

M O T H E R S

&



Gail Watkins and Elizabeth North

DAUGHTERS

The bond between these women is genetic, emotional, professional—some even dress alike.

Meet four pairs who prove the adage that the apple never falls far from the tree.

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These Chesapeake daughters—ambitious, independent, with an equally intense soft side—were influenced by powerful role models: moms who showed them the way, sometimes by postponing their own dreams.

GAIL WATKINS &
ELIZABETH NORTH

Artist Gail Watkins is an elegant woman of Italian and Lebanese descent with a lithe, dancer-like frame molded from nearly twenty years spent in ballet classes. Forced to decline her acceptance to the Washington Ballet Company due to a back injury, Gail turned her creative attentions to art. Today, she's a professional mixed-media painter who recently retired from twenty years as a painting teacher at St. John's College in Annapolis.

"Growing up," recalls her thirty-five-year-old daughter Elizabeth, "there was Mom and

Mom the artist. For me, she was a role model—a great mother who showed me how important it was to take care of all sides of yourself. And for her, being an artist and working in her studio was important. When Mom went for her master's in art, I remember my grandmother asking me if I minded that she was gone and not home all the time. I said, 'No, I think it's great.'"

Elizabeth, a research scientist at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in Cambridge, Md., studies the influence of the Bay's physical conditions on fish and oyster populations, which occasionally requires her to pull on oilskins and rubber boots for field research. "It's no wonder that she chose this career," says Gail. "As a child, she spent a lot of time outdoors playing in the woods. She and her brother would name places on our property things like 'Hole of Mole' and 'Frog Pond.' And we'd take these 'Signs of Spring' walks. I'd get the neighborhood kids

together, and we'd go around looking for the buds coming in on the twigs and flowers—things that meant that spring was on its way."

"I went to Chesapeake Bay Foundation ecology camps," adds Elizabeth. "I shocked a counselor of mine because at age ten, I showed up knowing the names of marsh plants."

Elizabeth admits to taking after her father professionally, an oncologist and avid fisherman, who spurred her interest in science and fish. "But there are parts of my personality that are like my Mom's that are coming out," explains Elizabeth.

"I notice people's clothes now. So when there's a political debate on TV, I'll say, 'Look at that tie, it's awful on him!' Mom would do that all the time when I was growing up, and I'd say, 'Aren't you listening to what they're saying?'"

"And I'll tell you what she's learned from me," laughs Elizabeth. "I brought home a presentation for a meeting to



Lainy LeBow-Sachs and Carrie LeBow

practice in front of my parents. The letters YSL were written on all of the slides. Mom said, 'Why is Yves St. Laurent written all over these?' I said, 'YSL means yolk-sac larvae. The first stage of a fish's life after hatching.' We had a good laugh about that."

The two make it a point to spend quality mother/daughter time together, taking Tai Chi classes and at least one yearly vacation together. But because of their geographic separation, they typically see each other about three times a month. "I don't see enough of her," says Gail. "And there are some mothers and daughters who talk several times a day. We don't do that."

"I call her about important things, certainly," says Elizabeth. "And about clothing, of course."

For the most part, Gail and Elizabeth are individuals, proud of their similarities and their differences. "She's really her own person. She decided what she wanted to do as a career. And that's just what I wanted—her to be her own person. More than anything else, I wanted

her to do things to please herself and not things to please me. I've always told her, follow your bliss, be true to yourself, and the rest will follow."

LAINY LEBOW-SACHS & CARRIE LEBOW

At first meeting, the only apparent difference between Lainy LeBow-Sachs and her daughter Carrie LeBow is each one's preferred shade of lipstick and nail polish. Not only have the two been known to unpremeditatedly arrive at social functions in the same colored couture and synchronistically adopt identical postures, but both women are powerhouses in Baltimore's non-profit community. Lainy is the senior vice president of external relations at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore and Carrie is the associate vice president of major gifts and annual campaign at the United Way of Central Maryland, also in Baltimore.

"I'm shocked at the path that

she took," says Lainy. "which is my path. It had nothing to do with me saying, 'You should do this.' I had no idea she'd be in the nonprofit world, raising money, being just like me—personality-wise, everything-wise. It's one thing if you wanted your child to follow in your footsteps...But it never even entered my mind. Never."

"She absolutely influenced my decision," says Carrie. "Just watching the amazing things that she accomplished—the incredible charities that she was involved in and the passion that she had for everything that she got involved in. I was always wowed by her. She always impressed me."

Last year, their connection got even tighter. Lainy was asked to chair the United Way's 2003 Campaign, a volunteer position that took her into Carrie's professional turf. "When my boss proposed the idea, for a split second I was in shock," says Carrie. "Our lives are so intertwined, and the only thing that separates us is when she goes to her office and I go to mine. But that