

ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

# ELIZABETH TOPHAM KENNAN AWARD 2013

PRESENTED TO



*Elinor Miller Greenberg '53*

**ELINOR MILLER GREENBERG, CLASS OF 1953**, we honor you today with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award. This award is presented to alumnae whose accomplishments in the field of education exemplify the values and virtues set forth by the College.

Long before adult education programs were common, you knew that learning should not be just for the young. For more than fifty years, you have designed programs that respond to the diverse needs of adults who found it difficult to participate in traditional learning programs.

You know those needs firsthand, since you entered a new field when you were thirty-nine and had three young children and a career as a speech pathologist. Lifelong learning, although mainstream today, was unusual at the time.

In 1971, you were founding director of a University Without Walls program in Denver, implementing new concepts including learning contracts, learning stipends, “upside-down” degrees, community-based learning resources, and awarding academic credit for students’ life experiences.

You applied these skills in other venues too, training 8,000 communications workers in the 1980s and promoting online learning for nurses in the early 1990s.

At the same time, you have written nine books in addition to your academic work, and still blog weekly at [silverplanet.com](http://silverplanet.com). You have also been active in civil rights and women’s rights, and were inducted into the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame.

For your visionary work using education as the key to social justice, the Alumnae Association is pleased to present you with the Elizabeth Topham Kennan Award on this, your sixtieth reunion.

CYNTHIA L. REED '80  
PRESIDENT  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

JANE E. ZACHARY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE