

## WELCOME CAMEOS – September 2025 Update

This space archives Welcome Cameos introducing new subscribers to our Women of '72 online community, which were provided with eblast updates to our list sent on the dates listed below. In addition to cameos for welcoming future new subscribers, we will also be adding "Welcome-Again Cameos" for classmates introduced only by name when they opted in some time ago – and to expand on some of the earlier cameos with added detail and history. All intended to help share our life journeys—each in its own way uniquely amazing and inspiring.

Additions to this archive will be spotlighted in future eblasts. Cameos available as of September 2025 include:

Yaffa Ventura Beck  
Sherry Strasser Boswell  
Larissa Brown  
Anna Baird Chitty  
Jerri Donovan  
Susie Brownstone Eig  
Dorothy Grouse Fontana (Welcome-Again)  
Alice Kelikian  
Sherry Peltz Leiwant (Welcome-Again)  
Vera Marcus

Mary McLeod  
Ann Sease Monoyios  
Meggan Moorhead (Welcome Again)  
Helena Novakova  
Carol Rahn  
Patricia Bowe Romines  
Susan Squier  
Suzanne Stohlman (Welcome-Again)  
Amanda Eggert Stukenbe

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### **Yaffa Ventura Beck**

[March 2020]

Yaffa – known as Yaffa Ventura to those who knew her then – says she's certain too few remember her from sophomore year as a transfer student, arriving on a lovely fall day in 1969, as she recalls. (I'm not sure about that, Yaff, since several classmates have remembered you fondly when I've happened to mention your name.) Her Princeton stay was cut short when she was conscripted by the Israel Defense Forces in autumn 1970 and had to return to her country to enlist. Yaff continued her studies and completed degrees at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Pretoria University (Doctor of science in molecular biology), followed by a 30+ year career in biotechnology. She married Josh Beck and had two children, and decided to retire after losing Josh to cancer seven years ago. Happy in her retirement, Yaff says she travels a lot, mostly exploring more and more of Europe. She returned

to Princeton joining everyone for our 2013 reunion, which she says was "a bit weird, but lovely."

Although Yaff couldn't make our 50<sup>th</sup>, as she had hoped at the time of this writing, we look forward to seeing her on another future visit!

### **Sherry Strasser Boswell**

[September 2022]

We enjoyed so very much Sherry's company at our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Women's Brunch and on the joyful P-Rade walk behind our "prized banner" (per PAW reunions issue photo caption) on her first return to campus since our Tenth in '82 – with husband and fellow classmate Will Boswell. My personal reunion with Sherry was especially poignant, reminiscing about my visit with her family during a 1989 visit to Seattle when I was contemplating a move to the Pacific Northwest. Fond memories of trick-or-treating with their young kids Laine and

Luke – who are now, respectively, a wine importer/exporter in Switzerland, and an outdoor equipment developer in Montana. Will in his “retirement” has become an accomplished landscape painter. (Sherry actually came to our Fiftieth by way of Switzerland and visiting their two grandkids there!)

Sherry’s first path to Princeton traversed her early years in Cincinnati, where she and Will met as teenagers, and freshman/ sophomore years at Smith. Transferring as a junior, she lived with Susie Brownstone Eig (also from Smith) in Pyne, sharing a tower room together in Witherspoon senior year. During her history studies in the Woodrow Wilson School, a course with anthropologist and Pueblo Indian Alphonso Ortiz ultimately proved pivotal in both Sherry’s academic and professional pursuits. Under his guidance, her junior paper on the Cherokee People and the Trail of Tears led to a senior thesis focused more broadly on Native American influence on long-term cultural and environmental trends.

Native American history remained the focus of Sherry’s Masters at UC Santa Barbara, as well as later PhD work at the University of Washington in Seattle. In between, Sherry and Will lived on an old homestead and ranch 70 miles north of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, where she headed the history department of North Idaho College for 10 years. Along the way, working with friends who founded one of the early cultural resource consulting firms, she set the course of another phase of her career in public history, oral history and historic preservation. Following decades of private consulting, she tried the other side, working as the historian for the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife. Sherry retired in mid-2021 – but actually it didn’t quite take. She continued various independent projects working with tribes and preservation councils and, in January this year, decided to join another women-owned consulting firm as senior historian.

So much for retirement! Sherry remains passionate about exploring venues and formats for making history accessible to the public, whether through teaching, museum exhibits, publications or websites. She says she has no real interest in retiring any time soon while similar opportunities

beckon—so long as she can carve out time for those grandkids in Switzerland!

**Larissa Brown**

[September 2022]

Long story short: a meandering path with multiple interests, three graduate degrees, two careers, one marriage, one divorce, no kids.

Larissa came to Princeton from Sarah Lawrence. Some of us might remember her as a vocalist for One Grunch But the Eggplant, the proto-punk, Terrace Club-based campus band. Between gigs, she majored in History while living first in Lourie-Love in the New New Quad, where she roomed with Mary Wadsworth and Chris Van Horne, then Edwards. In Boston for grad school in international relations during the year after graduation, she shared an apartment with Claudia Tesoro.

Her adventurous spirit, fueled by time living abroad in a foreign service family, led eventually to a PhD in Latin American history from UVA, with a specialty in Brazilian urban and environmental history, several years of research living in Rio de Janeiro, and a Brazilian husband (for a while...). After some years of academic life in the US Midwest, she found her interests turning to how to make cities more sustainable. Heading back east to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she has lived since the mid-nineties, she got an MA in environmental landscape design from the Conway School and migrated to a new career in urban planning.

