

Brandeis University

Class of 1978 30th Reunion

Name: Beth Flanzbaum

Maiden name? Flanzbaum

Mac or PC?

PC. An old one...don't own a laptop. (Too much computer time at work). Just got a real fast one for the office. I may have to splurge and upgrade at home too.

LP, CD, or IPOD?

CD's: don't own an IPOD and likely never will. Can't imagine earbuds.

What was your major? Did you continue in that field?

I was a sociology major with interests in feminism and mental health. I have continued to be interested in women's rights and the field of mental health. I went to graduate school and received an MSW from Simmons in 1982. I have been a practicing social worker for almost 30 years.

Career? Do tell!

Early in my career, I spent some time working with chronically mentally ill adults but for the last 25 years have worked primarily with children and families. I am currently the Assistant Director of Outpatient Services at a private not for profit child welfare agency in Worcester, MA. I supervise multiple clinicians, oversee numerous programs, co-teach a family therapy course and among other things coordinate the social work program for graduate students at my agency. I am also a therapist to a very small number of clients. I meet primarily with adolescents and women. I think as I have aged so has my caseload. My responsibilities at work change with the seasons. I treasure the variety as well as the people with whom I work.

For the last two years I have also been a faculty advisor for the Boston University School of Social Work. In addition to my work with Boston University I maintain connections with the other schools of social work throughout New England. I can't imagine having chosen a different career.

Favorite memory from Brandeis days?

Some of my fondest memories of Brandeis consist of the yearly spring takeover of Pearlman Hall...I always speak proudly of my activist roots.

I also remember time spent in Spingold Library and the relationships that began in the stacks. I remember running to make the last train from Cambridge back to Waltham on a Saturday night and the evenings spent in Boston and Cambridge.

I also spent four years at Brandeis (1980 -1984) as a residence counselor. These years cemented my commitment to the University.

Favorite Brandeis professor?

Professor Fisher who taught English literature. It is because of him that I came to love Jude the Obscure and the other books we read in his class.

Brandeis University Class of 1978 30th Reunion

I also liked Andre Collard of the Comparative Lit Department who taught Women in Literature. She forced us to think and share and challenged our assumptions.

What have you done since graduation that you are most proud of?

I am proud of two things. I am proud of my career track and the positive differences I have made in the lives of children and families. I am also honored to have mentored over 100 social work and psychology graduate students during the last 18 years.

The other source of pride for me is the travel that I have done and the places that I visited. Whenever I can I choose a new destination and explore it. My favorite destinations to date have been in South America and in Turkey.

Are you single or married? Tell us about your family:

I am single and never married. I am a proud aunt to two nieces who are now 15 and 13. I am close to my sister who lives in Indiana and visit with my parents who recently relocated to New Jersey.

What goals have you set for yourself for the next ten years?

I want to make enough money so that I can retire and travel to places that I have not yet been. As a social worker I fear that this is a pipe dream....but my wish is to explore exotic places and meet people who are most different from me.

What items are on your bucket list?

A month in Australia, New Zealand and the South Sea Islands.
I guess I have a short list....time to read and relax???

