

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

CLASS OF 1961

55th Reunion: 20 – 22 May 2016

D to I

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Dee de Ferranti Abrahamse

Another five years - really? Some days I don't feel at all different than I was in 2011, other days 76 is definitely older than 71. But I have a lot to be thankful for –

Family: Grandson Aakash now about to turn 3, Grand-daughter Genevieve now a creative and fun 9 year-old; sons Paul and Ben and families, living far from California in Boston and Michigan, but want to spend vacations with us; my husband Allan who keeps me together, and has infinite patience with my technological failings. We're both still healthy, living in the house we bought in Long Beach in 1969, and grateful for Skype and air miles that keep us together with our children. We all gather in Vermont in the summer, and this year at Christmas, too, with extended family,

Activities: I retired from my community choir, but sing in a Threshold Choir – a group of wonderful women who sing for hospice patients and others in need. I'm still a member of our Public Library Foundation Board, enjoying being a literacy advocate, and am on a local task force on ending Human Trafficking in our community. Still active in our Quaker meeting, but happy to not have a major responsibility this year. We're in a couple's book group, and go to plenty of music, But I also find myself greeting an empty day on my calendar with increasing enjoyment. Close friends have had health problems, so I cherish time with them.

Travel –a sibling trip with my brother and sister to South Africa, in part a roots trip to find the family of our paternal grandmother, who grew up in Durban. We found distant relatives, and learned a lot and had a wonderful time together.

MHC connections: We enjoy seeing Mary Lou Moore Bright, my Edinburgh room-mate, and her husband Graham every summer in Vermont, and are regulars at Carol Benson's plays. Had a nice visit with Olivia McKenna August in New York, and hope the northern New England summer lunches will resume again this year. Would love to see southern California classmates!

I'm looking forward to sharing conversation, books, music, reminiscences and fun with you all in May!

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Ted Loder wrote the following words which have meaning for me:

“[Spirit,]...
Help me to believe in beginnings,
to make a beginning,
to be a beginning,
so that I may not just grow old,
but grow new
each day of this wild, amazing life
you call me to live...”

My “mountain top” Experience



**Serving as Hospice Chaplain:
Serving out of Rutland, VT
January 2010 – December 2015**

Attending graduations And retirements



Officiating at weddings for family, friends.



Welcoming the new generation in my family



Traveling to Monterey, CA; Costa Rica



**I continue to volunteer at my church by offering
pastoral care especially to those unable to
attend worship or other church activities.**

**Although I no longer can drive due to vision
problems, I can walk and swim, and “play in the
dirt” in my garden! Life is rich! I’m fortunate!**

Cindy Dennett Yee

MY ABC'S
Sharing, Caring, Letting Go & Letting Be

Introduction – each of us can touch the future in many different ways. One of the ways that I have chosen is to write this book of My ABC's. Some people call this an ethical will, I choose to call it the values I have tried to embrace during my lifetime. I'm not sure if I have told you all that I feel is important, but I have tried to live what I feel is important. Here are some of those values.

A – accountability, attitude, acceptance (+ & -), authenticity, age, advice, assumptions

B – balance, being (& doing), breathing

C – caring (adds compassion and action to our loving), confidence, commitment, courage, courteous, community minded, curiosity, change, carpe diem, crossroads, change is the one constant, children, “to live content”

D – daring, doing, dreams, discovery

E – enthusiasm, excellence, enjoy, encouragement, enough

F – faith, fair, friendship, fun, family

G – genuine, gifts, growth, God, gratitude, grace, grandmotherhood, grown-up, grief

H – hope, honesty, humane, happiness, health & healing, honor, humor, haiku, hunch, hugs

I – independence, imagination, inner life, intimacy

J - joy

K - kindness

L- life, love, loyal, listen, laughter, let go, loss, learnings

M – mystery of life, mistakes(opportunities to learn), marriage, mindfulness

N – nature, Nancy (1980 poem), ABC personal history

O – open minded, opposites

P – principled, punctual, perspective, passion, patience, parenthood, prayer, pain, pleasure, proverbs

Q - quiet

R – respect, reliable, recognition, risk, relationship

S – socially aware and socially responsive, self-respect, solitude, self-awareness (foundation of my life so as to better understand others), service, soulful, success, suffering, surviving, season

