

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

CLASS OF 1961

55th Reunion: 20 – 22 May 2016

P to W

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Perinchief Welke, Judy
Pogue Krock, Susan
Quick, Lois
Schlosberg Kass, Joan
Small, Myra
Smith Mann, Dottie
Strong Moore, Marian
Svihovec Hewitt, San
Sweeney Benson, Carol
Tipping O'Neil, Mary Ann
Welles Urner, Sherry
Wheatley Carr, Sue
Whittlesey, Shirley

Judy Perinchief Welke

Words That Have Meaning for Me:

Severe depression, shock treatment, Stockbridge, Mass., twin sister, Kay Perinchief Gartner, ADD, hearing aides, crowns, memorial service in

Bermuda for Aunt Bobbie Gorham, back operation, New PCP after fifty years, bought one story house in Fremont, N.H. near daughter, Andrea, and family, widowed

April 6, 2015, cats, Elizabeth and Ram 1, baptized a Methodist, went to the congregational church, confirmed an Episcopalian. married a Lutheran, married a

Unitarian studying Buddhism, full cycle go to the Methodist Church in Fremont, joined the choir.

Thomas Gardner Allen

Dementia, memory unit, fluent speaker of Spanish, raised a pet black bear cub, White mice in his shirt at college, monkey in Guatemala, diplomat in South America for 9

years, 11 years in India, Lecture on the Space Program with moon rock, 2 years in Iran, 75 Reunion at Harvard, broke half hip at 98, gentle affectionate, intelligent,

character, believed women were equals, almost 12 years of marriage, died at 101 and almost a half.

Looking forward to 55th Reunion!!!

Judy

Susan Pogue Krock

My life has been full of surprises for the last 55 years and never more so than now. I originally planned to complete graduate school and teach English literature. Instead I worked in business for 45 years and thoroughly enjoyed it. I didn't want children but now have five stepchildren and nine step-grandchildren whose company I also enjoy. When I was in my late teens I dated a man whom I cared for a great deal, but we went separate ways because we didn't want the same kind of life (career and big city for me; children and small city for him). But after both first spouses died, we reconnected and have been very happily married for ten years, dividing our time between Champaign, IL, and San Francisco. Now the surprises are of a different nature. Where did that pain come from? How can it hurt so much when I've never felt that before? What happened to my stamina?

But this stage of life is actually very good. To emphasize the past five years, though, my and our focus has been on connections with friends and family. Nothing seems more important. I'm truly grateful to have friendships dating back to first grade and my Mount Holyoke connections are among those I value most. And family has taken on a new importance as there are fewer remaining members.

Curtis and I enjoy life and enjoy reasonably good health (what more can one hope for at this stage), but energy is diminishing as is the desire for constant activity. We've reduced our volunteer work and our travels are not quite so ambitious but we continue to enjoy courses, travel, lots of concerts, daily walks and other exercise, spending the long Illinois winter in San Francisco (where I lived for 40+ years before our marriage) and, of course, seeing friends and family.

Four years ago I took up the clarinet after a hiatus of almost 60 years when I played in my junior high band. I don't expect to get good but I enjoy practicing and enjoy my lessons. And given that Curtis has played the violin since childhood, I hope one day we may make music—beautiful or otherwise—together.

LOIS QUICK
255 LOS CERROS AVENUE
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598
925-938-5415
lequick@astound.net

GREETINGS '61 CLASSMATES!

HAVE YOU NOTICED, WHEN OPENING THE ALUMNAE MAGAZINE, HOW CLOSE WE ARE NOW GETTING TO THE FRONT OF THE BOOK – SCARY!

I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO REPORT IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, OTHER THAN MY KNEES AND FEET HURT MOST OF THE TIME, I'M GETTING SLOWER EXCEPT WHEN DRIVING, AND I'M SURE NOT GETTING ANY WISER.

I STILL LOVE LIVING IN CALIFORNIA, EVEN WITH OUR DROUGHT, AND CONTINUE TO BECOME MORE LIBERAL AS I AGE – UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO THE DIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE I'VE LIVED AND WORKED WITH OVER THE YEARS. I FIND THE CURRENT POLITICAL TURMOIL AND HATEFUL ATTITUDES EXPRESSED BY SO MANY OF OUR "LEADERS" ABSOLUTELY APPALLING. ONE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT COMMON SENSE AND HUMAN KINDNESS WILL PREVAIL IN THE LONG RUN. IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL CONTINUE TO READ, WATCH PBS, VOLUNTEER AT MY CHURCH, AND CHEER FOR THE WARRIORS AND STEPH CURRY.

