

**OUR CLASS
A TAPESTRY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS_**

-
Written by
Sally Bever Zwiebach and Lyn Johnson Reese_
Produced & Directed by
Sally Zwiebach
Performed by
**Susan Kovacs Buxbaum, Deborah Kretschmann Taylor,
Lyn Reese and Sally Zwiebach_**

SALLY: Tonight, we're celebrating the Class of '60's half century of accomplishments, some "unsung heroines," as well as some well known achievers, in our class. Now, if you think it was easy to select a very few, out of class chock full of interesting, active women, you are oh-so wrong! However, given the limits of time and information, Lyn Johnson Reese and I worked hard to come up with stories and bits of information that we hope will represent ALL of us..... those with quiet lives, as well as those with extraordinary experiences. Some of you will be surprised to hear your names, so listen up, while we invite you to come along and perhaps find some part of YOURSELF in this presentation, which reflects the tapestry that makes up the class of '60.

Fortunately, in addition to Lyn, we have two wonderful actors, Deborah Kretschmann Taylor and Susan Kovacs Buxbaum, who will enact the stories of some of our remarkable classmates, whose names will be revealed at the **end** of the program to protect their modesty. **(Let's give it up for Lyn, Deb and Susan!) Deb & Sue step to mics**

DEBBIE: In Thornton Wilder's play, Our Town, the Stage Manager introduces Grover's Corners this way: *"Y'know, Babylon once had 2 million people in it, and all we know about it is the names of the kings and some copies of wheat contracts.*

SUSAN: *"Yet every night, all those families sat down to supper and the father came home from his work and the smoke went up the chimney, same as here But all we know about the real life of the people is what we can piece together from the comedies they wrote for the theater back then.*

LYN: **So, Class of '60, we offer these little stories and facts and , to quote Wilder again, "This is the way we were were, in our growing up and in our marrying and in our livingand in our dying.**

(DEB, LYN, SUE SIT)

SALLY: : NOW.... Let's (listen to some stories and events) OR (span some bridges) and see what we have in common. WELL.....IT SEEMS WE LOVE TO VOLUNTEER!Stand up if you've even once volunteered time to a group or a cause. Sit down if you've volunteered your time for any of the following:**PTA? Church group? League of Women Voters? Arts organization? Environmental group? Junior League? Civic or state cause? Business or professional organization? Political cause? Others? Shout it out!**You see? Obviously, we "uncommon" women have a lot **in** common!**(DEB & SUSAN COME TO MICS)**

SALLY: HERE'S THE STORY OF ONE OF US WHO TURNED HER INTERESTS INTO FULL TIME VOLUNTEERING.....Listen up!

SUSAN: “Aside from my family responsibilities, volunteer work has been my life’s focus. There has always been a project to be passionate about: from hospitalized children to hospice care to arts festivals. In the course of 50 years, I’ve served on numerous Boards of Directors, most recently of Jubilee Jump Start, an early childhood education center for kids from low income families in Washington, DC.

DEBBIE: Since 1992, I’ve been a Trustee of the National Fund for the United States Botanic Garden. When Teresa Heinz Kerry resigned, I became the Chairman of that Board, helping to raise 11 and a half million dollars, & seeing the Garden through to its opening in 2006, on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol.

SUSAN: I was blessed with time and energy to work “out of the mainstream” on projects that would serve the greater community, but I still haven’t learned to say “No”.

SALLY: Let’s have a round of applause for all of our volunteers who have said “Yes!”NOW..... WAVE YOUR HAND IF YOU HAVE WORKED IN BUSINESSES... either RETAIL, CORPORATE, FAMILY, OR SELF OWNED?

Great! I’ll bet not many of you have had a story like the following one, but I’ll also guess that there are some very familiar similarities. Look for them!

DEBBIE: After college, I followed somewhat the same lifestyle as my peers, until 1971 when we bought a 240 acre farm in Jefferson County, Tennessee. By this time I had 4 children, ages 2 -9, and it was I who ran the farm, took care of the children, managed their activities and took care of 50 brood cows.

SUSAN: By 1978, it was evident that the cows weren’t going to support us, so a friend and I went into the hog business...big time. We quickly multiplied our herd of 100 sows to 250. For 16 more years we managed to care for some 3000 hogs. All the children worked in the hogs until dark, or time to go to basketball practice, or whatever.

