



Brenda Godwin at Proctor graduation with her brother, Mark Cangiano.  
Photo: Chuck Will

## Profile: Brenda Godwin

By Allison Jacob  
Proctor Academy Journalism Class

You can see Brenda Godwin around Proctor's campus rolling her briefcase to her classes and toting her loving golden Labrador to her history and digital imaging classes. Underneath her humorous and satirical facade there are many things that we just do not know about her.

In her college years, she attended the University of Wisconsin and studied history there, and later went on to Stanford and received her degree in law. She married her first husband, whom she met at Stanford, and while there she gave birth to their first child. While living in California, she adopted three children from San Mateo. Back then she noted there was only a \$25 fee for adoption through social services.

She spent ten years of marriage in California and then moved to Beirut, Lebanon, and married her second husband on the same day of her divorce from her first husband. Her second and current husband, Roger Godwin, worked for an Arabian consulting company. They have been married for 34 years. Together they adopted children from Thailand, Oklahoma, and three from Korea. All together, Brenda is the very proud mother of nine children.

They lived in Beirut for three years and then in London for three years. They moved to New Hampshire in the spring of 1980. Brenda started working for Proctor in 1988 and was a softball coach at Andover Elementary School.

Despite her world travel and international experiences, Brenda said one of the best moments of her life was when she had a beer with the famous baseball player Ted Williams when she was 19 years old in Milton, Massachusetts. She found him to be charming and was enthralled in his company.

Brenda loves having a home in New Hampshire, but if she were to have a home anywhere else in the world she said it would be in Edinburgh, Scotland. I asked her what was the greatest achievement in her life thus far. She said that raising her nine children has been the most difficult and rewarding challenge she has ever undertaken.

Since Allison wrote this article, Brenda's husband Roger has passed away. His obituary appears on page 38.

Among the many writing assignments Peter Southworth gave his journalism class at Proctor Academy last year was to write on a topic that would be of interest to readers of *The Andover Beacon*. The profiles of two Andover residents on this page came out of that assignment.

## Profile: Charlie Darling

By Caitlin Miller  
Proctor Academy Journalism Class

Many people in the town of Andover know Charlie Darling as the president and editor of *The Andover Beacon*.

During his childhood, Charlie lived in Connecticut and spent summers in Salisbury at Tucker Pond. He remembers as a child how much he loved spending time in Salisbury. "It was a very special place to me, so when we had the chance to move here full time it was great." Charlie has lived in New Hampshire for 12 years and currently lives in Cilleyville.

Charlie graduated from Vassar College in 1973 as an English major. After graduating, he got a job following one of his other great passions, computer programming, and spent most of his life working with computers.

At one point he ran a computer company down in Florida with his wife, Sharon. It was there that Charlie began his journalism career when he began writing for national computer publications. Charlie stated, "I really enjoyed writing for the computer publications, and after Sharon and I closed our business I continued writing for some of the publications. It was tremendously interesting." Unfortunately, Charlie lost his job working with the publications after the "dot com" crash in '01 and '02.

Afterwards he worked various small jobs until he received a call in '03 from one of the original founders of *The Andover Beacon*, Paul Fopiano, who said that Paul Fenton (another founder of the *Beacon*) and his group decided they would no longer be publishing the newspaper. "Paul Fopiano talked to me, and I got pretty intrigued and with a lot of help put together a board and a plan and put out the first issue of the current *Beacon* in October 2004."

As publisher of the *Beacon*, Charlie oversees much of what goes on with the *Beacon*. "I do editing, production work, I manage the layout of the pages, I work with volunteers. There's a lot that goes on."



Charlie Darling as Uncle Sam in the Fourth of July parade.

Courtesy: Kearsarge Magazine

Managing the *Beacon* in a typical month begins with dealing with corporate issues, attending a board of directors meeting, and figuring out budget issues.

In the second week he spends time thinking about content for the *Beacon*, finding important local issues which need to be covered, and gathering articles written by Andover organizations. He also collects articles and ideas from the local schools and government.

Charlie keeps a long detailed list on his computer called the "Article Scorecard" where he manages all the ideas that need to be assigned and written about. He has a team that manages the advertisements in the *Beacon* and looks for people interested in putting in ads.

In the third week of the month, Charlie begins sending articles out to be edited as well as receiving articles to begin putting the pages of the *Beacon* together. In the fourth week everything starts to gel. "That's when I'm working 60 or more hours a week getting all the details together."

Finally, at the end of the week he electronically sends the paper up to North Haverhill, New Hampshire, where the paper is printed. Some one then picks the paper up and brings back 2,000 printed copies to be distributed around the area, and Charlie says, "I can have a day to relax before starting the process all over again for next month's issue."

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