T – thoughtful, trust, time, truths, thankful

U - understanding

V – values, virtues, vices

W – wisdom, work, “all is within not without”, wealth

X – the unknown factor

Y – yen, you

Z – zest

Most of all I have tried to have a peaceful spirit and a joyful heart

The biggest change from our 50th in 2011 is to becoming a cancer survivor after a diagnosis of an aggressive form of breast cancer in 2013. I wept while watching the segment on the development of Herceptin in the Ken Burns documentary, *The Emperor of All Maladies*. That's the wonder drug that saved my life, thanks to the many brave, dedicated men and women who made it happen, and this drug is only about 20 years old. The support of so many, definitely including classmates, was humbling and gratifying. Yes, this wake up call meant that I traveled a lot in 2014! Practicing Tai Chi and yoga, being active, loving my book groups, volunteering, and teaching English to non-native speakers are what give me joy and gratitude.



The picture on the left is on the Kepler Track in New Zealand, a fantastic trip this January. On the right are children David (Portland ME), Julia (Charlotte NC), Bo (Albany, NH). Only two grandchildren, and they are down in Charlotte.

Best wishes to all,
Barbara Freeman Douglass

MARY GINN WEINLAND
TOP TEN OF MY LIFE (so far!)

10. Being the daughter of two wonderfully supportive parents.
9. Graduating with the first class of “uncommon women” and maintaining a connection ever since.
8. Receiving a PhD from the University of Connecticut while coping with three teen-aged boys.
7. Experiencing every continent except Antarctica with children, grandchildren, and/or dear friends.
6. Having the chance to give back to the non-profit community after working in education for many years.
5. Travelling to the Transkei region of the Eastern Cape on a curriculum evaluation trip with ten inspiring African women who had all lived through apartheid. I’ll never forget the singing that greeted us at each rural school.
4. Being of sound enough mind and body to continue to experience the complexity and wonder present in the world.
3. Having two lovely daughters-in-law who occasionally kidnap me for a girls’ afternoon out.
2. Bearing three wonderful sons who have given me much joy and seven unbelievable grandchildren including two girls finally (see pictures).
1. And number one! Marrying my best friend Tim, husband of 49 years, who remains the love of my live.



Just a few words on what's been happening in my life. I am of course still in Australia. I do not regret deciding to come here, rather than Ian going to the US when we married. I love it here.

Despite a lousy heart, which precludes travel to the USA, Ian and I continue our archaeological work at Ancient Corinth, spending October and much of November there. I have had two books published in the last 5 years, one co-authored with Ian, the other with a close colleague. I am particularly involved with the excavations of the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore at Corinth.

After retirement in 2002, I enrolled in an MDiv, deciding it was about time to explore theology. I found it fascinating. I am active in my parish of St Peter's in Melbourne, and do a bit of pastoral volunteer work. The heart condition limits me, as I cannot drive any more.

I am sorry not to attend the reunion, but as I cannot get travel insurance to cover a pre-existing condition, I dare not go to the US – if anything happened, we'd be bankrupt! The situation in Greece is all right, as we have good and relatively inexpensive medical facilities in Athens.

If any of you should be in Greece in October or early November, come see us in Ancient Corinth. Ask at the museum for Kyria Betsy. They'll find me!

Betsy Gummey Pemberton (also known as Elizabeth McPhee!)

Susannah Harris-Wilson

Although I was briefly with family in San Francisco during May 2011, I had not planned to attend our 50th because of work at home. On the Saturday of our reunion, I was preparing to fly back to Oxford when I received a phone call informing me that my husband had died suddenly, unexpectedly, of a heart attack at his friends' place in New Mexico where he had flown the day before. We had had two weeks together in California with family members. Jay was to return to the UK after visiting Albuquerque and then family further East.

Becoming so suddenly a widow has been the most difficult challenge of my life. But it has also been a rich seam of growth, understanding, love – an entirely different sort of education from what we learn in college. However, so much of the dealing with this has been an enlargement precisely because of the literature which has informed my life ever since Bottkel, Reid, Kaufman, Sudrann firmly established literary imagination as a sure source of healing.

