



Mount Holyoke College  
Class of 1961: Our 60th



## Reunion Committee Chair

### 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion !

Dear Classmates,

Back in 2016 at our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion, I had never heard of virtual reunions or of Zoom. I envisioned gathering at our beautiful campus, enjoying good food and drink together, having wonderful conversations, and making connections. Now I know, sadly, that we won't be physically together, but that we can still have wonderful conversations and make meaningful connections.

As part of connecting, a concentrated effort was made to get email addresses for all classmates. Because of these phone calls, more of our class can enjoy Reunion.

It has been a steep learning curve for me! I am so grateful for the smart and dedicated team who have put together a stellar experience for us all. Our Zoom planning sessions (thanks to Judy Marshall Kennedy for hosting) have been an opportunity to get to know each other again. The Program Committee has worked very hard to bring us stimulating speakers and chances for discussion. The Entertainment Committee has truly entertaining offerings! What we thought would be fairly straightforward—a questionnaire—turned out to be extremely time consuming and challenging, but Dee deFerranti Abrahamse produced a fascinating document which she has summarized for us. Hours of work have gone into producing our Virtual Parade, this Booklet, and Remembering Old Friends. All members of the Reunion Planning Committee have added suggestions and insights. Those who had agreed to roles on campus cheerfully joined our virtual team, either at large or on a committee. Here, in no particular order, is the wonderful group of women I have been privileged to join.

Sincerely,

Barbara Freeman Douglass, Reunion Chair

**Program:** Dee deFerranti Abrahamse, Judy Marshall Kennedy, Betsy Karch Wilson

**Entertainment:** Liz Hottel Barrett, Kim Kimball Holmquist

**Parade:** Kim Kimball Holmquist

**Booklet:** Fran Blair, Rocki Hill Hughes

**Questionnaire:** Dee deFerranti Abrahamse

**Remembering Old Friends:** Cindy Dennett Yee

**Slide Show:** Sue Wheatley Carr, Liz H-B

**Scribe:** Rocki Hill Hughes

**Webmaster:** Liz H-B

**Nominating Committee:** Sherry Welles Urner, Fran Blair

**Class Agent:** Sandra Svihovec Hewitt

**Treasurer:** Elsa Anderson van Bergen

**President:** Mary Ginn Weinland

**At large:** Sallie Crittendon, Bette Keck Peterson, Bobbi Childs Sampson, Marian Strong Moore, Nancy Desmond Cox, Christina Hollister Hila

## **From our Class President**

As I reflect upon the past five years, I never imagined that my presidency would finish like this! I took office just before Donald Trump was elected President and am ending trying to navigate a virtual reunion as a pandemic wanes! But I have been so impressed by how we have hung in as a class during all of the turmoil of these five years. As you will see as you sit down with the Reunion Booklet, we have always been, and continue to be, simply amazing people.

The questionnaire summary will show that many of us are still active contributors to the community, nation, and planet in a variety of ways: helping non-profits, babysitting grandchildren, painting, writing, participating in book groups etc. (See included survey summary.) But we didn't just start being amazing; we started many years ago, and were shaped by our four years at Mount Holyoke. I know I speak for most of you in saying I wouldn't be the same person that I am today without those four precious years.

So here we are, about to become the next Loyalty Class. I think that at the 2026 reunion, we will be those proud and determined ladies in the golf carts and vintage cars that we looked upon in awe at our first Laurel Parade in 1961!

It is disappointing not to be able to greet and hug our classmates in person at this reunion, but we are adapting, thanks to the outstanding Reunion Committee (names are included in this booklet). Never forget that we remain "Uncommon Women" and that our class can be turned inside out and upside down and we will always be the same. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Class President. We can look forward to being pampered at our 65<sup>th</sup>!

Mary Ginn Weinland  
Class President 2016-2021

## A Look at our Class Treasury— Past, Present, Future

We have been able to enter our 60th reunion year in great shape financially, thanks to management of the funds accumulated across the past years through class dues. With just over \$10,000 in hand, there has been no need to continue to collect dues but rather to allocate expenditures wisely. The dedicated and hardworking Reunion Committee and the Executive Board considered several options for using about half of our treasury during our special year; part of it is going to printing a keepsake reunion booklet mailed to class members attending our virtual reunion, to those sending in a personal page for the booklet, and to those others who request it.

At our class meeting during our May reunion we will vote on several things related to our funds:

- At a 60th reunion, classes vote to either keep their treasury active for another five years, or to turn over remaining funds in it to the Founder's Fund housed in the Alumnae Association\*. [*The class officers propose keeping our treasury open.*]
- After the 60th, we become a Loyalty Class, meaning that starting with our 65th, on-campus reunion planning and costs (costumes, meals, lodging, etc.) will be covered by the Alumnae Assn (for alumnae only; guests and/or caregivers must pay their own expenses). AA reports that it takes about \$25,000 to hold a reunion and so whatever we can turn over in five years will be helpful. We may work with them to add our own programming wishes, but our class members will only need to pay for their individual travel to reunions, starting with the 65th. At the time of their 65th, each class turns over any remaining funds to the Founder's Fund. As treasurer I am looking into the best way to continue paying for the annual fee to maintain our chat group.
- This May the class will vote on our use of treasury for 2021 and the five years ahead. For example, do we wish to make a contribution to a scholarship fund? In the past we have offered scholarships to any class members needing financial assistance to travel to reunion. This should certainly be available to members needing some sort of assistance in order to attend our 65th.

*\*From the Alumnae Association:*

"The Founder's Fund—the Alumnae Association's endowment—began in 1901 as the Income Fund. The Founder's Fund is invested with the Mount Holyoke College endowment and over the decades, Founder's Fund money has paid for such projects as the construction of the Student-Alumnae Building (now known as Mary E. Woolley Hall), an interview room in the College's Career Development Center, and supports the loyalty classes returning for reunion."

Elsa Anderson van Bergen, Treasurer of the Class of 1961

## Head Class Agent

It is a Mount Holyoke tradition that after the 60th Reunion, the College (in the form of the Mount Holyoke Fund) is responsible for all contacts with members of each class in connection with contributions to the College, including annual giving, scholarships, bequests and annuities. This means 1961 will no longer have a Class Agent. My guess is that this decision was made a long time ago when people were not living as long and as well as they do now, but as in so many things we are simply carrying on a long tradition.

So, this is San Svihovec Hewitt's swan song as Head Class Agent for our class. Together with a loyal cadre of note writing class agents, I have enjoyed connecting and reconnecting with classmates during the last five years and raising a not inconsiderable amount of money for our alma mater.

Our Reunion Gift (which is the total of all contributions for all purposes made by members of our class to Mount Holyoke since our 55th reunion) will be announced at graduation this year. As of March 29, 2021 our Reunion Gift is \$1,708,712.

Sandra Svihovec Hewitt  
Head Class Agent, 2016-2021

## Class Agents (4/4/21) for the Class of 1961

*Barbara C. Lesperance*  
*Barbara Hartt Hise*  
*Jody T. Smith*  
*Carolyn Clendenning*  
*Barbara Sampson*  
*Bette Keck Peterson*  
*Carolyn S. Brada*  
*Dorothy deFerranti Abrahamse*  
*Helen S. Harris*  
*Sally Ann Wood*  
*Lange Schermerhorn*  
*Linda C. Norton*  
*Marian Strong Moore*  
*Mary Lynn C. Berry*  
*Nancy A. Niemann*  
*Sherrerd W. Urner*  
*Susan Ray Krock*  
*Zane J. Washington*

## **Slate of Nominees for 1961 Class Officers to Serve 2021-2026**

President— Dee deFerranti Abrahamse  
Vice President— Barbara Freeman Douglass  
At-Large— Rocki Hill Hughes  
Scribe— Nancy Desmond Cox  
Treasurer— Elsa Anderson van Bergen  
Web Coordinator— Liz Hottel Barrett  
Nominating Committee—  
    Mary Ginn Weinland  
    Judy Marshall Kennedy

*Election to take place at Class Meeting, 4:30 p.m. EDT, Saturday, May 22, 2021*

### **How do I ...**

**...send my news to our class scribe for the Quarterly?**

Email to [scribe61@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:scribe61@mtholyoke.edu)

**...find our 1961 website on the internet?**

Class of 1961— Mount Holyoke College. Put that in your browser and you'll go straight to the website. To register for reunion, simply email [ltavarese@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:ltavarese@mtholyoke.edu) and ask her to register you. To send something to go on the website, email Liz Hottel Barrett [lizardhb@gmail.com](mailto:lizardhb@gmail.com) with "Website Submission" in the subject line.

**...join the 1961 email chat list?**

Send your email request with your first name, 1961 last name, and current last name to: [61carolbenenson@gmail.com](mailto:61carolbenenson@gmail.com). Carol Sweeney Benson will add you to the MHC61 Chat list and send you the simple instructions for receiving and sending messages. Currently 87 classmates are on the list.

**...get contact info to find a classmate?**

Go to [alumnaeassociation@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:alumnaeassociation@mtholyoke.edu). The AA has revised its directory. If you were previously registered, your user name was changed to your email address, password the same. Sign in, and follow instructions to the directory. If new, follow instructions to register. Contact support for trouble. When you click on your classmate's name after search, info will appear.

**...reach a class officer with a question or comment?**

Mary Ginn Weinland will direct your query. Email her at [mgweinland@gmail.com](mailto:mgweinland@gmail.com) or write her: Mary Ginn Weinland, 2 Nutmeg Ct., Mansfield Center, CT 06250

# In Memoriam

## Classmates Remembered at Prior Reunions

Ellen Aikenhead Stevens	10.15.2005	Carlyn A. Lehman Querbach	10.20.1977
Mary Anne Ashton King	10.01.2008	Janet Lombard	05.28.1986
Nancy Barnes Clark	03.08.2001	Rebecca Maglidt Mead	11.21.2011
Margaret Bleick Dillard	11.17.2008	Mary R. Magner Miller	06.19.1986
Laura Bruton Clausen Coelen	09.05.2008	Kate Mayer Hudig	01.13.2014
Alison Buck Cook	05.03.2003	Barbara McMahon Forest	02.17.2012
Ann Buffinton Terryberry	08.25.1998	Dorothy A. Moore	01.16.2001
Margaret F. Burrill Laing	12.07.1987	Sarah-Anne Morton Smith	03.22.2010
Francine Collignon Zobian	01.19.2014	Susan J. Mosher Suzman	10.28.2002
Donna deGoey	07.28.1961	Janet Nack Aagenaes	05.15.2011
Dorothy Eldredge Jegla	02.19.2011	Marjorie L. Nelson	09.17.1962
Linda Elliott Conway Bumpus	06.18.2015	Lucinda Parshall Karger	08.04.2010
Norma Farrar Good	01.11.2009	Marcia E. Read	10.01.1963
Kathryn Firth Glazier	05.09.2008	Carolyn Reynolds Sunderman	08.06.2002
Sally Fulton Burke	06.06.2015	Anke M.S. Rose Germain	09.05.1978
Elizabeth T. Gay Levine	09.17.1976	Sally C. Rutter Birch	12.10.1994
Jane S. Gibson	11.26.1998	Ellen Samuels Baar	10.16.1998
Sally Ginsberg Abraham	10.16.2015	Martha Rees Smith McBride	02.03.2014
Meredith C. Gould	03.19.2006	Virginia L. Smith Jones	07.16.2005
Joyce A. Grinker	11.01.2003	Carol A. Stengel Linden	03.02.1964
Pamela Heintz Burdick	07.30.2011	Virginia Stromsted Glauber	07.14.2011
Marguerite J. Herschel Mittendorf	07.09.2004	Katherine A. Thorman	10.22.2002
Sally J. Hike Mutch	09.07.1993	Margaret VanSant Mills	12.19.1998
Martha Jordan Weygant	11.21.2009	Harriet Vermilya Zipp	08.08.2001
Jane Kaplan Yendell	08.14.2012	Brenda M. Walters Wadda	10.01.1966
Irene L. Kask Pink	09.10.1988	Janet Whitney Patton	08.26.2000
Sarah C. Kelleher	10.06.2013	Caroline Williams Loysen	04.12.2010
Ann Kilcrin Ward	10.22.1972	Sara Jane Woodward	06.09.2006
Roberta Koop Pappas	10.01.2007	Norita Wyse Berman	11.24.2000
Susan Langsan Black	12.09.2012		

## Classmates Remembered at our 60th Reunion May 22, 2021

Jeanne L. Austin	02.01.2017
Linda Lee Baldanzi	10.12.2018
Sylvia Beasley Snyder	11.18.2018
Diane Bement Devitt Kushner	05.18.2000
Ellen Cramer Culver	11.04.2017
Jo-Ann Fine Danzis	01.28.2015
Patricia Livingston Perlman	07.30.2018
Sally Ninness Graham	02.02.2019
Electa Sevier Black	10.00.2002
Melissa Tyler Meyer	06.16.2017
Louise A. Weintraub	04.30.2020
Renee Zwick Rubin	04.24.2020



## Questionnaire Response Summary

*After Dee deFerrante Abrahamse designed an online survey to help with Reunion programming, we clamored to hear the results! [While we started with 371 class members, we now number 268 active, with 71 deceased, 18 lost, and 14 wishing no contact.] Dee has given us a general snapshot of the more than 100 class members who responded.*

**Generally,** as a class, after 60 years, we are impressively healthy, active, and energetic, continuing to pursue a range of activities, sharing some core convictions (that we'll explore at Reunion). A majority (69) are married, with 23 now widowed, 10 divorced, 10 single or with partners. We've stayed pretty much in place (87%) in a house, condo or apartment, with 12% in senior living communities. But we are downsizing, and our senior living numbers are growing. Health? 92 said, 'doing pretty well,' and 15, 'ok.' A small number (3) need care, and 5 are caregivers for spouses.