DEBBIE: In 1995, however, we were forced out of the business by the large companies. Small producers, like us, could not compete. Since my business partner was an accomplished trap shooter, we opened up a trap range, where we hold tournaments, attracting shooters from all over the country.

SUSAN: About all I can say is that the farm has produced a good place to live and, most importantly to raise 6 children who have learned a good work ethic and who are all responsible for their own well being.

DEBBIE: In 2002, I married my business partner of 24 years.

(DEB & SUSAN SIT

SALLY: It’s no secret that when the class of ’60 entered the work force, there was plenty of skepticism about women’s place there. Although many professions were reluctant to trust women in high positions, the “glass ceiling” was probably most entrenched in the business world. However, that didn’t stop our Jody Bradshaw who broke through to become an icon in American retailing. As Macy’s first female corporate vice president, Jody went on to be president of two leading home furnishing chains, Conran’s and

Workbench, and was also the senior V.P. of Simmons Mattress Co., Dansk and Abraham and Straus. Jody has also launched her own home furnishing chain, “Home, LTD,” and is now writing a how-to book for small retailers. You can read all about her amazing career in her new autobiography, entitled “Jody.”

LYN: We’ve been busy with a wide variety of business enterprises. Here are some “fun facts” about a few of us with unusual business accomplishments or experiences:

* Gemma Carbonneau Baker was the first woman named as vice president of the Travelers Insurance Co. AND... she then opened her own market research business.

* For a few years, Dorothy Jeck Gutenkunst flew a weather plane in Sioux Falls, SD.

* Ruth Goodwin Murray was President of a water authority, responsible for a 22,000,000 dollar new treatment plant and dam.

SALLY: that came in on time and under budget!

LYN: Following an illustrious career in the College of Health and Human Development at Penn State, Judy Rogers Vicary Swisher has published her first children’s book, entitled *The Last Ornament*.

* Eileen Shanley Kraus Founded and ran her own business, became President of Shawmut Bank and chairman of Fleet Bank of CT; She was the 1st woman named “Business Leader of the Year” by the Hartford Courant and was inducted into the CT Woman’s Hall of Fame.

* For a number of years, Susan Barber was a manager of the famed Algonquin Hotel in NYC.

(SUE AND DEBBIE JOIN LYN AT MICS)

SALLY: Many of us have had careers in law, medicine, the arts and sciences. But teaching has claimed the majority of our professional women. From Pre-K to graduate school, from yoga classes to nutrition and aerobics, we’ve known the joys and hardships of trying to impart knowledge to sometimes reluctant scholars.

LYN: Claudine Lang Bing– taught art on a ship that went around the world.

SALLY: Can you imagine trying to draw a straight line in a rough sea!)

LYN: Joan Stevenson Hinde is a Fellow, and Director of Studies in Psychology at New Hall, Cambridge University

DEBBIE: The astronomy building at Whitman College was named for long-time, beloved professor, Kate Bracher. Sally Foster Wallace was named the U.S. Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year 1996 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

SUSAN: Susan Karp Manning is a professor with more than 30 publications in

professional psychology journals and has pioneered for women in science.

For 24 years, Carole Corcoran Huxley was Deputy Commissioner of Education in NY state, overseeing libraries, archives, chartered museums and public broadcasting. In recognition of her work, The NYS Board of Regents named the The New York State Cultural Education Theater for Carole.

LYN SIT)

SALLY: We've certainly given back some of our Mount Holyoke education. Will the teachers in our group shout out or raise your hands? How many PreK teachers? Any elementary teachers? Who has taught in secondary school? College professors?

DEBBIE: The following classmate will probably not remain anonymous for long. Her accomplishments are many, and she has served our country well, so we invite you to listen to her extraordinary story

SUSAN: -I received my PhD from MIT, and am now a professor *emeritus* at the Naval War College, and a senior fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University.

DEBBIE: I was on President Carter's National Security Council staff, and later served as President Clinton's Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and as the Secretary of Defense's representative to NATO. This was a great experience, not the least because my 4 -star rank allowed me to enter Air Force One ahead my male colleagues.

SALLY: Score one for the uncommon woman!

SUSAN: One of my deep personal missions has been to broaden education in security studies. So, I founded the Center for International Security Studies at Maryland University and I directed dialogues with China, Russia, and India at the National Academies of Sciences, I've also been a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and a director at Berlin's Aspen Institute.