With architect partners, she founded a small design and planning firm, and in the 2000s went on to work for larger national and multinational firms, leading planning projects all over the country. In the course of this work, she crossed paths with Lizz Plater-Zyberk, while working on a City of Miami public spaces plan, and also with Janet Howard, while working on the first comprehensive plan for the City of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. (Small world, yet again.) She is now semi-retired but continues some consulting, with a particular focus on sustainability and resilience. She is looking forward to more time for life-long interests such as music, gardening, and travel.

Happily for all of us at the 50<sup>th</sup>, Larissa's travel itinerary also included a reunion stop-by – wonderful to catch up, and for me the opportunity to meet in person for the first time!

**Anna Baird Chitty**

[September 2020]

"Tisha Baird" to those who knew her "back then," Anna was one of the ten future Women of '72 who moved into Pyne Hall in the fall of '69 as sophomores, transferring from Smith. She later lived in Edwards and majored in art history. Anna says she doesn't know as many Women of '72 as she would like. She reunited with old friends and met a few more while attending one of the March 2021 "memory excavation" Zooms that helped launch our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion yearbook essay project for the Women of '72

Anna has lived in Boulder, Colorado for the past 30 years, where she and her husband John '71 co-founded the Colorado School of Energy Studies, building on their shared interest in holistic health. Anna and John married in 1973, followed by eight years living in a house they built as part of a community of eight families on 80 acres on Hornby Island in British Columbia. They spent the next 20 years in Southern California, where Anna was the lead teacher and director of the Polarity Therapy and Holistic Health programs at Murrieta Hot Springs. Her credentials and contributions to the fields of biodynamic craniosacral therapy, polarity therapy and trauma therapy are vast! A visit to [Anna's website](#) is fascinating for anyone interested in energy healing. (That would be me, for sure!)

Since John's untimely passing in February 2019, Anna continues to run their school with assistance from their daughter. Anna told me that John used their own energy-based approaches to support healing from within when first diagnosed in 2010 with prostate cancer metastasized to the bones and the lungs. The energy healing eliminated the metastasis, allowing nine years of wellness before it recurred.

**Jerri Donovan**

[September 2019]

Jerri Donovan's Japanese studies at Princeton converged some years later with a law degree to

place her in Tokyo, where she has remained since. She writes, " Somehow I ended up as an attorney in the pharmaceutical sector with a specialty in Japan. Alas, I am in my second experience of being "acquired" and experience doesn't make it easier. I may well be the person to put the lights out in the acquiree." She also says she's hoping to begin working part-time and take up letter writing again!

Visit our *Pioneer Tales* page to see a more in-depth profile of Jerri's journey from Princeton and life in Japan! [posted there September 2020]

**Susie Brownstone Eig**

[September 2025]

I'm happy to welcome Susie as an e-list subscriber to our Women of '72 community – somewhat belatedly, along with a big apology from me! Susie was an early signer of the 2022 letter of protest penned by Susan Squier in response to the leak of the then-pending SCOTUS Dodd decision overturning Roe v Wade – and has since been part of the Action Team for reproductive justice that formed soon after. I only recently understood that Susie intended as well to opt in to our Women of '72 online community at that time. I'm only too happy to correct my oversight now and share with you just a bit of Susie's story after getting acquainted during a recent, very fun phone call. Highlights in brief, I promised Susie.

Arriving at Princeton as a junior, Susie Brownstone transferred from Smith together with Sherry Strasser (Boswell), who was also her roommate in Witherspoon that year. Fellow Charter Club member Diana Foster was another friend, and Susie was hoping to reconnect following our phone call. Susie majored in studio art, earning a degree in Art & Archeology.

Susie and classmate Mark Eig married right before graduation, following senior exams. But their relationship goes *way, way* back, having met in eighth grade in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and dating since their junior year in high school! They now live in nearby Potomac, where Mark maintains a home office for his medical practice, and their home is nexus for three generations of their closely knit families, including their two sons with two sons each, all living nearby and deeply connected.

Backing up to watershed, their property is also lush with native landscaping thoughtfully cultivated over several decades, including a garden Susie proudly describes as “quite sensational,” for which she largely credits Mark’s water-management acumen. (Susie and Mark shown here on a recent visit to Delaware Botanic Gardens.)

This aesthetic at home in many ways mirrors Susie’s passions and contributions in the public sphere. She explained in an email, “Having taken the ‘Princeton in the nation’s service’ seriously but brought to the local level, I spent many years as an elected official in community government [serving for almost a dozen years on the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers] and as a volunteer at the county level. Much of my focus has been and continues to be on environmental impacts connected with trees, parks, preservation, etc.” Susie added that a designer’s perspective and appreciation for how those things interact especially inform her work in these arenas.

Susie cites her civic and community activism as well for endless lessons in the art of compromise – and her experience caring for aging parents for good, practical perspective on the rewards of serving others. Susie notes that she’s also a big advocate for mandatory service. (Editorial note: And what a richer world of possibilities that would serve for us all!)

### ***Dorothy Grouse Fontana***

***[Welcome-Again April 2023]***

Transferring from Brown/Pembroke as a junior, Dorothy lived her junior year in Pyne Hall, and her senior year in a 1903 single. She joined Colonial Club, which was one of the first dining clubs to welcome women, and made many friends there. She also felt welcomed and accepted as colleague and fellow student in her studies in the multi-discipline program of the Woodrow Wilson School. She focused much of her studies on Asia. As she noted in recent correspondence, “Whether we like it or not, in many professions it is still a man’s world and was certainly one in that day. Princeton did a lot to help prepare me to enter the competitive men’s world with a good understanding of how to navigate it.”

