

By: Lydia
To Becca,
with sincere admiration
and love. Lydia

**Introduction of Rebecca Stickney
Bennington Convocation 9/6/95**

It is my sincere privilege and honor to introduce this remarkable woman Rebecca Stickney. Becca has been closely associated with Bennington College for over fifty years. She entered the College as a first year student in 1939 and graduated as a science major in 1943. Becca left Bennington after her graduation and went off to work at the Harvard Medical School, but her love for Bennington proved to be her passion and she returned to the College in 1948 as Alumnae Secretary. During her 47 years of service to Bennington College, Becca has served in too many capacities to be enumerated, including Acting President. Currently Becca serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors, Special Assistant to the President, and ex-officio chief of campus beauty.

She has planted trees, pruned bushes, picked up every stray piece of paper on the grounds that she sees. One day I had a lunch appointment with Becca. She arrived about five minutes early, and I was on the phone. I heard some sounds outside my window and swiveled in my desk chair and looked out. There was Becca trimming the bushes with her snippers. Afterwards, I found out that she carries them at all times in her car.

Becca has seen many transitions at Bennington College, and she is what African cultures call a Griot, a person who carries the history of the culture in her head.

Martha Hill, who was the Founding Director of the Bennington School of Dance from 1932-1953, knew Becca well, and she said of her:

And I quote...

Becca is Bennington College. For me, Bennington College is bounded by Mt. Anthony and Rebecca Stickney. If ever there was a mythical ideal Bennington Graduate, she is it. The vitality and imagination she has displayed in her many roles within the college organization show her truly amazing abilities, her courage, and selfless devotion. She is the graduate for all ages, who has absorbed with love and humor the folklore of her undergraduate beginnings, while breaking new ground in every era of the College for graduates still to come. End quote.

To me Becca is like the roots of a graceful willow tree that firmly anchors it in the eye of a storm. She has served the College with love, compassion and fierce loyalty, and an intense commitment that we can all aspire to.

Bennington Community, it is my pleasure to present Rebecca Stickney.