

**Mount Holyoke College Class of 1964**  
*After the Middle Ages Comes the Renaissance!*  
**Reunion 2004**

40th Reunion

May 21-23, 2004

What a tremendous success the entire weekend was!! Kudos to Joan Mead Eaton and all her committee chairs and members. Their superb planning and execution produced a very interesting program, really good food and drink, and many opportunities to re-new friendships and make new acquaintances. During the course of the weekend, 111 members of the class joined in the festivities, many for the first time!

Go to the Photo Gallery to view pictures from the weekend.

Friday, May 21st

Given '64's large turnout, we were again assigned to Ham Hall. Some of us were astounded to find that the reading rooms we had seen 5 years ago on each of the upper floors had been converted into what we soon dubbed "quads." Many of us had lived in "temp" doubles freshman year. 40 years later, we found sharing with 3 others for the weekend great fun, but speculated how we would have reacted, delivering a "first-ie" (no longer "freshman") daughter to such accommodations, having commit nearly \$40,000 for tuition, room and board, etc.!! (Apoplectic is the word that came first to my mind!) We are guessing the change was made as part of the need to find more dorm space, when Porter was converted into the Weissman Center and other offices.

Our class banner hung outside Ham Hall, and a cadre of classmates who had come on Thursday, was manning the reception desk. Arriving classmates received the reunion books and our class "uniform," terrific blue straw hats with white and blue ribbons with class information on them. Despite "one size fits all", just about everyone found a jaunty hat angle, and looked well.

Ellen Manfredonia Nutter must have been baking for weeks prior to reunion. She brought several different homemade breads, and assorted tempting sweets that vanished from the trays, soon to be directly deposited on our hips! Ellen's husband, Dave, was a great help also, making sure there were plenty of ice, beverages, and fruit set out for all those just arriving and/or wanting to hang out and chat in the living room or on the terrace overlooking Upper Lake.

The College had scheduled numerous panel discussions and presentations for Friday afternoon. It was hard to choose. All were tempting. '64 was ably represented by Beth Schnoll Krugman and her colleague, Barbara Conlon. Their topic, "Mothers-in-Law and Daughters-in-Law: Does It Have To Be This Bad?" drew animated dialogue, and could easily have gone for the entire afternoon (or longer.)!

Unfortunately, a scheduled session on new national security threats, to have been given by '64's Sue Koch, White House National Security Council Director for Proliferation Strategy, was canceled. Given the naming of 7 suspected terrorists the FBI and Dept. of Justice are looking for, just 4 days after our reunion, it is no wonder the press of Sue's work prevented her from coming to So. Hadley!

Friday evening was very low key. A buffet was set up in Ham's living room, with delicious salads, wraps, and six-foot long Subway sandwiches. It was a great time to spot classmates as they arrived and catch up on 5, or even 40, years. Gail Hunt Reeke played the piano for singing along.

Also that evening, many '64's attended a reception at Joanne Creighton's house. Shortly after arrival, our Head Class Agents learned that 1964 was \$11,000. short of beating the record 40th Reunion Gift, a record that had stood for 14 years. Very quietly, Gail Simons Humphreys, Ann Heckel Oppenheimer, and Nancy Chambers Goff worked their way around the room, gathering pledges. In about 15 minutes, they had secured promises for \$12,000, due the following morning by check or credit card. Those gals are good!

Also Friday night, Jane Shilling Emerson summarized the results of the questionnaires. She spent an amazing amount of time on that project, bless her! I'm sure Mike will be glad to have his wife back!

One of the impressive improvements on campus is the Blanchard Student Center. You really must see it! It houses the bookstore and mailboxes, but so much more..several different areas for food purchase (and eating), much of it made-to-order, (would you believe a brick pizza oven..) a lounge with a huge flat screen TV, meeting rooms upstairs, a nice outdoor eating area, and a small stage/audience area that could serve many uses. On Friday night, a number of '64's danced to live music there, until closing.