Dorothy also credits her successes to the mentorship of strong women in her life beginning as far back as her life growing up in Minneapolis, where her mother was a writer and teacher and her considerably older sisters both became Harvard/Radcliff PhDs. Prior to and following graduation, Dorothy spent two summers studying Chinese Mandarin in Middlebury’s renowned intensive language program. These studies, along with her time at Princeton, helped provide her with a solid footing for her doctoral studies in political science and Chinese studies at MIT. Lucian Pye, a leading expert in his age and government advisor on China, became an important mentor at MIT for Dorothy’s career path in government.

In her first step along that path, Dorothy found great intellectual satisfaction working as a China analyst at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Her aptitude and passion for that work rounded out the unique skill set that led ultimately to her position as an East Asia Division Chief there. As a senior DoD expert on Chinese relations, she was regularly involved in wide range of government activities including task forces, advisory bodies, program management, direct support to policy makers, inter-agency coordination and even testifying in Congress (13 times in one summer alone). On her retirement she was awarded the U.S. intelligence community’s highest civilian award.

Retired now for many years, Dorothy focuses much of her energies on supporting charities including the Knights of Columbus community charities and her local library, where she raised more than \$80,000 over recent years managing used book sales. Dorothy also enjoys mentoring others – she loves “helping people find their feet” – including working with students in Ruby Huttner’s ’22/’72 “grandparent” programs. She and her husband Bob, a retired electrical engineer and microwave entrepreneur, live in Potomac, Maryland. She has one daughter and two grandchildren.

### ***Alice Kelikian***

[March 2020]

Alice arrived at Princeton in the fall of ’70 as a junior transfer from University of Illinois. She lived in Pyne and Little while studying history and political science at the Woodrow Wilson School, earning distinction as the first woman to be named a

Woodrow Wilson Scholar. Alice was also the first woman to receive the Daniel M. Sachs scholarship for study abroad, later earning a doctorate in Italian history. She now teaches history and film at Brandeis, living primarily in Cambridge, Massachusetts, while traveling frequently to Milan, Italy, where she has had a flat for the past 30 years. Alice recently reconnected with Diana Foster, her junior year roommate, after seeing Diana's name on our contact list. (Alice says she was maid of honor at Diana and Tom's wedding!) Both tell me they're delighted to be back in touch.

### **Sherry Peltz Leiwant**

*[Welcome-Again* January 2023]

Sherry has spent her entire career on the front lines of advocacy for women's and family rights. Her senior thesis as a history major addressing Women in the Workforce from 1890 to 1920 would seem a most appropriate place to start! She arrived at Princeton as a junior transfer from Barnard, living in Pyne and 1903 Halls, and was a member of Stevenson. Sherry loved the academics but notes she didn't make a lot of connections while at Princeton, although she shared an apartment during her second year at Columbia Law School with Holly Lovejoy. (Their reunion at She Roars in 2018 was fun to witness!)

Sherry has been co-president of [A Better Balance](#) (ABB) since co-founding the national nonprofit legal advocacy organization in 2006. As noted in its website, ABB works to advance justice for workers, so they can care for themselves and their loved ones without jeopardizing their economic security. In the closing minutes of the last Congress (in December 2022), the Senate passed the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, which ABB introduced and has fought for tirelessly for more than 10 years. Sherry reports that literally an hour before the gavel fell, the PUMP for Nursing Mothers act also passed. Sherry's recent news post on our women's Pioneer Tales page provides details – very much worth a visit

Sherry wants especially to credit her co-founder and co-president Dina Bakst for her leadership role in the ABB initiative leading to this success. Sherry's collaboration with Dina dates to their tenure together at the NOW Legal Defense and Education

Fund, where Sherry was senior staff attorney from 1996 until 2005 running the organization's women's rights and poverty project. Sherry notes that ABB's legal help line "was close to the ground, and that's where the pregnancy issues and needs surfaced" – because disability protections excluded pregnancy. ABB's success goes a long way toward solving many of those problems.

At the same time, as a leader in the national Paid Leave for All campaign, Sherry has been instrumental in driving Congressional momentum to establish a strong, inclusive national paid family and medical leave program. She also continues to lead on passing permanent and emergency paid sick leave laws across the country. To date (as of early 2023), Sherry happily reports 17 states and most major cities have enacted paid sick time laws that ABB helped draft and pass. And paid family and medical leave programs covering a range of family care challenges are now in place in ten states and D.C.

Sherry has received prestigious awards for advancing work-family justice and women's economic empowerment, as well as championing women's rights. Check out Sherry's [ABB website bio](#) for the full story, and prepare to be inspired! For now, I just have to say we're proud to claim Sherry as one of our own – and laud her efforts and achievements on behalf of the human family!

And speaking of family, Sherry is married, the mother of three – a daughter living in Rome, another daughter living in Boston, and a son in D.C. – and grandmother to four! For her Princeton family, Sherry is one of the coordinators of the "Women of '72 and Friends Action Team" working to channel information and resources in response to the Supreme Court reversal of Roe v Wade.

### **Vera Marcus**

[September 2019]

I enjoyed very much getting to know Vera through phone calls (for Annual Giving, wouldn't ya know) – and especially when she returned to campus for the first time in decades for our 50th! Vera is an attorney with her own practice in Benecia, California, where she has lived since the mid-70s. A philosophy major with deep Princeton theater



roots, she joined the ranks of the Women of '72 after completing her degree in three years.

