

Brandeis University
Class of 1978 30th Reunion

Name: Jill Diedra Goodman Maiden name: Goodman

Mac or PC? Mac

LP, CD, or IPOD? CD

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

Economics. I went on to grad school in economics and then business school at the University of Chicago. Until I was 29 I worked in econ and business related jobs.

Career? Do tell!

Even though I had a specific major at Brandeis, I have yet to choose my major for life. I have sold blood testing products for Abbott Labs, managed equity index funds for American National Bank, been an investment consultant for Ennis Knupp and Gold first and then for Stratford Advisory Group. During all this time I studied voice and performed in operas, straight plays, and professional choirs. When I was 29 I quit my investments job to pursue opera.

In 1988 our first child was born and I felt less need to perform and more need to find stylish breastfeeding apparel. So I started my own breastfeeding fashions company, Delices For New Mothers, still singing opera on the side. It was a great business with a fabulous clientele. (I think I was the only business owner whose customers asked me if it was a good time to talk! They were all new moms too.)

When our third child was born, I decided that the opportunity cost of having the business was too high (See, that econ major really did come in handy!). It was one thing to ignore two children for the business, but three was over the top. We remodeled the house and gave the business space to the children for a playroom. That was when I started participating on community boards.

Now I continue to perform as a singer/actress and teach voice lessons, while only participating in community service projects that I find truly compelling. These range from charity auctions, fundraising drives, and English toffee making parties (If an organization brings me 6 volunteers, I can help them make 60 lbs. in two hours, for them to sell.) to producing the children's opera Brundibar (made famous because it was performed over 55 times by the children at the Nazi concentration camp Terezin. Working on the production was the most spiritual experience of my life!), and giving a guest lecture for a public speaking class at the U of WA business school titled "Finding Your Voice".

Favorite memory from Brandeis days?

Almost everything I can remember from those days, I remember very fondly!

Probably my happiest memories were talking with friends in the Shapiro lounge until 3:00AM. Those discussions all seemed so profound! Of course I can't remember what we actually talked about.

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One great memory was making personalized gingerbread cookies in the Shapiro kitchen with Peter Davis to celebrate my birthday and make little holiday gifts at the same time. I continue the tradition with my children 30 years later!

Another memory is with Susan Gellman, Marta Kaufman, and Casey Kramer, when we were all dancing crows in "Lord Scarecrow". I still can't believe we were able to squat for all those hours! Every time I squat to move my clothes from the washer to the dryer, I feel strangely physically at ease and I think of all of you!

There were also lots of great romantic memories...enough said!

Favorite Brandeis professor? Ted Kazanoff and Barney Schwalberg

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

Raise my three children.

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

Married to George Oberhofer with three children, Geoff, Brad and Grace.

George is a brilliant, creative, and kind investments guy I met at the University of Chicago, where we both attended b-school.

Geoff is 19 and a sophomore at Harvard. He's a cheerleader and studies neurobiology.

Brad is 17 and a senior in high school. He will go to NYU next year to study music composition. He would like a career in film scoring.

Grace is 14 and in 9th grade. She is very driven as a singer/actress/dancer. She spent last summer at Brandeis (staying in Shapiro!) in the BIMA Jewish arts camp and loved it!

What goals have you set for yourself for the next ten years? It's still all about launching the kids, but I seem to be inching my way back to auditioning again.

What items are on your bucket list?

Right now I'm just focused on enjoying what's immediately in front of me. If life continues to be this kind to me, I don't need anything else!

Please provide a joke, a current photo, and a photo from your time at Brandeis.

I don't tell jokes.

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