

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “1976/05/22 - Bennington College Arts Center Dedication, Bennington, Vermont” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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Mrs. Ford's Remarks  
Bennington Arts Center Dedication  
Saturday, May 22, 1976

Hemingway once wrote: "If you were lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you for Paris is a moveable feast."

I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. Some of the intensity, joy and excitement of those summers at the Bennington School of the Dance stayed with me.

When I drove up to the campus today---what memories came back! I remember being barefoot most of the time and wearing a leotard from dawn to dusk. Between classes we bounced around the green and tried to pick up as much grass as possible with our toes. That exercise was one of Martha Graham's orders. After the first few days, our muscles were so sore we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms. We breathed, we ate, we slept---nothing but dance. Oh what a glorious feeling!

The 30's were such an exciting time for dance. Martha Hill drew people to Bennington, which put it in the middle of this excitement.

She orchestrated the talents and temperaments, and we learned from Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles Weidman and others.

When I came in 1936, I had been studying dance for ten years. I already knew I wanted to be a dancer, but Bennington opened up the doors for the much too brief years I spent in New York with Martha Graham.

I felt I had been born to dance as I think most of the students did. It was our whole life, and Bennington and Martha Hill helped focus our intense commitment.

Bennington educated audiences for contemporary dance during those summers. The summer school and the establishment of a major in dance at Bennington were very important breakthroughs. But for those of us who studied here, Martha Hill, Martha Graham and others gave us something else. They touched our hearts with fire and infused us with spirit. Isn't that what the arts are about? Nourishment for the soul. "

Bennington Arts Center Dedication

Saturday, May 22, 1976

Page Two

The arts, especially for me the dance, draw out our emotions and make us more alive. Very often the arts help me to see life in a new way.

Dance, music, theater, art and literature are our communication with the future---our spiritual links with the past.

For some, today is a visit to the Paris of our youth and a time to honor Martha Hill's contributions to dance. For all; it is a day to be glad about this marvelous arts center.

But more than personal memories and thanks, we are here to share our faith in the creative forces of the arts.

The creative spirit reminds us of the passion and the anguish of life. This helps us leave for those who come after "our letter to the world."

# # #

"If you were lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you for Paris is a moveable feast."

I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. Some of those two summers at the Bennington School of Dance---the intensity, joy and excitement---stayed with me.

When I drove up to the campus today---what memories came back! I remember being barefoot---it seems like all the time---and wearing a two-piece beige jersey leotard. Between classes we used to bounce around the green and try to follow Martha Graham's orders to pick up as much grass as possible with our toes. The first summer after the first few days we were so sore, we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms.

The 30's were such a heady, exciting time for dance, and Bennington was in the middle of it, because of the people Martha Hill brought here. Under her orchestration of talents and temperaments, we learned from Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles Weidman and others.

When I came here in the summer of 1936 after high school graduation, I had been studying dance for ten years. I knew I wanted to be a dancer before Bennington, but studying here

opened up the doors to the brief years I spent in New York with Martha Graham.

I felt I had been born to dance. I think almost all the students did. It was our whole life, and Bennington and Martha Hill helped give us a focus for our intense commitment.

Many have talked about how important it was that Miss Hill helped educate audiences for contemporary dance. And that was important. Those summer sessions did create an understanding public for Martha Graham and others. Bennington did lift dance up to a new level of academic and artistic respectability. This too was important.

But most of all, those of us who loved dance learned to speak through movement and to appreciate the need to discipline the mind as well as the body. I think sometimes it's easier to honor the tangible achievements of dance education and creation of and audience for contemporary dance--than it is to honor the intangibles.

But Martha Hill, Martha Graham and others---who touched our hearts with fire---gave us a gift of the spirit. Isn't that really what the arts are about? Nourishment for the soul.

The arts, especially for me the dance, draw out our emotions and make us more alive. So often, I've seen my life in a new way, because of a response to the arts.


Dance, music, theatre, art and literature are our communication with the future---our spiritual links with the past.

For many of us---today is a visit to the Paris of our youth and a time to honor Martha Hill and all who made possible this wonderful arts center.

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Bennington Arts Center Dedication, May 22, 1976

"If you are lucky enough to have lived <sup>in</sup> in Paris as a young man, then wherever you ~~is for~~ go for the rest of <sup>your</sup> your life, it stays with you for Paris is a moveable feast.

I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. Some of those two summers at the Bennington School of dance---the ~~intensity, joy and excitement~~ intensity, joy and excitement---stayed with me.

