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WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
Schedule	Schedule for Mrs. Ford's visit to new York and Vermont on May 21-22, 1976. 6 pages. (2 copies)	5/21/1976	B

File Location:

Betty Ford White House Papers, Box 14, Folder: "5/22/1976 - Vermont"

SMD - 7/20/2018

RESTRICTION CODES

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Carolyn

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



Bennington College • Bennington • Vermont • 05201 • 802:442-5401

April 20, 1976

Press Contact:

at  
Richard Rathma  
O: (312) 346-6868  
H: (312) 664-0980

in Chicago until  
May 18th at Bens

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

11: (802) 442-5015

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 - Theatre in the University

9:15 p.m.  
Drama Workshop

Multi Media Event. Inquisition 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.  
Poetics, Rhetoric, and Dialectic

9:30 p.m.  
Dance Workshop

Dance Division - Open Rehearsal. New works by  
Remy Charlip and Jack Moore





Saturday, May 22

~~12:00~~  
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

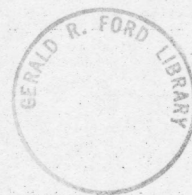
11:00 p.m.  
Music Workshop

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**

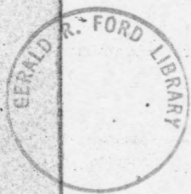
Participants, in addition to current faculty and students, include William Bales, Thomas P. Brockway, Kenneth Burke, Frederick H. Burkhardt, Martha Hill Davies, Francis Fergusson, Catharine Osgood Foster, Wallace Fowle, Otto Luening, Howard Nemerov, Barbara Herrnstein Smith, and Robert Woodworth.

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**



RECEIVED  
MAY 29ND  
BENNINGTON  
COLLEGE

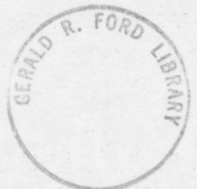
March 2, 1976

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,

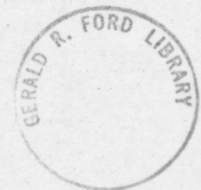
Sincerely,

Susan Porter  
Appointments Secretary  
for Mrs. Ford

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

SP/SL

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





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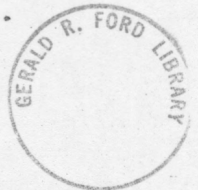
Office of the President

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gail Thain Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G".

Gail Thain Parker  
President

h

THE WHITE HOUSE

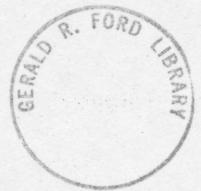
WASHINGTON

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

*all Gail Parker  
by phone 07 Sept  
accept.*

*SP 10/30/75*



82  
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X-126

Office of the President

August 28, 1975


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

Dear Mrs. Ford,

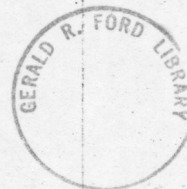
We would very much like to have you join us to celebrate the opening of our new arts center next May. A three day festival is planned featuring the work of members of the Bennington College community--both past and present. May 14 - 16 or May 21 - 23 would be best for us, but we are so eager to have 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

RETURN FILE  
TO FILES FOR  
NOW.

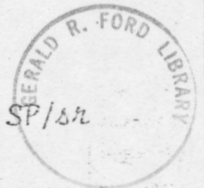
Dear Mrs. Emmet,

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



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.

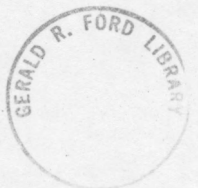
This is really just a very personal fan letter to a wonderful First Lady. The grace you bring to your responsibilities is an inspiration to us all.

