I was the a graduate of the class of ’93 and one of the first Women’s Studies (that’s what we called it then) majors of which I knew. I was a joint major with Theatre, with a minor in French and studied in Paris, taking a great class in French on women’s literature and psychoanalysis in Paris, and many wonderful classes at Middlebury with Cheryl Faraone, Julia Alvarez, Tamar (Timi) Mayer, Andrea Olsen, Penny Campbell, and so many more. I was part of a small group of women who began the process of creating what we then called a Women’s Center at Middlebury in 1991-1992. We wrote letters to the administrators and worked hard to find a space, get folks to sign petitions, and get it up and running. It was exciting to be a part of a larger cause and my first experience in dealing with organizations to make change happen.

Middlebury provided a gentle backdrop to learn the hard lessons of fighting for political change. We met with some resistance, but with much positive energy and respect from peers, administrators and professors. I remember the grand opening of the Chellis House; there were poetry readings by Brooke Feder ’93, music by Alicia Mathewson ’92, and words from our professors and administrators.

It is a great joy to see Chellis House growing and thriving at Middlebury. You will all be in my thoughts as you continue to do this important work.

-Aimee