



BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Class of 1956 **50TH REUNION**



Class of 1956

Jean Campbell Abell
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Patricia Ayres *
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Nancy Lee Barton *
Patricia Kelsey Beattie
Sara Minkus Beer
Paula Klonsky Berk
Julia Banks Bryce *
Adelaide Phillips Bull *
Suzanne Stern Shepherd Calkins
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Deborah Feldman Cuyler *
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Sheila Solomon Dobbin
Diana Tucker Edwards
Diana Engelhardt
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Lois Haas Ferris
Susan Kahn Fischer
Linda Mukamal Fleischmann
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Carol Weston Galloway
Arline Israel Gardner
Jo Ann Marcus Gardner
Sara Henry Garfield
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Margery Baer Irish
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Phyllis Lipton Krasnow
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Richard Lee
Ruth Watkins Leopold
Paula R. Levine
Judith Piper Lipman
Phannipha Vikitsreth Longpradit
Jennifer Molloy Love
Alice E. Lyon *
Ellen Berger Madison *
Gretchen Lindblad Mamis
Judith Felsen Matchton
Diana Mazany McConnell
Louise Valentine McCoy
Margaret Beston Mechau
Ruth Meyer
Greta Einstein Miller *
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Renfreu Laurence Neff
Gerda Norvig
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Carol Burnap Poisman
Riva Magaril Poor
Bune Rothbart Primack

Audrey Rosenthal Reichblum
Ilene Greenwald Reiff
Geraldyn Winner Roden
Sally Mansfield Romig
Janet Altschuler Roseberry
Ann Hanson Rossie
Ellen MacVeagh Rublee
Elisa Starr Rudd *
Wynne Ruden
Jill Tishman Sager
Al Sargent
Esther Meader Scanlan
Mary Lou Peters Schram
Ellen Siegel Segal
Judith Shaver
Richard Sherman
Bunny Willa Katz Shulman
Elaine Gordon Silets
Jacqueline Watkins Slifka
Ruth Bleyberg Smith
Dale Lester Sokolow
Ethel Southworth
Judith Greenhill Speyer
Barbara Feldman Staff *
Josephine Hamlin Stead
Bonnie Miller Stein
Rosanne Wallach Stein
Cynthia Sheldon Stibolt
Sally Wason Stockwell *
Leslie Sykes *
Mary Eaby Taggart
Diane Rood Tanenbaum
Renee Patenaude Turolla
Marshall Tyler
Diana Garfield Valenti
Jane C. Albright Vipond
Clarissa Morton Warner
Isabel Cohen Weiss
Edith White
Elaine Bland Whiting
Catherine Martin Willcox
Ruth Wolfert
Michele Rogers Zwirn

*Denotes Deceased

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How do I start? Has it really been 50 years? A lot has happened in my life since Bennington, yet I still feel too young to have had so many experiences.

Right after graduation (one week, to be exact), I married. Fifteen years later I divorced. Despite four jam-packed years of learning to use my head, I still failed in making the right decision when it came to choosing a life-long partner.

However, during those years some good things did happen to me. I became a mother; one son born naturally, a daughter adopted. I experienced California during the '60s. When I wasn't giving piano lessons, I was volunteering my time at schools and facilities for the mentally and physically challenged. I discovered the power of music and the "little guy."

It took me twenty-four years to finally come to grips with my growing dissatisfaction over how my music was playing out. I discovered there was such a thing as using music to change behavior. It is called Music Therapy and offered at that time on a graduate level only at three Universities. I chose Florida State, and at forty-five had my first introduction to computer exam cards—"dear, you fill in the correct circle"—learned that my Social Security number replaced my name, and that I was a surrogate mother to twenty-seven younger students. I interned at a large state facility in Bainbridge, GA, for six months, graduating in 1982. From then on, my life had meaning.

After fifteen years as a single mom, I found Marshall Abell and married in 1985. At that time Marshall was Headmaster of Santa Fe Prep in Santa Fe, NM. I somehow succumbed to Marshall's encouragement to interview for Department Head of Music Therapy at Eastern New Mexico University. I was hired! I spent the entire summer studying for all the courses I was to teach at the undergraduate level.

Spring of '86 I chaired the Very Special Arts Festival (the arts equivalent of the Special Olympics) at the University, using my students and those in the Dance, Art, and Drama departments to conduct hands-on workshops and performances for over 500 challenged students. At the end of the day, I knew I was in the wrong place. By training I was a clinician, and I should get back to it. As it turned out, Marshall accepted a Headmaster position at a school in Corpus Christi, TX, and I returned to being a Music Therapist instead of teaching how to be one.

Since I was the only M.T. south of Houston I had to educate the community as to what I could do. I had worked with speech, occupational, and physical therapists and I knew I had a hard sell to get the school system to give me a try. But they did and once again I was a happy camper.

I have been very fortunate in my career. I have had two research studies published in international journals in seventeen languages, have presented at the first World Congress on Art and Medicine, and have given workshops on using music with the elderly, specifically those with Alzheimer's.

We are both retired now. Marshall had a massive stroke six months into his retirement and one day after that event I canceled all Music Therapy commitments to focus on him. And yes, I did a little Music Therapy on him.

We are living in rural, rural Georgia, busy restoring our 1895 farmhouse. We have our neighbor's horses and their foals in our back pasture—life is good. I took a challenge from our church to take organ lessons so that the organ could come out of retirement. That was two years ago. My brain has only recently gotten the message that my feet and hands are independent of each other, and that reading three music staves at one time really is possible.

And where did I get this “I'll try it” attitude if not from Bennington and Lionel Nowak. I wasn't on campus but one month and he was calling me a hothouse tomato who most likely would not graduate with a music major. I've since learned what this is called—reverse psychology. This bigger-than-life man was my mentor, and still is, fifty years later. Thank you, Bennington.



I am blessed with my family of seven children; two are mine, and five are Marshall's. They have given us fourteen grandchildren, ages six to twenty years. And just last year Tim, Marshall's second oldest son, married Susana Clark, a 1981 graduate of Bennington. Two Abell men married to two Bennington women—how good is that?



Sara Minkus Beer

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I entered Bennington as a dance and music major, but in my second year I took a course and workshop called “The Pre School Child,” which changed the direction of my life. I discovered the joys (and problems) of teaching and how some of my talents and abilities could inspire and delight children.

I became an elementary school teacher—(pre K–6) and taught for twenty-eight years. It was a fulfilling profession that also allowed me to spend quality time with my family.

After forty-three wonderful years of marriage, my heart broke and my life completely changed with my husband’s untimely death in 1997.

I now live in Manhattan near Lincoln Center. I am enjoying the company of my wonderful children, grandchildren, and many friends—old, new, and renewed. I have been attending classes at the Juilliard School for the past eight years. Being involved with music at this level makes me feel that my life has gone around in a complete circle.



Suzanne Stern Shepherd Calkins

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today? Literature and Theatre.

I am an Actor, Director, and Teacher. For the past thirty-five years I have performed in all major regional theaters and on- and off-Broadway. About twenty years ago, while appearing in *Awake and Sing* at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, a fund-raiser was organized for the Bennington alumnae in the Bay Area. It was a great honor and so heart-warming to meet those gracious women.

Since then I have appeared in thirty-eight feature films: *Goodfellas*, *Lolita*, *Trees Lounge*, *Jacob's Ladder*, *Requiem for a Dream*, *Uncle Buck*, *Living Out Loud*, *Jerky Boys*, *A Dirty Shame*, etc.

On television: *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *As the World Turns*, *One Life to Live*, etc. Presently, I play Carmela's mother, Mary de Angelis, on *The Sopranos* for HBO.

I have directed most of the plays of Athol Fugard on- and off-Broadway, at Steppenwolf in Chicago, Trinity Square Repertory in Providence, the Roundabout in NY, the Signature Theatre, NY, in Canada and the South African premiere of *Master Harold ... and The Boys* in Johannesburg at the Market Theatre. I have also directed most of the plays of Anton Chekhov, my other favorite playwright.

For the past thirty-two years I have taught professional acting classes in my own studio in NY, at NYU Graduate Film School and at major conservatories throughout the country. A full-length documentary is now being filmed about my teaching.

