

Barbara Banta Webb '75

"Linden Hall has influenced every part of my life."

How did Linden Hall affect your life after graduation?

That's a question I think we all don't fully grasp until we've been away for some years. Now 40 years post-graduation, I know clearly how Linden Hall helped shape me. Having the advantage of small classes and, for me, an opportunity to explore my performance and creative stirrings, has influenced every part of my life. As an artist turned business owner, Ms. March's English classes found me resonating with writers and beliefs I'd never been exposed to before. Certainly I recall being shepherded by Miss Sullivan, who allowed me to gain my bearings on stage. I remember one instance in particular when the entire cast was going up on their lines in front of the audience. After the momentary terror, I felt a confidence emerge as we muscled through, a resilience that I certainly bring to my role as business owner on a regular basis. It was an extraordinary experience that I will forever hold close and be enormously grateful for in my life.



What piece of advice would you share with girls at Linden Hall today?

Do your best to embrace 'what is,' learn from whatever experience comes your way. There is always a gift if you can stand back and see it, 'use it.'

What did you love most about Linden Hall?

The fall time, the gardens, the smell of chocolate in the air. I loved the close friendships and the feeling that I belonged somewhere. I adored Miss Sullivan. She 'saw me' in a way no one had seen me before and that clearly shaped who I would become.

Describe your experience at Linden Hall. What is your favorite memory?

There are so many – probably 'being bad,' being naughty. Jumping in leaves between classes, knowing we shouldn't but just HAD to. The spirit of fun as young women, knowing we were cared for and allowed to begin to spread our wings.

How many years did you attend Linden Hall?

Three years, 10th through 12th as a day student. A lot can happen in three years.

What clubs or sports were you a member of?

Theatre that was my passion and love.

What Blue and White team were you on?

Blue.

What college did you attend and, where?

Windham College in Vermont, then graduated from Marlboro College and graduate school (all in theatre) at the Ohio State University. I then went on to work closely with adored mentor Tony Montanaro, who, like Pat Sullivan, made a significant impact on me as an emerging artist and entrepreneur.

What is your occupation?

I own a special event venue called Carl House outside of Georgia. I'm also an author, speaker, and business coach, working and speaking to businesses throughout the country. I've recently thrown my hat back in the ring doing some TV and film work. Post Carl House, I have plans to move to Montana, where my family now lives, to do my work there!

Do you participate in any professional organizations?

Many – chambers of commerce, organizations in the hospitality field, and others. I speak to a great variety of professional organizations, associations, women and college groups throughout the United States.

Do you participate in community service? If so, what organizations? Any leadership roles?

Chambers of Commerce, National Association for Catering and Events, Bridal Associations, Wedding Market. I'm an Ambassador for The Knot Magazine. We hold yearly fundraisers at my venue to support the care and placement of animals in need.

JUST FOR FUN

What is your favorite book?

I adore Tom Robbins and Pema Chodran, in particular her book *The Places That Scare You*.

What is your favorite movie or TV show?

Shawshank Redemption....rooting for the underdog. And my guilty pleasure (filmed

south of Atlanta), dare I admit it in public, *The Walking Dead*...it makes any personal or business challenge I'm faced with pale in comparison!!

Name three things you couldn't live without.

My history!
My dog Buddy!
My dreams!

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