

David Coburn

At Brandeis, I lived in:

Ridgewood, East and Rosenthal

My major was:

History

Life since Brandeis:

Brandeis has remained an important part of my life and that of my family. I met my wife, Phyllis Brenner Coburn ('75) at Brandeis. My three sons, Avi ('04), Brian ('07) and Seth ('10), graduated from there, as did two of my three daughters-in-law (Shayna Skelley ('06) and Marnina Cowan ('10)). While my third daughter in law (Yael) is a Barnard grad who turned down Brandeis, we routinely overlook this flaw. Brandeis has meant so much to each of us that we have endowed the Coburn Family scholarship for students in need of financial help.

My family life has been blessed not only by our common bond of our Brandeis degrees, but by our closeness. We live within 20 minutes of our children and one grandchild (so far) in the Maryland suburbs of DC, which is a small miracle in these days of dispersed families. Our children are each accomplished in their own lives and careers, and a constant source of joy for us. We are also fortunate to have so many Brandeis friends here and elsewhere.

Life has also been good to me professionally. I have been a partner at the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson, LLP in DC since 1989, and worked at other DC firms prior to that since graduating law school in 1976. My specialty throughout has been transportation and environmental law, areas I have long loved. I have also been fortunate to practice law in a city that we love. Although I'm nearing retirement and slowing down somewhat, I never tire of my work.

We travel a good deal, and look forward to doing more in future years – and our travel always includes an occasional pilgrimage to Brandeis.



Fred Herman

At Brandeis, I lived in:

Massell/Renfield, Ridgewood, Big Pink

My major was:

Biology

Life since Brandeis:

My first day at Brandeis, I was a hick from Miami, Florida. I was very excited to be going to a college in the northeast, specifically Boston. I was so naïve and inexperienced. I remember one-day when one of my new acquaintances said she was driving to the “city” for the weekend. I asked if I could catch a ride to Boston w her. She looked at me like the hick I was and she said, “...the City—NYC”. I also remember registration day in the gym. I wore a long sleeve dress shirt and tie. (I think I wore a tie to fly on the plane ride up as well.) Needless to say, I don’t think I wore a tie again for the next 4 years.

The first year at Brandeis the Viet Nam War loomed large. Brandeis arranged for multiple buses to take students to Washington DC for a national protest. The day we left was a cold winter night and the traffic was heavy as many people were travelling to DC for the same reason. It snowed and in that bus was the first time I actually saw snowfall (I told you I was a hick from Miami). The roads were slippery and/or our driver was drunk (or stoned) and we were in a multiple car accident. Many of the windows blew out of the bus but our driver kept on going. It was literally freezing on the bus with the windows wide open. But nothing was going to stop us from getting our share of tear gas! We actually had such a great time on that adventure so much so that months later we staged a bus reunion on campus.

I lived in Massell Quad—Renfield the first year. We had a great floor (3rd) with a diverse group of students. Someone rigged the payphone so you could make free calls even long distance. The students were all fun and interesting. We even had a few communists living in the dorm and one student was a Chassid. One of them kept getting calls from Red China.

Second and 3rd year I moved to Ridgewood. Total counter culture experience. That was fun and a great experience.

Second year was Organic Chemistry and the National Student Strike.

I majored in Biology and I was pre med. I spent much time in the undergraduate library (UGLI) and the science library (SLI). I had a crazy friend who in the middle of long study periods in the main library would hang and swing from the balcony in the middle of

the library (somehow managing to be seen by all of us but not the librarian.) He would also do other crazy things like drive his mustang convertible through the chapel field in the middle of the day. Rumor has it he has become a respectable plastic surgeon in NYC.

This was before VCR's, Netflix and other electronic media existed. Instead once a week e.g. Tuesday evening) they used to show old movies (Hitchcock, etc.) in one of the science auditoriums. That was a good distraction and loads of fun even without popcorn.

I made lots of new friends at Brandeis. Remember the hitching posts at the entrance to the school. We hitched everywhere especially to Boston and Cambridge. One time a friend and I hitched all the way to Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan to visit friends there.

I joined a secret club with my 2 best friends.

My last year I lived off campus near the university in a large pink house we called Big Pink (in homage to The Band and because it was pink). We had 5 bedrooms and 4 guys so we used the 5th bedroom in a very successful horticulture project.

Somehow I ultimately graduated, went to medical school, did a general surgery residency followed by a Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship, met and married Minette, and had 3 great kids, Jess (Craig), Scott (Brandeis '08) and Joey and a granddaughter Ruthie and another little guy on the way. I have been in a surgical practice in South Florida since 1983 and I love to travel, play golf and guitar and ski.

Because of that horticulture project I don't remember a lot more detail—but Brandeis was a great experience in my life and I am thankful for Brandeis University and all my Brandesian Brothers and Sisters.

