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Joan Schlosberg Kass of White Plains, NY, writes that she and husband Steve have co-chaired a Refugee Resettlement Task Force at their temple since Jan 2017. Organized and trained under the auspices of Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the 45-member group welcomed an Iraqi Kurdish family of four, able to come to the United State as SIVs (Special Immigrant Visas), because the father had worked as a translator for the American military. Prior to the U.S., the family lived in Turkey for two years, where neither the son nor the daughter attended school. The son taught himself English through video games; the mother and daughter did not know English. Our task has been to help the family as they settle into their new life-- finding and preparing an apartment, helping with medical issues and navigating the Department of Social Services, employment, education, ESL classes, living expenses during the first year, being friends and family, and helping them on their way to becoming independent. In this time of anti-immigrant sentiment, it has been a truly enriching and humbling experience to work with the group of dedicated, committed, generous, and caring volunteers in the Task Force, and to experience our little part by “welcoming the stranger, protecting the refugee,” helping one family in the monumental challenge of leaving behind everything they knew and everyone they loved to begin a new life in a new culture, language, and country.

An historical note from **Carol Schwartz Haag**: "On December 3, 2017, I preached the ordination sermon for Diana K. Davies in the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore, MD. It was an honor to be asked and a privilege to preach from the same pulpit that William Ellery Channing made famous with his ordination sermon for Jared Sparks. In May, 1819, Channing claimed the name Unitarian for the liberal Christian churches evolving in the young country. His sermon was the second most read document, following only Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense.” In this bastion of Unitarian heritage, I preached on the other half of our combined Unitarian Universalism. We are ready now for the radical inclusion that has been the Universalist tradition for almost 250 years. We’ll be celebrating 250 years of Universalism in 2020 — all over the continent. Watch for Faith, Hope and Love in your neighborhood."

Stephanie Richardson Gaskins tells us, "I’m still very busy with the Ipswich Museum (MA) where I do most of the temporary exhibits and serve as president. Also run the Ipswich town art gallery. I’m on the board of the Cape Ann Museum in Gloucester and of the First Ipswich Bank. Play team tennis and keep up with my 11 grandchildren, ages 5 months to 20. The oldest graduates from University of Michigan in June. I am lucky to have a full life and continue to enjoy so many stimulating activities. Darius and I remain in the family home in Ipswich and spend many summer days on Chebeague Island in Maine. Who would have guessed what good things life would bring? I am very thankful."

From **Carol Pallo Morton**, "After nearly 20 years back in Edinburgh after 9 1/2 in Jerusalem, I am moving to Fife in February, 2018, not so much downsizing as rightsizing, i.e. getting rid of 40 stairs. My concern for justice for both Israelis and Palestinians is

still mainly exercised through being Director of Development at the Hadeel Palestinian Fair Trade shop in Edinburgh - www.hadeel.org. Come and visit after 14th Feb. - 12 Bennoch Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 1YQ.

Cynthia Dennett Yee writes, "I'm looking forward to escaping winter – for a week – towards end of January in Costa Rica. Going with my stepdaughter and 3 friends for my 3rd trip there. We've explored the beaches and mountains. Now we head for the volcanoes and rainforest. My one stipulation on the trip: No way will I get on the zipline! Otherwise, I'm active in my church, First Church of Christ Congregational in Farmington CT. Guiding lay visitors and offering pastoral care remains my passion as a volunteer. And I continue to enjoy gardening, both the flowers around my condo and in the cooperative organic gardens of my condominium complex. I am so fortunate to have friends, family and a driving service for church visits who are my "wheels" and get me where I need to go. My eyesight will never get better, but at least it hasn't gotten significantly worse."

Our class is saddened to learn of the recent deaths of two classmates.

Former 1961 member **Ellen Cramer Culver** died November 4, 2017. She is survived by her husband John of Cotuit, MA, son Eskridge, daughter Elizabeth, and four grandchildren. Although Ellen didn't graduate with us, she received her BS and RN from Columbia U. She spent 18 years as a nurse at a Level I Trauma Center in Cleveland, OH. Her volunteer work in Ohio included the boards of the Cleveland Orchestra and the Suicide Prevention Center, the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the Junior League of Cleveland. In 1994, she and John moved to Cotuit. Initially, Ellen was the "flying nurse," commuting to Nantucket's Cottage Hospital to practice critical care nursing. She continued her volunteer work on Cape Cod by serving on the boards of the Cotuit Library, the Cotuit Historical Society, and Barnstable Land Trust. She also volunteered at The Cahoon Museum.

Classmate **Averill Olsson Hauben** left us on October 19, 2017, in Loveland, CO. A note from her brother, Brent Olsson (who survives her), 1800 Rangeview Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80524, reported to the college that she died from a massive stroke. Brent remembers our 1961 graduation, which he attended at age 9! Averill was a loved member of the Porter Hall freshman class group, and we all marveled that she had come all the way from Scotts Bluff, NE! After graduation from MHC, she received an MA from Columbia U. Professionally, she served as Head of School at Hillcrest Academy, Principal of Professional Children's School, Head of Upper School at Mary Inst & St. Louis Country Day School, and, lastly, Head of School at Harvard Westlake School.

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1/23/18*