoyed lecturing on productive aging.

Freda enjoys writing poetry, sketching nature and is an avid reader. She is of the Jewish faith and appreciates that Grinnell College includes a Rabbi on its staff. She attended the Jewish High Holidays on campus last fall and looks forward to attending a weekly Torah study group.

In regard to the move to Grinnell, Freda says, “I'm very happy here. I knew it was a good community with good medical services and I was welcomed wonderfully by Mayflower. I also came because my family was here and I see them often.” She has enjoyed the Mayflower activities and sitting and reading by the garden pond last summer and fall. Freda has been auditing a college class, making new friends and is part of a recorder musical group.

Elaine Noe

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

THE MEANING OF WORDS

Words have a lot of power; recently we’ve changed some of the words we use often at Mayflower. They reflect important new understandings.

No longer do we go to the “basement” in Pearson, we go to the Lower Level. We have become accustomed to the “Unit” now being called South Village. “Mayflower Homes” is now Mayflower Community. We used to have “Hall Dinners” but now we have Neighborhood Dinners.

Ah, the power of words!