

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964

After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!

Quarterly Class Notes

“Quarterly” News: Winter 2011 Class Notes **by Priscilla Morse Huston**

Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas indicated that “being on campus for the pres. inauguration was so exciting! The air on campus was electric. It is always inspiring to get to converse with the current students-every year they seem to get better and better.” Our class did well, with 12 members attending. Heather and Ann Heckel Oppenheimer were in a front-page picture in the Springfield Republican behind Pres. Pasquerella. Check the MHC Web site to listen to Pres. Lynn Pasquerella’s speech and think about how we can continue to be part of her challenge to achieve Mary Lyon’s dream.



Lenora Castles Bryant writes “There is life after death!” after her “better half passed last year.” Lenora has delved into volunteering and studying. She has settled into teaching English as a 2nd language as her volunteer activity of choice and cannot get enough of playable courses from The Teaching Company. After teaching at Providence College for 28 years, Ellen Safier Goodman retired unexpectedly when she was diagnosed with fibromyalgia (which she now suspects is celiac disease). She is in contact with our coscribe, Jean Vnenchak, who also has celiac. Ellen lives in Providence, RI, and enjoys cultural events, natural sites, and having her son Bob, his wife Naama, and her 5-year-old grandson Amishai nearby in Boston.” She treasured her time at MHC and would love to hear from classmates on Facebook or by e-mail.

Kathryn (Kitty) Eppston Rabinow asked: Does everyone in the class know that the actress portraying “Miss Ham” in the movie *Secretariat* is really playing a wonderful MHC alumna? *Secretariat* was named for Elizabeth Ham ‘28, who was the secretary for the horse farm’s owner. Elizabeth was a wonderful woman who was an active volun-

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teer for the Alumnae Assn. during the sesquicentennial and for years afterward.

Judith (Judy) Hudson Cudnik and her husband, Ken, experienced a summer marked by several health challenges that hit them both. She writes: "Has anyone else had his-and-hers heart catheterizations in the space of 2 months? Thankfully we both came through those procedures and others in good shape, and we have good news on that score." They are updating their kitchen and have adopted a 2nd cat.

Reunions and new homes: Caroline Webster Bernard welcomed Gretchen Beck Green and Molly Bowditch Jones for lunch in Aug. Gretchen and Molly drove from Poughkeepsie, NY, for the visit and a tour of Caroline's new home in Southbury, CT. Caroline met Elizabeth Plantamura Barbis and Leslie Raissman Wellbaum in Philadelphia while there for her 50th h.s. reunion. Caroline and Leslie visited Ellen Manfredonia Nutter at her newly renovated Queen Anne style home in Asheville, NC. Leslie went back to NYC for a visit with Barbara Rosen and to attend her 50th h.s. reunion.

After the inauguration, we sent an e-mail to all classmates for whom we had e-mail addresses. If you did not receive this, please consider sending your e-mail address to scribe64@mtholyoke.edu so we can include you quickly and without extra expense for postage.

"Quarterly" News: Spring 2011 Class Notes
by Jean Vnenchak

Mary Ann Lytle Anthony writes: "My granddaughter, Brittney Anthony, who is a sr. at Suffield H.S. in CT, is applying to MHC as her 1st-choice school. I have tried not to be a pushy grandmother, but I did invite her to visit campus during our 45th reunion. Since then, as she researched schools with strong science (she wants to be pre-med), she realized all that MHC has to offer, visited campus on Columbus Day with her family, and had an interview-and is now passionately hoping to be admitted to the class of 2015. She has legacy going for her-my grandmother was in the class of 1914."

Lily Klebanoff Blake spoke with Pres. Pasquerella '80 at an event in NYC and reaffirmed the commitment of our class to furthering her initiatives for women that she spoke of so movingly at her inauguration.

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We are delighted to report that, inspired in part by wonderful experiences at h.s. reunions, Judy Torvend Laing has decided to reconnect with us. Judy left MHC after her freshman year. Judy says, "When I left MHC, I transferred to St. Olaf College (MN), where I sang in the choir, majored in English, and minored in German. I then taught English in Rimbach, Germany, for a year, and in 1966 returned home to study at the U. of OR for an MA in German. I taught for about 20 years altogether in comm. colleges before retiring in 2003.