**Working?** Only 7 said so, though 22 are still active in their field. A busy 75 of us are active volunteers, serving on boards, as docents and workers in hospice, free clinics, under-served schools, church, libraries, museums, arts, and gardens. Our largest group, 40, listed faith communities, whether singing in choirs, serving on boards, or social action. Most identified faith groups were UU, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Jewish. The second largest target of our volunteering was libraries. Friends of the Library, university libraries, and researching claim 19 of us, while 24 more are arts organization patrons, docents, and supporters of opera, symphony, choruses and museums. One of us listed 6 boards, while 14 serve as board members or trustees of organizations that include a family trust, a concert series, and senior living communities. One of us is a former city councilwoman from Darien, CT.

Other beneficiaries of our labors include women's and rights organizations. Listed were League of Women Voters, PEO, AAUW, AARP, ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and the Junior League. Active in politics, the large majority of us identify as active Democrats. One classmate sent 2400 postcards urging reluctant voters to be sure to vote, and others worked on campaigns. Women's Marches were more controversial. 21 indicated they had participated in marches around the country in 2017 and later, or attended marches for abortion rights or gun control, including one led by Gloria Steinem. 5 indicated support but did not march, or were physically unable to do so. But almost as many, 19, opposed marches, and 3 indicated disapproval of all women's activism. We continue to be politically active, and our Reunion this year will feature book discussions on racism, civil rights, and community diversity.

**Pandemic?** Like the rest of the country, our lives were changed. 16 classmates reported that sons, daughters, and daughters-in-law had contracted the virus— 3 were hospitalized, all have recovered, though some have continuing symptoms. 31 of us are living with only close family members, 21 are alone, others are in senior living facilities. Isolation has been difficult. "I have lots to do, but am very lonely," reported one classmate. Another noted, "We took the quarantine regulations seriously, we followed Dr. Fauci's advice carefully." Alice McGovern Doering wrote, "We stayed on our property the entire year except for walks: no store shopping, all needs were ordered online and delivered." Others found masked and early hour grocery shopping safe and an outlet. Travel restrictions have been, for many, the hardest part of the pandemic. As Louise McLean Peele wrote, we've been "missing our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, who all live in other states, very much." Others noted the loss of hugs with family members, and the museums, concerts, gardens, and sports events they had participated in and patronized, watching live-streamed performances from home as a substitute.

Within the last few months, many of us received vaccines, or were in the process of getting them (56 or so at the time of this survey). Though now able to meet with family and friends outside, with social distancing and masks, most are still cautious. One summed up, "We canceled our winter trip. Almost our only social outing was grocery shopping. We received our 2nd vaccination and have now gone to a restaurant for the first time in a year and saw 2 grandchildren last weekend. Felt like we got a get out of jail pass!"



In the chat group, we got talking about the Laurel Parade, and Liz (Web Mistress) asked if anyone had a photo of it. In Oct 2020, Alice McGovern Doering, after going through her father's slides, sent in this photo. Since Liz could only identify Mary Lynn and Alice in the front and Casey Stengel in the back, she made a key and asked, "Who can fill in the names?" From that day forward there came an hilarious bunch of guesses as to who was what number on the chart. It went on right through November. Sue Wheatley Carr collected everyone's inputs, and this is the final "guess". How many and whom can you identify, or correct?



Red – Guess  
 Blue – Pretty sure  
 Black – Unrecognized  
 Green – In contention

1. Unrecognized
2. Casey Stengel
3. Unrecognized
4. Marty Smith
5. Sally Schultz

6. Margie Morrell
7. Sandy Svihovec
8. Heidi Vermilya
9. Young Bo Kim
10. Peg Bloete

11. Dottie Eldredge
12. Lil Marik
13. Barbie Stein
14. Sue Bell/Ruth Vars
15. Unrecognized
16. Nancy Ash

17. Ellen Aikenhead
18. Linda Geuder
19. Ann Kilcrin
20. Alice McGovern
21. Ann Buffington
22. Mary Lynn Caffrey

Now tell us where we are wrong.

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ | 21. _____ |
|          |           | 22. _____ |

# **Class of 1961**

## **Updates**



**Elsa Anderson van Bergen**  
Kennebunk, ME: [ejvanbergen2@gmail.com](mailto:ejvanbergen2@gmail.com)

Life in Maine has been good to us, even through the pandemic, offering more opportunities than I can fully take advantage of. The downtime and its reduction in volunteer work has allowed me to turn again to personal projects: weaving (including a rya rug inspired by work of a favorite artist, Wolf Kahn; shown is a detail from the beginning of a 4'-wide tapestry based on our photos of a nearby rocky coast at sunset), going forward with an historical novel incorporating my immigrant ancestors' experiences in the 1890s, along with my interest in botanical drawing, gardening of course, zoom classes and virtual entertainment, book groups and one for writers.... And having put in order papers and info about possessions to hand on one day, I am now setting up an Etsy vintage shop for dozens of Swedish and inherited pieces that our lively modern-favoring family would not welcome. The group photo was taken for the 50th anniversary of Richard and me (2018); this past December the ever-smiling Sophia joined us. We had to do Road Scholar Provence virtually but are hoping to do in-person visits soon with our NC family, with whom we haven't been in a year and a half. Aching to hold our newest grandchild!



## Judy Ashworth

I am enjoying living in Cambridge MA. I am in an antique house right across from a branch library and on the bus route. I'm looking forward to things opening up more but definitely don't want to rush it. After my husband Hurtt died, I moved from our farm on the Eastern shore of MD to be near my four "kids" and grandchildren, all of whom live in MA. I have five grandsons, all awesome, of course, ranging in age from 8 to almost 20, one in CA in college. I am very much accustomed to living alone by now. I enjoy renting not owning, container gardening, reading, movies, knitting, puzzles, organizing family photos, bread baking, and my landlord's big white Chesapeake Bay Retriever, whom I care for when they are away. Family and friends enjoy a week on Lt. Island, south of Wellfleet, on the Cape every June, renting two houses right on the bay. It is really an island. We love it because you can't get to it or off of it unless the tide is out. Full moon tides are amazing. I'm not sure if you want photos of me for this page, so I'll include a few that you can leave out if that is the plan.





Sallie S.E. Austin Raleigh

Mount Holyoke College BA 1961

Executive Training Program Bloomingdales Federated Department Store, N.Y, N.Y Assistant Buyer

Assistant Buyer, Shillito's Department Store, Cincinnati, Ohio

University of Cincinnati Teacher Certification Masters Program

Teacher- Government, Economics, Sociology to Seniors at Oak Hills High School, Cincinnati, OH

President, Community Cooperative Nursery School (first woman), Rowayton, CT, Chair for 3 years of Fund Raising Art Show, Art for the Budget Collector. Proceeds provided scholarships to the nursery school.

Member Darien, CT Representative Town Meeting 9 years. Chair, Education Committee

Chair of Darien Schools PTA, Editor of PTA Newsletter, Chair Darien Council of School Parents

Darien Board of Education 12 years. Board Chair 7 years. First woman to hold chairmanship.

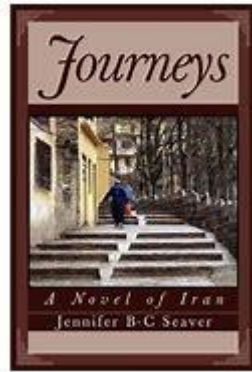
Personal Lines Manager, Craig M. Ferguson & Company, a division of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Stamford, CT

Member, Linden Ponds Political Interest Committee

Children: Kimberley English Raleigh, Yale University, University of Chicago Law School. Deputy Chief U.S. Department of Justice , Cybersecurity Law and Policy.

Elizabeth Quigley Raleigh, Amherst College, Administer of Grants, Tufts University, New England School of Acupuncture graduate. Acupuncturist 15 years in practice. Cranial Sacral Therapy, Posture Education, Allergy Elimination.

Hannah Edmundson Austin Raleigh, Northwestern University, Represents Infor in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Infor is a multinational global software company that builds software cloud products and focuses on business applications delivered via cloud computing as a service.



Jennifer Bagster-Collins Seaver

Learning how to live as a single woman is still a work in progress, especially since I seem to be more forgetful with each passing year. I am thankful to have all my senses still. I can live an active (albeit solitary life during COVID-19). Therefore, I plan to live in this 1925 semi-detached house in West Chester, Pennsylvania for the foreseeable future.

Most days are filled with writing, knitting, doing sudoku and crossword puzzles, reading books online as well as 'real' books from our local library. Reading Barack Obama's A Promised Land (a 900+ page volume I) on line was a challenge! But at least once a day, I get outside for a walk, work in the yard, or run errands. I'm also an active member of the local Episcopal Church.

Mimi (MHC '52) and George, her husband of more than 67 years, were both infected by COVID-19 last December. Thankfully, they have recovered. I have received my injections. I'm in frequent contact with all of my family and friends by phone or on Gmail and Facebook. I also follow the Facebook Peace Corps Iran Association and Costa Rican Birding groups.

Little did I know that when my self-published book, Journeys: A Novel of Iran came out in 2004, how much I would enjoy writing nonfiction. For several years, I posted the blog, Travel aJENNda.com. Then a year ago, I read about one way to keep loneliness at bay was to keep a journal. The working title of my story is: 'Silent Journeys: Walkie-Talkies in a global pandemic.' Writing helps me recall my years as a 1960's Peace Corps Volunteer in Iran and so many domestic and international independent trips which Paul and I made to five of the seven continents. (My Kenyan safari in 2014 added Africa to this.)

Now, I'm writing about other trips to Alaska, Hawaii, California, Canada, Norway, Iceland, Costa Rica after Paul's death. I was also a solo traveler on a cruise through the Mediterranean Sea. I planned to take a Holy Land pilgrimage when the global pandemic struck. Indeed, it appears that any future travel plans will remain on hold for 2021.

Nevertheless, I'm also learning Spanish on an Internet program. Having been married for forty years to a college professor of Spanish, I want to learn more than just simple tourist words and phrases so I can spend more time watching the birds in Costa Rica.



**BARBARA (BABBIE) BALDWIN MILLER**

[babbie@srcreek.com](mailto:babbie@srcreek.com) • 3583 Streamside Circle • Pleasanton, CA 94588 • 925-201-8616

Before the world went crazy, the Millers enjoyed a most wonderful celebration in March 2020. Babbie turned 80 in February and Ludlow turned 85 (!) in March. So we decided to celebrate our 165th birthday here in California. It was a BLAST!!



Elizabeth, Clarke, Babbie, Ludlow and Laura

Our family of 15, minus one, joined us for 5 days of the greatest pleasure any grandparents could have. We held a fabulous fun party here at Stoneridge Creek a.k.a. the Old Age Home. The next day we began with wine tasting and ended up in a private suite at a Warriors' basketball game, watching our favorite team up close. For those of you unfamiliar with sports out West, the Ws have been on the national scene for many years. Our son, Clarke, was the project manager for building the brand new gorgeous Chase Center arena. WOW, whatta night it was!



14 Miller Fans at the 165th Birthday Bash



Lily

Our children and grandchildren are all either in school or gainfully employed. Lily Keville was unable to be with us as she is a sophomore at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA and plays a super game of lacrosse. During our 165th bash she was in Denver with her Lax team.

We were so lucky to have this celebration because next came Covid, and we were still semi-locked up a year later. Stoneridge Creek took excellent care of all 800 residents, and we were finally allowed to have family visits in March. The much longed for reopening of California got us back to "normal", whatever that may be, in a very fine CCRC just East of San Francisco.

During lockdown we learned to Zoom...who knew 81 year olds could be so "techie". What a boon technology has been, as we approach our virtual 60th reunion.

I hope your 2020 was healthy and that 2021 continues to be even better.