I could never have done any of this without Bennington!!! Never.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life? In every way. Bennington was my college—but far more specifically, Bennington was my birthplace. I was inebriated by the minds, ideas, and nurturing of Howard Nemerov, Stanley Edgar Hyman, and Kenneth Burke.

When I arrived in 1953 (after a freshman year at a terrible school), in a Language & Literature Class with Howard Nemerov, the first paper assigned was a comparison of two short stories by Herman Melville. I was

panic-stricken! I had never written a paper and didn't believe I could even make a sentence!

By my junior year, I was writing papers for Stanley Hyman that weren't even assigned.

For my Senior Thesis, I was awarded a tutorial with Kenneth Burke (a far better prize than any lottery). With him I wrote a 356-page analysis of a short story and *The Three Sisters* by Chekhov in the Burkian way of Indexing language. It was a total joy—those afternoons we spent together and those days and nights sitting at this very typewriter writing.

What ups and downs have you experienced? After my divorce I became a Landscape Designer to support my children and put them through school. In 1993 I was remarried to Carroll Calkins and had the happiest thirteen years until his death on May 21, 2006.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share? I have two children and two grandchildren. My daughter, Kate, is an excellent and successful painter. I had a Jack Russell Terrier who I named Bennington.

I deeply regret not being able to attend Reunion but because of my work on a film cannot leave the city!

My best to all my classmates.

Joan Simons Constantikes

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At Bennington I was interested in Russian literature and translation, literary analysis, psychology, and music. The Bennington experience gave me the courage to know that I could run my own life according to my own values—or at least try.

In my two careers in magazine advertising and life insurance, I have done well—and am still working for the stimulation and rewards of my profession. On the fun side have been many trips to the beautiful Greek Islands.

The jewels in my crown include my husband, George Demetrius aka Zorba (Williams College and Yale Law), my four daughters Andrea (Williams College and Smith), Christina (American University and Thunderbird), Pat (Harvard and Georgetown Law), and Amy Claire (Yale and Temple), their husbands, and my grandchildren, Miguel and Alexa, twins, 13; Katie, 11; Georgie, 6; and Koko, 5 months.

In 2002, we left our home base in Westport, CT, to semi-retire in Naples, FL. However, four years later we moved to Wake Forest, NC, to be closer to our grandson, Georgie. Husband George is still maintaining his



Conneticut law practice and I'm still selling insurance—long-term care, estate planning, and grandchildren insurance!

Occasionally I think of my senior project, my translation of Maxim Gorky's novella "DYETSVO" ("Childhood"), and subsequent analysis of the translation in terms of Darwin, Marx, Freud, and Frazer, not as a scientist, political philosopher, psychologist, and mythologist, but rather as creative literary masters, each



with his own set of artistic metaphors. How did this project contribute to my life later on? The answer—standards, discipline, style.

My favorite professor was the brilliant critic, Stanley Edgar Hyman, who, with his wife Shirley Jackson, often invited my friend, Greta Einstein, and me to his house for talk and Scotch. Once, after graduation, on a visit back to the college, I noticed Stanley had upgraded his wardrobe to a neater, more conservative look. Referring to those very faded, very droopy maroon socks that he always wore to class back in the old Booth House living room days, I smiled and said, “Stanley, change the clothes, but keep the socks!”

I’ve tried to do that too.



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I came to Bennington straight out of serving with the U.S. Army in Germany. Bill Sherman, with whom I had worked in summer stock, was kind enough to recommend me as a “drama boy” to work toward my master’s degree. So, that first year I did a lot of acting. I then shifted to directing because Bennington did not offer an advanced degree in acting. Directing was a kind of insurance in case I wanted to teach later on. However, I was determined to make my mark as an actor in New York City.

Learning the Bennington ropes threw me on my own in a way that mattered. That’s probably why I’ve ended up as a solo clown. I had to learn to depend on whatever God-given talent I possessed—even though I had some mighty good coaching along the way from Larry Arrick and Bob Alvin. Becoming a theatre teacher was a kind of payback of what I had learned both at Bennington and in New York.



Ups: were meeting Deborah Feldman one day while she was working on a painting in the art studio next door to the theater on the top floor of the Commons. We subsequently got married and lived in New York City for five years. Upon having our first child, we moved to Saratoga Springs where I taught for the next eleven years at Skidmore College. During that time, two more children were born. I had begun to study mime with Tony Montanaro and voice and movement with Arthur

Lessac. These two men became my mentors and were instrumental in moving us to Binghamton University, where I taught acting, directing, voice, and movement for actors, physical comedy, mime, and circus techniques for the next twenty years.

Downs: were my divorce from Deborah and separation from my children. Tragically, three years later, Deborah suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and died.

Ups: marrying Sandra, a former student of mine, who continues as my patient partner to this day.

Fast-forwarding to today, although I've retired from teaching, I still act on occasion at The Flat Rock Playhouse and in scenes at my church. My major undertaking continues to be Dickens, my clown alter ego, who I expose to audiences young and old, on the stage or on the street whenever possible. In years past, I have toured Europe and many cities and towns in North America.

More ups: renewed and mature relationships with my three adult children. Oldest son, Chris, is a flourishing artist in Los Angeles; daughter Sarah (married to Dennis) lives in Rochester, NY, making her mark as a creative cook and caterer; my youngest son, Justin (married to Sue) lives in Newton, MA, and runs and troubleshoots his company's communication system. He and his wife have produced two wild and winsome grandsons, Matthew and Thomas.

I continue to marvel at the achievements of the women I knew at Bennington. I regret terribly that I can't attend our 50th Reunion. May you all have great joy at this momentous gathering!

Reverend Alma Sachs Daniel

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Although I've never been to a reunion, I was really looking forward to this one. Alas, no. Professional obligations prevent me from attending. I'm scheduled to officiate at wedding ceremonies on October 6th, 7th, and 8th here in New York. However, I welcome the chance to share the past fifty years of my post-Bennington life.

Starting with now (Eckhart Tolle and I both believe in the Power of Now), I have just become a grandmother. This alone is worth reporting. She's the daughter of my daughter, Nora Victoria, and her name is Ruby Hanna. Apple of my eye. Nora's 38. My two sons are Peter Allan, 41, and Anthony Lewis, 40.

I was ordained as an interfaith minister at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine here in New York in 1996. I am not affiliated with any church or denomination.

I am registered with the City of New York. My primary work is creating and celebrating wedding ceremonies, but I also do memorial services and baby namings and blessings for new homes and businesses.

This is a partial answer to the suggested question: What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

At Bennington, I was a lit major; edited the Bennington Bi-Weekly in my sophomore year. I also enjoyed psychology classes with Joe Adelson. Afterwards, my first job was as a reporter and columnist for one of the Newhouse newspapers, the *Long Island Daily Press*. While I loved the newspaper and the work I did, I had to hold a part-time job weekends and evenings as a salesgirl at Macy's so I could pay the rent.

Lured by bigger bucks, I then joined a Madison Avenue public relations firm where I was an account executive for such products as Remington shavers, the Florida Citrus Commission, British Motors Corporation, Corning Glass Works and *Redbook* magazine, among others. When I left, in 1963, I continued to do freelance writing for the company and other PR firms. I had an article published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine and wrote features for a newspaper syndicate, Women's News Service.



Had babies 1964–68. In the '70s, I founded the Human Potential Counseling Service and started counseling people on the best self-improvement workshop, seminar, or body work to take. I myself had done more than 60 of these, at the rate of 1 a month, for five years. They ranged from Actualizations to zen meditation, from est to Dale Carnegie; from Alexander to Rolfing to Feldenkrais. I also studied massage at Esalen and here in New York.

Having done all these, I felt qualified to advise people which ones to take. This rapidly devolved into counseling, which I did for the next 20 years. In 1978 I installed a floatation tank in my apartment. Together with my counseling practice, this came to international notice when *TIME* magazine featured an article about me and my work with the tank in connection with the film *Altered States*.

I received so many letters and phone calls, literally from all over the world, asking me for information about the tank and where people could float, that I decided to establish the Floatation Tank Association, a trade organization, to develop ethical and hygienic parameters for the then-infant industry. I published a directory of float centers and hosted the first International Floatation Tank Conference. My board of directors boasted a who's who of innovators in the field of sensory deprivation, including the tank's inventor, John Lilly, MD.

All went well until October 9, 1985 when a newly installed tank sprang a leak.

