

# Paparo and Prebor Reflect on their Keystone Days

**LA PLUME** - The year is 1975.

It's 2 a.m., and while people in the rest of the world rest their heads on soft pillows, **Diane Paparo's** head is buried deep within a cement mixer.

She wouldn't have it any other way.

Now fully engrossed in a world of sculpture and ceramics, drawing and painting, every day the fine arts major discovers another piece of her true passion and another piece of her self.

Twenty-seven years earlier, on a green lush La Plume campus, another student discovers his true passion; another piece of his inner self. Tackling his opponents on the football field, pitching another winner for the baseball team, **Ed Prebor** is in the game to win.

And the business major does, on the field, and in life.

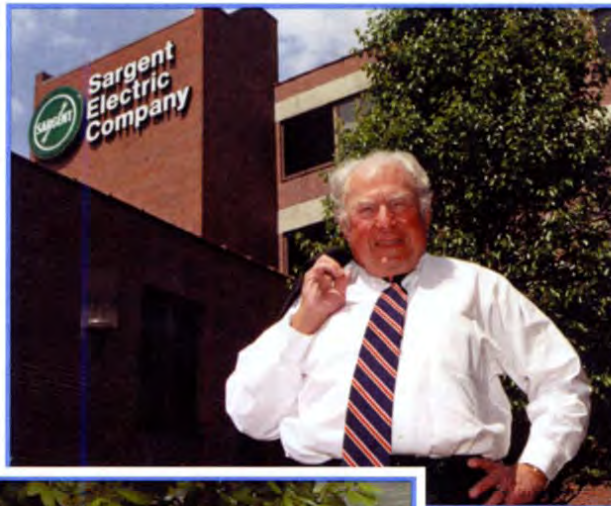
In many ways, these two alumni couldn't be more different. Prebor didn't spend much time in the art studio, and one wouldn't head to the ball field to find Paparo, either.

However, both came to Keystone at critical points in their lives, and both left the College well-armed to take on the world.

Each has achieved success in his or her own rite and tells the tale of how it all began. They even give a glimpse into where they might be heading in the future.

Determination, strong wills, smart

**Ed Prebor**, class of '49, at Sargent Electric Company, where he is vice-president of corporate sales.



**Diane Paparo**, a member of the Keystone Junior College class of 1976, relaxes outdoors. Paparo enjoys gardening and getting back to nature in her spare time.

choices and sometimes, just a bit of good fortune, are woven into their tales. There might even be a couple of surprises along the way.

It's no surprise that Ed Prebor, the captain of the football team at Clarks Summit High School, the U.S. Navy veteran, the young man who liked to study "everything," grew up to become Vice President of Corporate Sales at Sargent Electric Company.

Anyone who knew him when he graduated from Keystone Junior College in 1949, and anyone who knows him now, understands what he's about: never, never, never giving up.

"I came out of the service in 1946 and I worked a bit before college," he said. "I was a pretty good football player in high school and I knew

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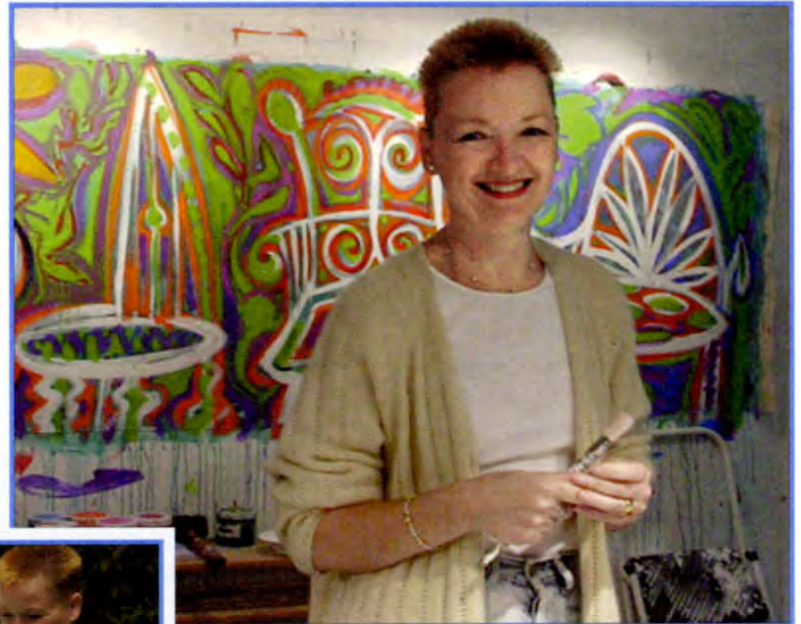
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Keystone had a good athletic program. So I enrolled there. And what I loved about it was that it was such a complete school. They had a nice newspaper, good teams, faculty who were so good we could pick any school in the East and go there - Harvard, Lehigh, you name it.”

After making a name for himself as a member not only of Keystone’s football team, but also as a member of the basketball and baseball teams, Prebor unleashed his school spirit on the campus for the next two years. In addition to his studies, he also served as President of Student Council and was active

in numerous extracurricular activities. Prebor was out there - making contacts in the community, sharpening his skills, growing into a leader - on and off the field. “You learn as much on the field as in the classroom, because you learn that when you get knocked down, you just get right back up again,” he said.