Saturday, May 22nd

The weather forecast said rain, and rain it did! (For those keeping count, our 15th was snowed out..yes, a horrible experiment of a winter reunion, never to be repeated, but this was the first rain.) Just as we were assembling for the parade, there was a down-pour! Everyone ran (yes, we still can) to Chapin to wait it out. The seniors really want-

ed the parade and wanted to be able to put the laurel chain on Mary Lyon's grave. After about a half hour, the decision to parade was made. The rain stopped, and the parade route was lined with loads of people, cheering us on! While most of us had cold, wet feet, we really had fun and were glad the decision to "go for it" had been made. The seniors, many in skimpy outfits..and at least one navel ring, were soaked and shivering, but they wanted the link to tradition!

At the Alumnae Association meeting, '64 received several honors. You may recall, in one of the first mailings re: this reunion, the target was to raise \$200,000. Well, as of May 22nd, we had raised \$293,000 and broke the 40th reunion record, previously held by 1950! Incidentally, any contributions made before June 30th will be counted in our record gift and raise the bar higher for classes behind us!

1964 came in second for the Reunion Cup, with 30.92% of our class attending. We need to remember that the % is determined by the number of the class that march past the reviewing stand during the parade. '64 had a significant number of classmates who arrived on campus much later in the day on Saturday. The 50th reunion class placed first, with 45.02%. That is something for '64 to aim for.

Two of our classmates, Mary Vic Jones Giersch and Gretchen Wuth Hays, were the recipients of Alumnae Association Awards. Hopefully, their citations will be printed in The Quarterly, but we'll also try to get them for posting on our website. Each of them has worked hard in support of the College.

After the community picnic in a mammoth tent on the Skinner lawn, many of us attended department open houses, or listened to Joanne Creighton speak on "The State of the College," after which she and her key staffers answered questions from the audience.

All of us gathered together for the class photo on the Skinner steps before attending the Class Meeting, led by outgoing President, Mona Marich Hanford in Ham Hall. Minutes of that meeting are to be posted separately on the website.

The most poignant moments of the weekend came at the service held to commemorate our 18 deceased classmates. Mary Vic had suggested the idea, and she was the driving force behind a beautiful, serene celebration. She collected remembrances of each woman from classmates for a handout, which we will put on the website. We all gathered in the 1904 Garden, which has had major renovation, appropriate for its centennial. The service opened with The Call to Worship, read responsively. Next, there were readings of the 23rd Psalm and Emily Dickinson's "The Chariot." Then, as each classmate's name was read, one or more classmates who knew her came forward, picked up a single rose and placed it in a vase set on the sundial. The service ended with singing

of the Alma Mater and reading of a lovely poem (anonymous author) that starts...."Do not stand at my grave and weep."

After we regained our composure, many of us took the tour of Kendade and the unified Science Center prior to cocktails in the atrium. Frankly, the photos in The Quarterly haven't done the building justice. It is wonderful and needs to be seen firsthand! Environmentally, it has been designed to meet the "green" construction standards. Architecturally, the details are clean, but very classy. The labs and lecture rooms are light years away from what we used in the early '60's! And there are wonderful places where a student could sit and study quietly, snack in hand. Our faculty tour guide said, not only is the Science Center a great recruiting tool for prospective students, but it is making recruiting highly qualified faculty much easier.

Saturday evening brought a very nice catered dinner in Ham Hall, an interactive presentation by "Emily Dickinson," and lots and lots of chatting with one another.

Sunday, May 23rd

After breakfast, Karen Stevens Devassy, M.D., answered a steady stream of questions on a variety of health issues facing many of us, giving us a great deal of helpful information with good humor! Karen often cited personal experience in dealing with some of the questions re: medications and supplements. In this age of HMO's and rushed visits with many physicians, Karen's patience and thoroughness in her explanations was refreshing and much appreciated!

Lurline Purvis Aslanian came to our mini-reunion in Fl. last winter. At one point, she asked, "In the time you have left, what do you want to create?" We knew then she would be a fabulous presenter for our 40th! Lurline is a therapist and licensed Avatar Master, practicing in Sarasota. During her session at Reunion, Lurline put us through several exercises, including one called, "The Compassion Exercise." If only that and similar exercises could be required for the militants of this world!!!

Reunion News of Classmates

Unfortunately, The Quarterly has a rigid submission date of May 15th for the summer issue. When I requested an extension, the editor dug in her heels....no way! I find that more than a bit ironic, coming from a representative of an institution that exists to teach young women how to think outside the proverbial 9 dots!!

