

My Life Experiences

Author of: *Trying to Remember Forced to Forget (My Father's Suicide.)* Published by Xlibris.

Interviewed about my book on a half hour live radio show on *Conversations with Cogee* on KLA V Radio in Las Vegas.

Lecturer at Columbia College to a class on Issues around Death and Dying.

SCDHEC (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) Plenary Speaker at the Violence Prevention and Data Dissemination Meeting sponsored by the Injury and Violence Division of the SC Coroners Association.

Guest speaker for radio interview (Cairo, Egypt) for Islamonline.net for the show Youth 4 the Future, titled, "Suicide: The One Way Ticket."

Served on the South Carolina Suicide Prevention Coalition Committee

Served on the SC Comprehensive Health Education Board Advisory Committee for Lexington & Richland Counties, School District 5.

Speaker at the SC School Social Worker Conference sharing my story of being a child survivor of my father's suicide and how it affected my public school education.

Featured speaker at the SC National Association for Social Workers Symposium in Myrtle Beach. Speech titled, *Trying to Remember Forced to Forget*.

Facilitator of the Survivor of Suicide (SOS) support group in Columbia, SC.

On-air guest, on radio station WVOC-AM, Columbia, SC promoting the "Out of the Darkness" Walk.

Committee member for the first American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Walk in Columbia, SC.

On-air guest, for two hours, at radio station WVOC-AM in Columbia, SC talking about my life as a survivor of my father's suicide and answering on-air phone calls.

Phone interview with Graduate Students majoring in Child Psychology at MUSC (Medical University of South Carolina) in Charleston, SC.

Member of the Publications Review Committee for the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) assigned to read and evaluate books for consideration to appear in their catalog and online bookstore.

The AAS is an organization of mental health and public health professionals, researchers, suicide prevention and crisis centers, school districts, crisis center volunteers & survivors of suicide. AAS promotes research, public awareness programs,

public education, and training for professionals and volunteers in addition, to serving as a national clearinghouse for information on suicide.

Contributing writer for the book, *Finding Your Way After the Suicide of Someone You Love*, published by Zondervan.

Contributing writer for *The Greatest Experiment Ever Performed on Women (Exploring the Estrogen Myth)* released by Hyperion Books.

Spoke at the Northshire Book Store, Manchester, VT, for a book signing for *The Greatest Experiment*.

TV appearance on C-Span2, talking about *The Greatest Experiment*.

Article on my life appeared in The Manchester Journal, Manchester, Vermont.
Provide information and answer emails about Surviving Suicide on my website suicidesurvivors.org

On the panel for the Authors Roundtable Discussion at the 35th Annual Conference of the American Association of Suicidology held in Bethesda, MD.

Interviewed live on TV and contributed a segment on Grief During the Holidays for News 12, Westchester County, NY.

Live interview for WVOX-AM Radio, New Rochelle, NY.

The quarterly issue of *Surviving Suicide* printed by The American Association of Suicidology excerpted paragraphs from my book.

The AAS Publications Review Committee read and approved my book stating it “has been determined to be of excellent quality, relevant to the field, and helpful to the reader.” It appears in their AAS catalog and their online bookstore at www.suicidology.org.

My life and book was the Cover Story in the Sunday Boston Globe Magazine Section.
Held an Author Conversation Hour at the American Association of Suicidology Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia speaking to psychiatrists, psychologists, crisis center workers, mental health professionals, and survivors of suicide.

Guest speaker at the Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital. Talk was titled, *A Child’s Perspective of Her Father’s Suicide*. I addressed parents, teachers and clinical/professionals, as part of the *Speaking of Kids Parenting Education Series* in Providence, Rhode Island. Bradley is the psychiatric institution I was committed to in 1950 after I found my father’s body hanging from a rope in our bathroom at the age of four.

WNBC’s Asa Aarons interviewed me for his Ask Asa segment that aired on the local news: “How to handle disturbing telemarketing calls.”

My article: “A Survivor’s Reflections” submitted at the 33rd Annual Conference of the

American Association of Suicidology, was published in their edition of *News Link*, their professional quarterly magazine.

Guest speaker at the Annual Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital Society Event given to thank their benefactors.

Speaker in Los Angeles at the annual conference of the American Association of Suicidology. My talk was titled: *Denial, Secrecy and Lies: My Aftermath of Suicide*.

Vanity Fair magazine published my experience of being institutionalized at Bradley quoting my relationship with celebrity's son, who was also a patient there.

My first-person account of a child in a psychiatric institution was published in *Lifelines* a newsletter for doctors and employees of *Lifespan* (a New England Hospital Corporation).

Art Editor obtaining artwork and clearing rights and permissions for, *For Women Only!*, co-authored by feminist Barbara Seaman and nutritionist Gary Null for Seven Stories Press. Book discusses the practice and politics of women's health.

I wrote a New York Times editorial, in 1994, on the inaccuracies in the movie *Quiz Show*. This led to my being interviewed and quoted in publications such as *Vanity Fair* magazine, *The Boston Globe* newspaper, *Advertising Age*, *SHOOT*, *US* magazine and *National Review* magazine as well as being asked by Emerson College to organize a conference on Ethics in the Media. My father-in-law was the sponsor of the controversial TV quiz show *Twenty-one* in the late 1950's and one of the people Robert Redford was attacking in his movie. I was motivated to defend the family name because I would not allow Redford to smear my daughters' legacy, given to them by their only grandfather, for the sake of a movie riddled with inaccuracies. REDFORD'S MOVIE MADE ME REALIZE THAT I WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO KEEP MY LIFE A SECRET FROM MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. MY SECRET WAS PLAYING HAVIC ON MY MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING.

Ethics in the Media conference at Emerson College in Boston. This addressed the inherent strains between Historical Accuracy versus Dramatic License in the Docudrama format with the movie *Quiz Show* as the case study for analysis. I brought together a panel including Fred Zollo (Executive Producer of *Quiz Show*, *Mississippi Burning*, *The Paper*, etc.) Rance Crain (President of Crain Communications, Inc., Editor-in-Chief of *Advertising Age*, *Crains New York Business*, etc.); Al Maysles (Documentary Director of *The Beatles: First U.S. Visit*, *Gimme Shelter*, *The Salesman*, *The Getty Museum*, *Gray Garden*, etc.); and Richard Goodwin (Presidential Historian to JFK and author of *Remembering America*.) A book bearing the title *The Ethics and Communication Conference* has since been published. At this conference I was an introductory speaker and panelist.

Spoke at support groups with people dealing with aging parents living with them, "sandwich generation", homecare vs. nursing home care and quality of life issues.

Worked at Reader's Digest, in NYC and Pleasantville, as an Associate Art Editor for the International Division and organized several workshop/training seminars for International Editors coming to NY as well as the Worldwide Editor-in-Chiefs Conference in Monaco. In these workshops I trained International Editors as to proper Digest format and procedures for using art. I also planned social events; weekend retreats and handled all press releases.

Was a Public Welfare Social Worker for the City of Boston.

Graduated Emerson College in Boston, MA with a BA in English Literature.