Bentley, Marcia, class of 1961

Over the past five years, I have retired from my full-time position as Head of Reference at the Maxwell Library, Bridgewater State University and continued to teach English classes at the same university. A Ph.D. in English literature enabled my teaching upper-level classes.

Last spring, my class on Major British Writers from 1800 that I was to teach was cancelled due to low enrollment. I was sad but later relieved when all classes at the university went remote due to the pandemic. For years I have taught English as a VL. And over these years I have used techniques learned from Mount Holyoke English Professors. My class with Miss Sudrann in Romantic Poetry all those years ago was critical when I taught Romantic Poetry. Mr. Botkel's John Donne lectures, particularly "Batter my heart" when he banged on the lectern and woke everybody up have been part of my own classes. And Miss Brock's reading aloud of "The Wreck of the Deutschland" has been instrumental in how I taught poetry.

Currently, I am waiting for my spring bulbs to bud and blossom, looking for all those daylilies I planted, and wondering how the rhodys will do this year. I have continued my family's enthusiasm for gardening here in Bridgewater and last summer put in a new garden, hopefully rabbit proof, at our cottage in West Yarmouth.

I still love to read and am grateful for my extensive library of serious and "fun" books that have kept me engaged still last March. I finally read Winston Churchill's series on World War II that I have been carrying around since MHC days.

Fortunately, all four of my children are well, two live with me and the others live close by. All seven grandchildren are well. Two live abroad; one speaks fluent Japanese and is working as an accountant in Japan. The other is teaching at the King's School in Jordan. Last week we had a family gathering, and my great grandson Finn enjoyed his first Easter egg hunt.

## **Frances Blair (Frannie/Fran)**

On Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020, I came home from a day of subbing (AP math) at the local high school to the news that Governor Inslee had ordered total state-wide school closure, beginning on Tuesday. Suddenly, I was retired! I have long been pretty involved in local politics, so I turned my energies not into cleaning out the garage or relandscaping my yard, but into quarantine politics. Masked, I put up yard signs all over the county, distributed campaign literature to voters' doors, and -unmasked- wrote over a thousand postcards to inconsistent voters around the country urging them to vote. I continued to act as a volunteer ballot-processing observer at the county Elections Department; we just had to keep six feet away from anyone else and be masked.

My book club learned to use Zoom, as did the whole country, and my church created YouTube worship for Sundays combined with Zoom social hours on Wednesday evenings. My teachers' association convention went virtual: how wonderful not to have to drive five hours to the other end of the state, not to stay (but never sleep) in a strange hotel bed, and not to spend far too long nit-picking details at our business meetings! Fortunately, the pandemic shutdown came a couple of months after my annual visit to my son and his family in Hawaii (three granddaughters, ages 6 -13), which coincided with Ann Merchant Boesgaard's Astronomy Society award ceremony! I joined Liz Hottel Barrett & Bobbi Childs Sampson & husbands to cheer loudly!

While staying home, I have never felt isolated or bored, and find I am so busy that I must schedule time for reading, and limit Zoom webinars to one a day. Reunion will be unique; it will be wonderful to see and talk with you all, if not in person!





Catherine Bloecker Nelson



On the Chilkat River, AK - July 2019

The last five years found us downsizing for the second time. We had moved to a lovely 55+ community in central Florida in 2010 and enjoyed the Florida lifestyle and warm weather for eight years. However, as we approached our 80th birthdays we felt a pull to live near one of our children and made the decision to leave the deep south for North Carolina. Three years ago we downsized again (not nearly as dramatic as the first time) and now live in a 2-bedroom apartment in a very comfortable CCRC in Durham.

It was a wise decision, especially in light of the pandemic that affected us all. Although we have been under a lockdown for more than a year now, we have not been lonely or bored. Two meals a day are delivered to our door. Excellent concerts, talks, life long learning courses, movies, fitness classes and other programs are provided regularly either through Zoom or our two in-house TV channels. Best of all, we have been able to visit our daughter each week at her home only a half mile away.

Now we are beginning the return to the normalcy. In-person programs, social hours, fitness classes and other things are now starting to be offered. We certainly enjoy being with friends again.

When this pandemic started in February of 2020 I had never even heard of Zoom. Now it is an integral part of my life and one wonders how we ever communicated without it. As I mentioned above, we have taken fitness classes (even ones offered at nearby CCRC's) and attended wonderful concerts presented by local music organizations. We have also attended local, state and national meetings of genealogical and historical organizations. We have weekly get togethers with siblings and their spouses who live thousands of miles away and with friends locally. And, yes, we have not been able to escape committee meetings! As with google, zoom has become not only a new noun and verb in our vocabulary, but also a part of our life.

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Since our last reunion:

- Along with my husband, Gary, have continued to reside in the same house and town where we raised our family. He still runs his economic consulting firm (this year from home) and I am still involved part-time with my direct-sales business—so glad we had the space and property to enjoy while weathering CoVid.
- Our happy place —our beach house on Fire Island , NY., where our children grew up summers and return to with their families.



- Travel—still love seeing the world (but packing more medications) most recent sailing/cruising the Adriatic, Mediterranean, Baltic , with St.Petersburg as a bucket list high point. We returned from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, just before Covid.



- Greatest joy!—our 8 grandchildren, ages 5-25 — these are the 2 oldest—Maggie, a Williams grad aiming for career in medicine and Reid, Amherst '21 first job in finance.



Carol Bloomberg Glassheim

I have now lived in Albuquerque New Mexico for some 45 years ( how is that possible?) I have been an English teacher,(first masters , MAT at Harvard Grad School of Ed.) a hippie chick baking cheesecake and being a waitress and part time farm girl in Vermont. On a more traditional track, once I ended my hippiedom, I have been planner for human services, an administrative resident at a hospital ( after completing a second master's in public administration with a concentration in health) and a coordinator for senior programs at a family health center. From there I coordinated senior programs at Blue Cross/Blue Shield and at a local hospital. My next job was Manager of Health Promotion at our State Agency on Aging in Santa Fe—I commuted to Albuquerque—about a 45-minute drive . From that position, I became the coordinator of education at the medical school at the University of NM. And hence to the coordinator of ethics and humanities at the medical school, my favorite ever job. It was a wonderful opportunity to interact with wonderful and idealistic young people, learn a great deal about medicine and satisfy my long-term interest in the field of medical ethics. When the grant money ran out my last job was as a health educator at a hospital specializing in senior health and end of life issues. Then I retired in 2004.

Once I took my time traveling and enjoying myself, I began to put together the community I had long envisioned: Casa Clara, an intentional community for cooperative aging. It took a number of years to make this a reality as we renovated five fourplexes and built a community space with my apartment on top. That was completed in 2007 and I moved in November of 2009. The community prospers and things are going well. We have all managed to stay healthy in these perilous times enjoying the privilege of being able to meet on our patio or porches and staving off isolation.

Before the PLAGUE, I volunteered as a tutor to foreign students wanting to work on their English, as an educator and general volunteer at Planned Parenthood and as a public speaker for Compassion and Choices ( a newer emanation of the Hemlock Society) where we proudly, after years of effort, got the legislation for medical aid in dying just last month. I also traveled a good deal in SE Asia, the mid-East and Europe. Now I will be overjoyed if I get to Santa Cruz, California which had become my go to place for pleasure.

On a more personal note, I have been divorced many years, no children, many friends and a very pleasant life here is the sunny Southwest.

Greetings from the coast of Maine.

Life has treated me well - a wonderful and loving husband, 2 employed kids, 3 outstanding grandchildren and general good health.

One big blip - in 2018 I lost the love of my life to cancer after 56 years of marriage. Since then I have been learning to do things I never thought I would have to - from filling the car's gas tank to doing my finances online.

Another task I had to tackle alone was the sale of our home in Sorrento last fall. I had two months to save, donate, sell and throw away 30+ years of stuff.

Now another adventure awaits me - I am moving into a retirement community in Blue Hill, ME in mid April. The apartment is unfurnished so I am about to wander through furniture stores for the first time in over 20 years, floor plan in hand, having seen my new home only through ZOOM due to Covid restrictions.

Keep it simple and enjoy the memories are my mantras.

Wishing all of you safe and happy travels through YOUR next adventure.

Ann Bragner Lape

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#307

Blue Hill, ME 04614

Joan Bunting Lennon

Only 35 years ago, I was single, living and working in Manhattan and loving it.

Today, I am living in the Adirondack Park with my husband of 30 years, running our own business from home and loving it.

During the changes and challenges of life I have always turned to books for solace, wisdom and escape. These are ones I have read or reread recently and recommend.

A Man Called Ove - Fredrick Backman  
My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry - Fredrick Backman  
Britt-Marie Was Here - Fredrick Backman  
What Rose Forgot - Nevada Barr  
The Other Einstein – Marie Benedict  
The Swans of Fifth Avenue – Melanie Benjamin  
O Pioneers and My Antonia - Willa Cather  
Between the World and Me - Ta-Nehisi Coates  
The Chelsea Girls – Fiona Davis  
Untamed - Glennon Doyle  
Middlemarch - George Eliot  
The Keeper of Lost Things - Ruth Hogan  
Lab Girl – Hope Jahren  
The Henna Artist - Alka Joshi  
The Book of Longings - Sue Monk Kidd  
The Call of the Wild - Jack London  
Anne of Green Gables - Lucy Maud Montgomery  
The Giver of Stars - Jojo Moyes  
Becoming – Michele Obama  
The Overstory – Richard Powers  
Blessings – Anna Quindlen  
A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel - Amor Towles  
A Room of One's Own - Virginia Woolf

Favorite series best read chronologically: Janet Evanovich (Stephanie Plum series), Sue Grafton (Alphabet series), Jan Karon (Mitford novels), Kevin Kwan, (Crazy Rich Asians trilogy), Louise Penny (Inspector Armand Gamache series) Alexander McCall Smith (The Ladies No. 1 Detective Agency).

Favorite authors of stand-alone novels: Dick Francis, John Grisham, Carl Hiaasen.

What are you reading? Would you care to share?

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Bobbi Childs Sampson  
May 2021

Five years ~ flown by so quickly! And marked so dramatically by the year 2020! COVID, COVID, COVID: This pandemic, with its isolation, its mask-wearing, its extraordinary toll on human life and well-being, and its introduction to a world of Zoom, is the singular marker of our 80<sup>th</sup> year on planet Earth. My husband, Chris Hamilton, and I feel so fortunate to be in good health, and we feel deep gratitude for the good health of our son and daughter and their families.



These five years included wonderfully engaging time spent in the Galapagos, Russia, Spain, Haiti, Hong Kong and Australia. And, we had the good fortune to have our three grandchildren to ourselves on a visit to Japan.

A travel highlight was a January 2020 trip to Honolulu where, along with Liz Hottel, her husband, Bryan Barrett, and Franny Trask Wozencraft, we applauded classmate Ann Merchant Boesgaard as she received the American Astronomical Society's top award.

We are beginning to step back from major "civic" responsibilities: in our case, church committee assignments and my "ever since 1961" engagement with education in Haiti. We wonder what our ninth decade will bring: for ourselves, for our nation, and for the world. Challenging times ahead: that is certain. It will be good to read your stories and to "see" you at reunion!

~ Bobbi

Correction: It was Frannie Blair, not Franny Trask

Crittendon Sallie M



Callie Davidge Demtrak

*I'm still sitting*



*(and standing occasionally)!*



### 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!



Cynthia Dennett Yee (Cindy)

Is it any wonder that I highlight travel as I recall the last 5 years? COVID-19 changes perspectives. 2019 just happened to be my year to travel far and wide. Lucky planning!

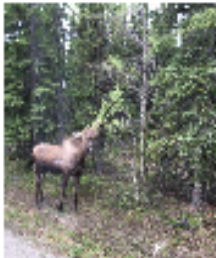
"Out of the blue" in May, 72 years after Father's death in a plane crash while on a secret mission from Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia for the Central Intelligence Group, the CIA placed Father's star at the head of the CIA Honor Wall. He was



Station Chief for the Agency in Beirut, Lebanon. My siblings, Dan and Charlotte, their spouses, and I were invited. A moving ceremony with tributes paid for his sensitivity to the people and culture of the Middle East as well as his fluency in Arabic, French and German. Two years later following years of research, my sister published her book, "The Crash of Flight 3804" for which my brother wrote the Foreword! We'd grown up believing the plane crashed due to sabotage. We still believe that.



Four days after returning from CIA Headquarters, I was off on the #1 trip on my Bucket List: ALASKA! Meeting friend Diana in Sun City, AZ, I marveled at the changes since I'd left Sun City where my husband Jim and I'd been snowbirds for years.