So, rather than have you wait until November to read news of some of our class, we'll put what I have on the website. We think we have current email addresses for well over 200 classmates. As more and more of the class go on-line, we will rely less and less on the increasingly expensive mailings through the College. Also, in our 41st year

out, the College will be restricting further, our line limit for the column in The Quarterly. As I said during the class meeting, classmates have been wonderful, responding to my email requests for information and in spontaneously sending material to me. In the past 5 years, I haven't needed to send out one of the postcard mailings through the College. You have all made this job much easier than I had envisioned. Thank you! Please keep my email box brim full with news!

Note: With 111 classmates in attendance, I wasn't able to speak to everyone. In this column, I'll concentrate on people who have not been mentioned recently in The Quarterly column, people who came to Reunion for the first time, people who came a substantial distance, and other patterns. I'll continue to use the Reunion attendance list to obtain more news for the fall column.

Chris Foreacre is the secretary of the Hudson Valley MHC Club, but had never been to Reunion. Gail Hunt Reeke, Alison Harmer, and I met Chris and drove her to So. Hadley. She was in awe of the now "world class" equestrian facility, amazed at many of the other changes on campus, and delighted with the reconnections she made.

Anne Carlisle is living near Cambridge and continues her computer expertise in the internal audit area of the Harvard Health Plan.

There continues to be really strong representation of the South Rocky freshman year contingent. Karen Anderson Chalfen is leaving shortly for 3 wks in Japan. She lived there for several years, so this return is really special. Georgia Smith Regnault could not make Reunion, but she will be using Karen's house on the Cape for the month of June. More news next time!

Sue Parks is as enthusiastic as ever! In the past, she has displayed work done with tile. This year, Sue had soaps for sale. A talented lady!

Pat Altman Falkenberg, and Ed, were at the dinner on Sat., looking fabulous. It is probably a tie for the classmate who has changed least since graduation....serious contenders are Pat Falkenberg and Gail Simons Humphreys. You would recognize them anywhere! Both are very trim, and both look incredibly youthful!

Mary Lee Warren arrived early. When I voiced surprise, she revealed a phone on her belt that was on! She's still with the Dept. of Justice, travels a lot, handling mostly drug and money laundering cases, many in So. America.

Other So. Rocky freshman were: Betsy Wadt Mulcare, Gail Hunt Reeke, Annetta Kimball Weaver, Debbie Newcombe Nightingale, and Sue Wolfe Lauffer. Sue and Don came in from Oklahoma. They are trying to decide where to retire? They have kids in



NC, Ohio, Okla, and another state. Such a dilemma!

The entire west coast was well-represented. Jane Shilling Emerson, Wendy Lycan Jackson, and Sue Schuck Hirst came from the Seattle area. Wendy is gearing up to retire from Boeing, as is Jane's husband, Mike.

Chaney Chang Li, (we knew her as Florence), and Leslie Raissman Wellbaum, came from San Francisco. After Reunion, Leslie was headed to Boston for Arlene Cohen Katzman's wedding to a gentleman named...Harvey Cohen. Other California attendees, not mentioned elsewhere in this report, included Jeane Stewart Samuelson from Lafayette, Linda Thompson from Santa Barbara, and Helga Lemke from Santa Rosa.

Fran Hale Hall came the furthest distance!... from Anchorage. What started as a one-year trial of living in Alaska has grown to 15 years. She's a computer consultant and an avid kayaker/camper.

The cross-country trip was made by Oregon residents Catherine Higgs Milton and Susan Gaynor Day, who was a first time attendee at Reunion. She has retired from teaching, which had precluded her from attending previously.

Another first-timer was Mollie Bowditch Jones, who announced she and Tyler are moving to Munich shortly for at least two years. Tyler has accepted his first assignment after completing theological seminary.

Barbara Rasmussen Thomas lives less than 3 hours away, in Saratoga Springs, NY, but made her first appearance this year.

Lisa Liffers Wenzler drove from Ann Arbor, Michigan to be with us, and Judy Hudson Cudnik and husband, Ken, drove from Cleveland. Judy's job prior to recent retirement was working as a social worker for a hospice. