

Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964
After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!
In Memoriam

*Remembrances from Classmates 2010-2014**

Dixie (Elizabeth) Pierson Rainey
April 2, 2014

Dixie (Elizabeth) Pierson Rainey succumbed to cancer on April 2, 2014, in her home on a Berkeley hillside. Her's was the stellar life of a scholar and seeker.

On campus, she was recognized as outstanding by her professors in the English department and the art department and by colorful Bessie Boyd in zoology. Classmates knew Dixie as a fun, lively and devoted friend. Her professional career ranged from

urban planning in Anchorage after the 1964 earthquake to teaching high school English in the Boston area to researching and protecting endangered bats in Samoa and abandoned mines in California as a zoology PhD. Miss Boyd knew she had a valuable prospect in Dixie! Dixie realized her true passion on an Earthwatch trip to the Amazon.

Dixie taught, researched and published with her husband Bill Rainey on the faculty of Berkeley. Also together they brought their research skills to bear on her recurrent bouts with cancer over the last 10 years, seeking and trying innovative science based treatments across the USA and abroad. True to form, Dixie saw cancer "as my teacher".

Her love for natural beauty and her commitment to spirituality were profound. Hiking in the Sierras, study, and meditation lifted her mind, body and spirit through great good times and through her arduous journey with cancer. Her absence from the face of this earth she loved will be missed by flora and fauna, by peers and followers, by family and friends.

Notes of condolence may be sent to Bill Rainey at 2556 Hilgard Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709.

Dixie Pierson 1943 - 2014



Suzanne (Susie) Trappe Black
February 10, 2014

In the spring of our junior year, our classmate, Suzanne (Susie) Black fell from an ice-weakened rock during a spelunking outing and her life was forever changed. Her injuries left her with paralysis of her lower legs and she had to leave Mount Holyoke. She went on to live a full life, becoming a Unitarian/Universalist minister, an educator, a wife, a fierce protector of rescued animals, and joyous singer of country songs. On February 10, Suzanne died in Arizona. She left behind many friends who loved her buoyant, courageous, plucky, and indefatigable spirit. While at Mount Holyoke she loved outing trips and playing her guitar. Those of us who knew her in North Rocky, Buckland and Wilder knew her as an easy going and cheerful person with a smile for everyone, even while waiting on tables.

Donations may be made in her name to either:

Starr King School for Ministry
2441 Le Conte Ave, Berkely, CA 94709
www.skism.edu

Or, a local animal rescue organization, or any charity of your choice.

Obituary: It is with great sadness that the family of the late Suzanne Black of Quartzsite, AZ, announce her passing on Monday February 10, 2014 at the Lake Havasu Hospital, AZ, at the age of 71 years. Leaving with fond and loving memories are her sister Judith May, Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada; brother Theodore Black (Charlene Trappe-Black) , Heyworth, IL; nephews Andrew May (Nicole May), Corner Brook, Newfoundland; and Brian May (Abbigail May), Salmon Arm, BC; and niece Ginny Black (Felicity Jackson), Vancouver, WA as well as her much-loved pets Pearl, Susie-Q and Lucky Paws. She is pre-deceased by her husband Gary Murphy, former husband Dean Dougherty, her parents Winston Edward Black and Virginia Trappe Black (Price), nephew Charles Theodore Black and brother-in-law Barry May. Her departed canine companions are legion. Suzanne grew up in Urbana, Illinois, and graduated from University High School, Mt. Holyoke College/University of Illinois and Starr King School for the Ministry. Her full and varied life included teaching high school French in the Chicago area, working at a school for developmentally disabled in Boulder Montana and serving as a Universalist Unitarian minister in Fayetteville, AR, Las Vegas, NV, Laguna Woods, CA and Little Falls, NY. Suzanne retired to Quartzsite, AZ. As expressions of sympathy, donations may be made in Suzanne's memory to Starr King School for the Ministry, 2441 Le Conte Ave, Berkeley CA 94709, your area com-

panion pet rescue/shelter, or to a charity of one's choice. A memorial gathering will be held at the Club House in Tyson RV Park, Quartzsite, AZ, on Friday Feb. 28 at 2:00 pm. Cremation has already taken place.