Our Alaska Trip included Denali Park:

Our tour guide: "We will see what we see. This is the animals' land!" We saw all that I'd imagined – And then some! Moose, caribou with racks of antlers, grizzly bears, curly-horned Dall sheep, ptarmigan birds. Then the cruise in the Inside Passage with



the Mendenhall Glacier. Whales breached once while we were eating on ship. Everyone nearer windows stood up – blocking our view! Whales do not wait for the audience to assemble!

And after Alaska? My West Coast extended Yee family welcomed me beginning in Seattle WA and ending in Idaho Falls, ID. We celebrated birthdays, hiked, visited rivers and power plants, and played in playscapes. Back in CT, birthday celebrations continued. On my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, my birth family put on a lobster feed in Maine. These days I treasure relationships and memories of being face-to-face with family members and people who are "like family."

Some people travel by fleeing violence or persecution. In autumn 2019, my church congregation welcomed a refugee family of 7, who'd fled civil war in Myanmar. They arrived shortly before Thanksgiving. I joined in helping them settle in. They are resilient and thriving.

During 2020 I've not been bored, even while living alone in my condo. I continue to make pastoral visits by phone, walk, talk with neighbors while keeping socially distant, and maintain my vegetable and flower gardens. I'm so grateful for all who are so supportive.

## 2021 Class Booklet

Yesterday was sunny and warm inspiring me to uncover the porch furniture, scrub the carpet and wash the screens before sitting in a lounge chair to read. Today is dark and stormy with rain pelting those clean screens and trees fighting 65 mile an hour wind. Tis the way life teetertottered during the last five years.

There were winter trips to San Clemente, California and long beach walks with grandchildren. There were plays and musicals at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. There was a European River voyage along the Rhine and Danube with Barbara Lahage, our Holyoke classmate and my D.C. roommate. Yes, it was a seesaw high.

Then the fall, a dark down anxious time while I prayed and hoped for a miracle as our son was desperately ill and hospitalized in Newport Beach with Covid. Fortunately, he was admitted into a trial for Remdesivir and recovered.

Twenty twenty was the scariest of teetertotters. At first it was rather exciting to have time for jigsaw puzzles, knitting, watching Netflix, and zooming friends. Then it became boring as I longed to see people in person and frightening as I learned of too many deaths and too many friends and family members contacting the virus.

Twenty twenty one: the teetertotter and spirits lifted as vaccines were developed quickly and we were able to get two shots and finally socialize with neighbors and friends. While the year may still hold problems as variants develop and spread, we are hopefully on the path to recovery

It's April: the clouds have parted; the rains have stopped and the I am once again on the back porch enjoying the sunlight while sending via this booklet good wishes for health and happiness to all those Mount Holyoke uncommon women of the class of 1961. I am not delusional (or at least I don't think I am) about how long this teetertotter will stay high but I am surely determined to enjoy every moment no matter what.

Nancy Desmond Cox

## FOWLER

Norma Fowler Harvey Aronson

I have been an apartment dweller for 4 years now. Ray and I downsized from our house to the apartment 2 years before he died. Though none of my children live nearby I decided to stay put as I have my community of friends here and, so far, can still take care of myself. I decided last year to give up driving before I was told I had to. My grandson was very happy to take the car off my hands. South Orange is a quiet town (South Orange Village officially) and is very walkable with a grocery store, post office, library, a park, NJ Transit station, a Performing Arts Center and movie theater, restaurants and shops all within a few blocks.

My four children survived the lockdown retaining their jobs. Meg is with the Department of Health in Hartford, CT, Jonathan works in the energy sector, Jennifer is a kindergarten teacher and Roger is with the Green Spaces department in Denver, CO. I have 7 grandchildren, two of whom have finished college, four of whom are in college and one who will start college in the fall.

We still spend summers at Groton Long Point, CT and we were most fortunate last summer to all be able to live together at the summer house. At that time CT had a very low Covid count and my children felt that it was the safest place for me. We moved in together in April and stayed until the end of August when renters took over. In many ways it was an ideal summer. Depending on the day, we were 10-13 people all together, each doing their own thing on computers, joining together to fix meals and eat together, taking walks and, those who were able to, jogging. Three grandchildren were life guards at the summer place and are hired again for this coming summer. We were very fortunate that the virus missed us. One granddaughter did test positive along with her roommate and several friends once they returned to college in October, but, thankfully, they all had mild cases.

I use a bright red walker when I go out. I try to walk for half an hour to one hour every day, but my legs are weak and unsteady. I know I should try PT again but haven't made the necessary arrangements. I have been busy scanning slides and importing them to my computer. I intend to give each of my children a thumb drive of all of the family photos. The pictures and slides date from 1901 to the present. I spend the rest of my time reading and catching up on the movies I never had time to see, grocery shopping, cooking and visiting with friends. Restless legs syndrome still plagues me and I try to keep up with any news on that front. Someday the researchers will discover what causes it and maybe even find a cure.

If I were more computer savvy, I would have sent along some photos.



Barbara Freeman Douglass

Change is an apt theme for us in our 80's. Widowhood and the pandemic have totally changed my life. My volunteer activities at the library and working with immigrants on English and citizenship disappeared. (But pre-Covid I had the reward of four people becoming citizens and then voting) Social life became walks with friends and Zooms.



My Tai Chi group is still not meeting but yoga class has just started. Doing those activities alone doesn't cut it for me.

But there are constants. Family and friends are supportive and helpful. Reading continues to be a source of pleasure and inspiration. New Hampshire provides fresh air and beautiful scenery. It has been a joy to reconnect with classmates as we plan to have our Reunion.

The picture is of me, daughter Julie '87, and granddaughter Lauren in Charlotte, NC. I have grandson David there too. Up North, son Bo is near me in Conway and son David and wife Cathryn are in Portland ME. I really look forward to being together and hugging.



## CINDY FREIDMAN SUTTON

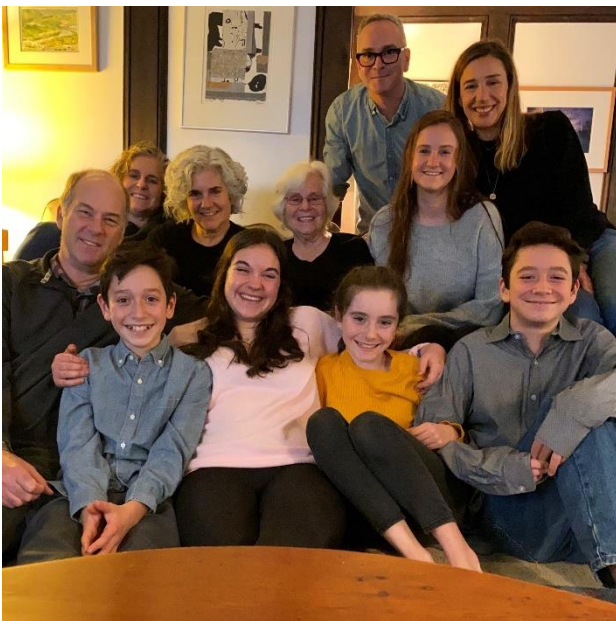
For 55 years I've lived in the same wonderful farmhouse on Cazenovia Lake in Upstate, NY. It's been a great place to raise our three children, and now the house fits all the kids and their families for big family gatherings (adding a few Aero beds). Jen and her family live in Brattleboro, VT, Liza and her family are in Providence, RI, and Tim is in Brooklyn with his family. My five grandchildren are fun and funny and smart.

I've retired from the faculty at Hobart and William Smith Colleges after many years teaching and currently am involved in local politics, voting rights, and resettlement of New Americans. There are so many major problems facing our nation I sometimes feel overwhelmed. We need to support young people who demand to be heard on equal rights, inclusivity, voting access, and climate control to name just a few pressing issues, while so often their state legislatures pass oppressive, restrictive, damaging laws.

I try to be hopeful.

### Family. 2019

Photo 1



### 2020

photo 2



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## **Top Ten of My Life (reprise)**

10. Being the daughter of 2 wonderfully supportive parents.
9. Graduating with the first class of "uncommon women" at Mount Holyoke and maintaining a connection ever since.
8. Travelling to China, Cambodia and Vietnam since 2016.
7. Continuing to work with a variety of non-profits.
6. Surviving the Covid Pandemic so far with the support of a pod of 6 close friends who ate, played games, and kept one another sane during this unbelievable time.
5. Attending graduations of grandchildren including 3 college graduations, 4 high school graduations (including 2 in Tokyo, Japan), and 1 middle school.
4. Still being of sound enough mind and body to experience wonder and complexity present in the world.
3. Having the love and support of 2 lovely daughters-in-law who still spirit me away for girls' time out.
2. Still enjoying the love of 3 marvelous sons who have given me so much support, joy and laughter always.
1. And still number 1! Marrying the love of my life and best friend Tim, husband of 59 years who remains the love of my life and is having his 60<sup>th</sup> reunion from Williams as well.





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It is difficult to think about the years since our last reunion because of the intrusion of covid –19 which has changed life so intensely. Because it has taken control of my life for the past year, it is hard to recreate the way I had been living.

For me, the biggest change in the days before covid was the death of Robert, my husband of 51 years. This meant definite realignment of certain aspects of life, such as being the sole decision-maker. It also meant following a more singular lifestyle. But I continued my active concert and arts attendance in NYC, as well as my volunteer work.

My most time-intensive work was as a docent at the New-York Historical Society. Besides a full tour schedule, this work meant that I was constantly reading and learning. Despite having taught history for almost 40 years, there was always more to know and new ways of looking at the past and present. I miss this incentive to read in new fields, although I have done some preparation in the hopes that the museum will open for tours in the coming months.

My other significant activity before covid was as a volunteer for the New Sanctuary Coalition. Each week I accompanied immigrants to court here in Manhattan. Most of these people are applying for asylum and most are caught up in impossible situations involving ICE rules and regulations. Conditions for these people are depressing, if not intolerable and so many have heart-breaking stories. When the courts reopen and virus conditions improve, I hope to be able to resume accompaniments. Also, I am hoping that the Biden administration will be able to bring some sanity to immigration law in the coming years. There is so much that needs changing and so much depressing opposition to reform.

As with so many of us, the conditions of isolation during the pandemic have made separation from family and friends difficult. I now appreciate so much more the importance of human contact. It also has made me aware of how reliant we are on technology, and concurrently, how much of a dinosaur I am at understanding most of the tools on which I have depended this year.

My greatest hope for the future is that somehow this country can find the will to come together in peace and tolerance. Living through the turmoil of the past four years topped off by the pandemic, has been a moral test that I could not have anticipated or thought possible. I truly hope my kids and grandkids will have the chance to experience a better future.

## HARRIS, Susannah (m. Wilson)

After my husband died, I decided to remain in Oxford. I am writing about the cities I've lived in and loved: San Francisco, London, Lahore - with an Epilogue on Oxford of "the dreaming spires." Covid here, as elsewhere, has been a sober reality. However, I was fortunate in that I'd made a tumultuous downsize move end of 2019 which completed just before lockdown. I was able, therefore, to tinker happily about the new house I'd renovated, putter in my apron size patio garden and meet up in an allowed "bubble" with my old MHC classmate, Primila Lall Lewis and her husband who, it transpires, live nearby. So I thought I'd use my page to recount how Primila and I "accidentally" re-connected.

In our final year at Holyoke, English majors were required to take Literary Criticism. It was a gruelling seminar headed by a razor sharp triumvirate: Professors Ben Reid, Jean Sudrann and Marianne Brock. Primila Lall, an MA scholar, was in the class while working on an independent thesis. She was thrown together with 61'ers. And I – even then developing an interest in the subcontinent – got to know her well enough so that when she and other overseas students drove across the country home-staying with alums, they stopped at my home in San Francisco. That was the last I saw of Primila – summer 1961 – until.....

One day in **1968** I was walking down the corridor of an academic building in Kinnaird College, Lahore where I'd been teaching for four unbroken years. One of my honours students, Shaista Surajuddin, came running up to me inquiring what I'd be doing over the summer holidays. I told Shaista that I was going to Kenya, upon which she urged me to look up cousin Primila from Delhi who had married an Englishman working for Oxford University Press there. I paused a moment and then hesitantly asked "And was Primila's maiden name Lall?"

"How did you know that?" gasped Shaista.

"Because we took a Lit. Crit. Class together at Mt. Holyoke," I replied. "Just like the one I am teaching you now."

And so, I reconnected briefly with Primila in Nairobi in 1968 and soon discovered that quite a few of my students in Kinnaird College were, like Shaista, her cousins as – before Partition - her own family had once lived in Lahore, and Primila had been born in that city. Two of her aunts were colleagues and friends.

But the story doesn't end there. When my husband and I retired, we chose to move back to the UK where we'd both lived for periods before we met. We found a bungalow in Oxford. One day twelve years ago, I was standing at a crossing waiting for the light to change when I saw Primila Lall Lewis standing on the opposite pavement. Embraces all around; and, since then, weekly meet-ups as we pass one another's home.