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

Sincerely,

*Jessie Emmet*

Jessie K. Emmet  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



hh



12-23  
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Office of the President

December 20, 1974

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

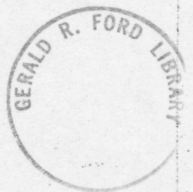
Dear Susan Porter,

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/1975/ST-45/Bennington

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,

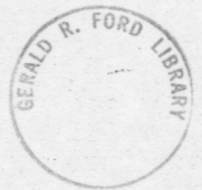
Sincerely,

Susan Porter  
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)



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DEC 8 1974

SOCIAL FILES

X  
Booklet filed in Oversize Attachment #104



Bennington College • Bennington • Vermont • 05201 • 802/442-5401

Office of the President

October 15, 1974

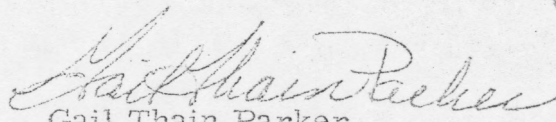
Mrs. Gerald Ford  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

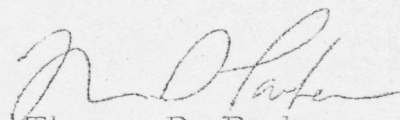
Dear Mrs. Ford,

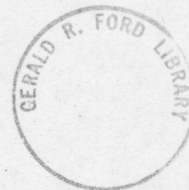
Thank you for your very kind note.

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



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RECEIVED

DEC 8 1974

SOCIAL FILES



MAY 22, 1976

1 p.m.

VAPA E-303

" emci "

by Mary Lyman and Suzanne Stern

musicians: Adam Fisher - soprano saxophone  
Larry Jacobs - electric guitar

"Triad and Temple Blocks"

by Jackie Kennedy

with Melody London, Trina Moore

music by Daniel Levitan

\* \* \* \* \*

*Given to Liz O'Neil*

Bennington College • Bennington • Vermont • 05201 • 802-442-5401

May 22, 1976

CLERK R. FORD  
LIBRARY

Dear Mrs. Ford,

Greetings! We hope your visit to Bennington College is pleasant for you.

On behalf of the Dance Majors here, we ask you to consider the position of Modern Dance in American society. We are concerned that the opportunity to work and perform in a supportive community such as this school, is an extremely rare opportunity, and that upon graduation we will be unable to continue our work, and unable to offer to the public the art we have been nurturing here.

As you know, it is almost impossible to support oneself as a dancer in this country. We strongly hope that through widening the public's awareness of Modern Dance, this will cease to be true. Our art form requires especially long hours of work on a regular basis, and is nearly impossible to pursue while holding a full-time job in an unrelated field. There exist a vicious circle which we believe could be broken at any point of this circle, quite easily, if we had government support.

Because dancers must devote their time and energy to finding other sources of income, they are prevented from presenting to the public their art, and the public remains unaware of the vast and exciting reaches of the realm of dance. The concerts that are available are usually very expensive, and the audience becomes narrowed to the fewer and fewer who can afford them. ( One successful program directed against this problem is New York City's TDF --Theater Dance Foundation-- Voucher system, enabling audiences to use coupons and purchase tickets at reduced rates. ) Those dancers who do manage to give performances must compete for the small audience of our society who is exposed to Modern Dance. The few widely-known performing companies must tour the country constantly in order to raise enough money to maintain their members year-round. What becomes virtually inconceivable is the beautiful ideal of being able to live and perform in the same community, establishing a communal understanding between artist and neighbor, and involving as many people as possible in the spiritual experience of expression.

In this, the year of our second centennial birthday, it seems crucial to direct our energy to the rejuvenation of our communal spirit. What more vital and inspiring activity than dancing, since the beginning of mankind the universal way of uniting and elevating spirits. In times of alienation, frustration and violent confusion, the need is obvious for a widespread involvement with a source of inspiration, and the means for establishing community centers where trust and cooperation can surround the whole process of exposing, expressing, and responding to each other's inner beings.

There are infinite possibilities of ways to begin to break the vicious circle: Modern Dance could be brought into elementary schools with the backing of the government. Funds could be made available for the renting or building of simple structures in which to gather for purposes of rehearsing, teaching, and performing in a community. With the use of videotape, communities could easily share across the country the nature of their work, exchanging information and inspiration, without needing to spend hard-to-come-by funds on travelling in person.