Added 4-14-14

In the spring of our junior year, our classmate, Suzanne (Susie) Black fell from an ice-weakened rock during a spelunking outing and her life was forever changed. Her injuries left her with paralysis of her lower legs and she had to leave Mount Holyoke. She went on to live a full life, becoming a Unitarian/Universalist minister, an educator, a wife, a fierce protector of rescued animals, and joyous singer of country songs. On February 10, Suzanne died in Arizona. She left behind many friends who loved her buoyant, courageous, plucky, and indefatigable spirit. While at Mount Holyoke she loved outing trips and playing her guitar. Those of us who knew her in North Rocky, Buckland and Wilder knew her as an easy going and cheerful person with a smile for everyone, even while waiting on tables.

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Added 5-12-14

Nola Jean Bangs Carroll
January 11, 2014

Nola was born in Chemung NY and graduated from Waverly High School. At college she was a physiology major who lived in 1837 Senior year. Jane Shilling Emerson remembers Nola as being very friendly, quietly aware, always capable and genuinely interested in helping a fellow student.

In May 1975, Nola married James Carroll. She received her Masters of Divinity from Rochester Divinity School in 1996 and pastored several United Methodist churches in Central New York. She was an avid gardener and loved to sing.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. James Carroll (1005 Old Preemption Rd, Lyons, NY 14489-9785); daughter, Susan Giacchi of RI; son, Jonathan Carroll of NY; 3 grandchildren; and a brother and a sister.

Obituary: Rev. Nola J. Carroll, 70, passed away on Saturday, January 11, 2014.

Family and friends may call on Thursday (Jan. 16) from 6 to 8 pm at Weeks-Keysor Funeral Home, 5 Phelps St., Lyons. A funeral service will be held on Friday (Jan. 17) 3 pm at Lyons United Methodist Church, William St., Lyons.

Nola was born to the late Pauline and Manley Bangs on February 3, 1943, in Chemung, NY. She graduated from Waverly High School in 1960 and received her Bachelor's Degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1964. She married James Carroll on May 10, 1975.

Nola received her Masters of Divinity from CRDS Seminary in 1996 and pastored several United Methodist churches in Central New York including South Scriba, North Mexico, Manchester, Red Creek, Sterling, Tyrone, Weedsport, Port Byron, St. Andrews and New Hope/ Midlakes. She was an avid gardener and loved to sing.

She is survived by her husband, Rev. James Carroll of Lyons; daughter, Susan (John) Giacchi of RI; son, Jonathan (Anna) Carroll-Nellenbeck of Rochester; 3 grandchildren, Gianna, James and Nora; brother, Donald Bangs and sister, Linda Bangs-Urban. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made out to the Lyons United Methodist Church. From Rochester Democrat and Chronicle 01/14/14 *Added 4-23-14*

Marjorie (Marjie) Pedersen Garren

July 11, 2013

Maggie's family kindly provided the college with the following information:

Marjorie "Maggie" Pedersen Garren, 70, passed away on July 11, 2013. She was born June 19, 1943 in Waukesha, Wisconsin to Arnold and Dorothy Pedersen. Maggie is survived by her husband Charlie, her daughter Elizabeth, and her granddaughter Abby, as well as brothers Ralph, Charles and John, and sisters Nancy and Barbara.

Maggie graduated from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts in 1964 and earned two master's degrees, one in education from Tufts University in Boston and another in speech pathology from Ohio State University. She worked for many years at the Southside Virginia Training Center for those with severe intellectual disabilities, retiring from her position as administrator in 2006.

Upon retirement, Maggie and her husband moved to San Diego to be closer to her daughter and granddaughter. Here she enjoyed retirement to the fullest, volunteering as a docent at the San Diego Botanic Garden, gardening at home, practicing Pilates and tai chi, working word puzzles, and spending time with her beloved family.

She will be greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life was held on August 9 at the San Diego Botanic Garden. In lieu of flowers, her family has asked that donations be made in her honor to the Garden that she so dearly loved.

Notes of condolence can be sent to her husband:

Charles Garren

16220 Pablo Dr

San Diego, CA 92128

Added 10-21-13

Linda Gilbert Katzenbach

April 13, 2013

Linda Gilbert Katzenbach, 70 of Seabrook Island died on Saturday, April 13, 2013. Her husband Jon Katzenbach sent this note:

In response to a very nice note from Gail Simons Humphreys, I am sending you a few words about Linda, my life partner and soul-mate for over 45 years. Her heart failed last year as a result of an undetected brain tumor. She leaves behind a family that we shared and now includes 5 sons and 14 grandchildren. Needless to say, the loss was not easy for us to comprehend since it was entirely unexpected. We are fortunate to have so many fond memories of her life as a home-maker and character-builder. She always cherished her time at Mt. Holyoke, which provided her with the knowledge and insight that was invaluable to me as a writer and consultant.