Whatever this synchronicity has been, it is one of the richest blessings of my old age. We have found our long friendship a delight and a comfort – full of memories spanning Holyoke, Lahore and the numerous places of the mind with our



shared love of literature. We remind one another when it is necessary - in the difficulties of old age and the grief of losing loved ones – that we are survivors *because* we are uncommon women. And that has just been programmed into our very spirits by such places, persons and literature as Holyoke gifted us.



From Susan Higgins Donnelly:

This poem probably sums up, as well as anything I can contribute, my feelings about those college years. Looking back to one's earlier self is an exercise involving compassion and irony, but appreciation also for the relief of maturity. And how much do clothes share our lives!

### THE BROWN DRESS

That crooked-smiling girl  
at the edge of the photograph  
they're handing around  
at reunion seems so distant  
from me I'd deny her,  
but for the brown wool dress  
she's wearing—a dress I loved.  
She seems reluctantly  
part of the picture,  
probably just heard a joke,  
more likely told one. The dress  
was new that year,  
I think. The hard year.  
I can't place this occasion,  
where she's looking  
so pretty and scornful,  
so incredibly slender,  
but I want to tell her she'll grow  
out of the need for wisecracks,  
and happily out of that dress,  
though she'll never find one  
she likes better.  
Cinnamon color, really.  
Leather belt.  
Three-quarter-length sleeves.



*In The Maureen Papers and Other Poems*



## Roxane (Rocki) Hill Hughes

*Without darkness, how could we see the stars?*

The last year has been a bumpy one. We've been in forced isolation, and for some of us, it encompassed illness and last goodbyes. I'll bet you, too, thought you'd manage to get so many things done— ha! Anxiety and worry have eaten away at our best intentions. What's next? Are they all right? (family and friends) Are WE all right? (community, country, world) Who knew there was such a long and detailed worry list?

But with vaccinations well underway, light creeps in and we dare to look ahead again— restaurants, parties, movies, concerts, trips, gatherings, singing together, HUGS— yes!

We will gather this May virtually and virtuously. But wild and dangerous thoughts are sending out tendrils once again, and the Uncommon Women of 1961 are about to be re-loosed on the world. Take heed, world! We have not finished speaking, doing, changing!

My family members are scattered, and I miss them dearly! I long for all sorts of reunions and the hugs that we all need to give and to get. I'm sending one huge hug now to the class of '61! And it compels me to South Hadley five years hence to deliver in person! Zoom just doesn't do it for me.

I've lived in a number of states: Maryland, Massachusetts(!), Virginia, New York, California (3 places), and Tennessee, and have returned to the area where I started out, a D.C. native. I've checked off all but one state, Alaska. So that's on my list, once travel returns. I've seen Western Canada but have never visited Montreal or Toronto. I would love to return to Barcelona for a tour of Gaudi works! My last trip there was in an Opel station wagon with Nancy Desmond, Linda Loranger, and Joyce (Totter) Rose before senior year. Mandatory skirts, and proper head coverings for cathedrals! Paris memories include Les Halles at midnight, parsley bouquets, and garlic, and finding that Pernod was cheaper than Coca Cola.

Words and music stay with me as lifelong companions— Books and book clubs, newspapers and magazines, from the V-8's to my church choir and Mosaic Harmony, a gospel-based community choir. I long for an in-person return to singing! I have fond memories of V-8 rehearsals in the backroom and basement of the C.I., as well as Howard Keyes dropping in at the old upright in the C.I. itself. If you were in Pearsons junior year, you probably saw me at the C.I., measuring out my life in coffee spoons...



Christina Hollister Hila

“I’m still standing”.... (or sitting)





Liz Hottel Barrett, [lizardhb@gmail.com](mailto:lizardhb@gmail.com)

I'm grateful for a very good life and very wonderful partner. Bryan and I have now been married for thirty-three years and are enjoying this journey together through our senior years.

We live in Annapolis, MD, a pretty great place to live with moderate weather, emphasis on the Arts and Culture, and close to DC and Baltimore.



We both keep busy, Bryan playing his cello and me singing, him working on projects to improve our house and his mental health, and me gardening to improve the outside and my mental health. I also throw pots on the wheel.



We love spending time with family. Here we are with my kids. Left to right behind us: Maddie, Abby, Kendall, Scott; John, Joel and Tucker.

Maddie: Hearst Pub ,NYC.  
Abby: Delaware freshman.  
Kendall: Epic of Verona, WI, lives in Dubai. Scott: Financial Advisor in Berwyn, PA. John & Joel: Dir of Acad & Fac Support, UB, and Architect, Baltimore.

Bryan's daughters live in Europe. Claire in England, IT Consultant; Georgina and Simon Marrison in Paris. They have two boys: Max is graduating from Exeter University and Hugo is in his first year at Portsmouth University.

We play golf together (Bryan just shot his age!) We both sing in a UU choir and hope to return to bridge and travels, especially the Greek Isles and London. We have a wonderful family summer house on Sutton Is., Maine, looking across to Acadia National Park. We have decided to stay put for now because we have enjoyed being at home during the pandemic. We are lucky indeed.





## NICKI Huttner Haller –

I was born in Paris, France, because my parents were from Vienna, Austria, and had left their home two days before Hitler entered the city in 1938. They left suddenly, overnight each with one suitcase for Montpelier, France, where my Dad had a job as a chemist. From there they traveled to Roscoff on the coast of Normandy where my Dad worked at a Marine Biology Laboratory. While there, he was conscribed into the French Foreign Legion. After two months, he was returned to Roscoff because he had a daughter, me, who was a French citizen and baptized a Catholic. In 1940 when France became occupied by the Germans, we emigrated to the United States. I was one year old when we arrived at Ellis Island.

My first school years were in Summit, New Jersey, and then from 5<sup>th</sup> grade onwards, in Bethesda, Maryland, where my dad worked for the National Institutes of Health. During my school years, I was interested in all sports and music. My summers from 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade were spent at a Music and Arts camp in Burlington, VT. I completed High School in Bethesda, MD, and went to Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts where I majored in Zoology.

I spent my first year after college in Bern, Switzerland, where I had a job as a laboratory assistant. I was hoping to improve my German language skills, however, I found out that the Swiss preferred to practice their English. After I left Europe, I obtained a job at Albert Einstein School of Medicine in a genetics laboratory where I worked for three years. I got married during that time and had my first child in New York area before moving the family to Boston. For the next 40 years I lived in the Boston area, raising my two sons, getting divorced, obtaining two Masters' degrees, one in Learning Disabilities from Lesley College and a second in Reading at Boston College. By then I was already teaching learning disabled children and then working as a reading specialist in the local public schools.

When my sons reached Middle School I realized, as a single parent, that I no longer needed to hold a teaching job (school vacation hours). I found the most interesting, satisfying and fun job working in a non-profit company which placed women on welfare into jobs in the private sector, such as John Hancock Insurance Company, banks etc. through a "supported work" program. It was during these years that I met my current husband, Jere Beasley.

My final working years were spent working for the Boston Public Schools. First in Human Resources as a recruiter of Special Education Teachers, PT's, OT's and Speech Pathologists. At that time the Boston Public Schools were under a federal court order to hire minority teachers.

After that, I decided to work in the Boston schools as a Chairperson for Special Education meetings. When I retired from the school system, I spent 3 years working part-time at the Carroll School for the Blind in Newton, MA. This was an eye opener for me, learning how adults (age 17 and up) who become blind are trained to function in our busy world.

Jere and I moved to Boulder in 2008 to a cohousing community in North Boulder and enjoyed 12 years living in community. I found a piano group to participate with here in town.

In January 2020 we moved into a CCRC called Frasier Meadows here in Boulder. We are enjoying living here and are especially pleased how well this CCRC managed the Covid crisis. I also enjoy biking, hiking, concerts and being part of a book group. We have a son and daughter who currently live here in Boulder.

As I ruminate as to what has happened in the last five years since our last reunion, there are several things that come to mind.

The most exciting thing that happened, two summers ago, was our oldest grandson's wedding in Indianapolis. Chris is a 26 year old teacher in Cincinnati...the fourth generation in our family to take up that distinguished career! He married a lovely woman who graduated from Xavier with him. She is a nurse, and this last fall they blessed us with our first great grandson, Matthew.

See pictures below!

Three years ago, we decided to downsize. It took two sons and daughters-in-law and grandsons to carry it off, but we did it! We moved from a big house and yard on the water to a nice-sized condo in the woods, with a view of the water. We love where we live now, have great new neighbors, and are enjoying being close to Traverse City...where there are great restaurants, and Michael Moore's State Theatre. He has a film festival each August, and gets fantastic films. We also have a Writers Series all year long, started by Doug Stanton, a writer who's *Horse Soldiers* graced *The NY Times* At No 1 for several months. So, he knows and gets great writers. And they live in little old Traverse City! Plus, we are on Grand Traverse Bay...great in the summertime! We have two sons and their families who live nearby, and our daughter and her family come up several times a year.

Last, of course, is the pandemic. In March, 2020 we were in Florida, we thought, for February and March, spending time with Dottie Mann and a place of our own on Longboat Key. Mid March, because of the increasingly scary COVID news, and our oldest son's pleas, we decided to fly home a few weeks early. We got home and stayed home for a year!!! We did have family come from Indy, Cincy and Seattle in the summer. Everyone got tested before they came, as did we, and we all wore masks when we were inside. That worked. Once fall arrived, no one was traveling anymore. Actually, I have to say that the time has flown by. I feel fortunate to have a wonderful husband who has taken to cooking, so we spent a lot of time in the kitchen together, trying new recipes. We shopped online and had our groceries either delivered, or got them curbside. We finished several puzzles, and read many books! Our sons came by weekly and we saw them either outside, or inside with masks and no hugging! We were also lucky enough to be old; so we were through with our vaccinations in early February and we gleefully went to see our new great grandson in Cincinnati and masked up, and a little scared, flew down to Florida the 1st of March. We are here now and loving the beach and seeing old friends.

Looking forward to seeing and zooming with everyone!

Betsy Karch Wilson

Katherine Kaufmann Snelson

Broadstrokes: I still live in NYC in my apartment 12 blocks from my daughter and her family. With Covid restrictions we hardly saw each other all year. My 9 year old grand son is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, my 19 year old is a freshman at University of Arizona – first semester was from home. Now he's there.

I am still practicing psychoanalysis and psychotherapy half days. As it is, I've paid one full year rent on my office and haven't used it yet. Just keeping the plants alive.

Four years ago, Ken died at 89 of prostate cancer. Since then, I have become involved with a new man....a photo of us together with the dog, Annie should accompany this.

Politics these last years has been much on my mind. I've felt I had lost the country I grown up to love and respect. It's been very disillusioning – but this wasn't the first painful period. We've had many. For me, things are looking up with our new administration.

Narrow strokes: I work, go to the gym in my building or walk or bike in the country. I have a trainer I've been seeing on FaceTime all year, 3 times a week. I cook, eat, do dishes endlessly, stream movies and other shows, read less than I would like, but always the New York Times first thing in the morning. Being in a new relationship, and at this age, takes a lot of time and energy.

I miss friends, family, movie theaters, museums, theater – all the reasons I've lived here in NYC. Soon our life will start to resemble something more familiar and hopefully include travel again.

I've had both vaccinations and hope you all have too.

I've kept up with my South Rocky Group of 8 through monthly zoom meetings this last year. Otherwise we meet every 1 ½ years or so. We've known each other for 64 years. So MHC still runs deep.