Ellen Beth Lande

I am really happy to be alive and well (no joke) and enjoying life as a writer, traveller, business consultant and teacher. Still married to Detlev Suderow '70, and delighting in our two adult sons - Sasha ('05) and Max - the only one who escaped the Brandeis connection. Max recently married his lovely bride, Erica Kaplan, and is very attached to life in Manhattan. Sasha is a political and economics affairs officer at the State Dept. who is currently posted to Casablanca. I have followed this kid to some unique places (Beirut, Damascus, Amman, Muscat) in his mid-east, fluent Arabic role, and look forward to more. Detlev and I have had the privilege to be on the road a great deal in the past 15 years - Asia, Africa, South America - we are very, very lucky. And in the role of "giving back", I've been an adjunct faculty member at Bunker Hill Community College; a board member of the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis; a mentor at Year-Up, and recently an enthusiastic mentor at SCORE (Small Business Administration) as one of 70 Boston area counselors advising business start-ups. Last year I published my first novel, *Bedtime Stories for Grown-Up Girls*, and am researching and writing a historical novel based on the discovery of a painting. We gave up the house in the 'burbs a few years ago and are loving condo life in Coolidge Corner, Brookline.





Ellen Light

At Brandeis, I lived in:

Massell (Shapiro), the Castle, and back to Massell (Rosenthal)

My major was:

American Studies/ with as many additional fine arts classes as I could add in.

Life since Brandeis:

I'm still working as an architect, after architectural school graduation 40+ years ago. I took a brief detour in 2007-9 to pick up an MBA, which has been useful in handling the business and management aspect of our profession. I enjoy the ever-changing and ever-present challenges of creating buildings: from design through construction. Pulling out my set of Prismacolor pencils for a quick freehand sketch or lacing up my construction boots for a trip out to the job site never gets stale.

I feel lucky to have had some fun vacations with my husband Alex and our two grown kids, Aliza and Eric. I try to make time for regular swims, walking, and watercolor painting, in between good times with family and friends (especially my old Brandeis friends). I'm not yet ready for retirement, and I am looking forward to more travel and painting.



National Seashore, Truro, MA 2018



Galapagos Islands, Ecuador 2017

Jan Solomon

At Brandeis, I lived in:

North A, East, Castle (first semester; abroad in Yugoslavia second semester), Castle

My major was:

History

Life since Brandeis:

I happily retired last summer from the U.S. Department of Education and, from what I hear from friends and former colleagues, I am so grateful not to be there now. Retirement is terrific except that I don't have enough time for all that I want to do. Ken is still working and now I am freer to join him when he is traveling to places that interest me or where there are friends and family. We are continuing our vacation travel, this past year going to Peru and Japan with our kids, and with friends to Italy.

Both kids are in doctoral programs after working for a number of years after college. Matthew lives in Boston and is in his 4th year toward a PhD (currently doing research on conflict in Sarajevo) following 7 years as a teacher. Alix lives in the Bay area and is in her 2nd year toward a PsyD after 5 years in a neuroscience lab and is very happy and busy with classes, research, and her individual and group patients who have PTSD, schizophrenia, or trauma. We are so lucky that we enjoy and admire our kids and are so glad they like being with us and each other. Not sure what we did that our kids have no interest in office jobs, however.

Besides travel, my time is filled with volunteer work including at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and for a local community organization; continuing education classes; and jewelry making, primarily silversmithing and bead work. This season I'll be showing my work at more shows than in the past.

I am grateful to Brandeis for our lifelong friends who remain our travel companions, dinner partners, occasional visitors, and holiday hosts.

In Memoriam Remembrances

Victoria Lippman McKee Pearson



~ Remembered by Ellen Light ~

Vicky was a standout from freshman day. She was pretty and talented, and used those talents in the theatre. When I got to know her as a roommate, she was funny, crazy, sophisticated, and always an adventure. But most of all, she was a spellbinding storyteller, and one of the smartest people I've known. In later years, we spent time on the Cape together – by then she had turned her talents to songwriting and performing with her second husband Jack Pearson. To the end, Vicky was fresh, commanding, and not afraid to break conventions. She passed much too soon, and we think of her often.

~ Remembered by Jan Solomon ~

Vicky and I met in North our freshman year. She was beautiful, talented, dramatic, funny, and lots of fun. Highly unusual for an undergraduate and even more so for a freshman, she got a role in a play in Spingold. In our sophomore year when Vicky had a part-time job Monday nights at the snack bar in Usdan, sometimes I would keep her company and we'd snack on red hot dollars. While living for years in England, Vicky came to DC as a journalist during the first Clinton inauguration. Sharing a taxi with strangers was a part of the regular cab service in those days and Vicky ended up sharing a ride with the president of AAA, which resulted with her being invited to (and including us) at AAA's fancy rooftop party with a perfect view of the inaugural parade. Vicky loved the Cape and particularly Provincetown and had great joy living there in her last years, even when she was so ill. She loved being with her dog and her beloved husband Jack, writing and playing music. Although in poor health, she was determined to attend our 40th reunion and that her closest college friends should be there, as well. And then she hosted all of us for a delicious, beautifully decorated, post-Thanksgiving holiday meal at her home, hoping it would be an annual tradition. Unfortunately, that lovely event was not to be repeated.

