

Political activist, diplomat to preside at Bergren Forum

2/10/06

Ruth Salinger, political activist and grassroots international diplomat, will give a Bergren Forum on Thursday, Feb. 16, at noon, in Nevins Theatre, Powell Campus Center, on the Alfred University Campus. Her presentation, "Winging It With the Powers That Be" will cover only a small portion of her life's journey that has spanned the globe and numerous international events. From washing dishes in the family kitchen to playing a bit part on the global stage with present-day movers and shakers, Salinger will offer the story of one woman's journey. From President Jimmy Carter to Don Henley; from Sakhalin Island, Russia, to Kathmandu, Nepal, it is an adventurous tale of one person's attempt to make a difference. She has never passed up an opportunity to open doors, most of which led to surprise encounters with life lived large. Salinger was born in Newton, MA, moved to Lakeland, GA, and Concord, MA, before settling on Cape Ann, Gloucester/Rockport, MA. She is a mother and grandmother. She has been a teacher; director of religious education; youth worker; community volunteer; human rights, civil rights and peace activist; elected politician; local, state, and national political campaign worker; case worker for a Massachusetts state senator and district director for a Congressman; co-founder and president of a global foundation, and founder and president of an international consulting company; a worldwide traveler, and quiet rabble rouser. Interested people are also invited to the Women in Theatre class at 10:20 a.m., Friday Feb. 17, in Room 210 of the Miller Performing Arts Center, for further discussion with Salinger on topics of world politics and theatrical methods of public demonstration. The Division of Performing Arts and the NEH Committee support Salinger's visit to the campus. The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Human Studies, meets Thursdays during the academic semester. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch; coffee and tea will be available.