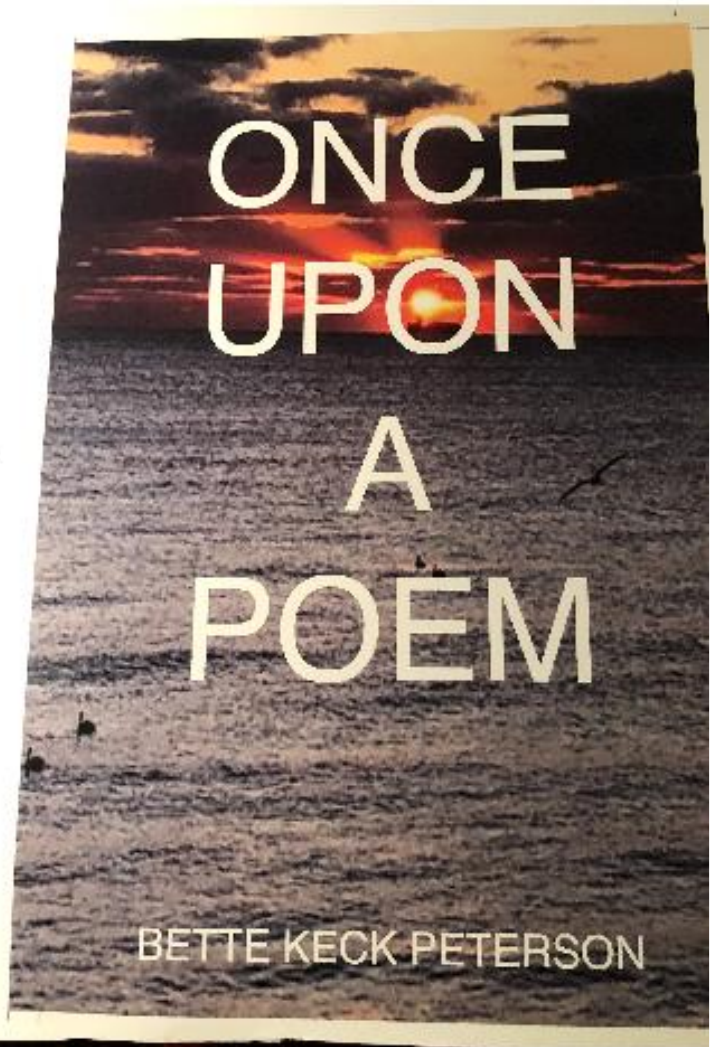
# BETTE KECK PETERSON

[bmaekp@gmail.com](mailto:bmaekp@gmail.com)

610-527-2624

Three special Loves:

- 1) my daughter and her family -Wendy Todd
- 2) My Husband Dick and our love of hiking
- 3) Writing poetry and my new book ONCE UPON A POEM





**Kim Kimball Holmquist** 1331 Santa Barbara St. Apt 18, SB CA 93101  
kirmsmom@aol.com

What a strange, mostly pretty terrible year! I seem to burst into tears at the slightest provocation and have gained 10 pounds! (Remember “stressed” spelled backward is “desserts”!)

WALKER, 19 1/2, now 6’6” and still growing, continues his studies at Purdue Indianapolis majoring in Automotive Engineering with a specialty in Motor Sports. He has interned for 2 different stock car drivers and was even flown to At-



lanta and Sonoma to work “in the pit”. NOLA, 17 1/2, is a senior at Midland, a small boarding school in nearby Santa Ynez. She is busy filling out college applications and has been interning with a local renowned dress designer. REMY, 11 1/2, is in sixth grade and continues her passion for pony riding and competing, winning lots of ribbons including State Champion. KIRSTEN and DARRELL have broadened their activities even further and are busy with many construction projects here and in LA. Their coffee farm is thriving

and their first batch is selling for the ridiculous price of \$75 a half pound! 1 pig, 3 goats, 2 mini ponies, and chickens also seem to love SB life. Their first grandchild EASTEN (my first great!) was born in January 2020.

TRAVEL: Much international in the past (85 countries, including N. Korea and Cuba!). Alas, all trips have been cancelled this year and for the immediate future!

MUSIC: Kir’s (flutist) and my concert was cancelled last March. It would have been our first in 30 years since her father died! So my only singing has been parodies about Trump at weekly Sunday Sips on Zoom!

VOLUNTEER: Devote much time to the Research Committee of the S.B.

Women’s Fund investigating which of the many worthy local non-profits deserve our \$750,000. I have also joined the Board of Directors for Showers of Blessing which provides showers for the homeless at several sites around town.



So miss being together but my MHC memories remain among my most cherished.

## Judith Marshall Kennedy

### *My Bucket List – Top Ten – 2021*

1. Read a book a month without fail for the rest of my life
2. Rebalance life by spending two months per year in Mexico, two months per year traveling elsewhere, two months per year vacationing at home, and six months per year volunteering
3. Be able to play one of Chopin's piano preludes perfectly
4. Visit another world-class city for a week with Betsy (Karch) and Dick Wilson  
☒ London   ☐ Paris   ☐ Prague   ☐ Montreal   ☐ Rome
5. Take a leisurely road trip down the East Coast to Florida and back, on two wheels or four
6. Visit New York City once a year and see a Broadway show every night
7. See the Kirov Ballet perform Swan Lake in Saint Petersburg
8. Live to be 100 years old and walk without a cane at my 75th MHC reunion
9. Spend my last dime on my last day
10. Make a contribution toward leaving the world a better place



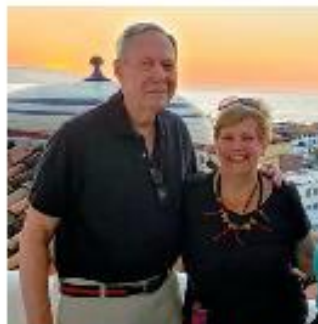
August 2018 – MHC '61 New England Mini-Reunion:  
Diana, Dee, me, Bobbi, Carol, Barb



August 2019 – MHC '61 New England Mini-Reunion:  
Carol, Bobbi, Barb, Marion, me, Diana, Dee



January 2017 – Women's Pussy Hat March, Jackson, New Hampshire



December 2019 – On top of the world, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico



April 2020 – Who'd a thunk?  
A pandemic changes everything!



## Mount Holyoke 60th reunion book

What are the most important things in my life.... family, family .. and family. On the top of that list is my husband Mel. We'll be celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary in September. How much we have to be thankful for!!! Patience, a sense of humor, intelligence - are only a few of Mel's best qualities. Fortunately we seem to down play each other's faults and foibles. With both of us being good physically and mentally, we love all the things that a city like Denver can offer. Condo living on the 11th floor with a view of the Rockies has been our home base for the past 17 years.

With three sons and their wives and families living in the Boulder area the Cruger Clan has shared many happy times and been there for the difficult ones (like this year's pandemic). Our seven grandchildren range from 25 to 15 years old - some are here and some spread out. They give us such pride and joy. (Of course we are super prejudiced!) My very best friend for 80 years is my sister Judy in Connecticut who just joined the Octogenarian Groupies!

2020 was our first travel free year — but it looks as though 2021 promised to change that. It's hard to choose between visiting favorite places (Italy, France, England) and thinking about new adventures. I am grateful we can still make these choices.

Mel and I both spend time on the golf course trying in vain to lower our handicaps. Friendships fostered on and off the course and have been very valued. While bridge games, MahJongg, and book clubs came to a halt this past year — it looks as though we will be back and busy again by the Fall. I have recently been involved with the Flower Council at the Denver Art Museum. Although we had to cancel most work in 2020 we are all looking ahead to the museum activities in 2021.

Sometimes it seems as tho 1957-1961 were just yesterday..... and then at other times our days at MHC seem like another century. What changes have happened to all our lives, to the country and to the world! Sharing stories with family sometimes ends in complete disbelief on their part..... I try to tell them I did not live with the dinosaurs!

To all my classmates — good wishes.

Peggy

Peggy (McCabe) Cruger



Alice McGovern Doering



43 Deepdale Road, Wayne, PA

amdoering@verizon.net

How I am spending my life—see photos below:



Family



Traveling



Gardening



Plant Propagation



Flower Show Competitions

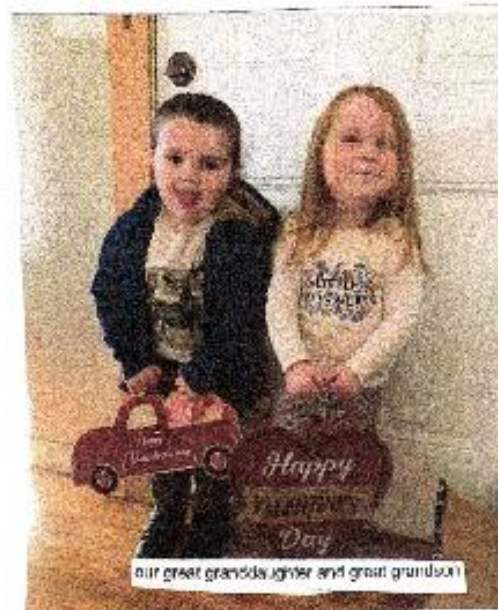


Fly Fishing





Four generations



our great granddaughter and great grandson



Grandchildren and Great Nephews

Dave and I still live in the house in Ann Arbor, Michigan that we bought in 1958. Currently a dog and 2 cats keep us company. Our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren live in Ohio, West Virginia and Tennessee, so our travels are primarily to visit family.

I'm somewhat limited by Meniere's Disease, an inner ear problem that causes dizziness. Fortunately Dave helps with driving, shopping, etc. In June we will celebrate our 57th anniversary.

We have not been able to visit our family except on Zoom or Facetime since Christmas 2019. We had planned to go on a Mount Holyoke Alumnae Trip to Tanzania in 2020. That was cancelled. The same trip was cancelled again in 2021.





## **ANN MERCHANT BOESGAARD**

The major adjustment for me in the last 5 years is the loss of my wonderful husband, Hans. We were married for 52 years, almost all of it in Hawaii. I miss his charm, wit, good spirits and sparkling blue eyes. Our careers intertwined as he, a mechanical engineer, was a designer and builder of telescopes and I, an astronomer, was a user of them. I found out later that year that I had been awarded the highest prize of the American Astronomical Society bestowed for "a lifetime of preeminence in astronomical research." How I wish he could have known before he perished.



(Photo from 2011)

Although I am now an Emeritus Professor at the University of Hawaii (UH), I continue to do research in astronomy and collect data from the {world's largest) telescope – built by Hans – at the observatory on Mauna Kea. My most recent graduate student completed his Ph.D. some 2 years ago and we went off to his graduation ceremony in our academic regalia, marching in to the musical notes of "Pomp and Circumstance."

Like many colleges and universities, UH offers "lifelong learning" classes. These are usually 2 hours a week for 6-8 weeks. Some of my recent favorites are "The Intriguing World of Intelligence" (taught by an actual spy), "The Natural History of Hawaii and the Pacific" and "The History of Mathematics in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries." Fun and no real homework.

We are probably all octogenarians now. Wondering where all that time went... I try to mitigate the aches and pains of age with 4-5 hours of exercise each week. By now that activity is water aerobics and my pool is usually near 86-88 F. So that workout is a pleasure, not a chore. I have had solar panels on my roof in Honolulu for several years they take care of all my electricity needs including heating the pool and charging my red Tesla!

This past year-of-the-pandemic has been so challenging in too many ways. I am feeling forlorn that we cannot have a spirited return to that beautiful campus of our youth this year. At our age we are surely all vaccinated!

## *Eleanor (Nony) Moore Barr*



**Covid 19:** Bob (my husband of nearly 60 years) and I live at Foulkeways, a Quaker retirement community near Philadelphia. Foulkeways has taken very good care of us during the pandemic, and there have been very few Covid cases in the community. Now that all residents have been vaccinated, things are beginning to return to normal. Our fitness center and pool have reopened, and warmer weather is bringing more opportunities to get together outdoors.

**Family:** Our two sons are both in Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Our grandsons are scattered and growing up fast. Two have graduated from college and are now working, one in Denver and one in Pasadena, CA. We wish they were closer! Grandson #3 will graduate from Hampshire College in May. Before the pandemic he took several courses at Mount Holyoke and really enjoyed them. Our youngest grandson is a sophomore at Dickinson College and is hoping to study in France next year. Since I had such a wonderful experience studying in Edinburgh my junior year (and traveling all over Europe with Sherry Welles during vacations), I hope he will have the chance to do that.

**How I Keep Busy:** I spend a lot of time working in the library at Foulkeways. I am in charge of cataloging the non-fiction books and maintaining the card catalog (remember those?!). It keeps my mind functioning! I get to see all the new books coming in and enjoy working with the other volunteers. When the weather is nice, I love working outside in my garden. I really think this kept me sane last summer when almost everything here was shut down. I still belong to a garden club in Swarthmore where we used to live.

I am looking forward to "seeing" many of you at our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. Thanks to the reunion committee for putting it together.

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Phone: 267-464-5004



Lois Quick

Aren't Reunions great for making you dig out old photos and memorabilia? Since retiring twenty years ago, my life has been pretty quiet, especially in the past five years due to creaky bones that limit my walking distance. Thankfully, I did most of my bucket list traveling when I was younger and more mobile (who would have thought I could participate in a 30-mile charity walk from London to Brighton in years gone by?).

I still love living in California despite our drought and frequent fires, even though most of my shrinking immediate family are in the East. My one young-adult great nephew has become a good buddy and comes out to take short trips with me on the West Coast each year. And although I have no children of my own, I am blessed to have several very close friends who graciously treat me as part of their extended families. I have loved watching their children grow into kind, smart and inclusive young people who are now starting to raise their own wonderful children. And I'm so ready for them to take over and run our country!





## Susan Rhodes Brown More Change

All of us who graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1961 have encountered multiple changes. My husband, Duncan and I, have been married since 1961 and we relish our years of companionship, family, travel and plain old fun. Of course, like everyone, we've had heartaches, too, but we try to accept those as part of our ever-changing reality.