"I met my husband, Chris, in Eugene at the Univ. in 1968. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren, and have lived in Germany, WI, and MN (where Chris is from) until moving in 1997 back to Portland, OR, about 15 miles from where I grew up. That's my nearly 50-year story in a nutshell. Now I very much look forward to reconnecting with you at our MHC 50th reunion in 2014!" Judy, we look forward to seeing you at the 50th. For more about Judy, click here. POINT TO FILE 09JUDYTORVENDMEMOIR

Kitty Eppston Rabinow and her daughter, Sarah Rabinow Pesikoff '90, chaired the 30th anniv. gala ball for the Children's Museum of Houston, which "provides fantastic educational opportunities for over 800,000 children and their families each year." The gala "was a smashing success with almost \$1.2 million raised for the free and reduced admission programs and our off-site progs. held in at-risk communities around Houston." For a smashing photo of Kitty and Sarah see: culturemap.com/newsdetail/10-18-10-way-more-than-kids-play-childrens-museum-30th-anniversary-gala-brings-in-record-dollars/

Kitty has now resumed her "real life," including her photography, where her "abstracts printed on plexiglass are being very favorably regarded."

Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas writes that "the main excitement this past summer was provided by the Aug. wedding in Wolfeboro of my daughter, Sherri L. Wilcauskas '91, who was attended by her sister, Heather L. Wilcauskas '87 (our class baby), and her niece, the class baby's baby Kathleen Smith (hopefully an MHC graduate in 2018). Wedding went well. Location on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee was beautiful and weather was gorgeous. Sherri and Matt were married on Aug. 14, which should have been Gene's and my 46th anniv., so it was a bittersweet day for me, fraught with many

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memories.”

Sadly, we have learned that Edith (Edie) Lewis Canning passed away on Aug. 10 in Bantam, CT, from complications from diabetes. She is survived by her son, Kyle Lewis Canning, sisters Amelia C. Joynes and Martha Canning Ryan, and brother Miles Canning. She will be greatly missed by them, by her friends, and by her many nieces and nephews and their children.

Edie was born and raised in Fairfield, and spent most of her summers at Camp Mohawk in Litchfield. In coming to MHC, Edie followed in the footsteps of her mother, class of 1938, and her grandmother, class of 1904. After graduation, Edie had a distinguished career as a special educ. teacher in Naugatuck and Waterbury, CT. She was passionate about kids, bird-watching, reading, music, and nature. Everyone who knew her learned from her. Condolences can be sent to her son, Kyle Lewis Canning, P.O. Box 862, Torrington, CT 06790.



“Quarterly” News: Summer 2011 Class Notes **by Priscilla Morse Huston**

Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas indicated that “being on campus for the pres. inauguration was so exciting! The air on campus was electric. It is always inspiring to get to converse with the current students-every year they seem to get better and better.” Our class did well, with 12 members attending. Heather and Ann Heckel Oppenheimer were in a front-page picture in the Springfield Republican behind Pres. Pasquerella. Check the MHC Web site to listen to Pres. Lynn Pasquerella’s speech and think about how we can continue to be part of her challenge to achieve Mary Lyon’s dream.

The new 1964 Web site can be reached either directly at mhc64.com or via the MHC

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Alumnae Web site alumnae.mtholyoke.edu. Notices sent to the scribes may be placed on the Web site under "Recent News" with the permission of the author. They may also be used for the Quarterly. Entries may include pictures as well as pointers to other electronic media.



Classmates who do not recall the username/password can find it in the recent US mailed class letter or may request it by connecting directly to the 1964 Web site and following directions. Send comments and watch mhc64.com for further developments.

Susan Schuck Hirst writes: "After working in Oak Ridge, TN, for 20 years as a middle-school guidance counselor, my husband, Eric, and I moved to Bellingham, WA, 9 years ago to be near our daughters and our grandchildren. I teach HIV/AIDS classes for the local Red Cross. I have twice been to Ghana, Africa, to teach about AIDS and help build and support an orphanage in the small coastal town of Axim." Susan also traveled to Haiti in Feb. of this year with her daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons aged 8 and 10. To read more and see pictures, check out "Recent News" on our Web site.

Nancy Chambers Goff writes: "Traveling by air seems to be a major activity. I am going to Australia for a month, leaving May 19 and coming back at the end of June. My cousin and I toured Indonesia, Borobudur in Java, and Bali for a textile tour. The temples in Java are awe-inspiring with beautiful delicate carvings of the Ramayana myth. My niece and I hiked in the cloud forests in the Amazon basin in Peru, including a hike to the Gocta Fall.

Nancy leads our class agents, who met in Apr. to plan the strategy for the 50th reunion gift that we will hear more about in the fall. See "Class Agents Corner" on the Web site.

