



Meet Wendy Ross Eichler

I was born in 1940 in Syracuse, New York, where my father was a professor. Soon after my birth we moved to Washington, D.C., when my father entered the U.S. Foreign Service. My mother and I then accompanied him to postings in India, Pakistan, Germany and Okinawa. Between tours we lived in Washington. We came to Wiscasset whenever we could to visit my mother's parents and the other relatives who had lived here for generations.

I went to schools wherever we lived, and then to a boarding school in Massachusetts for the high school years, followed by Smith College (history major, German minor) with my Junior Year spent abroad studying in Munich. Following graduation I moved back to Washington, where I worked 10 years for the Voice of America, the broadcast arm of the United States Information Agency, as a writer and broadcaster.

Then I applied for and received a year-long Congressional Fellowship from the American Political Science Association. I worked the first six months in Congress for Representative Morris Udall as a press aide and the second six months for Senator Hubert Humphrey as a legislative aide. He had just returned to the Senate after losing to Richard Nixon his bid for the presidency.

Following that I became Congressional Correspondent for USIA's print service, covering Congress and the Watergate hearings for a news file sent in five languages around the world daily for distribution by our embassies. I ended my career as White House Correspondent for that news file, covering the second term of Bill Clinton and the first term of George W. Bush. I worked out of the White House press room and traveled with the White House Press Corps on presidential trips overseas, including the yearly G-8 economic summits held in a different country each year.

My husband Tom (whom I met at the Voice of America and married in 1975) and I had four sons in four years, a set of identical twins included. I planned to write a book "Four Under Four at Forty" but never found the time to write it.

We also had overseas assignments with USIA -- one for two years in Paris, where I was assistant press attaché, and Tom was on leave of absence, and one for two years in Vienna, where Tom managed a USIA magazine sent in various languages to countries behind the Iron Curtain, and I was on leave. These years, with only one of us working, helped greatly in raising our family,

Tom and I retired in 2004 and moved to a log cabin overlooking a marsh in Jefferson, Maine. In 2010 we moved to my family's historic farm in Wiscasset on the death of my 96-year-old mother. Since retiring I have been actively involved in organizations promoting social justice and have been for several years the President of the Board of Trustees of the Wiscasset Public Library. In 2016 I ran on the Democratic ticket to represent District 87 (Wiscasset, Alna, Pittston and Randolph) in the Maine state house of representatives, but lost to my Republican opponent. It was a fascinating experience and I learned a lot about the needs of the people of the district.

Our sons are now located across the globe. The eldest, Andy, lives in Los Angeles with his wife Alexis, whom he met at graduate school. He and a few friends started a small Internet business which keeps him very busy; his brother Chris is a photographer and Web-site designer married to Jimena, an architect from Colombia; they recently returned to the U.S. from Colombia; Eddie, one of the twins, is in the U.S. Foreign Service stationed in Moscow. He is married to Timi, a Hungarian gal he met in the Peace Corps. They have two small sons.