When I ~~jump~~ <sup>drove</sup> drove up to the campus today---what memories came <sup>back</sup> back! I remember being barefoot---it seems like all the time---and wearing a two-piece beige jersey leotard. ~~Between~~ Between classes we used to bounce around the green and try to follow Martha Graham's orders to ~~pick~~ pick up as much grass as possible with our toes. The first summer <sup>after the 1st few days</sup> we were so sore, ~~after the first few days~~, we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms.

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it's easier to honor <sup>the tangible</sup> these achievements of <sup>dance</sup> education and <sup>creation of an audience for contemporary</sup> expanding the ~~public~~ of dance---than it is to honor the ~~intangible~~ intangibles.



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Dance, music, theatre, art and literature are our communication with the future---our spiritual links with the past.

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The creative spirit ~~expressing~~ reminds us of the passion and ~~the~~ the anguish of life and helps us leave for those who come after "our ~~xx~~ letter to the world."

Hemingway once wrote: "If you were lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you for Paris is a moveable feast."

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When I came in 1936, I had been studying dance for ten years. I already knew I wanted to be a dancer, but Bennington opened up the doors for the much too brief years I spent in New York with Martha Graham.

I felt I had been born to dance. I think most of the students did. It was our whole life, and Bennington and Martha Hill helped focus our intense commitment.

Bennington educated audiences for contemporary dance during those summers. The summer school and the establishment of a major in dance at Bennington were very important breakthroughs. But for those of us who studied here, Martha Hill, Martha Graham and others gave us something else. They touched our hearts with fire and infused us with spirit. Isn't that what the arts are about? Nourishment for the soul.

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# # #

REVISED REMARKS, Bennington Arts Center Dedication,

May 22, 1976

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I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. ~~The~~ Some of the intensity, joy and excitement of those summers at the Bennington ~~S~~ School of the Dance stayed with me.

When I drove up to the campus today---what memories ~~came~~ came back! I remember being barefoot most of the time and wearing a leotard ~~in~~ from dawn to dusk. Between classes we bounced around the green and tried to pick up as much grass as possible with our toes. That ~~wonderful~~ exercise was one of Martha Graham's orders. After the first few days, our muscles were so sore~~er~~ we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms. We breathed, we ate, we slept ~~nothing~~ but dance. Oh what a glorious feeling!

The 30's were such an exciting time for dance, ~~and~~  
~~because of the people who brought the dance to Bennington~~  
~~Martha Hill~~ Martha Hill drew people to Bennington, which put it in the middle of this excitement.

She orchestrated the talents and temperaments, and we learned from Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm, Charles ~~Weidman~~ Weidman and others.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

When I came in 1936, I had been studying dance for ten years. <sup>already</sup> I knew I wanted to ~~be~~ be a dancer, but Bennington opened up the doors for the <sup>much</sup> too brief ~~few~~ years I spent in New York with Martha Graham.

I felt I had been born to dance <sup>as</sup> I think most of the students did. It was our whole life, and Bennington and Martha Hill helped ~~give us a~~ focus ~~for~~ our intense commitment.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

~~Bennington~~  
~~Miss Hill~~ helped educate <sup>d</sup> audiences for contemporary <sup>those</sup> dance during ~~those~~ summers.

The summer school and the establishment of a major in dance at Bennington were very important ~~breakthroughs~~ breakthroughs. But for those of us who studied here, Martha Hill, Martha Graham and others gave us something else. They touched our hearts with fire and ~~gave us~~ ~~gave us~~ infused us with spirit. Isn't that what the arts are about? Nourishment for the soul.

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"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you for Paris is a moveable feast.

I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. Something of those two ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ summers---the intensity, excitement and joy---stayed with me.

When I drove up to the campus today, what memories came back! I remember being barefoot---it seems like all the time. Between classes we used to bounce around the green---trying to pick up grass with our toes and make contact with the earth. That first summer we were so sore after the first few days, we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms.

It was such a heady, exciting time for dance, and we were in the middle of it because of the people Martha Hill brought to ~~Bennet~~ Bennington. Under her expert orchestration of talents and temperaments, we ~~worked~~ ~~with~~ learned from Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Hanya Holm and Charles ~~Weid~~ Weidman.



Many have written how important Martha Hill was in educating ~~people~~ an audience for contemporary dance, but those sessions did more than provide an understanding audience for such ~~as~~ giants as Martha Graham---they also helped lift dance up to a new level of academic and artistic respectability.

