

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964
After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!
Quarterly Class Notes

“Quarterly” News: Winter 2010 Class Notes
by Priscilla Morse Huston

Jean Vnenchak, 26 Wyman Rd., Lexington, MA 02420-3236; 781-862-3847; Priscilla Morse Huston, 8818 Link Court, Houston TX 77025; 832-651-5684; June-Oct: 310 Oakridge Ave, N. Attleboro, MA 02760; 508- 222-0448; scribe64@mtholyoke.edu

Communication is primary in the 5-year plan the new class officers are working toward (see class letter at www.mhc64.com and send your thoughts). The class agents have held 4 regional meetings since reunion and are focusing on “connecting” as well. They will be reaching out to each of us.

Barbara Flesch Resnek welcomed a new granddaughter, Zoe Elizabeth Wyett, on June 5, 2009. Zoe has 3 brothers: Henry (10), Jonah (8), and Abe (6). Barbara attended the Haifa Intl. Film Festival with a group from the Boston Jewish Film Festival. While there, she saw relatives, an orphanage (Yemin Orde), and the Technion. Barbara recently joined Harvard Inst. for Learning in Retirement, where Ann Heckel Oppenheimer is an honored long-time member. Barbara hosted the Boston area class agent meeting, wishes everyone a good year, and looks forward to speaking with classmates and seeing some of us on Facebook.

Jane Shilling Emerson is on the go, recently to SE Asia and Central America with her husband and in Jan. to Egypt and Jordan. In Sept., she joined Nancy Chambers Goff, Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas, Gretchen Wuth Hayes, and Mary Vic Jones Giersch at the home of Steve and Gail Simmons Humphreys for the 5-day West Coast class agents' meeting. Rarely has productivity been so rewarding and fun!

On Aug. 1, Nancy Chambers Goff welcomed grandson Garrett Goff in MA. When she is not visiting her sons and their families in CA or MA, she is working in a remote part of the world, traveling for fun, entertaining in VA, or being our head class agent. In Nov. she spent 2 weeks in Australia consulting at the Bundaberg Rum distillery.

Kate Shockey Lafrance reports her treatments are over and she is feeling terrific now. Classmate encouragement was a big factor in her return to good health.

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Margaret Cormeny O'Brien writes: Can you imagine a snowstorm in MA on Oct. 18? That's what I faced with other '64 class officers as we convened to plan our 50th reunion. Being together was worth it. I continue to work at our town library and serve on town and church committees. Meg makes frequent trips to Jacksonville, FL, to see 3 grandchildren and hopes to move closer to them.



Winnie Hesson McCormick sent a couple of notes with pictures (of daughter Janice with Sven (8), Ava (2), and son Greg and his first-born, Fiona) that will eventually show up on our revised Web site (see below now). Winnie loves clogging. When Green Mountain Cloggers Exhibition Dancers advertised in her paper, she decided it would be a good way to get exercise. See pictures and videos at: www.greenmountaincloggersexhibitiondance-team.com.



Betsy Wadt Mulcare and Bob took a MHC trip to the eastern Mediterranean (Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt). The MHC trips they have taken are exceedingly well done and priced reasonably. Please send notes to scribe64@mtholyoke.edu



"Quarterly" News: Spring 2010 Class Notes

by Jean Vnenchak

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Caroline Webster Bernard writes, "I have moved to Southbury, CT, from Salt Lake City, UT, quite a seismic shift in life. I got myself packed up, drove across country with my cat, and landed in a lovely New England town which often reminds me of the MHC campus. Although I loved living in UT, after my husband died, I wanted to be

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closer to my 2 daughters, and my grandtwins. So now I can help out my single-parent daughter with picking up Emma at school, taking her to soccer practice, etc. My grandson is completely disabled with cerebral palsy, so there is a lot going on in that household, and a lot of the burden I hope to take over. Visiting my younger daughter in the DC area is fun, now that I can go whenever I want. I've settled into a 55+ community called Heritage Village, which is really much more fun than it may sound. I've joined the singing group here and taken weekly hikes with the outdoor folks. Hope to be able to continue skiing here, although I will miss the Utah snow. Any '64ers in this area who like to take day trips to ski?

Ellen Rice reports that she joined the ranks of the involuntarily retired last fall. But, somehow the "spare" time has disappeared into catching up with her always-needy 1928 house in Dayton, OH, doing more in her neighborhood assoc. and folkdance groups, and jobhunting! She is looking for some shortterm editing/writing assignments that will carry her to 66 and full Social Security.

