



Nancy (Goldman) Church '64



Five Decades . . . and Counting: My Thoughts

Then: A confirmed Unitarian with very liberal political views and a love of poetry, art and learning, I may have been seen as a hippie, a folk dancer and singer (remember Pete Seeger), and sitting backstage drinking Southern Comfort with Janis Joplin. I left the comforts of the east for the intellectual stimulation of Iowa (Grinnell College), picketing Military ROTC Balls, and majoring in History. Not satisfied with the past, I decided to create my own history starting with a career in welded metal sculpture and teaching art classes at the Cleveland Museum of Art where I had pictures of my work published in professional books and magazines. Married too early, YES! I had my first daughter after finishing a major welded metal piece; second daughter came two years later after multiple, less ambitious metal sculptures. Moved to (of all places) Northeastern New Jersey in preparation for a divorce (LOL) after twelve years of marriage. With considerable soul-searching, I decided to make a “modest” career change and set out on a track that ultimately, after years of intense focus and work, led to my becoming a board-certified robotic surgeon in Gynecology and Obstetrics. By that time I was in Chicago – MY kind of town.

Now: I may be seen as a stiletto-wearing, stick shift driving, art-loving and collecting, politically and professionally active robotic surgeon who is currently Vice Chair of the Governing council of the Women’s Physician Congress of the American Medical Association.

I am still a lackadaisical Buddhist, a free-wheeling cook, a struggling linguist, avid contemporary art observer and collector, participant in support of contemporary chamber music (Grammy Award winners eighth blackbird), loves to entertain friends and family at my city place in Chicago’s gold coast and my beach house on the shores of Lake Michigan in the Indiana Dunes. My French gay boys still do my hair, make-up, and couturier fashion design.

This liberal hippie and peacenik is married to a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Harvard Business School and who was a Nuclear Submariner (read “spy”) . . . and who is slightly more liberal than I! This has been not only a surprise, but an amazing romance that grows better each day!

My advice to the Grinnell students of today is that “You can do anything that you set your mind to do IF you engage in life, embrace it fully, love it completely, and play and live life for all that it is worth!”

In Retrospect: Grinnell College served me exceedingly well, and I strongly believe that we all still have many, many years to explore and enjoy! Thank you, Grinnell!