At the time I was living on the 25th floor of The Eldorado, a landmark building on the Upper West Side overlooking Central Park. Thirty gallons of water into which 1,000 pounds of Epsom salts had been dissolved were deposited on the Aubusson carpet given to my downstairs neighbor by the Shah of Iran. I was out of the tank business in a nanosecond. Details of this disaster are included in a book I coauthored called *Ask Your Angels*. A Ballantine trade paperback, it's published in eight languages and has sold close to a million copies.

Disasters often lead to enlightenment, conversion, or an Aha! moment. That was when I first communicated with a wise and loving source I came to regard as my angel. I resisted like crazy but what she had to say was something I did not want to hear, so I knew I wasn't making it up. It led me to develop workshops and travel through this country and abroad to teach people how to meditate and how to connect with their angelic guides. I continued my own studies with spiritual teachers and in 1990 started a weekly Friday night meditation group that lasted for nine years.

One last note: a year or more after I left Bennington, I had the opportunity to see my student file and was so appalled at the student photograph that I took it. I do not think I appear in the graduation picture either, as I was not there when it was taken. In lieu of these, I am sending along one of me now, and another of my granddaughter, Ruby Hanna Daniel Emory.

My very best wishes to my classmates, and Blessings!



Jean Segal Fain

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Art – Feeley, Shapiro, Holt.

Literature – Nemerov, Hyman.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

After having my first child six months after graduation, I vowed to continue studying as soon as possible. When my children were ten and eight I went back to school, Brown University, and worked to an MAT in education.



What ups and downs have you experienced?

Ups = Married to the same man fifty years; three grandchildren; still making art.

Downs = Not as smart as I thought I was.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

Sally Roberts probably married Dave Pierson—I dated him and knew her.

Susan Kahn Fischer

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While at Bennington I was interested in social science, pre-school education, and history. Thankfully, one of my professors sought to understand some of my writing problems and I ended up being in one of the first studies on dyslexia at New York University. What a relief to know there were people who had the same problems and intellectually it did not have to be a downer. I also am thankful to my years at Bennington for helping me become an independent thinker...and this has followed me through life...just ask my husband and kids.



I have been married for forty-eight years and have five children (three daughters and two sons) and now have eight grandchildren, ranging from two-year-old twins to a granddaughter who is seventeen. My husband retired a year and a half ago after practicing internal medicine and gastroenterology in Washington, DC. He is now a visiting professor of medicine at UCLA in Los Angeles.

My career started as a stay-at-home mom, but I was always interested in food. I loved to cook, which led me into teaching cooking, and in 1977 I started the first woman-owned catering company in Washington.

Since being considered a minority caterer, many doors were opened to me. This career has afforded my being able to see a side of Washington that many people are not privy to, because of the nature of my business. Not only have I had the pleasure to work on both sides of the political fence, but I have also developed a strong social clientele—and, as an offshoot, developed a niche market in kosher catering. I have worked on the Hill, at the White House, and one of my favorite places: the Supreme Court.

In 1994 I merged my company with another company, and we are now the third-largest company in the city, and have an outstanding reputation. Currently, I am the president of the Sue Fischer Division of Catering by Windows. I also have the privilege to work with my second daughter, who is vice-president of this division.

At seventy-one I am now a commuter. I commute between Los Angeles and Washington. I loved Washington, but when my husband retired, California was very appealing as our eldest daughter lives and works as a costumer in LA. It is interesting at this time of life to pick up and move three thousand miles away and

basically start a new life. We are very fortunate to have made some wonderful new friends. However, the Company and I decided I would return for my major events. I decided that while retiring was appealing, I would really miss my clients and all the stress of doing all kinds of events and working with my daughter. In this day and age, with computers, etc, this is possible, although I did not think I would make twelve trips in fourteen months. I work in California in a wonderful home office, fly JetBlue and oversee my events (luckily we stay with our daughter and I get to see my DC children and grandchildren), and I can spend quality time in a wonderful climate where we enjoy golf and tennis and many trips to San Fran to see our twin grandchildren. I travel with one terrific husband and two dogs.

I really think the years at Bennington made me realize that even when things are tough, having dyslexia, a husband who is a cancer survivor, a heart attack, all the stresses and problems with a diverse group just as our children are, and a business that is stress city, look at the options and just keep going. Sounds very trite, but I think it's been my mantra—both personally and in business—that I learned from my years at Bennington.

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Bennington represented the opposite of everything I knew. Freedom to pursue interests that heretofore seemed “impractical” leading to “who knows what.” I started as a dance major but quickly realized it was not meant to be. Studied art and graphic design and then found the history of ideas, especially the American early years, with Rush Welter as my advisor.

Many years later, after my children were in grammar school, I returned to graduate school at NYU’s Institute of Fine Art to become an art historian specializing in 19th-century American painting. It was difficult juggling my life as mother and wife and part-time student, but I had great encouragement from all concerned. My Bennington years had taught me to respect challenges, revel in success, but not be afraid of failure.

My first marriage, which ended after thirty years, also brought me two of the greatest treasures of my life—my children, Margo and Peter. Today Margo is a practicing physician in Pennsylvania, and a mother of three teenagers. Her brother, Peter, is the Dean of Film and Digital Media at Savannah College of Art and Design, and has a seven-year-old son.

My wonderful husband of the past seventeen years, Paul, brought five small grandchildren to the marriage, which made me an instant grandmother—and later, the two of us grandparents of nine. Watching the eldest recently graduate brought back wonderful memories of those very unique years at Bennington where I met some of my closest lifelong friends and learned that life is an adventure that thankfully is not over yet.



Jo Ann Marcus Gardner

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Drama. Now gardening, writing, and lecturing about it. Jewish flora. My husband of 52 years. Children, grandchildren.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

Ups and downs combined. Watching our children grow up to become independent individuals.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

We have four children, three involved in agriculture and horticulture, and one is a painter.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

I was most impressed by the beauty of the Bennington landscape—the classic simplicity of the buildings, the campus as it was then, and the natural surroundings. I took the campus with me, but when I left



Bennington I only then began my education, leaving behind the inflated, pretentious courses, academic life, increasingly the hallmark of the Bennington education.

Helen Sargent Goodwin

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If you have read Bernard Malamud's daughter's new book, *My Father is a Book*, then you have a pretty good idea of what Bennington College was like fifty years ago when I was there. Ms. Malamud-Smith's account of the quantities of consumed alcohol, the myriad of infidelities, the adulterous apple orchard, the teenage students/talented faculty promiscuities, speaks of an atmosphere that left her wounded and resentful. Not me. I loved that little Vermont valley of freedom, idealism, and sin.

Dylan Thomas, Robert Frost, Kenneth Burke...they all came a-calling. Hyman, Jackson, Feeley, Finckel, Shapiro, Nemerov, Golfing, Belitt,

and Fowlie lived among us. It didn't take fifty years to realize it was an intellectually exciting place to be. I knew it every day. Now it is astonishing to me that I have lived long enough, healthy and strong, to tell of it.

When I graduated, I enrolled in a doctorate program in mathematics at Harvard. Very quickly, I married (like every other twenty-one year old alumna in those days), had two sons, six grandchildren, and eventually finished Harvard with a master's degree. I taught mathematics, saved some money, divorced, and left home. For the past twenty-five years I have been traveling about...with a carry-on bag, a toothbrush, and a notebook. I have been lots of places.

This photo is of me and Wanga-Wanga taken deep in the Amazon of Ecuador while on a dugout canoe and camping trip. I have been lots of places, exciting places; that little Vermont valley that showed me freedom, idealism, and sin, is one of them.



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My primary interests at Bennington were in Music and Art, particularly in choral music and art teaching. My interests today could all be considered outgrowths of my choral interests. The most important aspect of my life at Bennington, and ever since has been an addiction to the process of learning. This has caused me to get into various ups and downs ever since college. At first I doggedly pursued my career as a choral instructor, with three years teaching at Smith College, where I conducted two or three Freshman Choirs a year, and a touring chorus of mixed class levels.