Mary Pamela (Pam) Crady Valentine won the drawing, which was held on Apr. 13, for

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one week in the condo on the Island of Kauai in HI (donated by Gretchen Wuth Hays for a '64 classmate who had made an Annual Fund gift).

Below are selected comments from Priscilla Morse Huston (me), Wendy Lycan Jackson, Sarah Allen Mowitt, Barbara Dallinger Crowell, Lenore Wadzinski Yousef, Edith Prentice Mendez, Gail Simons Humphreys and husband Steve, Ellen Manfredonia Nutter and husband Dave, and Jane Shilling Emerson and husband Mike, who traveled China's Old Road to Shu with Hope Whitaker Justman in Mar. 2011: "What a fantastic time we had!" "A one-of-a-kind spectacular experience and great success!" "It was a privilege to see China in a way few foreigners can!" "It is an understatement to say we were lucky!" "We are grateful for Hope's passion, Jane's organization, MHC, and our great traveling companions."

Hope is planning another hiking tour in March 2012. Contact her soon at hjustman@yahoo.com if interested. Watch www.mhc64.com for some great pictures. Preview Wendy's pictures [here](#).

In China, David Nutter provided readings from Tao Te Ching plus Tang Dynasty poems and Confucius. These led to reflection on classmate Jane English and her interest in Tao (see eheart.com). Random House is reissuing her Tao Te Ching in Oct. with over 100 new photos and an updated translation.



"Quarterly" News: Fall 2011 Class Notes by Jean Vnenchak

Mary Ann Lytle Anthony updates us that her granddaughter, Brittney, was accepted to MHC and will be a member of the class of 2015! She received a legacy scholarship grant because of her family connections to the college and a Mary Lyon scholarship grant. Mary Ann says, "She and I are thrilled! She has been to an orientation weekend, stayed overnight, and shadowed a student through a day of classes. She came home with the requisite sweatshirt and MHC grandparent mugs for Bob and me."

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Betsy Beatty Gable writes that she, her husband, and Sue Davis, Carol Carter Stevens, Alison Pedicord Schleifer, and their husbands gathered in Rockport, MA, for the town's annual garden tour, plus good food and catching up. Sue has self-published her novel, *Love Means Second Chances*. Carol and husband, Bruce, are in the process of selling their RI home; Alison and husband, Jim, are enjoying a well-deserved vacation in Canada; and Betsy and Bruce are thinking seriously about retirement in the not-too-distant future.

Nancy Chambers Goff writes that in June, she and Ellan Odiorne Derow had a day touring Oxford, where Ellan has lived for the past 32 years. Ellan is contemplating a walk along Hadrian's Wall to celebrate her 70th birthday. Ellan added: "I've just returned from 4 1/2 days at the Port Eliot Festival in Cornwall. Starting as an alternative literary festival, it now features authors, music, cooking, film, and more and is held on the grounds of the Earl of St. German's country house. The highpoints for me were hearing Edmund de Waal discuss his work-in-progress and Kate Winslet read a children's story.

On a perfect July day, Sarah Allen Mowitt, Priscilla Morse Huston, Nancy Chambers Goff, Susan Nicholson, Vicki Diez-Canseco, Marion Foster, Betsy Beatty Gable, and your scribe for this column, Jean Vnenchak, visited with Barbara Scott Nelson near Gloucester, MA. The conversations flowed freely; we were so interested in learning who we were at this age and stage of life experience, with a lot more still to discover. Sue gave us a better understanding of issues in the Middle East when she talked of her recent experiences in Lebanon.

Anita Corman Weinblatt and Lily Klebanoff Blake took an alumnae trip to Russia this summer. They were joined by several other MHC alums, Ellen MacNeille Charles '59, Meg Gere Harris '71, Amy Johnson '72 (and her daughter, Devon), and Linda Varian Urda '69. Since it stayed light until after 10 pm, we were able to enjoy the people strolling through Red Square in the evening, and see GUM, the major department store, lit-up like a fairy tale and filled with Western designer goods. (What must Lenin be thinking in his nearby mausoleum?) We also met with Victoria Stepanenko '03, who lives in Moscow. The highlight of the trip was a cruise along the Volga with stops to see cities more than 1,000 years old, a rare opportunity to see the heart of Russia, followed by a trip on the Trans-Siberian back to Moscow.

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We hope this is old news to you?that you have seen this info, expanded and illustrated with photos in the "Recent News" section of our relaunched Web site. Please visit: mhc64.com. We need everyone's input and participation to turn this site into the communication resource you asked for at our 45th. Log-in info is available on the site.