

September 7, 1985

I do not know how many of you know this, but Shammy has decided to take up drawing when she retires, and is already registered in a class at the School of Visual Arts on 23rd Street.

We know that the very best drawings have a capacity to bring us to silence, to center us, and to focus our undivided self--our undivided attention--on the thing depicted, showing it in its essential nature. Thus, when someone draws something, he or she is offering to us a way of seeing things.

So I thought it was quite interesting that Shammy is taking up drawing, because of all the many things about Shammy that I have always appreciated, one of the most important is her way of seeing things. Indeed, some of you may not know this, but Shammy rushed to this party from a committee meeting in Philadelphia. The fact that Shammy is on so many essential committees is a reflection not only of her own love and generosity, but also of the fact that everyone values Shammy's way of seeing things!

This gift contains what Shammy needs to start her drawing course--two 6B pencils and a pad of 18" x 24" newsprint. But we all know that in her future retirement, whether she is in a drawing class, or serving on a committee, or consulting with the New York Friends Group, or travelling, her essential medium as an artist will be life Itself, and it is for this that we love her and for this that we wish to thank her.