I worked with choral groups from Harvard, Hamilton, Haverford, Bowdoin, Amherst, Yale, and Wesleyan, and covered a huge amount of repertory for treble and mixed voices. I also taught music at the Mary A. Burnham School in Northampton. After leaving Northampton, I returned to Brunswick, ME, and nursed my mother through her terminal leukemia. At that time I was a member of the Skating Club of Brunswick, and conducted the Brunswick Choral Society in Haydn's Creation, Handel's Messiah, Beethoven's C Major Mass, and Vivaldi's Gloria, to name a few. I met my husband Jim Harvie, a naval architect who had come to Maine after graduation from the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture and a stint in the Navy. (Webb has a yearly work term for all undergraduates, also!) Our first child, John, was born. Somewhere in this period, I was diagnosed with very serious spinal problems and had major surgery. I had had problems throughout Bennington and finally there was no option but a spinal fusion. It was only after that that I experienced NO pain! Our second child, Meg, was born.

Later I conducted the Brunswick Chamber Singers for several years. This was a group that won considerable acclaim, performing for the American Choral Director's Association national meeting at Dartmouth, at the Portland Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and several other concert venues. My last major conducting gig in 1981 was a special service for Palm Sunday in the Washington National Cathedral, where I had 400 singers gathered from all over the U.S. Instead of moving singers in a processional, we did a medieval liturgy by moving the music around the cathedral, with four choirs in the balconies, and the Boston Camerata in the crossing.

As our children developed I became a stay at home mom. This approach to educating my children was a direct outgrowth of my Bennington education. At one point we started a pilot program in education that was picked as one of the top elementary schools in the USA by the then-OE (Office of Education) in Washington. The two programs I started were based on the British Infant and Junior School movements in

Britain. It was great fun meeting educators from all over the world. Both programs were designed as self-limiting, with the goal of a great deal of spin-off into the local school systems.

When my daughter Meg was five, we visited some horse farms on a school field trip. As part of the school project, we used curriculum materials published by the British Pony Clubs. Again, the “Bennington Syndrome” kicked in, and I began a very long immersion in Equine Studies and Equestrian Education, which followed my daughter’s lead and lasted until three years ago! We acquired our foster daughter, Linda, during the “horse” years! I became an instructor and National Examiner for the United States Pony Clubs, Inc., giving clinics from Hawaii to the Virgin Islands, lots on the West Coast and Midwest. (Somewhere in this period, I had a double mastectomy after fooling around with lumpectomies and biopsies for far too long!) The “Bennington Syndrome” also led me into a ten-year project assisting with a research study in Equine Neurology with Jill Beech, VMD, at the University of Pennsylvania equine facility New Bolton Center. It was there that I knew Elinor Butt Jenny ’46, VMD, an equine surgeon and professor at UPenn Vet. School.

For many years I had Pony Club upper-level exam candidates living, riding, and studying for their tests at my home, and I have had from two to thirteen horses in my barn! Anatomy, Physiology, the Foot and Shoeing, Nutrition, Systems and Diseases, Conformation and Lameness, Parasitology, Stable Management, Teaching, and Training were all subjects that I taught to the college level. My “Pony Club Students” have gone on to become veterinarians, MDs, physical therapists, vet. techs, equine anesthetists, trainers and teachers. I taught Dressage, Jumping, and Cross Country riding, judged at PC Nationals, and was an “Eventing Mom” when my daughter was competing. I was active on several national instruction and curriculum committees, and for ten years was in charge of the writing and publishing of a three volume textbook set of the “U.S. Pony Club Manuals of Horsemanship,” authored by Susan Harris and published by Howell Book House, then part of Simon & Schuster Macmillan. These are used by many colleges in their Equine Studies programs. I was awarded the USPC’s Founder’s Award for distinguished service in 2004.

I still have three horses, and we are all RETIRED! In spite of the above entanglements, Jim and I managed to sail on our beloved Hinckley Pilot yawl “Madrigal,” and to cruise with friends in Maine to the Chesapeake, Desolation Sound BC, the Trent Severn Canal System, Ontario, the Grenadines, U.S. and BVIs, Ireland and Scotland, and in New Zealand, which was a serious involvement, especially when Jim was Commodore of the Cruising Club of America.

In early 2000, I became more and more incapacitated (Bennington Syndrome “couldn’t keep up with myself”), and eventually had extensive diagnostic work done at the Lahey Clinic. Finally I am on a treatment regime for fibromyalgia, and am doing much better. I may yet learn to pace myself, but the kind of learning that was instilled at Bennington has led me into some amazing activities and achievements... although sometimes it has been like walking through a minefield! I think grandparenting is the very best thing imaginable. We have three grandchildren: Andrew, 12, Allison, 8, and Lydia, 5.

Margradel Lesch Hicks

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Bennington gave this shy, sickly little girl a new life. Sounds melodramatic, but it's true!

Before I went to Bennington, I'd always been a bystander. Bennington taught me how to be a participant. I learned yes, it's good to observe and examine and admire, but get out there and do stuff!

I walked in thinking I'd become an archaeo-anthropologist and walked out an employed set designer (and married to the leading man of the summer stock company where I'd been working for three years!).

I learned to trust myself, to get involved, to take chances, to make mistakes and learn from them.

Big influences and fond memories:

Faculty Concerts: sitting upstairs in the Carriage Barn, our legs dangling, our ears filling with new sounds every two weeks. On the weeks when new pieces weren't ready yet, George Finckel would walk to the center, his cello in one hand and a chair in the other, sit down, and play all six of Bach's unaccompanied cello suites without a pause. For a year I thought they were all one glorious piece.

Ben Belitt, who treated our work seriously and with respect: one tries harder for such a teacher. I remember his reading passages of James Joyce to us in a lilting Irish accent. Mr. Belitt was also the one who opened the door to fine film—*Pather Panchali*, *The Bicycle Thief*, *Rashômon*.

Paul Feeley—"Very good! Now paint it again—but bigger! Bolder! Bigger!" His poodles used to go in his neighbor's field and panic the sheep. We called his dogs the Feedles.

Cheerful Kit Foster, who gathered assignments from all my teachers and sent them, and books, to me in the hospital. I spent eleven weeks in bed reading, drawing, writing papers, and was able to finish the term without an Incomplete.

Most of all, my teacher and mentor Bill Sherman, who gave me the guidance and skills and nerve to design and build for the theater, which is when I am happiest.

Leonard and I had two girls, and we found a great school, much like Bennington, for them. We had a wonderful life, working in the theater, and with friends who are poets, actors, painters, sculptors, and composers—talking for hours about ideas.

Participated in peace marches and ran picket lines in Manhattan for the United Farm Workers.

My beloved husband died of cancer when the girls were fourteen and nine years old. I had to be the sole support of us then, so I eased back on theater work and became a proofreader and copy editor—occasionally sneaking out and doing off-off-Broadway shows.

Fell in love with Vermont all those years ago, and now I've retired here. As the result of watching too many episodes of "This Old House," bought a rickety eighty-year-old farmhouse. Finding out that stage carpentry is not quite the same as house carpentry.

Oh—archaeo-anthropology? I go on Elderhostel Service Programs, to help preserve and document ancient Southwestern artifacts, petroglyphs, and pictographs.

I remember at our Commencement, one speaker said—well, here are your degrees. Now get out there in the world and LEARN!

And, with joy, I'm learning still.

Carrie McLeod Howson

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I started freshman year as an art major, but by junior year focused on American history. I also deeply enjoyed Woody's course in human physiology, and spent hours practicing the cello at Jennings. I was never much good at it despite George Finckel's best efforts. Of course college students love to eat, and Mr. Perry and chef Mike made that a pleasure.

I was recruited by the CIA (!) right out of Bennington (Who is doing work in political science? they asked.). That lasted mere months, when I learned that, as a woman, I had no prospects outside of the secretarial pool. On to teaching in suburban Maryland.

When I first moved to Washington, DC, I was rooming in Georgetown with Sheila Gallagher '55. Through her I met my first husband, journalist and author Tom Weyr (I've never held that against you, Sheila). He and I lived in his native Vienna, Rome, and Belgrade for the 2 1/2-year duration of the marriage. Daughter Teodora Dominique was born in Vienna.

Divorced in 1961, and drowning in depression, I spent four semesters at Columbia Teachers College for my ABD (All But Degree) in teaching of history for high school. Bobbi (Israel) '58 and Doc Nowak '58 then got me into their West Side apartment building—bless them forever! Still floundering as a single mom, I taught at a Harlem junior high (resulting in a sad event that removed me almost completely from teaching for decades). The City of NY gave me the equivalent of a graduate-level education in municipal government when I was hired at the Personnel Department, where I set up in-service and voluntary training for NYC employees.

