

# Jim & Liz celebrate 45 years

## 1968

In the living room of Jacob Bronowski, La Jolla, an hour before Jim and Liz married. "On a Monday, Jim called and said, 'Come out and marry me on Thursday!'"



## 1970

Jim in lean times, in his unadorned office, 2nd floor, Nichols. "I didn't take a salary for six years."

It was LIBA chair Ed Pulling and his wife Lucy (below) who introduced the Watsons to Charles Robertson (right), who provided the endowment seeding future growth.



## 1978

## 1979

Hershey dedication: "From the right, you have the famous 'trio' — Luria, Delbrück and Hershey."



**Jim:** People say I "made" the Lab what it is today. I don't think I created it; I inherited it this way. It was the presence that [Max] Delbrück gave the Lab — the feeling that we were a non-pompous, non-necktie, informal institution. Delbrück was reacting against the sternness and strictness of German academic society. I thought I was maintaining the Lab, or strengthening it. The Symposium, for instance, already existed. We just created more symposia and more meetings. I had a blueprint already in front of me. Did I want to make Cold Spring Harbor different? We were *already* different, from Harvard, from Caltech. The problem I faced was that the Laboratory might fail [financially]. It didn't fit into the pattern by which institutions succeed. That's why the assistance of Ed Pulling [Long Island Biological Association chairman and first fundraiser for the modern Lab] was so important. If we hadn't gotten the [Charles] Robertson gift [in 1973], I'd still be a member of the Harvard faculty!

**Liz:** When we got the endowment — the Robertson gift — Jim's first move was to buy the marina across the harbor. Walter Page, who headed the Board, didn't think that was a good idea. So Jim resigned — he just stood up at a meeting and resigned. I remember that day — Rufus and Duncan were romping around in the grass at Osterhout, where we then lived and brought up the boys. And Jim came bursting through the shrubs and greenery, saying, "I quit!"

**Jim:** I told the Board if we didn't save the harbor, I didn't see a future for the Lab, and I was resigning as of that moment, and walked out of the room. About half an hour later they asked me to come back — they would buy the marina. It was the same with the land now occupied by the Hillside campus. If we hadn't acquired that I would have



## 1980

"We fixed up Davenport House and created this music room, where we had a concert series that went on for three years."

quit again, because I would have seen the Lab as being totally constrained. Being Director is an unusual position. You've got to think 20 years ahead. My experiences at the University of Cambridge and Harvard told me how great institutions behave and what they need.

**Liz:** This is a campus like no other. Jim was aware of what Cambridge was like — styles changed, but it didn't. We started by fixing up all of the fallen-down buildings. Everything here was traditional. And most of the buildings weren't used at all. We have been very lucky in our choice of architects, and in being introduced to Charles Moore, whose firm has designed every single thing contextually.

**Jim:** You ask about highlights of 45 years. The highlights for us were when something was accomplished. My chief pleasure has been in being with people who are doing things! Not just smart people, but people who want to *accomplish* something. There's a real difference. Looking back, the main conclusion is: as a pair, Liz and I, we did a lot!



## 1990

With Francis Crick and Lita Annenberg Hazen, the founding donor of the CSHL Neuroscience program, at the Symposium on the Brain.

## 1991

"Ah, the day we dedicated the Hazen Tower!," with CSHL trustee Bayard Clarkson, M.D.



At home earlier this year.

## 2013



## 1997

Rufus (standing) and Duncan with their parents.



## 1993

"Jim knew nothing beforehand about the bronze DNA sculpture. He was very pleased."