The repeated contact with a group of people is infinitely more valuable than the one-night-stand system, in which the experience of watching remains often little more than watching a movie. One possible model is the WPA support of artists across the country, in the hard times of a few decades ago.

Thank you for your time, and we hope you will have time to reply. We ask you for your concern because you have had experience with this art form, and express continued interest in its welfare.



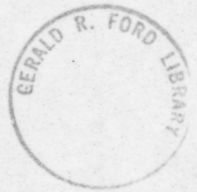
Sincerely yours,

Karen Christina Svane

Susanne R. Juni

Heidi Stone

Kathy & Williams



*Betty Ford was  
Elizabeth Bloomer  
at Bennington  
in '36, '37*

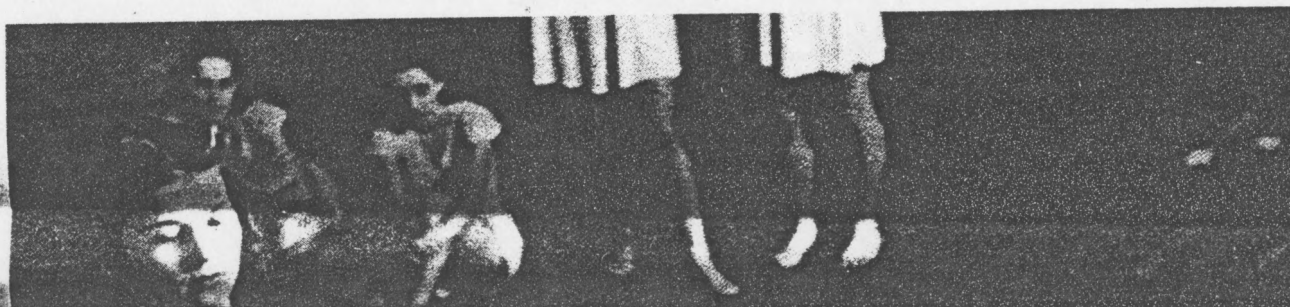


The Bennington College Summer School of the Dance, founded in 1932 by Martha Hill, placed modern dance squarely in the mainstream of American culture, bringing together students and leading artists in the field for workshops, performances, and comprehensive instruction in the art to a dedicated group of students.

One such student was Elizabeth A. Bloomer, then a dance instructor at the Calla Travis School of Dance in Grand Rapids, Mich. Her respect and love for the arts has not lessened since her days in the school's community of dancers, and in her present occupation she has greatly increased national recognition of — and interest in — the arts.

The nation's First Lady learned modern perspectives on choreography and performance under the guidance of Martha Hill, then a regular faculty member of Bennington College, and shared with her fellow students a respect and affection for the pioneering efforts of the school's faculty. A student in the summers of 1937 and '38, Betty Bloomer was encouraged to explore and build on contemporary points of view on choreography during the joyous beginnings of modern dance in America.

For the dedication celebration this year, Betty Bloomer Ford will return to honor and be honored by Bennington College. A special, private dance performance will also be given to salute her.







This photo, from a 1969 issue of *Quadrille*, the college periodical, was sent to the White House labeled "Martha Hill and student, 1937." The student turned out, to the college's surprise, to be Betty Bloomer Ford.