Suzanne Selby Grenager writes, that with the help of her husband, Trond, she is deep into editing her first of several books. "In All Our Gory Glory is a raw, intimate, and transformational wisdom book about how I've been using the stuff of my everyday life to get clear of fear and in service to love. Later books will explore how, as women working together, we might help heal our ailing world-in the collaborative Feminine way." She welcomes contact and support (including leads to agents and publishers) at: www.suzannegrenager.com or sgrenager@aol.com.

Melinda Yates Costin is immersed in the healthcare field as a v.p. in the Baylor Health Care System's Info. Services. She is enthusiastic about the opportunities electronic med. records offer each of us to get informed, appropriate, and evidence-based care.

Heather Tyrie Wilcauskas has decided to go on the South American trip that she and Gene had been planning before his death last May. She is also working on the Aug. wedding of her daughter, Sherri '91. I quote, "...so you see, life does go on, with happy moments to balance out the sad."

We have learned that Martha Kate McCrumm Thomas was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in early Dec. 2009. She started 9 weeks of chemo on Dec. 11, and anticipates that this will be followed by major abdominal surgery and 9 more weeks of chemo. She

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appreciates well wishes, but please do not take it personally if she does not reply. Her friend and colleague, Jamie Sladky, has been very helpful in setting up a Web site at www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/620496 for friends who are able to help. Jamie can be reached at Jamie.Sladky@Raymondjames.com.

Sadly, Mary Meredith Dobyms writes that Lindsay Hopson Torreblanca, a Davis, CA, resident for 37 years with her husband Maximo, died Jan. 3 at age 66, after bravely battling cancer. She was raised in Buenos Aires by her American parents and found valuable mentors at Mount Holyoke, such as Mr. Farnham in the English Dept. A Danforth scholarship took her to Spain. She was a homemaker, and Maximo was a full prof. of linguistics at UC-Davis. Lindsay was a wonderful mother to 2 daughters: Antonia, a physician, and Marian, a physical therapist; and loving grandmother to Joaquin, 2. She had been the sole caretaker of her beloved husband for 20 years since his stroke. Many dear friends and neighbors provided delicious meals and rides to doctor appointments. Lindsay will be remembered for her generous nature, astute intellect, and calm spirit. Cards of condolence can be sent to: Maximo Torreblanca, 2810 Grinnel Drive, Davis, CA 95618.

“Quarterly” News: Summer 2010 Class Notes
by Priscilla Morse Huston

Christie McDonald and her husband, Dr. Michael Rosengarten, were appointed house masters at Mather House at Harvard, where she is the Smith Prof. of French Language and Lit. and Prof. of Comp. Lit. in the Dept. of Romance Languages and Lit. Christie is coeditor of 2 books to be published this year: *Rousseau and Freedom* and *French Global: A New Approach to Literary History*.

Meg Cormeny O'Brien moved to Jacksonville, FL, to be near one of her sons and his family. When her home in MA sold quickly, she met the challenge of moving suddenly on her own. Ellen Manfredonia Nutter moved to Ashville, NC, to be near her daughter and her family. She would like to welcome any MHC '64 visitors.

Lily Klebanoff Blake, Gena Reisner, Carla Skodinski '72, and Annetta Kimball Weaver's husband Tom attended a concert at Symphony Space in NYC, where Gail Hunt Reeke played violin with the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra.

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As I wrote this column, Gail Welch Hanson and her husband were on their way to AL for a family reunion on Dauphin Island. While there, they hope to make a difference by volunteering to help clean oil-slicked birds at the Mobile Bay Natl. Estuary.

Mary Pugh Clark and Jane Shilling Emerson traveled to Egypt and Jordan with 4 other women. They enjoyed the Nile cruise and especially the spectacular Wadi Rum desert and Petra in Jordan. Cultural differences were disconcerting-for example, the Arab priority for telling tourists only pleasantries. Mary wrote that, "Upon reflection, I am unable to fathom the dimensions and parameters of life for women in Egypt and Jordan. In my photos I feel our separateness." Jane mentioned this was easier to understand after discussion with Gail Simons Humphreys, whose husband is an expert in Middle East relations.

Anita Corman Weinblatt traveled recently to Antarctica, the Falklands, and South Georgia. See pictures [here](#).

As scribe and class agent, I visited MHC 3 times this year. This gave me a glimpse of MHC today-meeting students, faculty, and staff. MHC provided a place for me to grow during the early 1960s and continues to do so today. What a remarkable place for women! What a wonderful campus! How beautifully set in nature while reflecting the world! Each group I was with has talked about the magic of our connections, old and new. This is a special time for us-50 years ago we were freshman. Consider connecting with MHC in some new way now and see what happens.

For both the class officers and the class agents, connecting and communication are top priorities and the Web site is taking shape. A section on travel is planned. We have promises for more travel materials once we have a Web site. We are looking for a classmate to coordinate this. Please volunteer.