This was a lesson Paparo would learn nearly 30 years after Prebor made his dent in the playing field. She too enrolled at Keystone as an adult student who hadn’t been in the classroom for a couple of years. The young woman from Lake Winola took the college boards and maintained a waitressing job in high school, but she



**ABOVE:** The art studio has been one of Diane Paparo’s favorite places ever since she enrolled in the Fine Arts Program at Keystone College.



**LEFT:** Diane Paparo, president/owner of Diane Paparo Associates, Ltd., New York, N.Y., works on her laptop at one of her favorite Pennsylvania hideaways.

didn’t see college in her future. She married one year after graduating from high school, and 1 1/2 years later, her husband was killed in a tragic car accident.

Paparo had been knocked down - hard. And the time had come when she had to get back up again.

“My parents thought I should go to school,” she said. “They thought it would help me put my life back together.”

Not only did earning an associate degree in fine arts help Paparo create a new life for herself, it unlocked the artist, and the mathematician, within her that were just waiting to be set free. With no formal training, and little

more artistic memories other than sketching a cat in charcoal as a Girl Scout, Paparo didn’t really have a portfolio prepared when she landed at Keystone. “But evidently they must have seen some sort of promise in me and they let me study in the arts program,” she said.

Keystone opened a door for her, and Paparo didn’t hesitate to enter. It’s a move that ultimately changed her life, as she went on to become the President and Owner of Diane Paparo Associates, Ltd., New York, N.Y.

Both Paparo and Prebor continued their studies at four-year universities after graduating from Keystone.

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Prebor earned a bachelor's degree in engineering/management from Lehigh University in 1951, while Paparo went on to earn a bachelor's degree in interior design from Syracuse University in 1978.

Earning the bachelor's degree was imperative to Paparo, who was faced with an interesting dilemma during summer break in her senior year at Syracuse. She had been working in South Abington Township as the first interior designer for the firm of GSGS&D (Gilboy, Stauffer, Giombetti, Skibinski & Davies). In fact, she was the only woman employed there who was not a secretary. Paparo was working on major accounts, such as Revlon and IBM. The company had flown her all over the country in just three months. She had become a vital asset to their success. So, her supervisor, Jack Gilboy, asked her to forego her last semester at the university and stay.

*"If I were to give advice to young art students today, I would tell them to keep their options open, and don't hold out."*

DIANE PAPARO

"I couldn't not go," Paparo said. "I only needed one more class, and my intention was to get a job in New York while I was there."

Fearful that another firm would recognize her talent and hire her permanently, Gilboy wrote her a check for \$5,000 to cover her living expenses. Thus, the need to work for another firm was eliminated. "And he said be back in my office on Jan. 2," Paparo said.

And she was. (By the way, Paparo

did repay Gilboy in full, and has never forgotten his kindness).

Shortly after graduating from Syracuse, Paparo was transferred to New York City, where she has lived ever since. She now runs her own business, oversees a staff of six people, and loves every minute of her work as much as she enjoyed burying her head in that old cement mixer in La Plume. "If I were to give advice to young art students today, I would tell them to keep their options open, and don't hold out," she said. "If a door of opportunity opened, I always walked through it."

Such wisdom helped Prebor excel after graduating from Lehigh in 1951, when he joined the staff at Jones & Laughlin Steel Co., Pittsburgh. It was the beginning of a long and vital career, which eventually led him to become the president of a major piping and construction company.

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Ed "Zeke" Prebor '49,  
Shirley L. Chartrand Prebor (wife),  
Bob Ford, Director of Golf  
at Oakmont Country Club,  
Dennis L. Camp and  
Klaus Nehelbeck.



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"I was always an upbeat guy who played hard to win. I was always focused on being important in the world," he said. "And I would tell young people today to be introspective, and to know themselves extremely well. Give everything your top commitment and keep a positive attitude."

After all, it has worked for him. Prebor is proud of his work in the construction field and proud to have maintained lifelong friendships with people he first met at Keystone.

But most of all, he's proud of helping to raise four children "without any trouble," as he said. "And I'm so proud of my wife, Shirley Chartrand-Prebor. She's my great companion."

Prebor said he has no plans to retire just yet; maybe he'll start thinking about it when he's age 77 or 78.

Look for signs of Paparo's talent throughout New York City and keep an eye on publications such as *Designer File* and *Interior Design*, where her work has been featured. Undoubtedly, opportunities will continue to arise for her and - in good Keystonian spirit - she will continue to take them.



Amy Adams Prebor Hoffman (daughter), Benjamin (grandson), Maxwell (grandson), Ed Prebor '49, Madeline (granddaughter), and Shirley L. Chartrand Prebor (wife)

## About the Author



**Julie Dee Imel** graduated summa cum laude from Keystone Junior College in 1994 with an associate degree in written communication/journalism, and in 1997 she graduated with honors from the University of Scranton, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with an emphasis on writing.

During her time at Keystone, Julie was a contributing writer for the *Key* and the *Plume*, and a staff member of the student features magazine, *Voices*. A recipient of the Gene Brislin Award for Journalism, she was also named to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

Julie is currently a producer of NEPAtoday.com, a community news Web site based at Fox 56 and WB 38 in Plains, Pa.