

New Hampshire '61 Mini-reunion August 25, 2022

Nine uncommon women from the Class of 1961 gathered in North Conway for our annual mini-reunion: Judy Marshall Kennedy, Carol Sweeney Benson, Marian Strong Moore, Bobbi Childs Sampson, Nancy Coleman Wolsk, Dottie Smith Mann, Sallie Crittendon, Dee deFerranti Abrahamse, Barbara Freeman Douglass. We were glad to have two younger graduates join us, Sallie's daughter Lisa, class of '83, and her friend Sarah Qin, class of '08, and to welcome Dee's husband Allan.

Judy asked each one to tell news and events of the last year.

Dottie: loves her summer time in Rockport MA. Since the death of her husband ten years ago, she has found herself alone for the first time ever. She has been growing her contemplative self; she now has the luxury of staying with a thought .She finds writing is easier because she is clearer on what she wants to say, and she delights in expressing her very own truth and sharing it with others.

Judy: glad she had asked her father to write down his memories of growing up in New York City. Family members treasure this memoir. Judy got a letter from an English woman whose aunt had been her father's nanny and who gave Judy letters from her grandmother. Judy has also been very busy with Mountain Top Music, a wonderful resource for teaching, learning and performance here in the Conway area. She was happy to announce a matching grant had been received and that the money was already matched! She also said she drove through Mount Holyoke on August 24 and was struck by how beautiful our college is.

Carol: Having been alone since 2004, she was a little unsure about having her grandniece stay with her—but it was a great joy. The young woman is super organized. She and her partner watched *Antonia' s Line*, a great movie about love. Carol was pleased that she has achieved being active in another generation's life. She was also pleased that her nephew wants Carol's home as it is, which eliminates the hassles of moving stuff.

Dee: so appreciative of having her husband Al. She stressed it the importance of women's education and how we all keep trying to make the world better. And she candidly shared her worries over her Alzheimer's diagnosis. What will happen? But she is grateful for the incredible support she has, especially that of the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Al: Lamoille County VT has the distinction of being named the best place in the US to

withstand climate change, so Carol is in an excellent position. He and Dee enjoy their time in North Wolcott VT, on property that Dee's father bought in 1965.

Sallie: her daughter Lisa bought a 1920 Victorian style house in Norway ME and the past year was spent rehabbing the house. She is now settled and looks forward to being able to pursue other activities. She also is getting used to living alone, having lost her husband 2 years ago.

Nancy: moved to Lexington KY in 1968 and began teaching at Transylvania University in 1979. She thought she had fallen off the edge of the earth, but she has come to love it. She has been retired for 6 years; her husband died 4 years ago. She has been very involved in historic preservation and is focused on a house designed by famous architect Benjamin Latrobe. This will require \$6,000,000 to restore and she has been writing grants. It is exciting to be able to tell stories of a house built in 1810, and to have those stories told holistically, including both white and enslaved men and women.

Marian: has had fun taking grandchildren on trips, one at a time, to be able to enjoy each one individually. Earlier this summer she and her youngest enjoyed the San Diego Zoo, getting behind the scenes and learning how the animals are cared for. She came from her summer place in Waterford ME and enjoys the rest of the year in her CCRC in CT

Bobbi: shared the harrowing experience of her husband's ski accident last winter, but all is well now. They have enjoyed boating and water skiing this summer at their place on Moose Pond in Bridgton ME.

Barb: also living alone after her husband died in 2020. The "quaint and charming" 1784 house is impossible to heat so the last two winters were spent 3 miles north. This winter involves a big move to a CCRC, Thornton Oaks, in Brunswick ME. The plan is to return to Conway in the summer.

Judy reminded us of the Class Zooms—one on Mary Lyons' birthday in February and another on or about Mountain Day in October.

This mini-reunion was the 13th! Save the third Thursday in August, 2023!

Deepest thanks to Judy for both the Zooms and the mini-reunion.

Barb