Vera is also one of two Women of '72 featured in the Lewis Center for the Arts *All Her Power* theater project commemorating 50 years of coeducation. The film produced by that project focused on an award-winning theater program Vera developed following graduation with the intention "to come back and give back" to her native Birmingham, Alabama. Performing over three years to sell-out audiences, Vera's Black Flame and Black Fire programs engaged the talents of 50-60 youngsters and teens living in a Birmingham housing project. And, working without staff, she did it all herself – from writing scripts and making costumes to marketing and grant-writing.

Visit our *Pioneer Tales* page to read more about that project and link from there to our in-depth profile of Vera's life journey. [posted there September 2020]

### **Mary Caroline McLeod**

[May 2025]

I missed an earlier chance to connect personally with Mary when she promptly signed the letter penned by Susan Squier protesting the then-pending SCOTUS of *Roe v Wade*. So I gratefully seized the opportunity when Mary recently asked to join our online Women of '72 community. Getting acquainted over several phone calls and emails has been such a delight!

Hailing from Wheaton, MD with ongoing family connection with D.C. – where her father was a journalist and travel editor – Mary transferred to Princeton from Pembroke/ Brown, which she loved. But a greater love propelled her to Princeton! Having met former husband Mark Cigolle '71, brother of a close Pembroke friend, at the end of her freshman year, she "weekended" her sophomore year at Princeton, where Mark was studying in the School of Architecture. Assigned to Pyne on arrival as a junior, she enjoyed conversations with her roommate before moving to Mark's large corner room in 1903—effectively gifting Ellen Porter '73 with a single.

With activism in her genes – she remembers a group of Brown students camping out on her

parents' living room floor enroute to the November '69 Moratorium March on Washington – Mary enrolled in the (then named) Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs with an interest in urban studies, and admittedly mistaken expectations. She wrote her junior thesis about anarchist Emma Goldman and ultimately satisfied all requirements there for her undergraduate degree.

However, it was exposure to architecture largely through Mark and his friends that ultimately set her course for life and career. After taking a Tony Vidler class in the School of Architecture on their advice, she wrote her senior thesis on what she describes as "radical alternatives to environmental design," with Professors Vidler and Paul Ylvisaker advising. Married mid-senior year to Mark and having completed her course work, she wrote most of her thesis in Boston, coming to Princeton primarily to finalize degree requirements.

And *that's* why so few of us knew Mary during our Princeton years. Good friends with Edwards hallmates Barbara Julius and Mary Coale Baldwin after Mark departed for Harvard, she recalls, "We had fun on that floor in Edwards. And I still remember the book of poetry that Mary Baldwin gave me when Mark and I got married December my senior year--William Carlos Williams!" She says they mostly fell out of touch after that, except for running into Barbara at a Princeton-in-Africa event. (Editor's note: I'm betting that might change soon.)

### *Back to Princeton for graduate studies in School of Architecture*

Mary and Mark both earned M.Arch degrees at Princeton, and Mary also completed an M.A. She then began work on her PhD, again under Prof. Vidler, straddling Princeton and Brooklyn Heights over the next several years. Research for her doctoral thesis on Le Corbusier and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture took her as well to Paris in 1976-77. Life intervened, including a divorce, and Mary completed her dissertation and degree in 1985 – eight years after completing her research!

All the while, and nonetheless, launching what was to become her lifelong career teaching at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP). Mary notes

that PhDs in Architecture were rare in those days, and jobs without one were possible. A journal article she wrote during a one-year position at University of Kentucky caught the attention of an editor, who turned out to be a close friend of Prof. Vidler, and encouraged her to interview at Columbia. The rest, as they say, is history –or more aptly, *architectural* history.

With brief interludes at Harvard and Yale, Mary has made Columbia home since 1978. After teaching design for 15 years, she has taught architectural history exclusively since Columbia started its PhD program in the early 1990s. Her survey lecture courses for many years covered late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. She now thrives on teaching many seminars – mostly for professional architectural students, but also doctoral students studying architectural history. Recent topics include: LeCorbusier Beyond Europe; Modernism and the Vernacular; and Women, Gender and Modern Architecture. (Sign me up!)

As it happens, Mary's impressive labor of love (i.e., in her spare time) since 2018 provides access for all to fascinating stories about [\*Pioneering Women of American Architecture\*](#). Co-editing the website with Victoria Rosner, her close friend and currently dean of NYU's Gallatin School, who shares her commitment to women in scholarship, Mary these days works mostly with content contributors, ever grateful that the technical challenges of launching the website are largely in the past.

*New Yorker at heart*  
*... with a detached marshland view*

While thinking about “graduated retirement, Mary’s still teaching, and enjoying it. She says, “I’ve been very lucky. I live in a Columbia apartment a five-minute walk from school, on a quiet, safe street a block from Riverside Park. I can and do walk everywhere –everything is nearby, and anything that’s not can be delivered. It’s all so easy.” At the same time, Mary’s treasures her “little country house” on the North Fork of Long Island, right on the Peconic Bay, which gives her space and a lot of peace. She spends most of summers there when she’s not traveling, Christmas breaks, and every other or third weekend, when academic schedules permit.

Best of all have been the many drives to Cutchogue and visits over the years shared with Elizabeth, Mary’s daughter from her second marriage (to Robert Heintges). Elizabeth is a classicist currently finishing her dissertation at Columbia, recently married to her boyfriend of nine years – moving together soon to Chicago for his new job and her post doc. Mary anticipates becoming very familiar with Chicago, also very soon!

Closing the loop on Princeton connections, it’s no surprise to learn that Mary became acquainted with Lizz Plater-Zyberk and husband Andres Duane ’71 when they were in school together at Princeton. And she renewed that acquaintance when Andres invited Mary to teach at the University of Miami architecture school in 1982. Mary has enjoyed tremendously watching their reputations in the field soar over the years since.