But something even greater for me and many others---it was beautiful to learn to speak through movement. For all of you here today who ~~taught~~ helped teach me and so many others that wonder---my deepest thanks.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Through dance, I learned to love the other arts. I gained a deep and abiding respect for excellence and the importance of discipline. The enormous discipline of dance extends beyond the discipline of the body---as sore as those muscles got---into the discipline of ~~the~~ the mind.

*How could we live without?*

The arts ~~are~~ are not ornaments, but an essential part of our lives. I believe the arts, and for me, especially dance, draw out our emotions and make us ~~more~~ more responsive. How often I see life in a new way~~xxxx~~---because of an artistic ~~xxxxxx~~ experience.

Dance, music, theatre, art and ~~xxxx~~ literature are our communications with the future---our links to the past.

Numbers measure the distance to a star---but words,  
~~xxx~~ music and dance evoke the fear, beauty and wonder  
of a star in the night sky.

Today is a pilgrimage to the past for many of us  
Hill  
and a time to honor ~~the~~ Martha ~~Graham~~ and all who made  
this~~newxnewxpossiblexwonderful~~ wonderful arts center possible.

But more than the personal memories and thanks,  
I believe we are ~~xx~~ here to share our faith in the  
~~impx~~ creative forces. The power of the creative mind  
to touch our hearts with fire, to make us see ~~xxx~~ into the  
dark ~~xxx~~ corners and open us up to love is what truly  
we want to keep alive.

The arts help us carry with us in the daily tumult,  
something of the passion and the fear of life---~~nd~~  
and help us leave for those who come after "our letter to  
the world."

~~Toxallxofxyouxxaxonesxxkxkxaudxendaxx~~  
~~xxwasxluckyxenoughxxkxkxaxkxwasxaxxx~~

18r / 5/13

Bennington Arts Center Dedication, May 22, 1976

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it ~~stays~~ ~~x~~ stays with you for Paris is a movable feast."

I feel about Bennington the way Hemingway felt about Paris. For me those two summers were a festival of movement---an excitement about dance that lives within me.

How very many of us feel that way because of Martha Hill, who created at Bennington the same atmosphere of ~~excite~~ excitement and energy that Paris was for art and literature.

When I drove up to the campus today, I thought of that first summer, and my memories began to dance. I remember being barefoot---it seems like all the time. We used to ~~bound~~ ~~bound~~ dance around the green in between ~~glasses~~ classes---trying to pick up grass with our toes. We wore ~~these~~ a two-piece beige jersey outfit. After the first ~~x~~ few days, we were so sore that we went up and down the steps on our bottoms.

The students came then as now from all over the country---all of us inspired by what was happening here. It was a rare privilege to be able to work with the people whose

work was already legendary. Martha Graham

They were here because Martha Hill had a unique talent of harnessing the energy and the ~~temp~~ temperaments of many diverse ~~elementxxxxxxandxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ talents---and ~~xxxxxx~~ providing the atmosphere ~~xxxxx~~ for learning.

I learned more here than about dance---I learned a deep\* and abiding enthusiasm for excellence and discipline. The enormouse discipline of dance extends beyond the discipline of the body---into discipline of the ~~mine~~ mind.

Martha Hill really was the centrifugal force. She  
~~up~~ pulled the students and teachers into this place---  
 and created an environment that has been so important.

~~MMH~~ Many have written about how important it was for Martha ~~M~~ Hill to create an audience for contemporary dance. But ~~w~~ Bennington did more than make us appreciators of dance... (pickup)

The arts are not ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ ornaments---essential parts  
of our lifes because.

For mex the arts, especially dance, are  
Draw out our emotions---help us think---brings us new  
~~xxxxxx~~ insights.. -

It was beautiful to learn to speak through movement,  
here  
and for ~~th~~ all those ~~xxxx~~ who ~~xxx~~ taught me and so  
many others that wonder, I say thanks. To love one  
art is to ~~xxxx~~ appreciate the others.

Dance, music, art, literature---all are our  
communication with the future---our link~~e~~ to the past.  
Numbers measure the distance to a star---but words,  
music and dance evoke the fear, the ~~x~~ beauty and the  
wonder of a star in the night sky.

Today we come to see this shelter for creation--  
for some, it is a pilgrimage to the past and time to  
honor those who helped make ~~h~~ this place possible.  
And those dancing memories of two summers will be with  
me always.