Our children and grandchildren are all healthy. Two of the six have graduated from college and the rest are working toward degrees. Our son, Barrett, is CEO of Cedarworks, and our daughter, Sarah, is in the third year of a doctoral program in neuropsychology.

Duncan and I have made one of our largest changes in the past year. After years of enjoying cold winters we decided to give up skiing, simply to protect our aging joints, and discovered that cold winters aren't much fun without outdoor activities to provide a focus. Enter Florida: last March (2020), we purchased a condominium in Sarasota, persuaded by the profusion of cultural offerings there. We just moved in and already know that, contrary to our younger expectations, we'll happily spend lots of time in Florida - even without skiing. -



Biggest change to date: exchanging winter on ski slopes for winter in Florida.

Hope to see you all (so to speak) at reunion!

Susan Rhodes Brown



## Mount Holyoke College 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion – May 21-May 22, 2021

As I write this page, I am grateful to be able to say that my husband, Steve, and I are both fully vaccinated, that several of our adult children and their spouses have been vaccinated, and that our entire family has stayed healthy during the pandemic.

This has been a year of change and transition for us. After 45 years, we sold our beloved home in White Plains, New York, in December 2019, pre-pandemic. In January, we went to Viet Nam on a wonderful Harvard Alumni trip. In February, we went to San

Francisco to see our youngest grandchildren (twins, now aged 9), whom we have not seen since. We were planning to divide our time between an apartment in New York City and our summer home on Martha's Vineyard. The pandemic changed that. We have been on Martha's Vineyard since returning from California and have recently become residents of Massachusetts.

During this past year, we have spent much of our time on Zoom, both personally and professionally. Steve continues to work as an environmental lawyer, and devotes much of his time to his work as Chair of the New York City Bar Association's Task Force on *The Rule of Law*. I continued teaching at Pace University School of Education through the 2020 spring semester, first in person and then virtually. I am currently on leave from teaching, but am still involved as a member of the School of Education Advisory Board. Because of Zoom, during this transition time, we have been able to stay connected to our various activities related to our New York life. We have also begun to become more involved in activities and the community here on the Island. In some ways, Zoom has deepened our connections and relationships with many people who are important in our lives. Steve and I remain committed to and actively involved in social justice causes and issues, including my working on the presidential election.

Our four children, three sons and a daughter, their spouses and their children live all over the country, San Francisco, Ann Arbor, White Plains and, happily for us, here on Martha's Vineyard. Three of our grandchildren are currently in college having a very different experience from what we and our children had. We are hoping for a big family reunion this summer on Martha's Vineyard. Although we haven't made any specific plans, we are also looking forward to traveling again. We are hopeful that the country will begin to emerge from the losses and suffering experienced during the pandemic, that we will begin to heal as a country, and that we will become a more just society for all.

My memories of my days at Mount Holyoke always fill me with deep gratitude, richness, and a desire to continue to learn and grow. This desire has guided me during this time of the pandemic, helping me feel that, although there have been limitations and disappointments, there have also been opportunities to reflect, move in different directions, and find and create new, meaningful, and joyful experiences.

Joan Schlosberg Kass '61



## Carol Schwartz Haag

My news is that as a 5th career Unitarian Universalist minister (preceded by Social Worker, Mother, Girl Scout organizer, and Peace worker) I retired from official service in 2003. Since then I have volunteered for the Universalist Retreat and Renewal Center Murray Grove in New Jersey as board member and then, 6th career, as fundraiser, establishing and chairing the development committee.

The fun really started a decade ago when we launched plans for the Sestercentennial (250th) anniversary of the first Universalist sermon preached in America on September 30, 1770, by John Murray. Prospects for a major weekend celebration in September 2020 were rolling along - and then COVID hit. There were going to be NO crowds gathering on the Murray Grove campus. We pivoted to a virtual program and, silver lining, people could connect from all over the country. Participants were from 55 UU congregations in 25 states and Canada and well over 1000 participated in a live streamed worship service on Sunday. Maximum bed capacity at Murray Grove is 44, so quite a success.

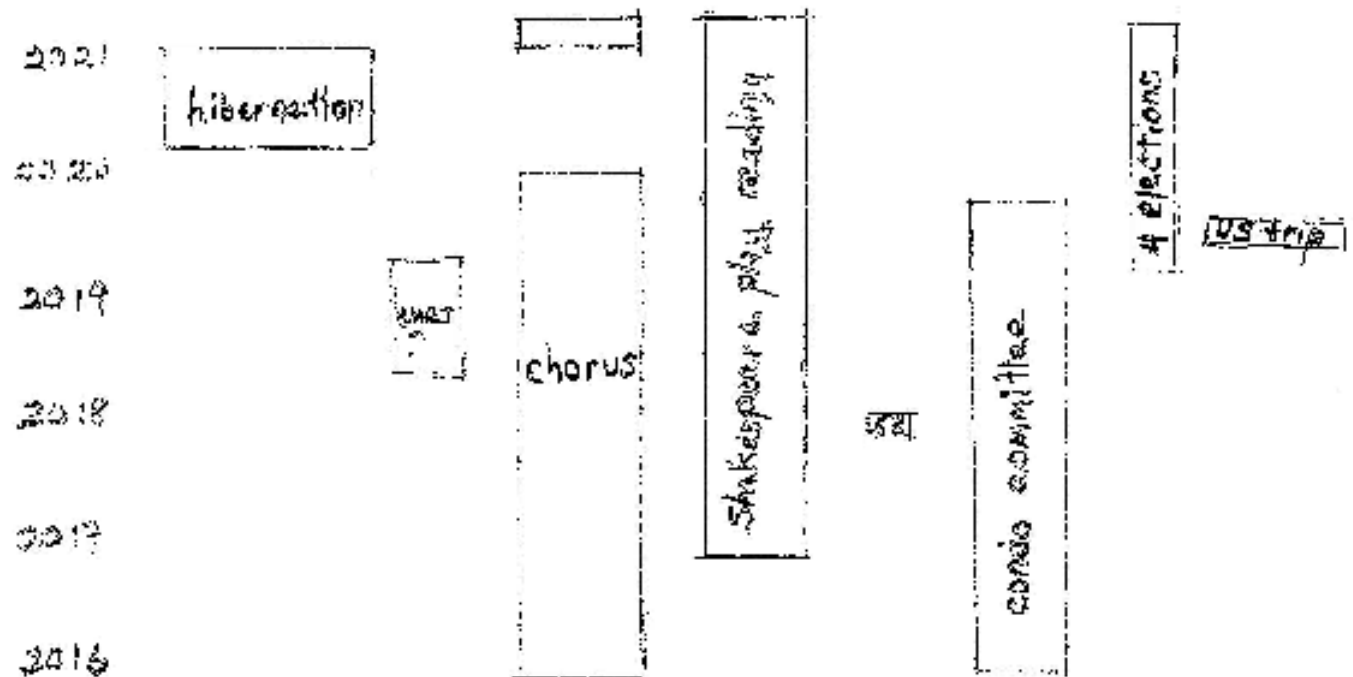


In addition to the Sestercentennial event itself, we commissioned a performance of “Love Notes,” a dramatic rendition of the correspondence, leading to their marriage, between Judith Sargent and John Murray that was performed several times in various locations over the year. And the final triumph was building a representation of the Hand in Hand, the ship that brought John Murray and Universalism to our shores 250 years ago. It now rests on the grounds of Murray Grove in Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey. Welcome all! — come visit, see the Hand in hand, find rest and renewal and support the Murray Grove mission of bringing love and justice to all.

[www.murraygrove.org](http://www.murraygrove.org)



Myra Smail



Explanations: Here we are after a year of hibernation. With enormous thanks to ingenious scientists and effective health care, we the lucky ones are vaccinated and beginning to stir. Looking back through the fog I see a couple of years with cataracts which were removed (by a surgeon I taught in medical school) and one replaced with an amazing corrective lens. Our classical chorus of close friends and talented Siberian conductor has made me happy for years. When we were forced to exist for a year the gap was partially filled on zoom by new friends reading Shakespearean plays. The little box labelled 53 represents a reunion 53 years after we volunteered for "a year" in Israel. We met at the kibbutz where it all began and found that we were still the very same people but our kibbutz had voted to privatize. Condo committee (of one) was a full time and thankless job in an aging building, and four elections in two years is also not fun. This brings us to a wonderful visit to the US and early 80<sup>th</sup> celebrations with family. A similar celebration for a friend at Stanford featured two days of clinical lectures based on research findings from my post-doc lab. So, we have come full circle from ingenious scientists to Ingenious scientists.

Carol Spalding Bulkeley  
25 Woodview Lane, Woodside CA 94062  
[kinnieb@aol.com](mailto:kinnieb@aol.com) cell: 650 520-3386

I will have been married to my husband John for 60 years this September. Aside from the normal ups and downs, (I threw a plate at him once; he ducked and it broke against the fireplace), we have had a good life and a good marriage. We have 3 children, all of whom are married, and three grandchildren. Although our legal address is California, we spend about 5 months at Hayden Lake in northern Idaho where we enjoy lake activities in the summer and fall colors in the autumn. John, an avid fly fisherman, spends a lot of time at our Clark Fork River cabin in Montana where I join him periodically. He's a lot better fisherperson than I am. Since John retired 20 years ago, we have done a lot of traveling including annual visits to Mexico. Some of our adventures: fly fishing, hiking and golfing in New Zealand, 5 trips to various countries in Africa, biking in Morocco and Europe, snorkeling in the South Pacific, and golfing in various places. We've been to Antarctica and Easter Island. In 2020 we made it to Mexico before being shut down. John has survived one heart attack and two bouts of prostate cancer, and I am healthy (still walking 18 holes of golf), so we hope to continue our active lifestyle a bit longer. We still have our own hips, knees and shoulders. Two of our grandchildren have graduated from college and are working in NYC. Our third is still at home in Davis, Ca. Getting everyone together is a challenge, but we see them as often as possible. Pictures: Mexico, Easter Island, with our children in Hayden Lake, fly fishing on the Missouri River in Montana.



Virginia Sparrow Smith

smithsm1@cox.net

Ten days after graduation I married and moved to Fort Knox, KY with my husband Mike who was completing his stint in the Army. There our first daughter was born, and shortly after, we moved to Washington DC. For two years we worked at Sidwell Friends School where I ran the children's library, while Mike taught and coached. We then moved to the University of Illinois where I worked while Mike pursued a Master's degree. When Mike graduated, he accepted a job at United Aircraft Research Lab in East Hartford, CT, and for the past 54 years, Mike and I have lived happily in Manchester, CT! Since both of us were Army brats and moved numerous times, it still surprises me that we have been content to stay in one place. However, we do spend our summers at our nearby lakefront cottage, so we are able to get a change of scenery!

We had two more daughters, six years apart, which probably makes me the longest serving PTA member in our class! For a number of years, I sang with our local Gilbert and Sullivan group, hiding in the last row of the chorus. As a church deacon, I served as the liaison between a dozen church groups and Honor Court which oversees court ordered meetings for addicts.. I earned my Master Gardener certificate, and took many non-credit courses at our community college. We housed a French foreign exchange student for a year, but spoke mostly English except when her parents and two brothers came to visit for a couple of weeks. They didn't speak English, so my MHC minor in French got a real workout!

When our youngest was six years old, I started classes for my MBA at the University of CT, graduating in 1983. However, I never pursued a career and instead worked at about ten different jobs over the years. Among other things, I wrote research papers for medical devices, and taught courses at our local community college. In addition, I also not only sold computers, but assembled them as well. Mike thinks that I am one of the few wives who can open up her husband's computer and repair it for him! We also were foster parents for four emotionally disturbed or physically handicapped children. For a few summers, I took all of our children to summer camp in Maine, where I taught swimming.

The most interesting job I had was my last one, working at American Airlines making phone reservations. The travel benefits were what really made the job worthwhile, and the perks extend into my retirement years! For employees, travel costs were low, and we could make flight plans at the last minute. Mike and I went to Japan several times to visit a daughter who was teaching there. Later, that same daughter lived in Europe for ten years, so we made annual trips to visit her. We went to the Caribbean, and sometimes found ourselves to be the oldest couple at the honeymoon resorts!

When I retired from American in 1999, I became a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, and also volunteered to be an usher at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. Both of these activities have kept me busy for the past 22 years. And now that the pandemic is finally winding down, we look forward traveling again and visiting our six grandchildren.





Marian Strong Moore

As I reflect on the 5 years since our last reunion, one phrase takes the headline:

### **Life Changing and Growing**

John, my husband of 55 years, died after several years of suffering with Parkinson's and accompanying Lewy Bodies dementia. If there is any good news of his last years, it is that he was well cared for in the skilled nursing area of our Life Care Community. While I was sad that we could not live together during his last year, I was able to visit with him every day and was comforted knowing he was in good hands. As many of you know, the grieving process is a bit of a roller coaster but, I am surrounded by loving family and very supportive friends. It does not get any better.