IF ANY OF YOU ARE PLANNING TO VISIT THE BAY AREA, PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL SO WE CAN GET TOGETHER – I WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!

LOIS

These last five years, since our 50th, as for so many of us, has been a period of transition. My husband, Steve and I, are both now working part-time. I continue to work with future teachers at the Pace University School of Education and Steve continues to head the Environmental Practice group of his law firm, where he has been very involved in climate change issues.

Our four children and their families live all over the country, in White Plains, New York, Ann Arbor, Michigan, San Francisco, California and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. We do move around quite a bit. Now that our grandchildren are growing up, it is exciting to learn about their interests and see the various directions in which they are moving.

We have been fortunate to do some interesting traveling during this period, to Turkey, Morocco, and Cuba. We were in Cuba last year just before President Obama announced he would be opening up relations with Cuba. We are also very grateful to both be in good health and have lots of energy. As I am sure many of you are also experiencing during this time, we have lost some dear friends and have other friends facing serious challenges.

We are very concerned about global issues, as well as issues in our own country involving social inequality, climate change, gun violence, and education. We are following the vagaries of the current primaries and hope that the country will be able to come together and move forward, and maybe we will have our first woman president.

I am very much looking forward to the reunion. Mount Holyoke is and has always been a very special place for me.

Joan Schlosberg Kass

Class of 1961, 55th reunion update Myra Small

How to describe the past five years? The old world outside crumbles: dictatorships have been replaced by chaos in the Arab Spring, two wars destroying Gaza have solved nothing, five years of fighting just to the north in Syria have destroyed a country and its citizens and this is now a problem for all of Europe, while the Islamic State threatens us all.

BUT there have been many moments of sanity, although very few have been recorded.

Cherubini Requiem performed in Jerusalem with our wonderful Siberian conductor

<https://youtu.be/rG9Ry3EbFrM>

The famous chorus from Nabucco performed after we memorized the complete opera twice but twice there was no budget <https://youtu.be/V5Esk22hqxY>

Lawrence Siegel's holocaust memorial <https://youtu.be/Z7G0PxUYQGw>

continued as <https://youtu.be/B5Pw7moQusM>

Leonard Bernstein's Kaddish (learned in 10 days) <https://youtu.be/FR6TnCuUX0A?t=6>

Benjamin Britten's chilling War Requiem <https://youtu.be/N3NTkETdnUs?t=1871>

(these 3 with the outstanding Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra)

And the joy of participating in a Haifa Symphony production of La Traviata

<https://www.facebook.com/myra.small.1/videos/vb.1093599403/10207766954067177/?type=2> and

<https://www.facebook.com/myra.small.1/videos/vb.1093599403/10207767098470787/?type=2>

Thoughts after a lecture on music and the brain

IF we are governed by emotions rather than rational thought processes

AND music can influence emotions

AND by mirror image neuronal activity we can pipe in frequencies to trigger moods

MAYBE music can overcome conflicts when arguments don't

Dottie Smith Mann

When I think about what my life looks like now, I picture a gemstone. Maybe an emerald, like the one E.D. gave me when we lived in Columbia. Many faceted, balancing light and dark, beautiful but occasionally brooding. Here are some of the facets:

He is gone four years now, my husband of 50 years. E.D. and I partnered thru children, corporate moves, job losses, opera and plays, special dinners, laughter and tears with friends and family, finally illness and death. The hole at my center hurts less, memories are easier now.

I created a new home shortly after his death, close to two sons and families, which totally meets my needs. It has been fun to fill it with reminders of the places we visited, to make it bright with Florida flowers and color, to welcome friends and family to it. All my classmates are invited to share it with me.

Just don't look for me here in the summer months! I will be in a tiny apartment in Rockport June 25-July 23, in New York in June, in North Carolina and Michigan later in the summer... any place but Florida!

My Unitarian-Universalist congregation provides a warm place to sing, learn, grow... and also to introduce my 7 year old granddaughter Evelyn to Religious Exploration full of love and laughter and song. While I sing in the choir, she follows along, reads the music, sings in a sweet little girl voice. Parents have no qualms about UU point of view, just don't wish to spend their Sunday mornings that way; they are happy to have that be Nana and Evie time.