But more than saying thanks to Martha Hill and  
those many, many others who worked to make this arts  
center possible---I think we are ~~xxxxxxx~~ here to share  
our faith in the creative forces. to touch the hearts  
with fire---to care and be and want and ~~w~~ love. to  
carry with us in the daily tumult---something of the passion  
the beauty and the fear of being live---and so to leave  
for ~~thx~~ those who come after---"Our letter to the world."

Bennington Arts Center, May 22, 1976

What memories came back driving through these mountains----remembering that first summer when I came here so excited about being at Bennington.

After those first few days---we were so sore... we went up and down the ~~sxkxix~~ stairs on our bottoms. going barefoot...and wearing those beige jersey two piece outfits...so many exciting people---martha graham, hanya holm----the moving force behind all of it---martha hill. her personality was felt throughout the sxhool.. she seemed to keep everything together.

"If you are lucky enough ~~x~~ to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you for Paris is a movable feast."

~~thexsxkxnmxxsxkxkxkxkxkxkx~~ Bennington was to dance--- what paris was to art and literature in the 1920s. the ferment and the excitement of being together. and the impact of ~~kxx~~ workings with so many fantastic talented ~~pxkxkx~~ people. those of us who came here in those years---found that indëed bennington stayed with us---that festival of movement ~~x~~ influenced our lives and we carry with ~~us~~ those glory days.

For Immediate Release  
Friday, May 21, 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

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Mrs. Ford will speak at the dedication ceremony for the Bennington College Visual and Performing Arts Center Saturday, May 22.

She also will affix a plaque officially dedicating the Center. Speakers on the program include Vermont Governor Thomas Salmon; Joseph Eisman, acting President of Bennington; Miss Martha Hill, founder of the dance program at Bennington, and others associated with Bennington and the arts.

Mrs. Ford studied at the Bennington School of the Dance in the summer of 1936 and 1937 before going to New York City to dance with Martha Graham.

Mrs. Ford also will attend a performance by Bennington dance students and participate in a picnic with students and faculty members.

# # #

> blind remarks <

# Interview with Mrs Ford in Bennington

personal memories of Martha Hill

what does dance mean to her then and now

the arts in everyday life

what was it like coming to Bennington the 1st time?

how did she hear about Bennington School of Dance

had she been out of Michigan before?

her most vivid memory

what she liked most // least

why did she quit dance (never did!)

meaning of discipline to her!

color  
color office

inspiration

all these  
you have  
than providing  
a good for those  
handicapped  
handicapped for those  
have been as you





personal

quite close I thought. very highly

forms of dance — Lonie Horst (dead)

Bess Schenberg — still teach

Martha Hill — ~~still~~ center of Bennington

Charles Vaden

many snapshots

uniform the program

\* I piece together in beige/white jersey  
pants — tank top  
with jersey tunic = for between classes

after 1st 2 or 3 days of classes

going up & down stairs on one bottom //

because muscles so tired —

bouncing around green —

attributed to Martha Graham — barefoot all

the time — little shade & sandal

MQ saying when walking in grass — see  
how much grass could pick up with toes

---

only place I could go to study modern dance

---

waited until Susan was eight

younger it's a game —

started not in everything acrobatics / tap  
classic ballet — ballroom / Spanish



at 14 enough training became student  
teacher —  
also at that age

10 steps — 7 position

Germany Mary Wigman  
every lived her —

centrifugal force  
> personality felt thrust solo —

> when grad from H.S. decided on dance  
instead of college —

went to Bennington — went to NY —  
laughter during

friends say no child  
after school straight to dance school —

discipline in dance — mine completely on  
what you are doing  
"purity of concentration"

modern dance more free form

carried on — until now  
Francesca Hodge

"inherent in me"

"it was how to dance"  
(more serious training))



in everyday life

in going to concerts -

how can you promote arts

when husband promoting economy  
cannot live by head

what we are — what we reflect

in painting dancing & composing

in writing -

our legacy

out of ourselves

respond

emotions

100 hundred yrs from now

have to feed one's soul

as well as the body

in order to sustain life

feel strongly could not

live in world or eating or sleeping

for me — it is the arts — pred. dance!

Hill  
personality felt thru the school

his childhood except dance

36

37

Which summer (?)