## **Martha Hill**

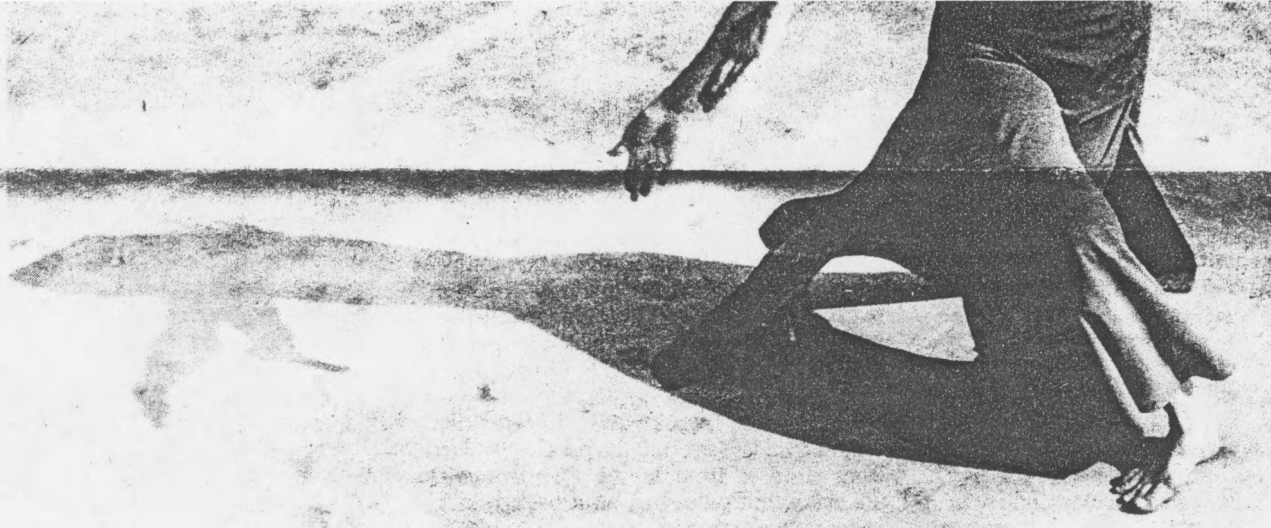
Martha Hill was born in Ohio and studied at Teachers College at Columbia and at the Dalcroze School for Eurythmics. She left a teaching position at New York University in 1932 to join the first faculty of Bennington College. As chairman of dance and choreography, she established America's first bachelor of arts degree program in modern dance. By establishing the Bennington College Summer School of the Dance in 1934, Miss Hill provided a summer base for such companies as those of Martha Graham, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey-Charles Weidman, and the Ballet Caravan, and thereby spread the message of modern dance as students from throughout the country came to Bennington each year.

Miss Hill remained the guiding spirit of dance at Bennington College until she left in 1951 to establish the dance division at Juilliard.

The Martha Hill Workshop in the Performing Arts Center is dedicated to the woman whose lifelong dedication and pioneer work at Bennington College have put modern dance on the American college campus. On leaving Bennington to establish and direct a dance department at Juilliard, Miss Hill wrote: "You must know what a wrench it is for me to leave. Quite truly Bennington College is the only place I have ever believed in completely, its educational plan, the faculty, the students and its accomplishments over the years."







Martha Hill

## **Francis Fergusson**

Francis Fergusson, widely recognized as one of the finest of American critics and a major influence on the development of modern drama here and throughout the world, studied literature and drama at Harvard and Oxford universities and began his teaching career at the New School for Social Research. He came to Bennington College in 1933 and remained for the next 15 years. He and his wife, Marion Fergusson, supervised a range of dramatic productions, both at the college and in town, that ran the gamut from Sophocles to French can-can, a gamut encompassed by their erudition and feeling that combined to be a sense of style.

In 1949 Fergusson became the director of Princeton Seminars in Literary Criticism and in 1953 began teaching at Rutgers University. He received — one of his many awards and honors — the Annual Award for Literature from the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1953.

Fergusson's published works — all still basic to university work in the fields of literature and drama — include "The Idea of a Theater," "Dante's Drama of the Mind," "The Human Image in Dramatic Literature," a translation of Sophocles' "Electra," "Introduction to Aristotle's 'Poetics,'" and innumerable critical essays and reviews.

