

## Sara Jane Woodward

### June 9, 2006

Sadly, Sara Jane passed away just 9 days after our 45th reunion, which she had been unable to attend. Sara came to Mount Holyoke with a strong family legacy: her mother, '31, an aunt, '23 and a great aunt, Class of 1897! At the time of her death, she had just completed five years as our class treasurer.

Leaving MHC, after sophomore year, SJ attended the Boston University Theatre School, and eventually the Mercer Theological Seminary on Long Island. Always a talented soprano, she combined her passions into a way of life. Revolving around church activities, she was active in choirs, choruses and church liturgical productions. Toward the end of her life, she became a mentor to a much younger group - the Edgartown Readers - jr high students - whom she helped to see and understand the realities of human existence. And, oh yes, she was a brilliant cook and hostess!

Meg Moses Gat remembers: "A kaleidoscope of vitality! That was SJ - her body language, full of passion and energy; Glessie's; Lab Theater; Lawrence House; choir; her beautiful voice; thoughtful, interested, involved and caring. I missed her when she left after two years, but then, years later, we re-connected at MHC. She stayed with us. My children adored her. We met her wonderful husband Ralph. We adored him. We visited in Amityville, NH when they attended concerts and on Martha's Vineyard. They encouraged my ordination. God was the center of their lives, and they taught me about love and faith. The Class of '61 and MHC were part of the core of SJ's life and she never changed. Full of hope and vitality, she beckons to me yet: 'Don't wallow in regret - there is so much more to learn, experience and do! Let's get on with life, all together.' SJ, you'll always be a part of us - one way or another - I'm sure of that!"