Opera Tampa is really very good, this is my second year as a series ticket holder. *Così fan Tutte*, *La Traviata* and *Don Giovanni* this year. And I love the Met simulcasts.

A book group I joined last year is fascinating for the distinct and wildly different personalities of its members.

I am so looking forward to being at reunion this year. Missed the last one right plunk in the middle of E.D.'s illness. I am so proud of the college I went to and what it continues to evolve into.

The last five years have seen major changes in my life.

In 2013 John and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our daughter and son, their spouses and our 3 granddaughters. We were able to be together for a long weekend and had a wonderful time. We feel very fortunate to have these special girls in our lives. One of them was born with a cleft lip and her sister, with a cleft lip and palate. After several surgeries, they are beautiful little girls at ages 7 and 11. Although, more surgery is in their future, they do not seem to be bothered. Last June we took our other granddaughter (age 12) to a dude ranch in the Grand Tetons. It was a trip of a lifetime for all of us and a wonderful bonding experience.

Eighteen months ago, John and I moved into a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community). I use the specific title because it is a designation meaning a life time contract. We will be cared for no matter what circumstances may occur. I find this to have been an excellent decision. While the downsizing is at best, "annoying" and at worst, "heartbreaking" I am reminded of the many quotes such as "you can't take it with you" and "they are only things." What is meaningful are the memories of which the things are merely symbols.

While I am enjoying making new friends, there is something about our MHC friends that cannot be duplicated. I look forward to seeing you at Reunion 55! Marian Strong Moore



The time between our 50th Reunion and now seems to have flown.

We sold our Fifth Avenue coop in NYC and added a second floor to our house in Mattapoisett, MA and bought the adjacent lots and house. So we have down-sized to 2 homes--Mattapoisett and Longboat Key, FL. Our work "in progress" will be to fix up the adjacent property for rental. This land has 2 lots and goes down to Buzzards Bay. We have already had several inquiries--a very desirable location because it is on a dead-end street that goes to the water.

We spend February, March and April in Longboat Key and the rest of the year in Mattapoisett--sprinkle in a few trips and there you have it!

I have just finished 2 three year terms as a Trustee of Friends Academy in Dartmouth, Ma. I am still on their Advancement Committee. Currently I am on the Board of Directors of the New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks and tennis chair at the Bay Club.

Bill keeps his "legal wits" sharp by being on the LLC Board at the Bay Club. He is also on the Board of Trustees for the Rotch-Jones-Duff Museum in New Bedford.

My niece, Tatum, is now a sophomore at Wesleyan. She is on the varsity squash team and is an honors student. Her double major is psychology/classics. She is a great joy in our lives and "keeps us young"!

Usually see Bette and Dick Peterson at least once a year. Their second home is very near us in Mattapoisett.

Will e-mail you separately several photos taken through recent years---some marking special occasions and some just for fun.

See you in May.

San

Carol Sweeney Benson

Here are some photos of several roles I've played in the last five years, most of which have been at QuarryWorks Theatre (quarryworks.org) in Adamant Vermont. First, I'm at my kitchen counter wearing a tee shirt from "Smokey Joe's Cafe." With me is Lambo, my non-speaking co-star in the original one-act "Open Me Last." Next, Professor Moriarty in "Baker Street" a 1961 musical about Sherlock Holmes. I'm atop the white cliffs of Dover (a more convenient substitute for the Reichenbach Falls) confronting Sherlock with a genuine Victorian era pistol.

Then, Mrs. Watts and the Sheriff in Horton Foote's "The Trip to Bountiful." Last is the storage shed of "Open Me Last." Coming up in August 2016 I will be in "Sorry, Wrong Number." This unexpected "career" has been and continues to be a joy and a new-found focus in my life. Carol Sweeney Benson 1961

Carol & Lambo (Open Me Last) at home



QW 2015 Professor Moriarty



QW 2015 - Mrs. Watts & Sheriff in "The Trip to Bountiful"



QW - 2013 - Abigail's sister in "Open Me Last"