I have no children; however, old students from Lahore have become wonderful friends. For Jay's funeral, my *de facto* "god daughter", Roshaneh Zafar, immediately dropped everything (she is CEO of a successful NGO in Pakistan –KASHF foundation) and flew to Oxford. Another more recent student is now doing graduate work at Cambridge, and it is lovely to relive university preoccupations with her. Others have brought children and grandchildren to Oxford and often stay as houseguests. Every day I am thankful to have been a teacher - in three different countries over four decades. The rewards of that career never cease to present themselves.

The other interwoven event of 2011-2012 was the creating of a team of actors from Lahore to present two performances of *The Taming of the Shrew* in Urdu at London's Globe Theatre. This was for their *Olympiad* of Shakespeare plays – 37 plays, each presented by a different country in the language of that country. Travelling back and forth to Lahore I worked there for a total of about three months. The obstacles, the tensions, the impossible finances, the difficult personal relationships - all these were a double challenge to overcome given my own shattered circumstances. I plan to return to Lahore in 2017 to help the young woman studying at Cambridge with a theatre project there.

Life in Oxford continues to be kind: I have a lovely garden, which requires rather more attention than I give to it; I belong to a small adult ballet class ("beginners" forever!), a swimming pool facility, and a book group. I love occasional days in London, church activities and meeting friends. I invigilate (that means "Proctor") the University's exams in their special and impressive Exams School, am a Reader in The Bodleian Library and catch wonderful films and live transmissions of international and British plays, operas, ballets at Oxford's delightful little Phoenix arts cinema. Once a year if I do not travel to Lahore to avoid the grim winter weather, I spend two or three weeks at a little studio Jay and I bought on a time share plan in Madeira. This allows swimming in the sea in January/February, which is heaven. I go alone, but have made friends with whom I now see in the UK as well as in those weeks in Portugal.



Christina Hollister Hila

Here are my 2 Cent(ence)s!

Last month I found this on a birthday card. "DON'T THINK OF US AS GETTING OLDER....THINK OF US AS FLOWER CHILDREN GONE TO SEED." Right on! But..I would add PLANTING THOSE SEEDS IS what has kept me going to the point of obsession for the last 12 years. As my two grandchildren blossom I know my interests, my ideas, my loves will be made perennial.

This year, thanks to a nudge from a MHC61 classmate, a new "old friend" has come back to my garden of life. Now we are "grafting" together pieces of our complex and full lives to share some memories, travels, thoughts debates and hopes as we continue down the path of this amazing life.

Of course it is not all roses at this age but I try to pluck the weeds before they grow too thick. I am thoroughly enjoying these years.

Any MHC61er coming through Binghamton, NY please call 843-303.2723 and stop for a visit.

Liz Hottel Barrett

My favorite things (not in order):

Fruit trees: jams, jellies and pie fillings

Gardening: veggies and flowers

Golf and duplicate bridge

Singing and performing

Pottery on the wheel

Enjoying the pool

Minions

Family

Birds

Art

Nana-painted college rocks



Kendall, stroke, furthest left



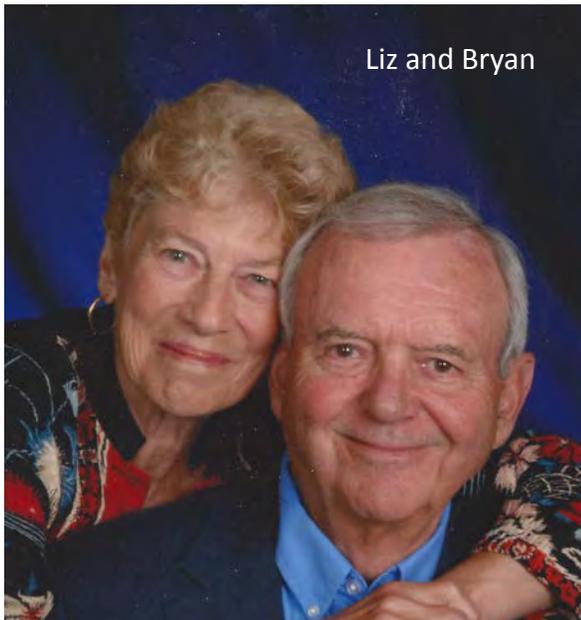
607 Monterey Ave
Annapolis, MD



Scott, Maddie, Abby, and Kendall



our peaches and
grapes



Liz and Bryan



Joel, John, and Tucker



Bambi and Abby

I am now Liz Webfoot, our webmistress. Google "1961 Mount Holyoke," and enjoy!