DEBBIE: Along the way, I received many awards, both at home and abroad: Among them, the Manfred Woerner Medal for Contributions to Peace and Security in Europe and the Award for Public Service from the American Political Science Association.

SUSAN: All this was put in perspective when I ran into Victoria Shuck at her Washington, DC, nursing home long after being in her poli sci class at Mt Holyoke. It's rumored that when I told her a little about my career, she quietly said, "Too bad you studied under Ruth Lawson. If you'd stuck with me, you might have made something of yourself."

SALLY: However, Miss Schuck was surely proud of her former student, who founded, and was first president of, The Women in International Security Program, dedicated to career opportunities for women in that field. In 1980, Mount Holyoke awarded her an honorary Doctor of Letters.

DEB: Others of us have entered the political arena on a more grass roots level.

SUSAN: Our politics run the gamut from left to right....red to blue. Listen up:

DEB & SUSAN SIT)

SALLY: We have run and still run for political office. One of us is part of the

Institute for the Study and Practice of Non Violence. Several of us have attended the “Tea Party” gatherings At least one of us has stood for peace and justice with the Women in Black And.....

Barbara Pollack Newman, a senior fellow at a counter-terrorist think tank, has published a book called Lightning out of Lebanon: Hezbollah Terrorists on US soil.

(DEB STAND X TO MIC)

DEB: I left grad school at UC Berkeley, in order to work for a charismatic young doctor who was starting migrant worker health clinics in the San Joaquin Valley. That led to a job in Governor Pat Brown’s office, working on The War on Poverty. At this point I became involved with Cesar Chavez and his family, so when Cesar started the Grape Strike in 1965, I left my state car at the gas station, told them I was finished and moved in with Cesar for an amazing year and a half. While I worked for Cesar, we placed 12 medical students in rural delivery systems in the valley, and I ended up going to Washington, to help develop similar systems for Sargent Shriver’s new office of Economic Opportunity.

(SUSAN X TO DEB)

SUSAN: I was their first field person for West Virginia; Alviso, CA; Harlan County, Kentucky; and Lowndes County, Alabama. Believe me, it was harder to be a ‘fed’ in Alabama than it had been on the picket lines in Delano.

(SUSAN & DEB SIT; LYN X TO MIC)

SALLY: In Our Town, Mrs Webb says “*It seems like once in your life, before you die, you ought to see a country where they don’t talk English and don’t even want to.*” Well, our class has taken that advice to heart. We have been on the road for 50 years, visiting and living in every continent.

LYN:

For 19 years, I lived and worked abroad, in Asian and African countries, as wife of a USAID officer, Working from Pakistan, along with 100 trained Afghans, I built a bridge across a river in Afghanistan. During Desert Storm, I evacuated from Pakistan. However, just after the U.S. military action against the Taliban in 2001, the Assistant Secretary of State asked me to set up a counter-narcotics, police and justice reform program in Afghanistan. The only woman among 8 members of the Ambassador’s senior staff, I lived alone for 6 months on the Kabul Embassy compound in an 8’ X 20’ container under sandbags.

(LYN SIT)

SALLY: : How many of you have lived in more than one country? Raise your hand or shout out, if you’ve visited the following countries:... Antartica? Australia or New Zealand

Ghana or Burkina Faso Krgyzstan Japan

Kenya Tibet Turkey Peru China Rwanda or Zimbabwe?

You get the idea. We've gone way beyond Mrs. Webb's dreams.

(DEB & SUSAN X TO SAME MIC)

One of our classmates has amassed an astonishing list of travel adventures. Let's live vicariously with her for a few minutes.

DEB & SUSAN (STANDING TOGETHER conversationally):

DEB: I've washed my hair in many rivers, which became the "magic highways" of my travels.

SUSAN: The Amazon, and the Tatshashini;

SALLY: (with monumental mosquitos!);

DEB: the Primrose in British Columbia, the Great Bend of the Yangtze; and the peaceful Upper Yangtze in Tibet;

SUSAN: The Futalafeu in Patagonia that became my first love. I've trekked 4 times on horseback from the Fu to the Palena, where we paddled from inland out to the Pacific Ocean. It was not comfortable...we were in wet suits... always wet.. ..as we paddled constantly against head winds, and often it was hailing.

DEB: But I dug it...dug the hot springs in the jungle, the river dolphins surfing around us,, and the people who would ride or walk to the River to talk.....