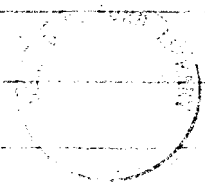
more free form

"born to dance"

wanted to become a dancer

if music & move

Alexandria Hospital



Newsmakers-----

L.A. Times 5/23/76

## \$320,000 Dished Out for Nixon House

—Mr. and Mrs. Theodore O. Bittner of Southold, N.Y., like the bay view and the swimming pool, so they bought former President Richard M. Nixon's vacation home in Key Biscayne, Fla. Bittner, a caterer, paid \$320,000 for the House Nixon had bought in 1969 for \$125,000. Nixon still owns another home in the compound, as does his friend, C.G. (Bebe) Rebozo. The home purchased by the Bittners comes complete with bullet-proof windows, wall-to-wall carpeting, drapes and kitchen appliances. Bittner said he bought it because of the location: "The view is just like the one at our Long Island home across the bay to the city. And I like the swimming pool. The fact that this was Mr. Nixon's former home did not enter the picture." Bittner said he had haggled with an attorney representing Nixon for two days before reaching agreement on the price. "I didn't pay what he was asking," he said.

—French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing ended his six-day state visit to the United States and boarded his supersonic Concorde jetliner in New Orleans for the trip home. Giscard said he would take a strong message back to the French people about the United States. "Doubt has been cast on (the United States') strength and degree of commitment," he said. "In fact, the strongest impression I

will take back from what I have seen and heard during this visit is one of confidence."

—"I remember being barefoot most of the time and wearing a leotard from dawn to dusk. Between classes we bounced around the green and tried to pick up as much grass as possible with our toes," said First Lady Betty Ford, on a nostalgic visit to Bennington College in Vermont, where she dedicated the new Visual and Performing Arts Center. The crowd laughed as she told about the contemporary dances she had learned as Elizabeth Bloomer during the summers of 1937 and 1938. "After the first few days," she recalled, "our muscles were so sore we went up and down the stairs on our bottoms."

—Harold E. Stassen is considering another attempt at something he failed to accomplish in 1948, 1952, 1964 and 1968: capturing the Republican presidential nomination. "I could unite the Republican Party, unite the country and provide the essential leadership to lift America with full employment, without inflation, and establish conditions of peace with justice and freedom," Stassen, 69, said. There were four reporters and 26 empty chairs facing Stassen as he made his announcement in Philadelphia.

Kaye 5/24/76

-0-

BENNINGTON, VT. (UPI) -- IT WAS A FAR CRY FROM THE DAYS WHEN SHE USED TO RUN BAREFOOT THROUGH THE GRASS AROUND BENNINGTON COLLEGE. BUT IT WAS STILL A HAPPY TRIP FOR FIRST LADY BETTY FORD.

IN THE SUMMERS OF 1936 AND 1937 AS ELIZABETH BLOOMER, A GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., DANCE TEACHER, SHE STUDIED DANCE AT THE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE.

ON SATURDAY, SHE WAS A PUBLIC FIGURE SURROUNDED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS. SHE CAME TO DEDICATE A NEW \$6.7 MILLION, PERFORMING ARTS CENTER.

"I ALWAYS INTENDED TO COME BACK, BUT NEVER UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES," SHE TOLD STUDENTS AND ALUMNI AS PHOTOGRAPHERS SWARMED.

-0-

Kaye

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM  
FROM: SUSAN PORTER  
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitation:

EVENT: Dedication of the new Bennington College Arts Center

DATE: Saturday, May 22, 1976

TIME: 12:00 noon Dedication

PLACE: Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

CONTACT: Mrs. Catherine H. Cumpston, Dedication Coordinator  
O: (802) 442-5401 ext. 628  
H: (802) 442-9015

COMMENTS: Although Bennington is a difficult place to get to, Mrs. Ford will participate in the dedication of the new Bennington College Arts Center on Saturday, May 22, at noon. She will stay afterwards for the box lunch and a tour of the building. Participating with her will be two of her former dance instructors, Martha Graham and Martha Hill. Mrs. Ford will make brief remarks at the dedication particularly focusing on Martha Hill. The press contact is Richard Rothman who will be at Bennington after Monday or Tuesday. Governor Salmon's office has telephoned and offered to be of assistance. The contact in the Governor's office is Norman James, (802) 828-3333. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff  
Red Cavaney  
William Nicholson  
Max Friedersdorf  
Stephen McConahey  
Rex Scouten  
Staircase

April 20, 1976

*Press Contact:*

*all  
+ Richard Rothman  
O: (312) 346-6868  
H: (312) 664-0985  
in Chicago until  
May 1st at Ben*

Dear Ms. Porter,

I'm delighted that Mrs. Ford expects to attend the dedication ceremony of the Bennington College Arts Center, for which I enclose the preliminary invitation and tentative outline of events.