Hugo, Max and granddad

Liz

My Family

- Scott (available, Philly)
- Kendall ('16 Yale, Env. Eng)
- Maddie ('18 Syracuse)
- Abby ('20 Radnor High)
- John (m Joel) & Bambi (ex)
- Tucker ('18 Hopkins, CS)
- Bryan
- Claire (available, Melbourne)
- Georgina (m Simon), Paris
- Max '17 & Hugo '19 (Sèvre)



Claire, Bryan and Georgina

SANDRA KOHLER (SANDRA IGER) - MRS. WALTER G. HAGENBUCH
STILL JOYFULLY MARRIED, STILL WRITING POEMS, STILL LIVING IN A MULTI-
GENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLD WITH ITS DELIGHTS AND COMPLICATIONS, STILL
ENJOYING FRIENDS, TRAVEL, BOOKS, GARDEN, STILL TRYING TO ADAPT TO THE
CONSTANCY OF CHANGE.



BIRTHDAY DIP, BOSTON HARBOR, 2015

FRUIT
I WAKE FEELING I NEED TO CHANGE MY LIFE.
HOW?
YOU KNOW, THE WALLS KNOW, THE YELLOW
PAGES
KNOW. THEY WON'T TELL. IT'S COLD IT'S DIM
IT'S
QUIET. THE WITHHELD LIGHT IS GREY-WHITE,
MUTED.
I WANT TO EXPLORE BACH'S MUSIC. WHY?
BECAUSE
IT'S THERE. IS BACH THE SWITZERLAND OF
MUSIC?
VAST COLD ALPINE SLOPES I FIND HARD TO
WONDER AT?
I DON'T KNOW. HERE AND NOW, IN THE
LOWLANDS,
LIFE IS CALLING, MY DOGS, MY HOUNDS, MY
HUNT.
TRIBAL. THAT'S THE NAME I COULDN'T
REMEMBER
LAST NIGHT: MANUFACTURER OF MY
FAVORITE BLACK
SLACKS: WHAT CAME INSTEAD WAS TROPIC,
TABOO,
SAFARI. NO, TRIBAL. I DRINK MY COFFEE TOO
QUICKLY

AND IT'S GONE. I WANT TO START THE DAY
OVER FROM
LAST NIGHT. THE MIDNIGHT HOUR, WHEN I
DRANK

THAT EXTRA GLASS OF WINE AFTER MY
FRIEND TOLD ME
ABOUT HER MOTHER'S DRINKING, HER PAIN.
SLEEPING
I DREAM A GARDEN WHERE ALL THE FLOWERS
HAVE BEEN
REPLACED BY THORNY WOODY BUSHES
BEARING BERRIES
-RASPBERRY, BLACKBERRY, ONE OTHER KIND
I DON'T
KNOW BUT WANT TO KEEP MY GRANDCHILD
FROM
EATING. STRANGE FRUIT. EVERYTHING I
LEARN SEEMS
A LITTLE LATE. RAISING A CHILD THAT WAS
ALWAYS TRUE
-A GRANDCHILD? WHEN I THINK OF WHAT
WISDOM
I CAN GIVE HER, I SHUT DOWN, MUTED. ALL I
CAN
OFFER IS WHAT SHE'LL ASK FOR, AND THAT
MAY BE

NOTHING. THE CLOCK STRIKING THE HOUR
BELONGED
TO MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WHO GAVE ME
MUCH BY
SAYING LITTLE. IT REMINDS ME THAT I NEED
ANOTHER

CUP OF COFFEE, ALONG WITH A NEW
ANSWER TO
THE OLDEST QUESTION: HOW TO CHANGE
MY LIFE.



KATIE AND SAM, OUR GRANDCHILDREN, FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, SEPTEMBER,
2014