

# Colleague Profile



## Bobi Flynn



We think that it is timely to feature the head of our Tax Department, **Bobi Flynn**. We have worked with Bobi since 1974, and every year we wonder whether she will survive another dreaded "tax season". Those of us who do tax returns have discovered that it now takes us longer to collate the papers for filing than it used to take us to prepare and file the return. Not so with Bobi. Each year she seems to gain energy and focus.



moved out of Jersey, as a tape cleaner for a video manufacturer that went out of business, and as a teacher at a school for troubled teen-agers, Bobi decided to leave New Jersey. She wanted a change.

Her decision to move to Vermont in 1973 was a decision to leave the neighborhood. She selected Vermont because her cousin lived in Townshend.



Within a month of arrival, the Jersey Girl gazed at the star filled smog-less night sky and thought "what have I done?" But it was too late. She had just met her soon-to-be husband, Timmy Flynn. A Jersey Guy living in Townshend.

So Bobi set out to find employment and a new life. She found a job in the Vermont National Bank Trust Department, married Timmy and built a house near the top of Newfane Hill. She also decided to become a Vermont "farm girl".

She bought a horse named Misty, and when Misty became lonely she bought a Sicilian donkey and named him Manado, followed by a sheep named Sarah. Sarah loved

Manado, who loved Misty. Many evenings the neighbors would look out and see Bobi riding Misty across the field, followed by a Sicilian Donkey and a sheep. The Jersey Girl had arrived.

Bobi shifted from operations to taxes in the mid-seventies, raised two children and managed the tax department of the Trust Department until 1999, when she left Vermont National Bank to help start the Trust Company of Vermont.

Bobi is an Enrolled Agent and stays abreast of the complex tax changes with a week's training each year. She is responsible for the tax reporting for the company. This means that she personally assembles and reviews the data for our tax letters, or prepares the tax returns for our trusts, which now number approximately 800 accounts! She has again survived another tax season with relative ease.

We are in awe. How does she do it? For one, she seems to have unlimited energy. During tax season, she works six days a week and skis the seventh. All this while maintaining her workout schedule, which consists of 5 mornings at the gym before work, 4 lunch time workouts and two nights of volleyball. Perhaps this is why she seems not to have aged or slowed down over the thirty years that we have known her.

Einstein would have been baffled by a vortex that simply increased in speed. We certainly are.

The tax law changes in 2003 were daunting. So much so that many mutual funds knowingly filed erroneous 1099's to meet the January 31st deadline in order to avoid penalties, with the intent to amend them later. Around the office, we call this the tax season from hell. We didn't worry. The "Jersey Girl" would take care of it.

The Jersey Girl. That's Bobi's most frequent third person reference. Makes sense. She was born in Montclair, New Jersey.

The Jersey Girl grew up in a large, tight-knit Italian family. After graduating from William Patterson College, with a B.A. in Education, the family expected that she would find a nice husband, settle down as a teacher, and live in the neighborhood. After several enjoyable but short lived jobs - as a purchasing agent for a construction company that