The focus of the whole celebration, of course, is the Saturday morning dedication ceremony. We do not plan lengthy speeches, but, instead, will give special tributes to individuals like Martha Hill, for whom the Dance Workshop is named. The Dedication Committee hopes that it will be suitable for Mrs. Ford to remark briefly about Martha Hill's role in the Bennington Summer School of the Dance and, perhaps, about the College's role in the modern dance movement. Martha Graham has a similar assignment. We can easily furnish any necessary details.

I look forward to speaking with you again and to meeting with the members of the White House staff who visit the College to help formulate final arrangements for Mrs. Ford's visit.

All of us at Bennington College are tremendously thrilled by our magnificent new Arts Center, and I assure you that it means a great deal to us to have the First Lady join in our dedication celebration.

Sincerely,

*Catherine Humpston*

Catherine H. Cumpston  
Dedication Coordinator

*16 (302) 442-5101*

CHC:mam

Enclosures:

1. Invitation
2. Tentative schedule

Ms. Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary for Mrs. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500



You are cordially invited  
to join the  
Bennington College Community  
at the formal opening of the  
Bennington College Arts Center  
Exhibits, performances, readings, symposia from  
May 20-23, 1976  
with a dedication ceremony on  
Saturday, May 22, at 11:00 a.m.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

Thursday, May 20

8:15 p.m. Drama Workshop	Talk by Francis Francis Fergusson - <u>Theatre in the Universi</u>
9:15 p.m. Drama Workshop	Multi Media Event. <u>Inquisition</u> by Gunnar Schonbeck and Leroy Logan
9:45 p.m. Barn Studio Theatre	Drama Division. Scenes from Acting and Directing Classes

Friday, May 21

10:00 a.m. Galleria	Prose Reading. Nicholas Delbanco John Gardner
Noon	Robertson Ward. Arts Center Tour
2:30 p.m. Galleria	Poetry Reading Ben Belitt Barbara Howes '37 Howard Nemerov Stephen Sandy
4:00 p.m. Tishman Auditorium	Robert Woodworth. Time lapse films of plant growth
5:00 p.m. Tishman Auditorium	Thomas P. Brockway. Slides: Bennington College Faculty, 1932-1976
8:15 p.m. Galleria	Stanley Edgar Hyman Memorial Lecture by Kenneth Burke. <u>Poetics, Rhetoric, and Dialectic</u>
9:30 p.m. Dance Workshop	Dance Division - Open Rehearsal. New works by Remy Charlip and Jack Moore

over.....

Saturday, May 22

11:00 a.m.

Music Workshop

Dedication Ceremony. Thomas P. Brockway, Marshall

12:30 p.m.

Reception and Tours

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Arts Center

Student Bazaar: Music, dance, mime, readings  
Concurrent events

4:30 p.m.

Usdan Gallery

Reception. Artists at Bennington, 1932-1976  
Faculty, Alumni, Students

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Music Workshop

Banquet. (Admission by advance reservation only.  
\$6.50 per person. Reservation deadline: May

8:15 p.m.

Performing Arts Lobby

Concert. Music Division  
Works by Brant, Calabro, Fine, Nowak

11:00 p.m.

Music Workshop

Concert. Black Music Division  
"THIS///is OUR Strategy,"  
by musician-composer Bill Dixon

Sunday, May 23

10:00 a.m.

Galleria

Colloquium. Education and the Arts  
Frederick H. Burkhardt, moderator

1976 MAY 7 PM 5 00

READINGS AND  
SYMPOSIA  
May 20 - 23

Participants, in addition to current faculty and students, include William Bales, Thomas P. Brockway, Kenneth Burke, Frederick H. Burkhardt, Martha Hill Davies, Francis Fergusson, Catharine Osgood Foster, Wallace Fowlie, Otto Luening, Howard Nemerov, Barbara Herrnstein Smith, and Robert Woodworth.

A complete schedule will be available in early May. Already planned are a review of the origins of the Arts Center on Thursday, the Stanley Edgar Hyman Memorial Lecture by Kenneth Burke on Friday evening, and a general discussion on Education and the Arts on Sunday morning.