Added 5-12-14

Anne Carlisle

August 1, 2012

We were surprised and saddened to hear of the death of Anne J. Carlisle on Aug 1, 2012. Anne lived in Arlington MA and was very active in our class as well as the Boston area. She served as Reunion Gift Chair, class agent, booklet chair (20th reunion), and as a member of the Mount Holyoke Club of Boston. Carolyn Goodyear Pantazelos, Lenore Wadzinski Yousef and Mary Wegner Mayer remember Anne as laid back with a wry dry sense of humor. In addition to her work, Ann was very active as a Red Sox fan; taking classes, including scuba diving and violin; reading avidly; enjoying her lake house and the companionship of her cats. Marilyn Donovan Timbers shared an interesting memory of Anne as a "dedicated and devoted fire captain" when they were in Abbey. Anne is survived by her beloved sister Miriam Carlisle of Lexington VA. A Boston Globe obituary was published Aug 12, 2012.

Added 2-25-13

Martha (McCrumm) Thomas
May 25, 2012

Martha (McCrumm) Thomas died peacefully on Friday, May 25th, 2012 after a valiant fight against Ovarian Cancer. Martha attended both Mount Holyoke (Freshman and Sophomore years) and Swarthmore and was a respected financial advisor in Boulder, CO. To the end, her love of life, adventure and friends never wavered. In her nearly seventy years she lived many lifetimes of adventures. All those who knew her were inspired by her spirit, her smile and her love and appreciation of life. Martha is survived by her beloved Peruvian Paso horse, La Pinta Alegre; her brother, Tom McCrumm tom@southfacefarm.com and his family; her "like a" daughter Jamie Sladky jamie.sladky@raymondjames.com and Jamie's husband; and those lucky enough to have shared moments with her they will carry forever. Her full obituary originally from the Daily Camera can be found by [clicking here](#).



From Priscilla Morse Huston following Memorial August 5, 2012 in Boulder, CO:

Nearly 52 years ago, I met Marty when we were both freshman in Torrey Hall. In our sophomore year, Lil Menzi Barry and Marty moved with Jensie Warner Shipley and me to Porter Hall.

Though we never again lived so close to one another, we never lost touch. I have known and connected with Martha in many ways since then- sometimes a phone call, a note, a meeting, an email, and once a reunion at Mount Holyoke. I have enjoyed her loving and caring spirit in many different phases of our lives and have always been impressed with the ways she shared life's joys and challenges - others have said "in true Martha fashion" and I agree.

Martha brought amazing amounts of spirit to even the most trying circumstances. She made many beautiful and courageous choices in her life. I wish my memory could bring all the detail back. I loved looking through her photo albums and listening to her talk about her life. I loved listening to Boulder Creek, enjoying her gardens, and feeling

the hospitality and tranquility of her home.

I miss Martha. I feel blessed that I was nearby when she died on May 25th and that I was able to take time in her lovely gardens and visit with Jamie and Michael. Her memorial at the Chautauqua Auditorium on August 5th introduced me to more of her family and friends as well as glimpses of her journey that varied from mine but displayed the same fabulous spirit.

I encourage you to read an email from Jamie Sladky , a young woman Martha hired who became like a daughter to her. [The email includes the text of Jamie's comments at Martha's memorial, a link to the video shown at the memorial as well as a link to a video of Martha with her beloved horse, Pinta.] Jamie reached out to "Martha's Army" during the last few years of Martha's life through a website called . She brought us together and helped us find ways to reach out to our friend and celebrate her life.

Though she has passed elsewhere, her spirit will always remain with us. Personally, I will continue to try to emulate the special way she shared herself with others.

"Life is not about how long we live, but how we live. Love is all that matters." -Bettina Brickell, 1962-1991 (from a bookmark Martha kept in a prominent spot on her desk for years)

From Mount Holyoke Fall Quarterly 2012:
Added 10-19-12

Phyllis Michele Nielsen

February 23, 2011

Phyllis Michele Nielsen of Clearwater, FL, died on February 23, 2011. Phyllis was a zoology major at college with interests also in math and French. She was in North Rocky senior year. Hope Whitaker Justman remembers her fondly from that time and from an early reunion. Phyllis went on to get her medical degree from New York Medical College. Her daughter Kirstjen writes that her mother was an orthopedist and had served in the U.S. Army. She was dedicated to her church and did extensive volunteer work. Three children, a granddaughter, and two sisters survive her. Condolences can be sent to: Kirstjen Nielsen, 518 Tobacco Quay, Alexandria, VA 22314. We send our deepest sympathy to Kirstjen and to all of Phyllis's loved ones.

