

scribe61@mtholyoke.edu  
Roxane (Rocki) Hill Hughes  
12002 Walnut Branch Rd  
Reston VA 20194  
703-471-4146

**Marcia Bentley Dinneen** writes that this June, I am finally retiring from my position as Head of Reference Services at the Maxwell Library, Bridgewater State University. However, I will continue to teach for the English department; this fall it is Romantic Poetry. Also I have co-edited a critical edition of John Marston's play "What You Will" (1607); the edition will be published in a digital format on BSU's Virtual Commons.

And from **Barbara Freeman Douglass**-- Roommate **Nicki Hutterer Haller**, daughter Julia '87, and I were enjoying a tour of the Monteverde Cloud Forest in Costa Rica with a wonderful guide who mentioned his daughter had gone to college in MA. When he said Mount Holyoke, we told him he was surrounded by alumnae. Evidently there's a Mount Holyoke presence at Monteverde Friends School. And we all loved Costa Rica, two weeks with Road Scholar and one on our own.

**Dee DeFerranti Abrahamse** was to spend Easter week in NYC to get together with **Olivia (Polly) McKenna August** and **Nicki Hutterer Haller**. She notes: Olivia and Nicki get together regularly, but I haven't seen them for years, so this will be fun.

**Constance (Bunny) Richards** sends love to all, saying 'I just passed my second year anniversary at The Willows Retirement community in Worcester MA along with my parrot. I got into genealogy which resulted in my Swiss family crest tattooed on my arm!'

Your scribe **Rocki Hill Hughes** visited granddaughter Caitlin Matthews, a freshman at New College of Florida, in Sarasota, and looked in on its president Donal O'Shea, former Dean of Faculty and VP for Academic Affairs at MHC and one of our past class honoraries! He is thriving as he begins his 6th year of FL sunshine, with bay view from his office in a former Ringling mansion. If one leaves MHC, it's a pretty spectacular landing spot!

Classmate **Jeanne L. Austin** (husband Peter R. Nadolny) died on Feb. 1, 2017. **Carol Sweeney Benson**, her MHC roommate, shares the following tribute:

"Jeanne L. Austin born February 17, 1940 in Waukegan, Illinois, died of ovarian cancer in Westminster, Vermont, the morning of February 1, 2017. Those of us who knew Jeanne in Mead in 1957 will remember her passion for acting, that turned out to be a life-long professional career on stage and in film. She earned her membership in Actors' Equity as well as SAG-AFTRA appearing in "Collected Stories", "Fuddy Meers", "Driving Miss Daisy", and most recently in "Wit" at Apron Stage in Putney, VT.

In 1984 Jeanne and her husband of 44 years, Peter R. Nadolny formed "HerStory Productions" with an eventual repertoire of seven one woman shows, which she insisted be called monodramas. In Rhinebeck NY I was fortunate along with my nephew's wife and two daughters to spend an hour with her special favorite, Jeanne's splendid "Duty's Faithful Child: A Visit with Louisa May Alcott." Even recently despite fragile health her monodramas presented by HerStory Productions were performed to Vermont audiences.

Music pervaded her life both as an accomplished pianist and a member of UUC church choirs and community choral groups. Peter and Jeanne named their standard poodle "Mompou" after one of her favorite composers and recently their new

puppy is named “Dolly” after the "Dolly Suite" by Gabriel Faure’. Much of her special music was included in her memorial service.

From 1991 until moving to Vermont to live near her son, Bret, she raised cashmere goats on a farm in Augusta, NJ, which she christened “Blackberry Slump”.

Her goat Lucy graced the cover of an issue of Forbes magazine. Jeanne served as Treasurer of the Eastern Cashmere Association for ten years.

She devoted much of her last decade to weaving in the Saori tradition. And, having obtained credentials from Japan to do so, right up to her final days she was teaching in her own studio.

When Jeanne felt well enough and the driving weather was good, we would meet at King Arthur Flour in Norwich, VT for a luscious lunch, much conversation and a search for unique ingredients and utensils for her favorite activity with her son, Bret; creating gourmet meals together. I shall miss those lunches. I shall very much miss Jeanne. --a sad **Carol Sweeney Benson**

[A further note: Frigid weather caused me to miss Jeanne’s memorial on March 11th.

I’d hired a couple to drive me - three hours each way to Brattleboro, but that Saturday morning was no day to be on the interstates unless absolutely necessary. At 1 pm, the time of the service, I sat at my computer listening/watching on youtube to the composers I mentioned in the tribute. Peter, her husband, sent me the program and also the menu for the special feast afterward that Bret, her son, had prepared all by himself.

Her Saori teacher Mohiko (from Worcester MA) had set up a loom so people could actually weave something. --CSB]