In 1965 my then-four-year-old daughter and I met IBMer John Howson on a blind date. We began a conversation that would still be continuing if he had not developed Alzheimer's in the early '90s. On our honeymoon in November of 1966, we dug up bits of a cretaceous whale while being whipped by a wintry wind and sea spray on Martha's Vinyard Island. We bought a 1770s Quaker farmhouse and thirty-five acres in Hyde Park, NY, and raised three daughters, a few dogs, and dozens of cats.

I was a stay-at-home mom until 1974, when I began working for the Dutchess County Welfare Department in Poughkeepsie,



the city where John had grown up as a faculty brat on the Vassar campus. After stints in public assistance and adult protective services, I was asked to set up Medicaid Personal Care Services in 1978. I continued to work in community-based long-term care for 29 years, as a case manager, program manager, and information systems specialist.

While there I produced, and to a great extent wrote, two editions of a *Directory of Long Term Care Services in Dutchess County*. I also wrote a weekly newspaper column on senior and home care issues, conducted training for Hospice volunteers, Ombudsmen, personal care aides, family and volunteer caregivers, Public Health Nurses, and hospital social services and discharge planning staff. I served as chairperson, Council of Agencies Serving the Elderly, 1979–1997.

Along the way I reinvented myself through psychotherapy, a process that began at Bennington with Smitty and continues intermittently.

As a volunteer, I helped to found the (Interfaith) Volunteer Caregivers Program in Dutchess County and served in advisory capacity for nine years; helped to found the Hyde Park Historical Society and the Home Care Association of Dutchess County; served as president of the Dutchess County Art Association/Barrett House; served on the boards of the Dutchess County Arts Council, the Hyde Park Free Library, and Dutchess County Association for Senior Citizens. I was a member of several committees and task forces relating to health care delivery, Alzheimer's care, social services, and senior education.

I retired in 1997 to become a full-time caregiver for John, who has been in a care home since 2002. We moved to NJ in 1999 to be near a daughter—a blessing in countless ways. In retirement I have been taking courses at and served as chair of the advisory board and the curriculum committee of the Caldwell College Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI) in Caldwell, NJ. I also take art history and music in the South Orange/Maplewood Adult School and cooking classes at King's Supermarkets. I teach art history and women's history, as well as lecture on the odd topic, such as the life of Mencken, for LLI. I also maintain a couple of websites, write poetry (also about Alzheimer's and the care giving experience), travel, hang out wherever art and music are to be found, and live in my own "art gallery" (my condo walls are lined with 19th Century Japanese Art, contemporary Hudson Valley art, Inuit sculptures) and my library (books everywhere) with three cats.

My favorite "job," however, has been that of mother and grandmother. The recipients of those attentions are Teddie Weyr, 45, Baltimore, journalist and editor at Voice of America who is getting her MA in Publications Design, married to editor Mike Clark; Susan Howson, 38, Columbus, MSW and director of the PASSPORT Medicaid waiver home care program at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, married to graphic designer Dave Fowler; Charlotte Arevalo, 38, Maplewood, NY, MLS, full-time mom to Mary, 5, Christopher, 3, and Diana, born in April 2006, and wife to Alex, an MBA.

I have always felt that my life speaks deeply to the relevance of my Bennington education. I really do not think any of it—courses, conversations, even glancing exposures to subjects and persons—has gone unused or unappreciated.

Carol Friedman Kardon

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My primary interest at Bennington was stage design—really a combination of art and drama. After an early marriage I moved to Philadelphia where I worked at a local TV station and did stage design for several local theaters. Through another Bennington grad (Debbie?) I appeared on the *Mike Douglas Show*, teaching him how to finger-paint (fun!). Subsequently, I got sidetracked and received an MA in learning disabilities and taught in a private school and did private tutoring. In the 1960s I heard of a very good landscape painter, Neil Welliver, and was accepted as a special student of his at the Graduate School of Fine Arts at the University of Pennsylvania. After that I became a serious and dedicated painter. My first love is landscape painting, though



more recently I have become interested in still life and figure drawing. I have taught oil painting and pastel at a local art center for twenty years and given many workshops (Santa Fe, Italy, Massachusetts). Additionally, I have taught painting on several cruises (the Queen Elizabeth) and given private



lessons. Attending the Reunion unfortunately conflicts with a one-person show that opens October 6th at my gallery in West Virginia. Currently I am with four galleries. My work can be seen at my website.

Bennington has been a huge influence on my life. Several years after graduating, I begrudged the academic training in art that I thought



Bennington was lacking. However, increasingly over the years I see that my Bennington education provided something more important and rare. The connection between various disciplines gave me an insight and appreciation for all the arts. Understanding that bridge gave me a stepping-stone to find my own way. The technical aspects of painting I have picked up myself by attending workshops, going to galleries, and reading. The freedom and enthusiasm that Paul Feeley showered on his students in painting class led me to treasure and strive to do the same both in my work and in my teaching. I look back on Bennington as my intellectual and creative womb. I regard the white houses, stone walls, and Barn as sacred ground.

Regarding ups and downs I have experienced—let's have a glass of wine and talk...

I am currently living with my second husband in a suburb of Philadelphia. My studio is in my home. I have a son and a daughter and stepson and two grandsons. I visit my daughter and family in Salt Lake City several times a year, even skiing last winter with my seven-year-old grandson.

I would welcome any classmates visiting the Philadelphia area.

Lynde Kimball, OD

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Brattleboro, VT 05304

What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Bennington was a convenient institution to do my pre-optometric studies. Four years later I was graduated from the New England College of Optometry-Boston with a BS and OD degree.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

It didn't.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

Fortunately, no "downs." I practice in Brattleboro with two colleagues doing vision therapy and vision rehabilitation.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

Twenty years ago my wife and I established a vision clinic in Honduras that we run annually.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

The country (thank you Mr. Bush!) is going to Hell, as is the world (global warming!), but I'm concentrating on my life (selfish?).

Paula Levine

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Professor Emerita of Dance, Hollins University, VA, where, from 1955 to 1988, as director of dance, I taught, performed, and choreographed many concert and theatre works. My studies of Asian dance forms resulted in syncretic works such as *The Tempest in Thai Style*, *Western Gamelan*, and *Haiku*, as well as two Thai dance documentaries; the film, *Stringing A Garland* and *The Salutation of the Celestials*, a PBS video production.

I also served as President of The American College Dance Festival Association from 1980–82 and 1985–1987 and am still a member of its advisory board.



Kay Crawford Murray

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

While at Bennington my primary interest was in psychology. Today my primary interest is in the law.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

Bennington helped me hone my intellectual abilities and further develop discipline, definite assets in graduate school and law school.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

The death of my husband five years ago was the most significant event in my life. Graduating from Columbia Law School and beginning to practice law at age 41 was my most significant accomplishment.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

After my mother and my husband, Bennington had the greatest impact on my intellectual, social, and emotional development. I feel greatly indebted to Bennington for the experience and opportunities it afforded me. Although I am now retired, I continue to be active in legal and community organizations, and with alumni associations. Several former Bennington students are still my closest friends.

Audrey Olberg

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Literature, art, theater—still involved with these fields. Add political justice in recent years.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

I wasn't always "comfortable" at Bennington. Still I was always stimulated by my classes with Nemerov, Belitt, Hyman, and Feeley. They inspired me to follow my dreams.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

Ups- Have had an unspectacular, nonetheless steady literary life, publishing short fiction, poetry (three co-authored children's books), humor pieces, one-act plays, and newspaper articles.



Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

Lost my partner of many years, Arron-Paul Leiber, but cherish the close relationships I have with his three children.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

Hope to continue writing, painting, traveling, studying, and learning, learning, learning!

I still look like Little Miss Muffett, but an aging Little Miss Muffett!

Carol Burnap Poisman

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Primary interests at Bennington were Social Sciences. Interests today—enjoying retirement.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

My experiences at Bennington gave me a good sense of the arts, and also influenced me to become a social worker. The off-campus experiences were invaluable learning experiences.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

I was able to go on to Smith College after Bennington. After staying home with my children for several years, I was able to work as a social worker for many years until my retirement in 1995. Since then, I have enjoyed many hobbies such as quilting, literary volunteer work, and reading. I have also had the humbling experience of having had several strokes. Recovering from these is an every day, ongoing effort. At my age now, I enjoy those things that I can do well and work on those I can't.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

I have two children, a son and a daughter.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

I got a very good college education at Bennington.