Life is a Journey
A Liberal Arts Education Paves the Way

- M* *My family:* two sons and wives, three grandchildren (including twins)
- T* *Travel:* Ireland; Spain; Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary; Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro
- H* *Health:* active life style, exercising regularly at the gym and walking 15 miles a week
- O* *(H)ola:* study abroad in Spain (2014), home stay with a non-English speaking family
- L* *Leisure:* reading, music, art, volunteering (Spoleto Festival USA), time with family/friends
- Y* *Y'all:* residence in Charleston, SC with extended stays in San Francisco
- O* *O'Neil:* Ireland, again, this time with grandchildren exploring family heritage
- K* *Knowledge:* college classes (audit): political science, history, art, music, Spanish, Italian
- E* *Everything is possible:* enjoying the present; looking forward to the future!

Six years ago, when I contemplated my life as a septuagenarian, I was perplexed and didn't know what to expect. I was fortunate to have 2 grandmothers who lived into their late 70's, but I remembered both of them as really OLD – sedentary, “blue hair”, playing game after game of canasta (one grandmother played Mah Jongg), church attendance but not a lot of social outings, and increasingly dependent on others for a variety of reasons. One grandmother did venture to Florida every winter to sit on the benches in St. Pete. I think both beloved grandmothers felt elderly.

At 76, I still don't feel elderly/old. I don't think I look old (though the wrinkles, bulges and gray hairs are becoming obvious,.) I'm physically active. My health is excellent – only one prescriptive pill in the evening to help keep me from grinding my teeth! I have a busy calendar including volunteer commitments, various meetings and social events. Most importantly, I have a great husband (Jim/Andy) who is spry and capable and shares the chores and the joys!

In the past 5 years, I have continued my involvement with Church Vestry and chair of Outreach. I am chair of various Garden Club committees, vice president of an environmental advocacy non-profit, and an involved member of the Bridge committee at our yacht club. Currently I am playing tennis 3 times/week and enjoy a fast walk, especially on the beach with my fitbit! Jim and I play bridge at least 2 times/week, and we're just now learning Mah Jongg. In the past five years, 1 grandchild graduated from college (Middlebury), and 2 from prep school – 4 more in the next 4 years! One year ago a great-grandbaby came into our lives, (daughter of a step-granddaughter;) we're “in love” yet again. In these past five years, we experienced super-storm Sandy that devastated our New Jersey shore and challenged all of us in the shoreline communities to put lives and homes back together and support one another through the long process of renewal. And finally, a year ago, Jim and I made a hasty and wonderful decision to buy a condo in Sea Oaks, which is a beach and tennis club in Vero Beach, Florida. We are in the process of becoming Florida residents and intending to spend 6+ months in the winter sunshine and less than 6 months in our home on the Jersey shore.

For the past 5 years I have been President of the Class of '61! I was honored to have been asked to take on the responsibility. I feel fortunate to have had an energetic, leadership team with whom I was in frequent contact and who were hugely helpful. (I'm sure our reunion weekend will be a testament to the dedication and hard work of our officers and Reunion chairs, Scribe, Webmaster, Annual Giving chairs and Nominating Committee.) The best aspect of the job as President was having the opportunity to “be in touch”, often electronically, with *all* of my classmates – through class letters, blasts, chat line, the creative and informative Web page, (that was created since our 50th – thanks to Liz Barrett), and finally the year-long Birthday Card project. Thank you all for this wonderful experience.

Sherry Welles Urner

Five years later...



My husband, Elliott, and I are heavily into bird photography, he preferring coastal birds and I, warblers.



Meanwhile, our daughter, Priscilla, and her husband Jay, are busily raising three little monkeys in Vermont.



"I can't believe it ended that way!"



Preparing Santa's snack.

And Sarah, at the Columbia School of Journalism, is directing the "The Teacher Project" and running half-marathons... While her mother practices yoga in the snow:



Wishing a merry Reunion55 to everyone...

Sue Wheatley Carr

savoring solitude

an invitation to know myself
alone at last, with no demands of others
finding my truth
my choice in each moment
treasuring the silence, moving inward
delighting in simplicity
the joy of creation
giving life to found things
expressing with fiber, metal, wood
playing with color and texture
writing with fresh words
and new understanding
sharing an open heart
finding love in the eyes of strangers
connecting with kindness, holy moments
filled with gratitude for life
knowing the oneness of all
at peace, i am home.

shianna Kuhn (Shirley Whittlesey)