Mary as an architectural historian also confesses decidedly mixed-mostly-negative feelings about Princeton’s current radical campus expansion. She admires one of the new complexes designed by Deborah Berke, who is a friend. But concludes, “Walking from the Dinky to the end of campus, I was taken aback by the sense of a lack of order... like it's one complex after another just dropped down with what seems like no planning. I loved the old campus, and I miss the scale of the courtyards and overall atmosphere.”

I pitched Mary pretty hard to hop off and visit us on one of her frequent train trips to visit her sister in Kensington, MD – especially promoting the off-year reunions for best vibe and opportunities for leisurely conversation and getting acquainted. If you happen to reach out to Mary whenever, please add your voice!

**Ann Sease Monoyios**

[September 2020]

Music studies at Princeton, where she transferred from Smith College, became the springboard for Ann's career as a concert soprano performing extensively throughout North America, Europe and the Far East. Recently retired from singing, she lives in Toronto and remains very much engaged with the music world presenting pre-concert talks for various organizations, including Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra in Toronto and the Ottawa

Chamber Music Society, among others. She says she enjoys researching the composers as well as the social and political environments in which they lived and worked, but particularly enjoys collecting images of art from the period to bring it all alive for today's concert-goers.

While live performances remained on hold during the pandemic, Ann presented an online "Chamber Chat" featuring early Baroque composer, Barbara Strozzi (born in 1619), and other women who set the stage for her arrival on the musical scene. One might say these were truly pioneers in a male-dominated world. (Sound familiar?) The program guide for Ann's talk says it also offers "a glimpse into fascinating, unconventional Venice, where Strozzi was able to flourish in her own unique way."

Ann shared with us a video of her July 23 chat, which was then available on the Ottawa Chamber Music Society website. After watching the video myself, I can in turn share that the chat was really quite wonderful – both Ann's narrative and the musical clips she includes.

Even better, Ann offered to reprise her talk by Zoom for the Women of '72, giving us the opportunity to participate as well – ask our own questions, get acquainted with Ann, AND reconnect with one another! I'm willing to bet that Ann's offer still stands, if the idea appeals and we have enough interest. I will of course be happy to coordinate schedules.

**Meggan Moorhead**

[May 2019]

[*Welcome-Again* May 2023]

After arriving at Princeton as a Critical Language junior from Elmira College, Meggan Moorhead was accepted by the University to complete senior year and graduate as a member of our class. Her East Asian Studies major was a natural extension of lifelong roots in Japan as the child of Southern Baptist missionaries. She lived in singles in Pyne and Edwards Halls, where she enjoyed sharing campus life with what she fondly calls the "hippy crowd." Her classmates in East Asian Studies included Patricia McSweeney Gallatin and Jerri Donovan, whom she's hoping to visit on her next trip to Japan!

In one of those unexpected twists that life sometimes gifts us, Meggan's one-and-only acting gig – performing in a production of *Woyzeck* at Theater Intime – set in motion what was to become an entirely different life journey. During a serendipitous dinner at a Nassau Street diner with Intime advisor Daniel Seltzer, the professor perceived an aptitude and inclination for psychology, which he encouraged her to explore. Moving to Cambridge following graduation, Meggan's participation in a psychodrama group Seltzer recommended led to her decision to pursue advanced studies at Boston University, earning a doctorate in counseling psychology. Other fun facts along the way – she crossed paths at her BU interview with Eve (Pam) Rassigna, and they started and ended their masters and doctoral work together. Mary Watkins was in Boston as well, also studying psychology. And Patricia McSweeney moved there around the same time. A veritable "critical mass" of women from our class!

Establishing a private psychotherapy practice after completing her doctorate, Meggan ended up staying in Boston for 16 years—including a one-year interlude in South African with her first husband (that's the "Nicholas" you might still see crop up in Alumni Records). With her now-retired parents living not far away, she moved to Durham, North Carolina in 1989, where she continued private practice while serving on the clinical faculty of the UNC Department of Psychology, along with working at the regional state mental hospital. She also met and married a photographer/ designer, together for 21 years until his death in 2016.

Meggan writes in her yearbook profile about high points in her professional career in Durham:

While at UNC and the hospital in 1991, I was introduced to a newly researched, mindfulness-based, cognitive behavioral therapy for suicidal and self-harming individuals. I came onboard when we were teaching skills classes with the galley prints from Dr. Marsha Linehan's upcoming books.

I was invited to be a trainer of Dialectical Behavior Therapy with Dr. Linehan's training company out of Seattle, the single



largest honor of my life. I spent the next 30 years establishing treatment teams in North Carolina and training clinicians in the therapy in the U.S. and abroad.

I was also on research teams at Duke as a Clinical Associate and in 2009 received a Lifetime Achievement award from the North Carolina Psychological Association for Contributions to Psychology in North Carolina. It was a good ride for work I pursued in order to be able to pay the bills!

Meggan says a friend describes her as someone who really loves what she did, and is happy not to be doing it any more. Her retirement in 2022 has freed Meggan to immerse herself evermore in what she calls an “intense love of music.” Trained in piano from age seven – and although she notes she “mostly forgot to do music at Princeton” – she studied early music at the Quadrivum School while in Cambridge and is now a member of the Bodies, Voices, Spirit chorus in Durham.

And with her keyboard always at the ready under a window in her house, she considers herself principally a lyricist, who has had “the good fortune to work with wondrous and marvelous composers.” She and Marty McCall, her first collaborator starting from Princeton days in Pyne, had a song on Amy Grant’s award-winning album *My Father’s Eyes*.