Riva Magaril Poor

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Author, consultant, lecturer. Bennington, Harvard, MIT. BA, MS in Management (that's a little higher than an MBA), MCP.

Artistic education: 10 years piano, 10 painting, 8 ballet, 3 voice, etc.; a year at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in Landscape Architecture; also, a year at Humber College School of Comedy, Toronto.

Professional Problem-Solver. I help people solve problems they haven't been able to get solved elsewhere and I do so quickly. I'm an expert in problem-solving and decision-making techniques. Also, invented some techniques; including one for ELIMINATING self-defeat, so a person starts a string of wins to replace a string of losses. (No recidivism.) Talked about this at MIT last spring. Asked to do so again next fall.

Have given more than 500 public talks—many as keynote speaker at annual meetings—and have been a guest on more than 200 TV and radio shows. Thousands of newspaper and magazine articles have been written about my work.

Published *4 Days, 40 Hours* with a foreword by the Nobel Laureate Paul A. Samuelson, which has affected millions of employees. Also published 3 dozen articles, including one for *Colliers Encyclopedia*. My MIT thesis (“Decision of White Businessmen after the Riots in Roxbury”) was sponsored and published by ten local organizations. Its recommendations became the small business section of Boston's Model Cities Program.

In the late sixties, I set up one of the first and most successful black capitalism programs in the country. Counseled 83 black businesses with only 3 business failures.

Although I was a top student at MIT and also worked full-time, in 1970 when we all went for job interviews, prejudice against women was such that I couldn't get a job interview—only female in my class at the Sloan School, MIT. Decided to start my own business. I already had presidents of companies as clients (from my best-selling business book), but now I wanted to know if the same techniques could solve personal problems. So I made up a sign, “Free Decision Clinic Here,” sat outdoors in Forbes Plaza, Harvard Square



(in February), and took on all comers. Most people passed me by laughing, but some sat with me and allowed me to discover that business techniques solve personal problems—and rapidly.

Final vindication came when one of my (free) clients voluntarily sent me a check for \$100 with a note saying that she hoped I would make this my profession. Wow.

My clients since then, in addition to businesses, are business owners, managers, professors, scientists, physicians, psychiatrists, engineers—you name it. Also, nurses, schoolteachers, factory workers.

Had many brief careers before I invented professional problem-solving. I stayed with the latter for more than three decades, because I love the challenge of solving problems that others can't solve (tough problems, that is) and, at the same time, I love helping people get unstuck.

Still, former careers are life experiences, so I'll mention several: portrait painter, math teacher, book publisher, newsletter publisher, city planner, economic developer, garden designer, real estate-nik, standup comic—I forget what else.

Live in Cambridge near Harvard Square—with parking, so feel free to come visit. (Call me at 617-868-4447 or e-mail rivapoor@alum.mit.edu.)

Walk everywhere: to Boston, Brookline, and Arlington. Widow of a wonderful marriage, two children, four grandchildren.

I'm a very active person. I love life, love people, and, well—just plain LOVE.



Class of 1956 Commencement

Front Row (left to right):

Carrie McLeod Howson, Susan Kahn Fischer, Bunny Willa Katz Shulman, Riva Magaril Poor, Marshall Tyler, Elaine Gordon Silets, Sally Wason Stockwell, Renee Patenaude Turolla, Carol Burnap Poisman, Jane Thornton Iselin.

Second Row: Diana Garfield Valenti, Kay Crawford Murray, Suzanne Stern Shepherd Calkins, Joan Simons Constantikes, Sheila Solomon Dobbin, Janet D'Esposito, Barbara Feldman Staff, Arline Israel Gardner, Helen Sargent Goodwin, Uli Beigel Monaco, Sara Minkus Beer.

Third Row: Mary Lou Peters Schram, Jean Campbell Abell, Dale Lester Sokolow, Ruth Bleyberg Smith, Richard Cuyler, Adelaide Phillips Bull, Carol Friedman Kardon, Deborah Feldman Cuyler, Cynthia Sheldon Stibolt, Judith Piper Lipman, Gretchen Lindblad Mamis, Elisa Starr Rudd.

Back Row: Sandra Mallin Plehn, Lois Schulman Chazen, Ruth Ring Harvie, Patricia Ayres, Greta Einstein Miller, Margradel Lesch Hicks, Audrey Rosenthal Reichblum, Jean Segal Fain, Anna Carbone Lautore.





Geralyn Winner Roden

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My initial interest in attending Bennington College was my love of ballet/dance. Bennington was one of the only three colleges offering a BA degree in Fine Arts. I was so delighted to be accepted and I was looking forward to my first year. A short time before entering college I injured my leg while participating in “Giselle” at our Philadelphia Academy of Music. Unfortunately I was unable to ever dance again but chose to go to Bennington anyway in the fall of 1952. That was a very wise decision. I loved my years there and life has never been the same.

Instead of listing my post-college accomplishments (which are largely on the domestic scene), I’ve opted to mention some of my memories of those few fabulous years.

Things were different back then. Parents just dropped us off and vanished after unloading our meager belongings. There was only one hall phone for the entire floor. I recall Bennington had a policy that prevented freshmen rooming together. We had a grand piano in every house and played bridge after dinner most nights. Never have I had so many grand slams.

I remember walking on a very long wooded path up to Mr. Chabay’s house to take voice lessons. He informed me that my voice “must come from my diaphragm,” which alarmed my seventeen-year-old naïve brain. His wife often invited us there for a delicious Hungarian goulash dinner, which was a first for me.

I recall such wonderful instructors as Mr. Garceau (my counselor) who taught Political Science. He left later to join the Ford Foundation but his classes were delightful. And then there was Mr. Brockway for Government, and Mr. Woody’s Physiology class in the Barn, where on one occasion the Dartmouth football team was invited to join us for a Davis & Geck movie of a live cataract operation. One by one the boys felt faint and left, while the brave Bennington girls remained to the end.

I remember the beautiful Green leading down to a loosely constructed New England stone wall where you could see the endless mountains; the boys from Williams trying to get dates on Saturday nights; the State Line Restaurant where you had to sit in the far side of the room in order to get served a drink at eighteen (this was in Vermont).



First came Robert Frost. Of course he was wonderful, and then Dylan Thomas arrived with his *Under Milk Wood* readings. But best of all was Jackson Pollack, who came to teach us. What fun it was to splash and throw paint on the floor covered with huge rolls of brown construction paper. I thought it was odd that they all died very soon after visiting Bennington.

Miss Stickney deserves a paragraph all her own. What a lovely lady. Her very presence kept us up on our etiquette and dress code.

The many friends I made there were so dear to me but I lost contact with most. The school was so small and the dorms all mixed that we could have friends from all classes. But dearest to me was a little, energetic, sweet soul named Ruth Ring (Harvie). What a ball of fire she was. She alone created, organized, rehearsed, and

conducted the Madrigal Singers. We sang everywhere, sometimes casually on campus and sometimes in white formal gowns with other colleges. I still remember some of the songs we performed. I so hope the tradition continued after she left.

There is no doubt in my mind that my greatest accomplishment since college was my marriage to Lincoln Roden III (Yale '52). We just celebrated our 50th anniversary with our three grown children and five grandchildren. Life has been wonderful.

Hail Bennington!

Sally Mansfield Romig

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My primary interests while at Bennington were art and art history, and I was drawn to and very much enjoyed my class with Alexander Dorner. Since those days, I have been a graphic artist on-again off-again over the years, as well as (between marriages) supporting myself as a jewelry maker and stained glass artist. As a retiree, my primary interests include my grandchildren, my horse, my dog, and keeping house for my husband and myself.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life? Not sure. In the old days, we were taught, somehow, to think.





And I do think my year at Bennington contributed to that. I wish I knew how to pass it on to my eleven-year-old grandson.

What ups and downs have you experienced? Nothing really dramatic in either direction.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share: My three and three of my husband's four children lead productive lives. All but two live within a few hours' drive so we are able to be in touch pretty readily. Don's only daughter, at thirty-eight, is severely stricken with MS, a continuing sadness for everyone.