SUSAN: I was always thinking that... if everyone could meet village people in those far away places...one on one...understanding and even "world peace" could be achieved..And so I often went alone, or with a few strangers and guides. I talked to everyone I met, often with surprising results.

DEB: In the hills of North Vietnam, with 2 guides and a cook, I camped out in rice paddies and jungles,... was invited to weddings, funerals, all celebrations.... among the ethereal, mysterious Hmong villages. On a 14 day trek in Turkey's Kashkar Mountains, we were breathless at 12,000 feet for several days, and a villager asked me "Why are you out here walking when you could be home having a massage?"

SUSAN: At one point, tired of my complaining, the Turkish guide offered to sell me to a farmer for 4 cows; the farmer looked me over and replied,"No, she is worth much more than this; may God deliver her to her rightful protector...." When my guide translated this to me, I replied..."leave me here, I am in love..."

DEB: And that could be said of all my adventures! Despite the physicality of it all, I always came back rested and relaxed....and folk noticed.

(SUSAN & DEB SIT; LYN X TO MIC)

SALLY: We've not only traveled to far-off lands, we've also been stewards of the land around us. We've planted gardens, been trail rehabilitators, lobbied for sensible land use, served on a local recycling commission and on the board of directors of a state wild life center]

LYN: Mary Jo Simjian Garre has been President of the Garden Club of America. And at least two of us have donated large parcels of land as conservation easements for public use.

SALLY: For 15 years Ann Bennett Kingman ran an internationally acclaimed horticultural symposium.

And....Cecilia Frack Scott served as national director of a program fostering advancement of women at the Environmental Protection Agency, where she is a management analyst

LYN TO SALLY): Isn't it wonderful that we've never forgotten the women who come after us!

SALLY : Speaking of women, most of us have been homemakers, for at least part of our lives,.....

LYN: which means full time

SALLY & LYN ALTERNATE reading the ff list)

child care worker, chef, nurse, interior decorator, psychologist, gardener, car maintenance specialist? AND....MOST IMPORTANTLY.....scheduler-in-chief,

SALLY TO LYN: Have we left anything out?

LYN : I'm sure we have!

SALLY: Let's hear it for the homemakers among us. How many of us have ever been full-time homemakers!

(LYN SIT; SUSAN & DEB X TO MICS)

DEB In Our Town, the Stage Manager says: "*I don't have to point out to the women in my audience that many of you have cooked 3 meals a day, for (over 40 years) and no summer vacation. You've brought up the children, washed, cleaned house and never a nervous breakdown.*" (Well, we hope not!)

SUSAN: "*You know how it is, you're 21 or 22 and you make some decisions; then whissh! You're 70 and that white haired person at your side has eaten over 50,000 meals with you.*"

SALLY: Mount Holyoke women would have to be "uncommon homemakers" and dedicated community workers as the following story will show.

(SUSAN X TO DEB- SHARE MIC)

SUSAN: Well, after graduation, I had four babies pretty quickly, so I had a huge commitment to my home and the education of our children. But, back in 1965, when Head Start was in its first summer nationwide, I found time to co-chair the project that began the Head Start program in our town. That little project has grown and now serves ten communities.

DEB: When I discovered that our neighborhood public school didn't have a library, I got to work and created one. I was thrilled when my daughters loved sports, but there were no local teams for them to play on. So I founded GALS, the Girls Athletic League. It seems as if there are always projects that want doing, and I think my Mt Holyoke education gave me the confidence to plunge ahead and try to better my community and my family.

SALLY: As we've listened to this evening's stories, we hear a common themethat of service and stewardship. Our Reunion Booklet reveals that we've advocated for those in need, in many, many ways:

SUSAN: We've worked with Abused and neglected teens in long term foster care;

We've tutored disadvantaged kids in an enrichment program; advocated for long term care patients.....

DEB: and volunteered in Hospice, food banks, a homeless shelter and a domestic Violence agency, also a Victims Support Group and Global volunteers.. (**DEB & SUSAN SIT; LYN X TO MIC**)

SALLY: A few of us have made unusual contributions to humanitarian and social causes.

LYN: Rosemarie Rubino Johnson was appointed by Presidents Bush and Clinton to the first US-Mexico Border Health Commission. She eventually chaired the U.S. Executive committee of that commission.