Her next longtime collaboration, with composer Jay Rogers, dates to her Cambridge days when she was drawn to the sound of piano singalongs in Jay’s apartment next door. Earning what she calls unprecedented success, Meggan’s lyrics for *Hymns for These Times*, composed by Jay Rogers – one for each year of the Covid-19 pandemic – express themes of “memorial and resilience.” Widely performed and acclaimed, the series is performed by Sam Robson of London, UK. in the recordings she shares with us here.

1. [Still the Night](#) The first spring of the pandemic.
2. [Mourning Cloak](#) The second summer of the pandemic. The Mourning Cloak is a butterfly common in Asia and North America.
3. [This Day](#) The third fall of the pandemic.

Emerging from pandemic seclusion with gratitude, as we all have, Meggan is also relishing resuming travel, along with in-person volunteer and advocacy services. Her newly renovated former office is now housing a refugee family in affiliation with the Church World Service! And she is an active subscriber to the Action Team formed by several dozen ’72 women plus ’73 friends in response to the 2022 SCOTUS *Roe v Wade* reversal, in ongoing affirmation of “the healing path” she chose for both her personal and professional life journeys.

Visit our *Pioneer Profiles* page (coming soon) to read as well Meggan’s lyrics for *Hymns for These Times*.

**Helena Novakova**

[September 2018]

Those of us lucky enough to travel with Helena on the Grand Tour of the Czech Republic in May 2018 were also privileged to learn something of her personal experiences there, and even meet some of her family. Yielding to entreaties from fellow travelers on that trip, she later wrote about the amazing story of her personal odyssey from Soviet-occupied Czechoslovakia to the West and beyond, which she shared in fascinating bits-and-pieces during our travels. That story became the nucleus of the in-depth profile posted on our *Pioneer Tales* page for all to read and enjoy. Here's the brief snapshot Helena shared in one email to the Czech travelers on that 2018 trip.

I realize that the part that makes the weaving of the story additionally interesting has to do with the fact that my father and mother were born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire but matured in the first Republic of Czechoslovakia; I was born in post-war Czechoslovakia and grew up in communist Czechoslovakia, one of my children was born in Peru, and the other in Kenya and we live in the United States – I have crossed the continents as well as the equator numerous times and at this point I am sorting out the impressions I have accumulated.

**Carol Rahn**

[January 2018]

Carol has been living in the UK since 1992, where she has been active in Princeton Alumni UK activities. While getting acquainted via emails this month, Carol shared with me some thoughtful observations about her recent retirement.

Retirement! Now that's something we're probably all thinking about, or already living – a common thread in the many-colored tapestries of our varied lives over the past five decades. Carol's story inspired the addition of the "Retirement Becomes Us" section to our '72 Women's Pages where we can reflect on these upcoming – and for most of us five years later “here-and-now” – transformative years. You will find there a bit more of Carol's story, and a link to her retirement reflections. Please take a look, and consider adding your own.

So grateful for Carol's journey back “across the pond” to join us, it was grand to see Carol at our 50<sup>th</sup>. Look for a Welcome-Again cameo soon to share more about Carol's journey to the U.K., along with her fuller-than-ever “retirement” years.

**Patricia Bowe Romines**

[November 2020]

Living in Edwards and the Princeton Inn while she studied history and economics, Patricia doesn't recall knowing many other women while at Princeton – sound familiar? Her closest woman friend at the time was Robin Herman '73, and other friends on campus were largely through Tower Club connections. Before transferring from Wellesley as a junior, Patricia spent most of her earlier years living around the globe with her father serving in the foreign service, her British mother, and her sister. Fun fact – she credits her Princeton chapter to the son of the Chinese ambassador to the Congo during her parents' tenure there, who went to Princeton and encouraged her to apply!

A Masters degree in international affairs and economics at The Fletcher School at Tufts University soon led Patricia back abroad, serving as chief economist for Phillips Petroleum in London until a move to heartland America in 1989. To accommodate her move to Phillips' Bartlesville, Oklahoma headquarters, her husband Joel relocated Knightsbridge Advisers, the venture capital fund

which he founded during their years together in London. Ultimately feeling like she had hit a glass ceiling in her corporate career, Patricia left Phillips in 2001 to work informally for Knightsbridge while dedicating much of her time and energies to serving on the national board of the Girl Scouts of the USA for 12 years.

A former Girl Scout myself (I wonder how many of those there are among us!), I had to ask. Sure enough, Patricia is also a former Scout; she joined while living in Germany because it made her feel like an American! No longer active except as a donor, Patricia says what she loves to this day about the Girl Scouts is the inclusiveness the organization models at all levels – recognizing the essential sisterhood of women among all backgrounds and cultures.

Patricia and Joel now split their time between Vancouver, Washington (on the Columbia River), the high desert of Bend, Oregon, and their flat in London. After a year or more of correspondence, it was special fun for me to get acquainted with Patricia *in person* during our November 2021 class trip to the Shenandoahs – Patricia's first-ever outing on a '72 class trip – and all the more during our 50<sup>th</sup>, her first reunion since the 25<sup>th</sup>, where she was thrilled to experience her first-ever P-Rade marching behind our Women of '72 banner.

**Susan Squier**

[September 2022]

Susan signed on with our Women of '72 e-community in late April this year, while firming up plans to attend our 50<sup>th</sup>—her first return to a '72 reunion in 40 years. In addition to student friends who knew her “back then,” she's likely now familiar to all of us for the letter of protest she penned promptly when the now infamous draft of the Supreme Court reversal of Roe v Wade leaked a week later – safe to say rocking everyone's world across the political spectrum. Happy to share here are a few highlights of Susan's lifelong journey of scholarship, feminism and activism.