Mary Lou Peters Schram

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When someone asks me for a brief bio, I usually start with: I went to Bennington College and.... That stands out in my mind as the beginning of my life.

I spent my freshman year at Ohio University. I was deeply disappointed with OU; it was a repeat of the mindlessness of my high school. In my freshman English book, there was an essay titled "Education at Bennington." I no longer have the book so I don't remember the author, but I decided right then it was exactly what I needed to extricate myself from my strict 19th-century Midwestern childhood. Over my father's objections, I applied and was accepted, success in my first major independent decision.



Starting with my first week on campus, Stanley Edgar Hyman and Catherine Foster became two beacons of light for me and I began to grow into myself while learning to write.

When graduation time came, I had only had three years at Bennington. Although those three years gave me enough credits for graduation, I felt I needed and deserved another year there. President Burkhart talked me out of this and instead I headed for New York City, where many of my friends already were. It's hard to describe now how exciting that was.

I worked for a year at Lever Bros. in the marketing department, and saved enough money to leave and do something else. I went to Ohio and wrote a novel, and then took off for three months in Mexico. In Mexico I met my first husband, Les Rosenthal, and we married soon after returning to the States. Joshua was born in 1959 and Julia in 1962.

That same year, Les decided to return to UCLA for graduate work. We moved to California thinking it would only be a few years, but once there, California suited me in the same way that Bennington had. There was a ferment of new ideas and people trying new things. In spite of taxes and earthquakes, I have never wanted to leave.

When the Poverty Program was funded, we were swept up in the excitement of its possibilities and I began six years of community work, some volunteer and some paid, a tenant's association, a community newspaper, picketing with CORE, teaching HEADSTART.



In 1970 we divorced and I moved to San Francisco with the children. Tired of community work, I started a new, 15-year career in public relations and advertising. Within a year, I was finally earning a living as a writer.

In 1972, I met and married my second husband, William Schram, an architect. Also in 1972, I published my first novel, *Stranger in the Dark*, a suspense story about Cuban revolutionaries in New York.

In the late seventies, I became involved with what we call BCAANC (ba-cank), Bennington College Alumni Association of Northern California. Though it is no longer as successful as it was in the eighties—now that all the women have gone to work and all clubs seem to have waned—it has proved a constant source of contact with the College and new friends. I have an immediate sense of connection with all of the alumni, no matter how much younger they are.

When I stopped working fulltime, I spent several years writing articles for West Coast publications and went back to working on fiction. However, when Will died in 1987, I saw I would never be able to retire unless I pulled off something more profitable than my usual jobs. With very little capital, I began buying and renovating rental real estate while working fulltime as a legal secretary. From 1988 to 1998, I spent all my evenings and weekends scrubbing and painting, changing locks, and dealing with tenants.

It was the right time to be in real estate in California and I was able to (mostly) retire in '98. I moved to Sonoma, a lovely small town in the wine country. In addition to writing and my landlord duties, I spend time on the Democratic Party, with a book club, ushering at the Berkeley Rep, and sessions in the gym. I feel as if I have reached the best time in my life.

My children have been a delight. Josh is a botanist and runs overseas programs for the Fogarty Institute at NIH. He is always flying off to Vietnam or Kyrgyzstan or Madagascar. Julia married at eighteen and had two children before she finished her BA at Cal. She is now an attorney in biotech, currently at Chiro. With five grandchildren, there is always one close by to enjoy.

In 2004, I published KLIK, a humorous novel about a group of people working for a San Francisco radio station in the 1970s when the FCC mandated that a share of the good jobs had to go to women. Promoting and distributing it myself is less fun than the writing but also interesting. I have three other books that I hope to publish before I quit.

I am eternally grateful that the Women's Movement came along when it did and, in addition to demanding greater fairness in the workplace, also taught us better ways of looking at and judging ourselves.

Kay Crawford Murray has remained a good friend ever since McCullough House, even though we live on different coasts. Last year we went on two trips together—one a cruise along Costa Rica, the other two weeks in Florence studying art.

You don't reach this age without a lot of deaths—including two of my Bennington roommates—Elsa Kurth and Lisa Starr Rudd. But those sad moments throw into relief what a blessed time I've had these past 50 years.

Bunny Willa Katz Shulman

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Most of my hours at Bennington were spent donned in leotards and tights, the attire often acquiring the look of a second skin. As a dance major I sweated through technique classes, struggled to complete choreographic works, strove toward success at workshops, and rehearsed...rehearsed...then rehearsed for more long hours. My fond



memories include the serious and humorous—like the stint I taught for a term at the Chatham Hall School for girls—and chairing the consummate '56 dance tour—and—does anyone else remember the time when, just prior to our concert at the 92nd Street Y, all of our costumes were stolen?

The practicality of this unique education afforded me the skills to teach, choreograph, and perform with various dance companies over a period of twenty-five years. After retiring from the dance world I began to write, translating themes used in my works for the concert stage to the written word. To my credit, a number of my short stories have been published. With a second novel nearing completion, I can only wonder what's next on the agenda.

My wonderful husband and two exceptional children, both girls, are ever supportive of my endeavors. My grandson has burrowed a way into my heart and a newly adopted daughter is quickly following suit.



The passing of these five decades has done little to disrupt my positive attitude toward others and the optimistic approach to life I developed while leaping through my four years at college. Self-motivated, my days remain full. I'm always ready to enjoy a good laugh... and I never "do lunch."



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When I first arrived at Bennington, fresh off the train from Oklahoma City, I doubt any of my classmates had ever known anyone from Oklahoma. Sadly, I took this as an opportunity to educate them regarding such things as herds of buffalo on the railroad tracks, delaying the train. I think they believed me.

My ambition was to become a writer, but I soon learned how provincial my education up to that point was. The “East Coast Girls” were way ahead of me in understanding and sophistication, most especially where learning was concerned. I’m not sure I ever caught up.



Bennington did open my eyes to the possibilities that existed outside my little circle. God bless Stanley Edgar Hyman for the education every class and conversation offered me. And once I heard Shirley Jackson read one of her stories, I doubted that writing was my forte.

After Bennington, I married, had a daughter, and worked in a number of businesses as writer, correspondent, proofreader, and copy editor. I retired in 1997 but keep my hand in doing freelance editing and proofreading.

We’ve lived in six different states and thirteen different houses. Our present house is probably the last before we move to the “home.”

I’m fortunate that my daughter and her family live close by. Our grandson is twenty and attends college. They may even let him graduate. We’re hoping so.

My husband Bill and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to Iceland, and we plan another celebration in Cancun later this fall.

Through the years, as I have aged, I have become more liberal in any number of ways—politically and personally. I think my Bennington experience has had a part in that transformation. Just recently, I got my first tattoo, a liberating and exciting adventure.

I regret that I will be unable to attend our 50th Reunion. My best to all my classmates.

Dale Lester Sokolow

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

When I was attending Bennington, I was seriously interested in the arts and sciences and majored in both fields. When I was a freshman, I really had no idea where these two interests would lead, but by the time I became a senior, my intention was to become a Medical Illustrator. One NRT I worked at a New York Hospital for the resident Medical Illustrator and had a fascinating time drawing medical objects as well as talking to the Medical Illustrator on staff. He showed me pictures of things that were truly unusual and unbelievable. For those who may be a little squeamish, I will refrain from describing some of them. Somewhere along the way though, I wound up in the manufacturing end of the magazine field, working for such publications as *Forbes*, *Esquire*, and *GQ*. I must have been doing something right, because I am still friendly with my ex-boss (*Esquire* and *GQ*) even though I retired when my daughter was born thirty-two years ago. I still find both art and science fascinating.



For the last twenty years or so, I have been designing and teaching embroidery. (My husband has never forgiven me for giving up painting and sculpture!) I am an active member of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, an international organization interested in improving the "art" of embroidery. I have had several national-level jobs for them, including chairman of the Canvas Master Craftsmen Program. Prior to being

offered the job, I was certified as a Master Craftsman in both canvas and counted thread embroidery. With the advent of the computer and my interest in it, I started writing and teaching Group Correspondence Courses on several different forms of embroidery. My first was a blackboard chessboard, which can be seen online at: <http://www.thesophisticatedstitcher.com/art2000/blackwork2.php>.