SALLY: Sandra Wieland – Started a clinic for the treatment of Sexual Abuse and Childhood trauma and wrote two books on this subject Joyce Johnson Spencer established and runs a foundation that provides grants for suicide prevention and mental health awareness programs,

LYN SIT; SUSAN & DEB X TO MICS

Here's a **final!!** story that we think is pretty amazing.

SUSAN: A few years ago, I became involved with Vital Voices Global Partnership, an NGO supporting leadership among 3rd world women, and I wanted to make public their individual stories. I naturally turned to theater for this project, because I've been a playwright all my life, beginning right after Mt Holyoke graduation. After enlisting seven women playwrights to join me, we chose seven remarkable women from around the world, whose struggles for human rights would be the basis for a theater piece. The interwoven stories of these women resulted in a finished play that celebrates women's rights, democracy and global progress.

DEB: From this modest beginning, as a fund raiser, "Seven" grew larger than any of us had imagined. Our little project has been performed all over the world, not only raising money for Vital Voices, but also raising awareness of women's rights world-wide.

SALLY: March 2010: Seven is introduced by Hillary Clinton at the Women in the World Conference in NYC, hosted by Tina Brown, directed by Julie Taymor, with Meryl Streep and Marcia Gay Harden in the cast.

LYN X TO DEB

SUSAN: For the profiled women, it was a moving experience to see themselves depicted. Russian domestic violence fighter, Marina Piskalakova-Parker said, "These are my sisters."

DEB: Inez McCormack, Irish social justice leader, commented: "Women, as we step forward, should pull someone into our space."

LYN And Afghani peace builder, Farida Azizi, said:

“We learn from each other. The approaches are different, but we are fighting for the rights of women.”

SALLY: As the Vital Voices tag line says, "When you invest in women, you change the world.”

DEB & SUSAN SIT

LYN: As I reflect on the lives of those incredible women - the “Seven” - and ourselves, I see ways in which we all fit into the diverse tapestry which make up women’s lives - in the past as well as in the present.

While historians promote the illustrious women, from Susan B. Anthony to Rosa Parks, and from Mt. Holyoke’s own Mary Lyon to Francis Perkins, it now is acknowledged that it is the small decisions made during the lives of “ordinary” individuals that are the true foundation of women’s history.

It’s the decision of the women who raised chickens or took in boarders to support their families, or the young girls who took the plunge and migrated from farms to work in factories or find new lives in the cities, or the determined souls who struggled to seek a college education in times when it was deemed unseemly for women to do so.

Women have always joined groups to work collectively for needed change. The women who attended the first women’s rights convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls and those who came together in 1896 to form the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs to improve social conditions in their communities. The list is endless, and I mention these examples in order to place our own experiences in the context of women’s history.

As the lives of our classmates illustrate, in the past 50 years we have lived in changing and God knows interesting times,- and in ways both large and small we ALL have been making history.

SALLY: To quote Thornton Wilder once more, this time from *The Skin of our Teeth*, “*We’ve managed to survive for some time now, catch as catch can, the fat and the lean, and if the dinosaurs don’t trample us to death, and if the grasshoppers don’t eat up our garden, we’ll all live to see better days. Knock on wood.*”

_And now, here are the names behind those short, anecdotal stories you heard. In alphabetical order:

Wendy Goepel Brooks; Beverly Burke Eighmy, Catherine McCardle Kelleher; Anne Meyer Koella; Carol Klein Mack; Pat Goss MacLain; Leone Guthrie Reeder; Dana Feldshuh Whyte.

LYN: And, finally, get out your “Fun Facts” sheets. The fun facts on the sheet belong to:

1. Toni Lincks Taylor
2. Gail Manwell Gaustad
3. Sue Cothran Swanson
4. Hydie Rial Houston
5. Mary Lou Werme Hathaway
6. Margie Dodge Holden
7. Siegrun Dinklage Kane
8. Jane Barber North
9. Lynne Trefthen Blaker
10. Jerry Benedict Cohen
11. Helgard Wienert
12. Linda Conway Correll
13. Tamara Tillotsen Adams
14. Anne Mayer LYN SIT

SALLY: NOW, LET’S END WITH A SONG, WRITTEN BY MARYANN SPARKLIN WOODRUFF WHO, WITH THE BLUE NOTES OF 1960, WILL SING ABOUT SOME THINGS WE CERTAINLY ALL SHARE. I CAN’T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO SPAN THE BRIDGES OF OUR LIVES. **SONG**