The choice that John and I made, close to seven years ago, continues to have been a good one. I am grateful to him every day for his making it possible for us to afford to move to Seabury Life Care Community. Close friendships have developed and I have seized upon new activities. It seems that my career in non-profit development continues as I serve on the Board of Directors of the Seabury Charitable Foundation, whose mission is to provide for residents who have outlived their resources through no fault of their own and for projects that enhance the lives of those in our community. Our donor base consists of residents and the families of residents. We rely heavily on bequests and planned giving.

My new Seabury pals are very active. We play pickleball outside year round. We xc ski, snowshoe, play tennis, lots of hiking and some biking. I am active in the Residents Council and continue activities with old friends like church choir, book group and bridge group, symphony and theatre. Let's hear it for ZOOM!! Another exciting activity is the Adult Learning Program sponsored by the University of Connecticut. Lots of fascinating lectures on topics I wish I had studied at MHC, had I more time. I am getting quite proficient at ZOOM, as are many of you.

While I miss John a great deal, life is full and interesting. Do I wish to be young, again? Only in the physical sense because I cannot do all that I have over the years. But, it is Okay. That's life and there's much else to do and enjoy. Besides, it is interesting watching me do some growing. Would that I knew then what I know now!!! Do I have regrets? Sure, don't we all? I am trying to focus on what I can do and be in the next five years.

Watching my children bring up fantastic children is an enormous joy. Of course, I love them to pieces but, also I like being around them as interesting people.

What I will miss this reunion is the chance to sit and chat and get to know you better. Each reunion I have had the opportunity to do that and find that I wish I had known that woman while at MHC. Let's make lunch dates and look forward to our 65<sup>th</sup> reunion!

Bette Peterson sent me a photo a few days ago, and the caption was "Where have the years gone!" The photo was of Kathy Firth Glazer and me at Mount Holyoke 60 years ago!

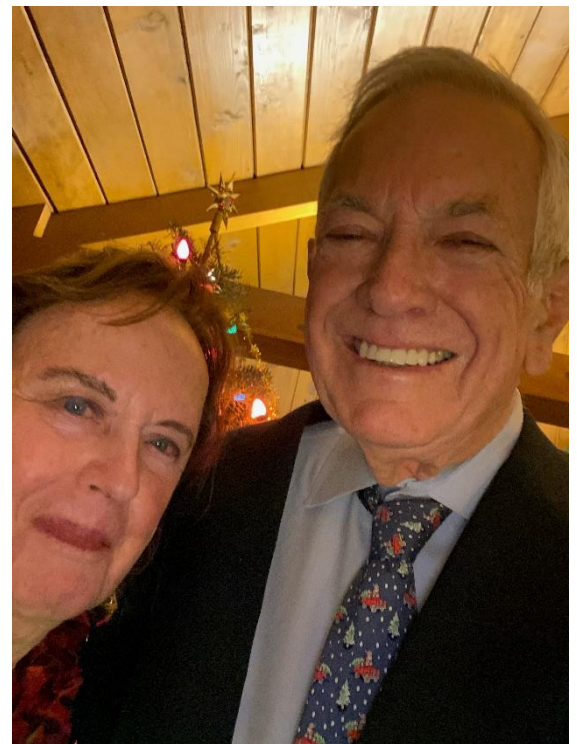
Indeed where have they gone? Bill and I hopefully will celebrate our 42nd wedding anniversary in September. Like all, we have had our share of "bumps and bruises" along the way but basically have been most fortunate. Last year we were in Florida and could not get back to Mattapoisett until June. We spend time between our homes on Longboat Key Florida and Mattapoisett Massachusetts.

We kept close to "our family" during these Covid times. One picture shows Bill, our god-daughter, Tatum, my best friend Pat (Tatum's mom) and the two Airedales—Emmie and J.J.—our Christmas "family" portrait. The other picture is a recent one of Bill and me.

Am still playing tennis and golf and have a personal trainer 2x a week. Participate on numerous committees and volunteer groups supporting art (in all forms) for all in our southeast Massachusetts region.

For relaxation, I love working on my various gardening and landscape projects.

Sandra Svihovec Hewitt



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since January 1996 Manager of MHC61 Chat List  
currently 87 members  
to join, email me at [61carolbenson@gmail.com](mailto:61carolbenson@gmail.com)

Here's a sampling of the thought and action prompts tacked on my home office wall, strategically placed out of reach of Tobias's teeth. My cat's favorite pastime is removing the black pushpins.

"If one is unafraid of change, insatiable in intellectual curiosity, interested in big things, and happy in small ways, one can remain alive long past the usual date of disintegration."

**Edith Wharton**

Last spring during the Vermont senior total lockdown I was "happy in small ways" when I changed the batteries in the remotes and succeeded in unjamming the paper in the computer printer all by myself.

"I wouldn't advise you to lend a cat money."

**unknown financier**

"Intuition is really a sudden immersion of the soul into the universal current of life, where the histories of all people are connected, and we are able to know everything, because it's all written there."

**Paulo Coelho**

In reference to the pirate ways of behavior, Barbossa, the Captain of the Black Pearl, says "The code is more what you'd call 'guidelines' than actual rules."

Such thinking has come in handy in some life situations particularly if I'm trying to diminish guilt.

One day during my daily walk my neighbor Edith and I were discussing different choices of living arrangements.

"I'm happy to share my home as long as you have four legs and fur," I said.

"Two men?" said Edith.



## Ruth Vars Barnes

*A philosophy professor stood before his class and had some items in front of him. When class began, he picked up a large, empty jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks about two inches in diameter. He then asked if the jar was full, and the students agreed that it was. He then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar, and of course the pebbles filled the open spaces. He then asked the students again if the jar was full, and they replied that it was. The professor picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar, and of course the sand filled up everything else.*

I love this well-known story as a metaphor for life! The rocks are the most important things in one's life, the pebbles are the other things that matter, and the sand is all the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, focusing your energy only on the small stuff, there is no room for the truly important stuff, the rocks and pebbles.

So on the occasion of our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, I have been reflecting on my rocks, pebbles and sand.

My **rocks** are the relationships and experiences that I treasure the most. My husband, Jim, my daughters Caroline ('88) and Deborah ('93) and their spouses Mike and Julian, my grandchildren Kate and Claire, my brother Charles (who visited Mount Holyoke on a fraternity pledge trip, measured the library in bra lengths, and later convinced me to apply there), other close family members, my dearest friends (including my MHC roomie, Judy Ashworth), and my Mount Holyoke education, and all I learned and experienced there.

I think of my **pebbles** as the achievements my "rocks" have enabled, what my many blessings have allowed me to accomplish. In this category I include my first profession, teaching high school chemistry, and my current one, our Shaklee business, through which we help others achieve good health as we earn travel rewards for the family. I include, as well, the house where we lived in Rhode Island with a view of the ocean, and the one we lived in later here in Colorado with a spectacular view of the mountains. I also love where we live now – in a lovely neighborhood with one daughter and her family in the house next door, and the other down the street!

The **sand**, the day-to-day stuff that we all deal with, the good and the bad, is more manageable because my family is nearby. I remind myself every day of how lucky I am! And my Mount Holyoke educational experience was the **rock-solid foundation** that allowed for all the rest.



From Rosemary (Robin) Walsh O'Brien

My life the last several years...

When John and I were in our sixties, we decided to downsize to a small, one-story house. We thought we'd last about 10 years. Suddenly we find we've been here 20 years! We're grateful to still be here, and hope we can squeeze out another year or two of living on our own. It's not easy, though, because John is now confined to a wheelchair. We have a health aide in the morning, but the rest of the day I'm the caregiver. So I have to hope that my health holds up... so far so good!

We love our 12 grandchildren. We're old enough to be great-grandparents, but we actually have two little granddaughters ages 3 and 4, quite a blessing in our dotage, especially since they live in nearby New York City. Another son and his family live in Sydney and they have become Australian citizens. Universal health care, college expenses around \$20,000 a year — what's not to like? Other family members live in Boston, and our oldest granddaughter goes to Barnard, carrying out the Women's College tradition!

Volunteering...

After I retired as an elementary school librarian, I found my ideal volunteer activity. In nearby Paterson New Jersey, a struggling city, most schools didn't have libraries. So I started a library in one school, getting books from donations and used book sales. I volunteered two days a week, reading and helping children check out books. In the 20 years since, I rounded up several volunteers and we've set up libraries in five Paterson schools. Of course, all this came to an end as schools closed with the pandemic, and now my main concern is caring for my husband. But I'm hoping the wonderful volunteers will continue the work as schools reopen.

Mount Holyoke....

Apparently as you get older, short-term memory declines, but you remember the past more vividly than ever. Yes, it's true, I'm remembering with gratitude and pleasure the years at Mount Holyoke. Weren't we lucky to have had such an experience!

2016 -2021: Five years of aging, moving to a CCRC, evading the virus, enduring separation from family and friends. I feel fortunate on so many levels and in so many aspects of my life.

I don't feel old, I don't act old, I look a little bit old – but not like my grandmothers 60 years ago! I enjoy tennis, walking (especially on the beach,) water aerobics, and gardening. I take low dose blood pressure meds – that's all. I don't need naps. My weight has only changed a bit.... I have energy for a busy life!

My husband, Jim, has had some significant cardiac issues in the past 3 years and is now dealing with pain and restricted activity as a result of a worn-out knee. Our sailing days are over, travel is no longer an option, but we exercise together in the pool and partner for a lot of bridge (most recently on-line, of course,) and love time with our kids, grandkids and friends; this is an acceptable trade-off.

Because we're 81+, because health care issues are inevitable, because I didn't want either of us to be a future caregiver without medical support, and because we wanted to move to a new community when we were still capable of enjoying a new lifestyle, of making new friends, of joining and enjoying community-sponsored activities - for all these reasons we sold our condo in the beach and tennis community (Sea Oaks) in Vero Beach, FL and moved to a life-care residential community, also in Vero Beach. We're adjusting, happy, relieved to be where we are! It helps that we have our cottage at the shore (N.J.) where we plan to spend 4 + months, escaping the Florida summer and finally enjoying family and friends in our BayHead home.

Covid-19 is a relentless and virulent virus, and it certainly changed our daily lives for the past year+ - and for months to come. We were careful and vigilant, and horrified by the mounting tragedies as a result of this novel virus. We were terrified when our daughter and husband were hospitalized in Conn last April; I've never felt so helpless as I did that week. (Nancy and Scott are fine today, and I'm grateful for their resilience and good health.) So, like most everyone else, we passed the months of quasi-quarantine with jig-saw puzzles, trying new recipes, sorting through closets and cupboards – AND being ready at a moment's notice to show our condo to any prospective buyer. It took 6 months to sell... The good news is that we had 6 extra months in SeaOaks with friends and familiar surroundings, with a great beach across the street, pools to keep us active and cool, and even tennis "with our own ball." Tho' no parties or large gatherings, we were happy to invite friends for a "driveway drink" = BYO chair, drink and snack, and 6' distancing!

Zoom has been a blessing during Covid. Zoom enabled us to "meet" with our children regularly. I've been zooming with my high school classmates weekly. I've kept up with Board commitments and town meetings via Zoom. And for the past few months as Nom Comm chair I've joined the Reunion Planning Committee meeting, weekly, on Zoom to plan the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion – 18 of us, with great leadership from Barbara Freeman Douglas and Mary Ginn Weinland, working creatively to make this virtual reunion memorable and fun. Wish we could share hugs, but we'll have to be content with "virtual hugs!"







Dear Friends,

When my husband and I went to have our two Covid-19 shots, I asked everyone, servicing the center, if they were volunteering. The answer was “Yes” for everyone. Today my daughter called...she was on her way to volunteer at her local vaccination site in Vermont. It thrilled me that so many people are willing to give time to help with the battle to control Covid-19.

My husband has Alzheimer’s Disease and we belong to an organization in Brewster that supports the patient and the care giver. Two days ago, I tripped in the garage and fell with my head hitting the edge of a wooden step. I quickly had a bump the size of a goose egg. A neighbor took me to the hospital and soon the people in the support group learned about my story. Since then, I have had calls asking about my health, if I wanted supper, if I wanted...anything. I am surrounded by very kind people.

With all of the dreadful news we hear daily about the loss of life from Covid-19, the loss of voting rights, the impacts of racism, the hardships of people everywhere...these kindnesses restore one’s feeling of goodness in the world.

We have two daughters, one a doctor in Vermont with three children and the other a journalist, currently working for the Boston Globe, with one little girl.



We love our home and so have decided to stay in it as long as we can. I vow to be more careful, however.

Sue Wheatley Carr



MOUNT HOLYOKE SEMINARY.  
SOUTH HADLEY, MASS.