## **John G. McCullough**

John G. McCullough, co-chairman with Catherine Cumpston of the Arts Center Dedication Committee, studied at Yale University and is a former trustee of Bennington College. He has served as the president of the Vermont Council of the Arts, the National Orchestral Association Board, Desoff Choirs, and the National Music League and Downtown Community School (NYC). He has served on the boards of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, Prospect School, the Bennington Museum, the Vermont Veterans' Home, the Southwest Community Arts Association of Bennington, and numerous other organizations devoted to the arts and public service. In these and dozens of other, less public roles, McCullough has contributed immeasurably to education and the arts in Bennington and Vermont.

Catherine "Cappy" Cumpston became alumnae director at Bennington College in 1967. She graduated from Radcliffe in 1946 and has been active in volunteer activities for that college. She served on the Westchester Committee for Sarah Lawrence in 1964-66. She has worked as a research analyst at Liberty Mutual Life Insurance, served as organizer for the Berkshire Nights at Tanglewood, and has involved herself in numerous other college and community activities.



O.K. - Put on sheets of paper - Large type  
- Use just

REVISED REMARKS, Bennington Arts Center Dedication, 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."

Top  
half  
of  
sheet.  
B7

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.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION



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, <sup>As</sup> 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.

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, theatre, 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."

# # #





HEMINGWAY ONCE WROTE:

I.

"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."



ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

I FEEL ABOUT BENNINGTON College

2.

THE WAY HEMINGWAY FELT ABOUT PARIS.

Much

~~SOME~~ OF THE INTENSITY, JOY AND EXCITEMENT

OF THOSE SUMMERS AT THE BENNINGTON ~~College~~<sup>^</sup> SCHOOL OF DANCE have  
STAYED WITH ME. through life —



WHEN I DROVE UP TO THE CAMPUS TODAY---

3.

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

4.

OUR MUSCLES WERE SO SORE

Some of us were going  
~~WE WENT~~ UP AND DOWN THE STAIRS

ON OUR BOTTOMS.

<sup>Thought,</sup>  
WE ~~BREATHED~~, WE ATE, WE SLEPT---

NOTHING BUT DANCE.

OH WHAT A GLORIOUS FEELING!



THE 30'S WERE SUCH AN EXCITING TIME FOR DANCE.

5.

MARTHA HILL DREW PEOPLE TO BENNINGTON,

WHICH PUT IT IN THE MIDDLE

OF THIS EXCITEMENT.

SHE ORCHESTRATED THE TALENTS AND TEMPERAMENTS,

*Studied And*

AND WE <sup>^</sup>LEARNED FROM MARTHA GRAHAM, DORIS HUMPHREY,

HANYA HOLM, CHARLES WEIDMAN, *Jose Limon,*  
*Anna Sokoloff*

AND OTHERS. *How can anyone ever*

*Forget Louis Horst and his great*  
*gift to the field of modern dance —*

*or his articulate criticism*

*of our prepared routines —*



WHEN I CAME IN 1936,

6.

I HAD BEEN STUDYING DANCE FOR TEN YEARS.

I ALREADY KNEW I WANTED TO BE A DANCER,

BUT BENNINGTON OPENED UP THE DOORS

FOR ~~THESE~~ <sup>Those much</sup> 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.

And it was through Bennington  
And Martha Hill we learned  
To focus our intense commitment.



DURING THOSE SUMMERS.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF A MAJOR IN DANCE AT BENNINGTON IN 1932

WERE VERY IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGHS. due to

Martha Hill joining the faculty  
At Bennington College -



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.





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 CONTRIBUTION TO DANCE.

FOR ALL, IT IS A DAY TO BE GLAD

ABOUT THIS MARVELOUS <sup>Compound -</sup> ~~ARTS CENTER~~.

"The New Visual And Performing Arts Center





BUT MORE THAN PERSONAL MEMORIES AND THANKS,

WE ARE HERE TO SHARE OUR FAITH

IN THE CREATIVE FORCES OF THE ARTS.

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FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER

"OUR LETTER TO THE WORLD."