Added 2-25-13

Susan Prugh Seward

May 18, 2011

From the Des Moines Register: [Read The Article](#)

Susan Ingham Prugh Seward, Formerly of Des Moines

Memorial service for Susan Ingham Prugh Seward, daughter of the late Harry and Marjory Prugh, longtime Des Moines residents, will be held Sunday morning, June 5, in California at the Petaluma Library branch of the Sonoma County Public Library system, where she worked for a number of years.

Susan died on May 18 at her home after a long illness. She attended Theodore Roosevelt High School in Des Moines and Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa. She lived with her family in various places in the Midwest, South and the Pacific Coast. Her marriage to John Seward ended in a divorce.

Susan is survived by sons, Jason in San Francisco and Morgan, who lives in Tennessee; and daughters, Jennifer "Star" Seward (James Tanner) with children, Tristan and Dale in San Jose, CA, and Elizabeth Seward (Gabe Meline), daughter, Lena, in Santa Rosa, CA; sister, Sallie of Columbia, SC; and brothers, Robert of Madison, WI and Peter of Des Moines. *Published in Des Moines Register on June 5, 2011*

From the Press Democrat - no longer available online:

Susan Seward, age 68, died peacefully in her sleep on May 18, 2011 after a battle with cancer. A kind and loving mother and friend, Susan was caring toward all people she came across. For the past 25 years she was a devoted employee of the Petaluma library, where she loved meeting fellow readers, helping others and being a part of regular visitors' lives. Born Susan Ingham Prugh in Des Moines, Iowa, Susan grew up in a family of six and attended Mt. Holyoke College and Iowa State University. She married and lived in San Francisco before moving to The Farm in Summertown, Tennessee with husband John and their two children. Susan lived for eight years on The Farm, giving birth to two more children and forging connections and friendships that would last a lifetime. She relocated to Cotati with her family and eventually settled in Petaluma. Susan was an avid reader, never without a book, and was a patron of live music and theatre. She loved wildlife, poetry, handmade crafts, hiking and, with a very special bond, the Pacific coast. By far, the most important thing in Susan's life was her family. She is survived by sons Jason and Morgan, daughters Jennifer and Elizabeth, grand son Tristan and grand daughters Dale and Lena, all of whom she loved tremendously. A celebration of Susan's life will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 5th, at the Petaluma Library, 100 Fairgrounds Dr., Petaluma. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory either to the Sonoma County Library or the Point Reyes National Seashore, where her ashes will be scattered in a private ceremony.

Published in the Press Democrat from May 26 to June 4, 2011

Printed in Winter 2012 Quarterly

Edith Lewis Canning (Edie)

August 10, 2010

Sadly we have learned that Edith Lewis Canning (Edie) passed away on Aug. 10 in Bantam CT from complications from diabetes. She is survived by her son Kyle Lewis Canning, two sisters, Amelia C. Joynes and Martha Canning Ryan, and one 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 Mt Holyoke, 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 education 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.
Printed in Spring 2011 Quarterly

Barbara Rasmussen Thomas
June 14, 2010



Barbara in the Rose Gardens at the Yaddo Gardens, Saratoga Springs, NY
Your scribe sadly reports that Barbara Rasmussen Thomas lost her fight with cancer on June 14. Bobbie was born in New Jersey and came to Mount Holyoke from River Dell High School. Bobbie, Phyllis Cavicchi Bailey, and I shared a triple in Safford Sophomore and Junior 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 Masters of Science in geology at the Univ. of Kansas. She pursued graduate work at Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute and taught enrichment classes in geology. Her work "Fairly Simple Exercises in Geology for Teachers and Students" is a major resource that can be found on the Internet. Bobbie and John settled in Saratoga Springs, NY. They have two daughters: Rebecca B. Thomas of Vienna, Austria and Hannah J. Thomas of Perkasio, PA. Hannah is a Mount Holyoke alum, class of 1999.

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 National 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

Lindsay Hopson Torreblanca
January 3, 2010

Sadly, Mary Meredith Dobyons 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.

Printed in Spring 2010 "Quarterly"

**Note: These are composites of what several people have contributed.*