The class was so successful that several more classes in other forms of embroidery have followed. I have a new class starting in December 2006.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

This is a hard question to answer, since I did not continue in the fields that I studied at Bennington. My education did, however, teach me to be a very independent person with the ability to attain anything I chose to do or be.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

Overall, life has been good. My daughter was working across the street from the World Trade Center on 9/11 and my husband and I were in Hungary at the time. It took a couple of hours before I found out that she had escaped unscathed, except for seeing it all. Many nightmares later, she is doing better, but still refuses to go into Manhattan unless there is no choice. She wound up walking 12 miles in "dress shoes" in order to get home, and has not put on a pair of dress shoes since then.

My grandson, now three and a half, was born with a pancreatic problem, but after spending the first month and a half of his life in three hospitals, surgery was performed and he has been just fine ever since.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

My husband Josh has been both an accountant and attorney, but has been practicing as a CPA almost exclusively. Ever since my daughter Amy (my only child) graduated from college, he has said he is going to retire, but it hasn't happened yet, and it is many years since then.

My stepson is a radiologist and my daughter-in-law is an attorney and Alderwoman in New Haven, CT. They have two children, one of whom is just starting college and one in high school.

My daughter and son-in-law are both in the computer field, although Amy retired when their son was born and intends to be a stay-at-home mom until he (and any other children) are older. Their son (who is the





light of my life) comes naturally to a computer and loves to type words on it and play computer games. When I am babysitting I let him help me check my e-mail, with him doing all the work on the laptop. They start really early these days. Oh, he also calls both his grandmothers on a daily basis, but only if he can punch in each individual number on his own.

Josh and I both love to travel and we have spent a large amount of time visiting many parts of the world.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

I have maintained a strong relationship with Judith Douglass Sutton '57, Darla Stimpson Chafin '58, Madelene (Olie) Olander Woodbury '57, Ruth Bleyberg Smith '56, and Elaine Liberstein Pitt '57, and this has been a great joy to me. I am particularly looking forward to seeing Jude (who lives in Bennington) whom I try to speak to on a regular basis but don't get too much of a chance to see. The other gals all have e-mail and we correspond often.

Josephine Hamlin Stead

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Art, music, languages

After four years at Bennington, I moved to New York City to continue studying the cello and to prepare for a senior recital. I worked at Carnegie Hall and attended Mannes College of music. I soon realized that I had started music too late in life and would not be able to make a career of it. I then took a secretarial course and worked for the Atomic Industrial Forum and for I.M. Pei in New York City for a few years.

In 1962, I moved to my parents' home in Bennington, VT. My father had a horse farm there and needed help. It was a very exciting time for me, riding and showing horses. I met my first husband in Bennington. He was a Forestry professor at the University of Vermont and an avid horseback rider. We married and moved to Burlington, VT. In November 1968, my husband was killed in a fire. At the time I had a boy and a girl, ages two and three.

Three years later I married James Stead, and had another girl. Our marriage lasted fourteen years. At the time I was taking advanced classes in French at UVM. In 1986, Bennington awarded me a Bachelor of Arts degree as a general major, after which I obtained a broker's license and embarked on a career as a realtor.

I am now retired and have two grandchildren. I continue to hike, play tennis, travel, and enjoy the study of languages.

Bonnie Miller Stein

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

It was the music program that drew me to Bennington and it is music that sustains me to this day. I still play the piano.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

The experience helped with the social integration of people from various backgrounds.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

A husband who developed a chronic disease in his 60s. Also, dealing with the premature death of both my parents.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

Yes, four grown children—two sons and two daughters. Six grandchildren 3/3—all live in California nearby.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

Basically I (we) have been fortunate in our lives together and with our children and grandchildren.

Michele “Mickey” Rogers Zwirn

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What were your primary interests while attending Bennington and what are you interested in today?

Then—Science, thinking, independence, friendships.

Now—Family, friends, tennis, bridge, reading, travel, the museums (I volunteer at two) and activities that New York offers.

How did the Bennington experience influence your direction in life?

Independence and analytical thinking.

What ups and downs have you experienced?

Ups—Wonderful family life—which continues. Challenging and successful career in business and consulting. Interesting (some less so) events and involvements throughout.

Downs—loss of husband, parents, and recently, some friends.

Do you have any family notes you wish to share?

Husband, Bernard, died four years ago, after forty-five-and-a-half years of marriage. Daughter and son. Four grandkids (two each) within four years of age of each other.

Are there any comments you wish to make on the past, present, or future?

In spite of losses, life has been very good and I'll be thankful if it continues so.

35th Reunion



***Sitting (left to right):** Jo Ann Marcus Gardner, Carrie Howson, Josephine Hamlin Stead,
Carol Friedman Kardon, Kay Crawford Murray, Jean Segal Fain, Barnett Fain.*

***Standing (left to right):** Bernard Zwirn, Michele Rogers Zwirn, Joan Simons Constantikes, Joan Levick Gold,
George Constantikes, Helen Sargent Goodwin, Archibald Murray, Richard Cuyler.*

WITHOUT UPDATE



Loveliea Fried Albright



Dorothy Callman Bart



Patricia Kelsey Beattie



Paula Klonsky Berk



Ellen Kaplan Cannon



Lois Schulman Chazen



Janet D'Esopo



Ilona Somyas Dawson



Sheila Solomon Dobbin

WITHOUT UPDATE



Diana Tucker Edwards



Diana Engelhardt



Charlotte A. Feer



Lois Haas Ferris



Linda Mukamal Fleischmann



Priscilla Freeman



Carol Weston Galloway



Sara Henry Garfield



Jane Martin Ginsburg

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Denise Rzewski Goerlich



Joan Levick Gold



Joan Haymann



Lynn Hutt Hudgins



Lucinda Hughes



Margery Baer Irish



Jane Thornton Iselin



Barbara Cholfin Johnson



Joan Heilig Kahn

WITHOUT UPDATE



Althea Friedberg Kliros



Krishna Sen Kopell



Phyllis Lipton Krasnow



Maryam Krosner



Ruth Watkins Leopold



Judith Piper Lipman



Phannipha Vikitsreth Longpradit



Jennifer Molloy Love



Gretchen Lindblad Mamis

WITHOUT UPDATE



Judith Felsen Matchton



Diana Mazany McConnell



Margaret Beston Mechau



Ruth Meyer



Uli Beigel Monaco



Thelma Adelman O'Brien



Sally B. Roberts Pierson



Riva Magaril Poor



Bune Rothbart Primack

WITHOUT UPDATE



Audrey Rosenthal Reichblum



Ilene Greenwald Reiff



Ann Hanson Rossie



Ellen MacVeagh Rublee



Wynne Ruden



Jill Tishman Sager



Ellen Siegel Segal



Judith Shaver



Elaine Gordon Silets

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Jacqueline Watkins Slifka



Ethel Southworth



Cynthia Sheldon Stibolt



Renee Patenaude Turolla



Marshall Tyler



Jane C. Albright Vipond



Clarissa Morton Warner



Isabel Cohen Weiss



Edith White

WITHOUT UPDATE



Elaine Bland Whiting

WITHOUT PHOTO

Joan Rice Franklin
Evanne Schreiber Geltzeiler
Bettie Harris
John Hawkins
Daviette Hill
Richard Lee
Louise Valentine McCoy
Renfreu Laurence Neff
Gerda Norvig
Janet Altschuler Roseberry
Al Sargent
Esther Meader Scanlan
Richard Sherman
Judith Greenhill Speyer
Rosanne Wallach Stein
Mary Eaby Taggart
Diane Rood Tanenbaum
Diana Garfield Valenti
Catherine Martin Willcox
Ruth Wolfert

DECEASED



Susan Gurian Ackiron



Patricia Ayres



Julia Banks Bryce



Adelaide Phillips Bull



Deborah Feldman Cuyler



Barbara Rosen Gilbert



Elaine Dupont Jones



Anna Carbone Lautore



Alice E. Lyon

DECEASED



Ellen Berger Madison



Greta Einstein Miller



Anstiss Chassell Nadler



Sandra Mallin Plehn



Barbara Feldman Staff



Sally Wason Stockwell

WITHOUT PHOTO

Nancy Lee Barton

Elisa Starr Rudd

Leslie Sykes







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