# # #



For Immediate Release  
Friday, May 21, 1976

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

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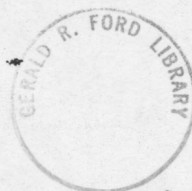
Mrs. Ford will speak at the dedication ceremony for the Bennington College Visual and Performing Arts Center Saturday, May 22.

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.

# # #



MRS. T. EDWARD HAMBLETON  
530 EAST 86TH STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028

May 28, 1976

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

Dear Mrs. Ford;

You have won a new group of passionate admirers. The entire Bennington College community sits at your feet! There is no way to thank you adequately for what you gave us by your presence at the Dedication of the Arts Center last Saturday. Your graciousness and your evident interest in what you saw were very much appreciated. I must especially thank you for your speech. It not only reaffirmed the importance of dance and the other arts at Bennington, but was supportive of the importance of the arts to the whole American community. It will be deeply appreciated by artists way beyond Bennington's rural Vermont campus.

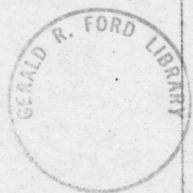
On behalf of the students, the faculty, the alumni and the trustees of Bennington College, I thank you.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Mrs. T. Edward Hambleton*

Mrs. T. Edward Hambleton  
Chairman  
Board of Trustees





June 22, 1976

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pappas,

It was such a pleasure meeting you and your delightful family on my recent trip to Bennington. I was particularly struck by each of your many thoughtful gestures -- the lovely bouquet of daisies from Vespo, the gorgeous plant in my room as well as the beverages which you provided. Please express my special gratitude also to your sons who so thoughtfully volunteered to drive in our motorcade. I just cannot thank you enough for all you did to make my visit such a pleasurable one.

How very much I enjoyed staying at the Paradise Restaurant and Motor Inn, and the suite you arranged for me was lovely. Our every needs and wants were tended to, and we were made to feel completely at home. Many, many thanks for thinking of me in this way, and I do hope I can come back for a longer visit in the future.

With appreciation and warm best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pappas  
355 Elm  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

cp

Enclosure: Autographed Photo # 22 My 76A9930-07A





*To the Peter Pappas Family  
With fond memories and warm best wishes,*

*Betty Ford*







To John  
With warm best wishes,

Betty Ford





To Despo  
With warm best wishes,

Betty Ford





To Jim  
With warm best wishes,

Betty Ford





To Philip  
With warm best wishes,

Betty Ford





FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Joseph Iseman  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

To Joseph S. Iseman  
With fond memories and very best wishes,

Betty Ford





FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. John McCullough  
North Bennington  
Bennington, Vermont 05257

To John G. McCullough  
With appreciation and warm best wishes,

Betty Ford

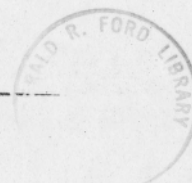






FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Peter Pappas  
355 Elm  
Bennington, Vermont 05201