Susan transferred from Vassar as a junior, living in Pyne with Jerri Donovan, then senior year in an Edwards single. (Fun fact – Susan's friendship with Holly Lovejoy is practically timeless, dating to their shared roots in Milwaukee as sixth graders!)

Membership in Stevenson Hall and a chance encounter in the Murray Dodge basement café set the stage for marriage in '72 and all the years since of collaboration and adventure with Gowen Roper '71. Her major in English and Creative Writing culminated in publication of a senior thesis book of poetry, some poems from which were published with invaluable referrals from advisor Brian Swann. Susan also had a quintessential “that was Princeton then” experience upon being awarded all three of the poetry prizes the year we graduated, then asked to turn back two of them to allow someone else (certainly male) to partake. An invitation politely but firmly declined.

Susan's PhD at Stanford with a dissertation on Virginia Woolf led to 18 years on Long Island where she taught English at SUNY Stony Brook, eventually serving as Associate Provost, while Gowen completed his clinical psychology PhD at Adelphi, and their children Caitlin and Toby were born. Sabbaticals and research grants took the family to London and Australia before arriving at Penn State University in 1994, where Susan took an endowed professorship in English and Women's Studies at Penn State, and Gowen joined a local clinical psychology practice.

Susan says she spent most of her Penn State career “teaching and writing from a feminist perspective about literature and science, medicine, and the health humanities.” Among her published works is *Babies in Bottles: Twentieth-Century Visions of Reproductive Technology* (1996), incorporating archival research on Aldous Huxley, JBS Haldane and other thinkers about science's potential to reshape birth and families.

Retirement from Penn State in 2017 has enabled Susan to shift energies fully to a parallel passion dating to 2010 in the Graphic Medicine movement she helped found – a collaboration among healthcare workers, cartoonists and scholars for using comics to educate patients of all ages about illness and medicine. After co-writing *The Graphic Medicine Manifesto* (2015) – including an autobiography of herself as a comic character! – and completing a three-year Einstein Fellowship in Berlin researching illness narratives and comics and medicine, she will soon step down as president of the Graphic Medicine International Collective,

while remaining on its board and continuing to edit a series on comics for Penn State Press.

### **Suzanne Stohlman**

[*Welcome-Again* March 2023]

Suzanne's arrival on campus in the fall of 1969, following freshman year at Sweet Briar College, put her in elite company to begin with —joining the 15 future Women of '72 on the scene for the official launch of Princeton coeducation, all clustered together in a few rooms in Pyne Hall. And among all of us, she can likely claim a unique Princeton “legacy” coming of age in town and on campus, where her professor father '09 taught art history for many years—including being a ‘regular’ at reunions since her earliest memory.

For Suzanne, that early saturation also meant Princeton was never really “her place to explore”—two of her professors were former students of her father! Choosing to study art history herself, Suzanne embarked on exploring more distant horizons, winning somewhat reluctant University approval for junior-year study in France—allowing her to examine “sans filters” the paintings in Bruges and a reliquary chest in Evreux that became the subjects of her junior papers. Back at Princeton senior year, she lived again in a single in Pyne Hall. Most of her friends had graduated, but she fondly recalls Barbara Geller as her closest Princeton friend. Shifting focus to American and modern art, she traveled again, west this time, to spend an entire day in Los Angeles interviewing installation artist and assemblage sculptor Edward Kienholz. Her senior thesis was the most comprehensive study of the artist written to date.

That junior year abroad also proved pivotal in setting the course of her life for the years to come when Suzanne met Michael Tarabilda—a poet and former teacher traveling in Europe — in the youth hostel kitchen in Bruges. They moved together to Kennebunkport, Maine in the summer of 1974 to assist an aging relative, and stayed—devoted life partners for 50 years until Michael's death in September 2020. Together they forged a life centered on creativity, service and community.

Suzanne's work over those years reflects a vibrant range of talents and interests. From photography—

learning the skills while working at the Fogg Museum for a couple of years—processing in her own darkroom, for her own exhibits as well as assignments for local papers. To helping found Kennebunkport's first art organization, River Tree Arts. To teaching art history herself at the local art college. She was also active in the local historical society and the history/art museum in Kennebunk. Fun fact: a poster she created flaunts a black and orange lobster caught near Friendship, Maine – “Homarus Princetoniensis”.

Meanwhile, Suzanne and Michael became part of the fabric of community life in Kennebunkport through their volunteerism and simply engagement with countless friends and neighbors. One longtime labor of love for both was the leadership work with the town's Shade Tree Committee and its Elm Watch protection program. (There are still almost 100 large American elms in town.)

Still sorting her life since Michael's death, Suzanne remains immersed in supporting her community, especially her UCC church. Not to mention working on clearing out their big old house (circa 1809), which she says still has brass pipes over the cast iron kitchen sink. She is especially happy to reconnect with old acquaintances and new friends among the Women of '72.