If you do not know whom to contact, and have questions, suggestions, or want to volunteer, please alert us by sending e-mail to scribe64@mtholyoke.edu and we will try to act as facilitators.

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Karen Treusch Lord writes: “My 2 daughters, Apple and Hannah, and 3 grandchildren are delightful company. One daughter lives in DC and is a pediatrician, and one lives near me in western MA and is nearly finished with her PsyD. I continue to work full-time in my psychotherapy practice in Greenfield, MA. My mother, gorgeous and 91, lives nearby and is not only my movie and lunch buddy, but also my inspiration for cool and graceful aging. My dear 2nd husband, Matthew Leighton, died in ‘05 from a brain tumor. Mom and I were both widowed in the same year and helped each other through our adjustments and grief.” Karen thanks her boyfriend for reconnecting her with MHC by finding a copy of the 1964 Lllamarada on Ebay!-“I read it cover to cover and was charmed and totally impressed with the quality and depth of the narratives, the writing, and the sensitivity to the struggles we endured-the emotional, social, and academic strains. I loved the recognition that being a MHC student was not easy, even for the girls who looked like they sailed through.”

Betsy Wadt Mulcare wrote: “Bob and I are heading out to the Pacific NW. After a week in Vancouver and environs with his Princeton classmates-a minireunion for their class of ‘57-we shall meet Susie Gaynor and Johnny Day in Port Angeles, WA, for a week exploring WA and OR. Susie was my MHC roommate for 3 years and we haven’t seen each other for several years now, so it’ll be great fun.”

Anita Corman Weinblatt reports that last Dec., she and her sister-in-law, Margaret, joined 62 other adventurers on a trip to the Falklands, S. Georgia, and Antarctica. “There were penguins (5 species), seals, whales, and many different kinds of birds. We learned about the history of the area from 6 naturalists and expedition leaders, including Sir Peter Hilary, who had traveled to the South Pole. The scenery in this remote area is breathtaking, with incredible glaciers descending from the surrounding mountains into the iceberg-filled water. Walking among the penguins and seals was amazing. This is a fragile wilderness worth preserving.”



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Barbara Scott Nelson hosted a luncheon at her summer home on Cape Ann, MA, for local and visiting classmates: Nancy Chambers Goff, Priscilla Morse Huston, Sarah Allen Mowitt, and Susan Nicholson. The conversation was wideranging and included such topics as: peace and justice issues, care of elderly parents, new adventures, retirement, and our own futures. We feel that special things happen when we are able to be together and share our thoughts.



Marilyn Ursu Bauriedel graciously hosted a Northern CA mini-reunion at her house and lovely garden in Palo Alto. Surrounded by birch trees and fabulous roses, Mary Dee Beall, Lily Klebanoff Blake, Chaney Li (Florence Chang), Catherine Higgs Milton, Mary Sinclair Rothenberg, Maxine Heimoff Turner, and Leslie Raissman Wellbaum dined, chatted, and reconnected. To quote Marilyn, "What a fine evening we had together. I can't believe there was so much sharing of our lives in one short evening!" This is the first of several mini-reunions, which will be held across the country.



Your scribe sadly reports that Barbara Rasmussen Thomas lost her fight with cancer on June 14. Bobbie was born in NJ, and came to Mount Holyoke from River Dell H.S. Bobbie, Phyllis Cavicchi Bailey, and I shared a triple in Safford soph. and jr. years. After graduation, Bobbie pursued her geology studies at Northwestern U. where she met her husband, fellow geologist John Thomas. They married in 1965. Bobbie earned her MS in geology at the U. of Kansas. She pursued grad. work at Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. and taught enrichment classes in geology. Her work, *Fairly Simple Exercises in Geology for Teachers and Students*, is a major



BOTTOM: Barbara's home at Cape Ann
MIDDLE: Barbara, Priscilla, and Nancy
TOP: Sue, Barbara, Nancy, Sarah

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resource that can be found on the Internet. Bobbie and John settled in Saratoga Springs, NY. They have 2 daughters: Rebecca Thomas of Vienna, Austria, and Hannah Thomas '99, of Perkasio, PA. Bobbie was adept at balancing the many facets of her life. In addition to being a wife, mother, and teacher she was also a master gardener and inveterate traveler. Recently, she spoke with pride of how she and John were improving the rose beds that they so loved at the nearby Yaddo Gardens. Each year their Xmas card would describe what natl. parks they had visited, camped, and hiked. Wonderfully, she and John were able to have such travels even last year. With a quiet energy, a practical mindset, and an unfailing sense of humor, Bobbie embraced the joys and challenges of life. She is greatly missed. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to her husband: Dr. John J. Thomas, 49 Piping Rock Circle, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.