PERFORMANCES  
May 20 - 23

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings the Drama, Dance, Music, and Black Music Divisions will present premieres, performances, and workshop laboratories. Special works have been choreographed for the occasion by Remy Charlip and Jack Moore. The world premiere of Vivian Fine's TEISHO for eight singers and string quartet will be held on Saturday.

*While the schedule has yet to be completed, the days will be full and colorful. A final program will be sent to everyone.*

There will be major exhibits of painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and photography by current and past faculty, students, and alumni.

**EXHIBITS**  
**May 20 - 23**

Faculty work will be in Usdan Gallery.

Reception - Saturday afternoon.

Student work will be shown throughout the Visual Arts Building.

Alumni work will be in Commons, Tishman, and the Barn.

Reception - Friday afternoon.

The Science Division plans exhibits of holography, topology, botanical illustration, natural history drawings, and gem minerals.

Ceremony and reception. Saturday at 11:00 a.m.

**DEDICATION OF THE  
ARTS CENTER**

A feast will be held on Saturday evening.  
(See reservation form.)

**BANQUET**

There will be a multi media event throughout the Arts Center.

**HAPPENING**

A series of commissions have been awarded in all disciplines to set off major events and enliven the occasion.

**NOOK AND CRANNY  
COMMISSIONS**

May 22 1976  
BENNINGTON  
COLLEGE

March 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JAMES CONNOR  
ARTHUR GUERN  
ROBERT GOLDWIN

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

Mrs. Ford has accepted an invitation to attend the dedication of the new arts center at Bennington College the weekend of May 21st. She attended Bennington (did not graduate) and it was here that she first studied under Martha Graham. As you know, the President of Bennington, Gail Thain Parker, and her husband have recently resigned from the presidency of the college with quite a lot of national publicity. My question is whether Mrs. Ford, in light of the internal confusion and publicity surrounding their resignations, should withdraw from the occasion. If she is going to regret, I think it should be done so immediately. May I have your comments?

Thank you.

ALL SAID  
"NO PROBLEM;  
GO AHEAD  
WITH IT."

November 21, 1975

Dear President Parker,

This is to confirm your letter confirming Mrs. Ford's confirmation that she is very much hoping to have the opportunity to be at Bennington College sometime during the weekend of May 21st for the dedication of the new arts center. Closer to the date, we will be in further communication about the details of the plans.

With warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Gail Thain Parker  
President  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

SP/sr

c: ✓ BF Accepted Pending (May 21, 1976, Vermont)

Bennington College

Bennington • Vermont 05201 • 502-342-5401

Office of the President

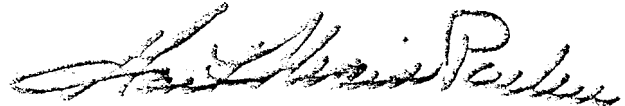
October 20, 1975

Ms. Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Ms. Porter,

This is to confirm that we are planning to dedicate and celebrate our new arts center on the weekend of May 21. Mrs. Ford's presence would naturally mean a great deal to us; in the meantime your good humor about my nagging has been much appreciated.

Cordially,



Gail Thain Parker  
President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford,

We have had some correspondence and I have had some phone conversations with Gail Parker, President of Bennington College. They would like to have you participate in the dedication of Bennington's new arts center in May. I think Martha Graham is going to be there too. Although I generally hate to encourage you to make a commitment this far ahead of time, given the swiftness with which things change around here, my feeling on this one, because it really is something you might want to do, would be to positively commit to attending if you think you are inclined to do it.

X Accept; hope to attend subject to official schedule at that time

       Regret

Thank you,

susan

*Call Gail Parker  
by phone 57 days  
accept. 5/10/75*



Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont 05201

Office of the President

August 28, 1975

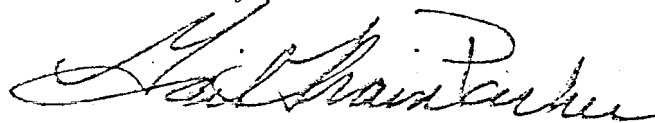
Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Ford,

We would very much like to have you join us to celebrate the opening of our new arts center next May. A three day festival is planned featuring the work of members of the Bennington College community--both past and present. May 14 - 16 or May 21 - 23 would be best for us, but we are so eager to have you open the doors, say a few dedicatory words, and join us in at least some of the festivities, that we would be more than willing to adjust our calendar to suit yours.

