

.....Chelsea, Massachusetts to World War I hero Hyman Silverman and his wife, Jennie Gertrude Toltz. Bea was Norman Mailer's college sweetheart and first wife. He met her during his junior year at Harvard while she was a student at Boston University. They eloped in 1943, shortly before Mailer was drafted into the army during World War II.

WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER & MERGENCY SERVICE

Bea served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve as a lieutenant junior grade in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, or WAVES. She kept the numerous detailed letters Mailer wrote to her during the war, which he later used as his notes for writing The Naked and the Dead, the antiwar novel that launched him to literary fame. The couple had one child together, Susan "Susie" Mailer. They divorced in 1952.

EDUCATION

Bea earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Boston University in 1944, a diploma in French studies from the Sorbonne in Paris in 1948, and a doctor of medicine degree from the National Autonomous University in Mexico City in 1959.

CAREER

She interned at the state mental hospital in Mexico City, served as a psychiatric consultant at the tropical disease hospital in Mexico City, maintained a private practice in psychiatry in Daytona Beach, Florida for thirty years, and was the medical director of the guidance center there. In addition, Bea was a resident psychiatrist at the Mental Health Institute in Cherokee, Iowa, a senior psychiatrist at the military hospital in Mexico City, the resident psychiatrist for fifteen years at the Worcester State Hospital in Massachusetts, and assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Tufts University Medical School in Boston.

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JEWISH

CHELSEA

MUSEUM