**Amanda Eggert Stukenberg**

[April 2024]

It would be hard to top Mandy Stukenberg's own words as a compelling preface to this brief chronicle of a most rewarding and inspirational life journey:

We were given such extraordinary opportunities and time at Princeton as young women to prepare for what lives we would lead. Living in the Rio Grande Valley opened my eyes to the impact of generational cycles of poverty and limited horizons most of its women face. I think my involvement in women's health has been so rewarding because it allowed me to help young women in some of the poorest counties in the nation find the time and opportunities to develop their talents before embarking on raising families  
[Mandy Stukenberg]

I've been personally intrigued and wanting to know more about Mandy's story since our paths first crossed in early Zoom sessions of what is now called the '72 Friends for Reproductive Justice Action Team—formed in the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision reversing *Roe v Wade*. A native of Long Island with summers in Maine, and a Princeton English major. And for most of her adult life, a resident of Texas – that bastion of conservative politics and battleground of women's reproductive rights. Part One of her career with Planned Parenthood, ultimately as CEO. Followed by co-founding and leading a nonprofit providing affordable healthcare for many thousands of below-poverty-level clients—both women and men. Not an activist, Mandy says, but for sure a highly effective advocate for wellness and well-being regardless of politics and circumstance.

I count myself most fortunate to be able fill in some details to Mandy's life journey based on several emails and a recent, delightful phone conversation – which I now share with you!

Transferring from Colby College in Maine, Mandy lived in Pyne Hall junior year and Henry Hall as a senior, both years with Priscilla Wolhlforth Stumm and Marta Richards '73, and was a member of Cap & Gown Club. She wrote her senior thesis on Nabokov for the English Department. And, perhaps most important for her future trajectory, she met Michael Stukenberg '73 in a Russian literature class, introduced through her cousin, Bill Hudson '73 – who rowed with Mike – and his brother Dick Hudson '72.

Married following his graduation in 1973 (with Priscilla attending the bride!), Mandy and Michael moved to Nashville where he attended law school. Texas was next, and they've been there ever since, residing in Corpus Cristi since 1976.

While Michael began his legal career, volunteering for Planned Parenthood (PP) was a natural fit for Mandy, already well acquainted with the organization as something of a PP legacy, her mother having run Planned Parenthood on Long Island – (interesting story in itself) inspired by her experience with the Red Cross in New Guinea during WWII, “where she saw women with many kids, some of whom survived....”



Mandy worked with Planned Parenthood of South Texas for 35 years, including serving on its board before rising to CEO in 1992. The organization in Texas has for decades been in the crosshairs of political interests and healthcare providers – in Mandy’s words, “Providing health services to women in Texas has been tumultuous.” She notes that abortion services in particular came under attack when the Catholic Diocese made it an issue. Over time, as Texas restricted and then banned abortion, state efforts to chase Planned Parenthood out of Texas resorted to turning down federal dollars to prevent PP from receiving them, as well as removing PP affiliates from state-funded health programs.

For Mandy, the family planning and preventive care services she calls “nuts and bolts” were equally jeopardized by relentless efforts to defund the organization. Not to mention that Planned Parenthood partly in response began centralizing, standardizing and consolidating into fewer affiliates, with the likelihood of seeing her local affiliate absorbed into Houston or San Antonio, hours away.

And so it happened that Mandy and her Board of Directors disaffiliated from Planned Parenthood and over 2010-2011 incorporated as an independent nonprofit focused on family care practice – i.e., not just women’s care. With four clinics and a staff of 45, including nine advanced care nurse practitioners, and with Mandy at the helm as CEO, the [Women and Men's Health Services of the Coastal Bend, Inc.](#) (WAMHS) now provides both preventive and primary care services to approximately 17,000 women and men each year. Recent grant money is funding a mobile clinic to reach smaller towns without clinics throughout the Rio Grande Valley. With 90% of its clientele below 220% of poverty, and most without Medicaid (because Texas refuses to match federal funds), helping clients qualify for programs to cover care costs is a major mission and service of WAMHS. Mandy notes that even today when seeking any kind of state funding, she has to certify no affiliation in any way with Planned Parenthood.

The practice’s commitment to involving men in family planning addresses a major impediment to successful outcomes, and has received recognition and support from federal grants. Mandy comments,

“Most young men never go to doctors after childhood pediatrician visits. Typically, no one addresses their general health, or knowledge – or how to support their partner’s needs. Most respond very positively to being treated as a positive influence.” Mandy has also consulted around the country about the effectiveness of WAMHS outreach.

***The state of maternal health care in Texas today?***  
[I asked]

Mandy notes that Texas’ abortion ban and draconian enforcement measures are frightening for both pregnant women and maternal healthcare providers, as well as those seeking abortions. Even a mother driving her daughter for abortion advice can face criminal charges. And most doctors in Texas don’t want to even see women in their first trimester – undermining the most basic tenets of prenatal care.

She recounts the story of a friend of a friend to illustrate devastating outcomes that are now too common, even for wanted pregnancies. The woman was treated as if seeking an abortion over the course of several trips to hospital ER for what was too belatedly ruled an ectopic pregnancy, costing her a fallopian tube. The only possibly positive spin here is that Gov. Abbott has recent supported remedial clarification.

***Retirement for Mandy?***

Her work with WAMHS remains rewarding, and Mandy is always busy wearing a lot of hats. She notes, “While I’m officially chief administrator and fundraiser, there’s tons to do in every possible area. Everyone does everything. It’s always a team effort, especially gratifying when people surprise you by demonstrating skill sets different from what they were hired for.” Still, it’s no surprise to hear that good, competent people willing to commit to a family planning career in Texas are hard to find – posing challenges for Mandy’s eventual retirement.

In the meantime, husband Michael still loves his work as a lawyer, and they plan to stay put in any case (I asked). Both love the outdoors (in spite of the humidity!) and being near the water and its bountiful wildlife, including amazing migrating birds. Daughter Sarah is an attorney nearby with



four children. Also an attorney, son Will with three children is very happy living in Houston. Life is good.