To Peter Pappas  
With gratitude and very best wishes,

Betty Ford





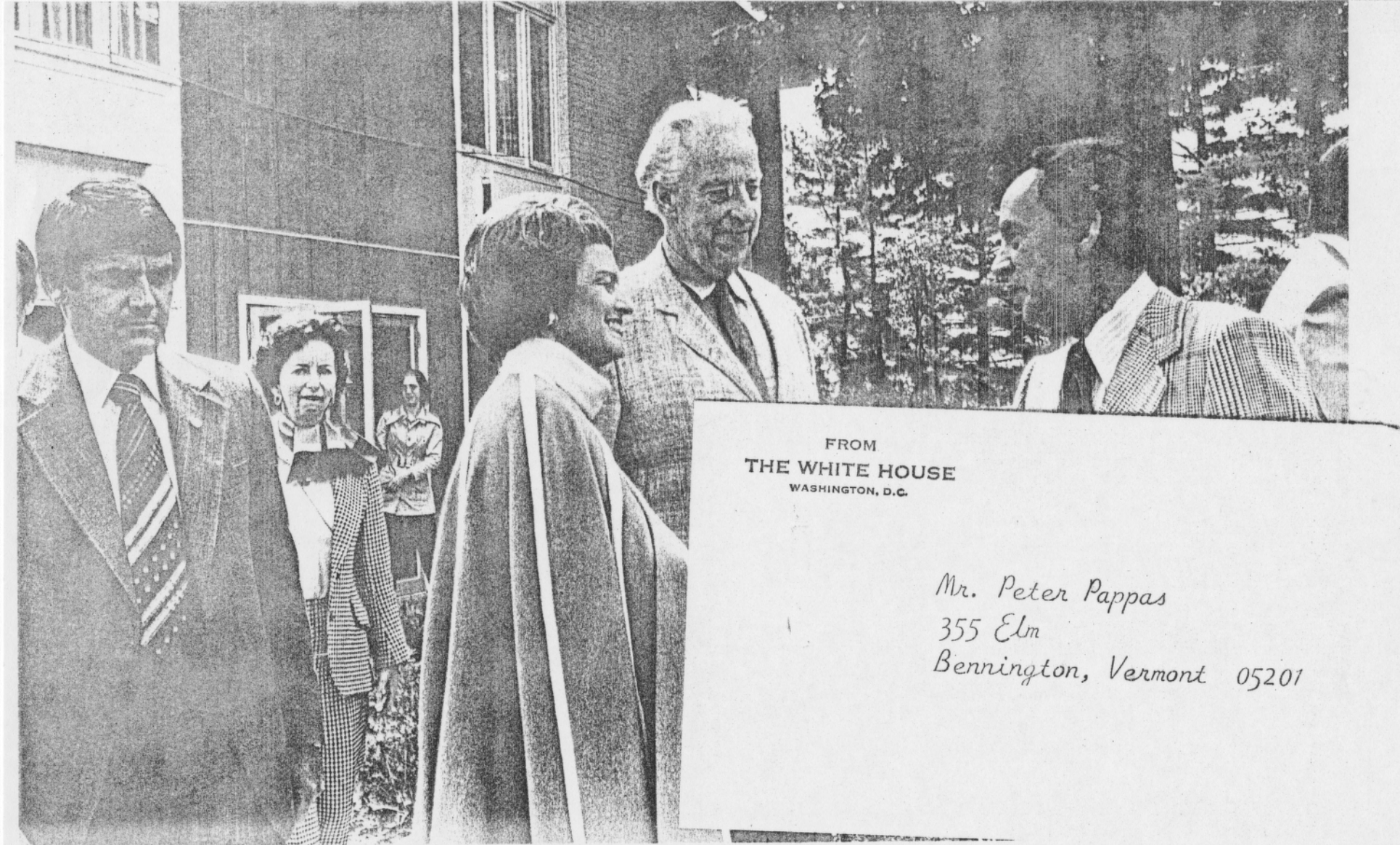
FROM  
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Mr. John McCullough  
North Bennington  
Bennington, Vermont 05257

To John G. McCullough  
With appreciation and warm best wishes,

Betty Ford

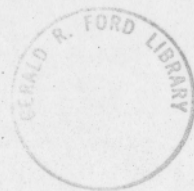




FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Peter Pappas  
355 Elm  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

To Peter Pappas  
With gratitude and very best wishes,



Betty Ford

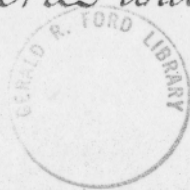




FROM  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. Joseph Iseman  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont 05201

To Joseph S. Iseman  
With fond memories and very best wishes,



Betty Ford



August 11, 1976

Dear Martha,

I wanted to share with you the attached photograph which comes with my deep admiration and affection always.

Fondly,

Mrs. Martha Hill Davies  
210 Columbia Heights  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

cp





To Martha Hill - "You haven't changed a bit"  
Affectionately  
Betty Ford