Your willingness to help celebrate the vitality of the arts at Bennington, indeed in the United States, would mean a great deal to all of us.

Cordially,



Gail Thain Parker  
President

hh

July 18, 1975

Bennington College  
100 West Street  
Bennington, VT 05201

Dear Mrs. Emmet,

How much I appreciated your lovely letter following our wonderful evening at the Martha Graham Center Gala in New York. I am delighted that Bennington too will have a new arts center as its quiet contribution to our nation's cultural heritage through the years has been so outstanding. You were most kind to write and I hope we will have the opportunity of being together in the fall.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard S. Emmet  
Board of Trustees  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

SP/sh

BF Pending to Consider (Bennington, Vermont, fall 1975)

June 22, 1975

Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Ford,

I was so moved to meet you at Martha Graham's gala on Thursday night and to find myself so suddenly and spontaneously sharing with you our special commitment to the arts. As I said to you it was such a very great privilege to be able to tell you personally how much I admire and appreciate what you are doing for the arts in this country. Neither you nor I actually "went" to Bennington but I know we were both educated by Bennington in ways that have deeply influenced our lives.

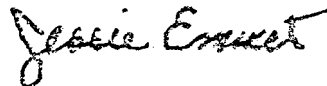
Bennington is about to open its superb new arts building. It is very nearly completed and everyone who has seen it is excited by its possibilities as an extraordinary center for creativity in all the arts. It will be used by students next fall but the formal dedication ceremonies will take place in late May. We are planning to celebrate by gathering together all the many outstanding artists who have been part of Bennington's proud history and we would be so honored if you could be our most special guest.

When the date is set and the program has a little more shape the president of the College, Gail Parker, will formally invite you and I do hope you will be able to accept.

This is really just a very personal fan letter to a wonderful First Lady. The grace you bring to your responsibilities is an inspiration to us all.

I wish I could make you a curtsy as beautiful as yours the other night.

Sincerely,



Jessie K. Emmet  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

hh

Bennington College • Bennington • Vermont • 05201 • (502) 442-6241

Office of the President

December 20, 1974

Ms. Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Susan Porter,

We were delighted to hear that there is a chance Mrs. Ford may be able to speak in the opening ceremonies for the Bennington College Visual and Performing Arts Center. We will be in touch with you next spring to see if something can be worked out. In conversation a few days ago Martha Graham felt there was a possibility that she might participate in the opening ceremonies herself. Of course nothing would please us more than having both Mrs. Ford and Miss Graham back at Bennington next fall.

Sincerely,

*Gail Thain Parker*  
Gail Thain Parker  
President

*Thomas D. Parker*  
Thomas D. Parker  
Vice-President

December 5, 1974

IV/12-15T-5/3 minutes

Dear President Parker and Vice President Parker,

Your gracious letter to Mrs. Ford inviting her to participate in the opening of the new arts center on the Bennington College Campus next October is greatly appreciated. Although the official schedule is planned only a few weeks in advance, we would be happy to keep your cordial invitation in mind. May we be in communication with you closer to the date?

With gratitude and warmest best wishes,

Sincerely,

Susan Foster  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford

X  
Mrs. Gail T. Parker, President  
X Mr. Thomas D. Parker, Vice President  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

SP/sr

X  
c: BF Pending To Consider (October, 1975)

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1974

SOCIAL FILES

- sought filed in Overseas Attachment #104

Bennington College • 100 North Main Street, Bennington, Vermont 05201

Office of the President  
October 15, 1974

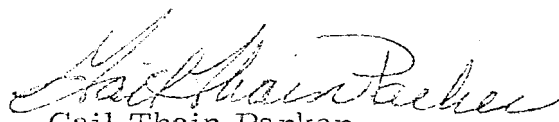
Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

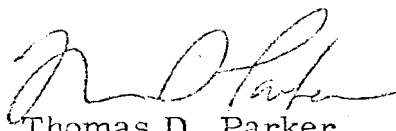
Dear Mrs. Ford,

Thank you for your very kind note.

Of course, we wish you speedy recovery from your surgery. We are also delighted that your memories of Bennington are so pleasant. Next October we will be opening a new arts center with facilities for dance, drama, music and the visual arts. Is there any chance that you might speak at the opening? It could be an opportunity for you to remind all of us with an interest in the arts that we have a friend in the White House. Please let us know your thoughts.

Sincerely,

  
Gail Thain Parker  
President

  
Thomas D. Parker  
Vice President

h

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1974

SOCIAL FILES