Daniel Meyers



~ Remembered by Jan Solomon ~

I don't think I had seen Danny since college or perhaps a few years after until our 40th reunion. We visited a bit on campus reunion weekend but not long thereafter he came to Washington on business and my husband and I spent a delightful evening with him. Danny let me know that he was moving to Philadelphia and we talked about another get-together. We made plans to see him when we went to Philly to see our son run in the marathon just a couple of years ago but the road closures made connecting too difficult. I was so shocked and saddened last year when I heard he had died.

The following is from the December 2016 Denver Post obituary.

Former Denver Post editor and Colorado Public Radio host Dan Meyers took on many challenges during a long career in journalism and later public relations.

Meyers developed a reputation as a prolific and tough city hall reporter at the Philadelphia Inquirer. He moved to Colorado as the Inquirer's bureau chief and joined The Denver Post in 1995, where he held a variety of editing jobs through 2005, including in business, political and investigative news.

Meyers ...had a reputation for fairness. When push came to shove, reporters said he had their backs. He was known for his sense of humor, which would break out in a loud laugh, and for his compassion towards anyone in a tough spot.

No matter how stressful things got, Meyers would find time to break away on fun outings with his team... He was well-read and had a wide range of interests, which allowed him to speak to anyone about anything.

In 2005, Meyers left the Post to work as a producer and second host of Colorado Matters on CPR, where he applied both his gravelly voice and investigative skills. Among his innovations was a monthly interview with the governor that continues still.

[His colon cancer] turned Meyers into a big proponent of colon cancer screening. In November 2009, he took a job as communications director at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora. He held that job for three years, and then spent two years representing the Anschutz Medical campus, which hosts a top cancer treatment center.

In 2014, Meyers broke out on his own as a freelance writer and public relations consultant specializing in crisis management. He moved to Philadelphia in 2015.

Meyers graduated from Brandeis University and earned a master's degree at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. He spoke French, liked to cook, played the guitar, enjoyed skiing and later in life embraced golf, with mixed results but passion. He also taught at the University of Denver and, when he was in his 50s, had a bar mitzvah celebration...

Meyers is survived by his son Jackson Lee Meyers of Denver and his former wife, Sondra Lee of California.

Barbara Wolff Watters



~ Remembered by Ellen Beth Lande ~

Barbara and I lived together in East as sophomores in 1970-71. We became fast friends and stayed in touch over the decades. Our lives took very different paths - but we were able to laugh and cry our way through highs and lows. In 2006, at the age of 55, she was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimers. In the early years of the diagnosis she was able to describe the effects of the disease with clarity and insight as to the effect on her perception of space, dimension, the appearance of words on the page... and her fear of cognitive decline. Her sister, Donna Wolff, took over her care and was a lioness in winter in her protection and management of Barbara's decline. I last spoke to Barbara in 2014, when her son, Seth, was married. Barbara survived another 3 years and passed away in 2017, almost 11 years after diagnosis. The last years were not pretty. This is a disease not to be wished on anyone. For as long as she could, Barbara's big heart and big laugh and tremendous empathy for all things hurting and broken, were much in evidence.

Following is from the official obituary:

Barbara Wolff Watters, age 65, of Atlanta, died on April 7, 2017 with her beloved children, son, Seth Watters (Crystal), and twin daughters, Rebecca Watters (Michael Richie), and Rachel Watters, by her side after a long but courageous battle with Early Onset Alzheimer's disease. Barbara was born in Atlanta, GA and graduated from Cross Keys High School in DeKalb County, GA where she had many friends, was a gifted student, writer, editor of the high school's literary magazine, on the National Honor Society, and a National Merit Scholarship finalist. She graduated in 1973 from Brandeis University in Waltham, MA with a BA in Psychology and later earned two Masters Degrees from Georgia State University in Rehabilitative Counseling and Education. A counselor throughout her professional career,

Barbara worked at the former West Paces Ferry Hospital, former DeKalb College in Atlanta, and Northern Virginia Community College in Virginia. In 2006, Barbara retired from counseling at North Forsyth Middle School in Forsyth County, GA. She relished adventure, and after graduating from Brandeis, backpacked across Europe and lived on an Israeli kibbutz. The photographs she took of the trip and throughout her life reflected her great artistic talent. Barbara enjoyed "running" (walking) the Peachtree Road Race with her daughters, dancing to the musical performances of her son's bands, the company of family, friends and pets, making decoupage furniture, and giving community support by charity walks and Atlanta Food Bank shifts. Her big heart shared with family, friends, colleagues, students, strangers, and animals is an abiding trait for which she always will be remembered.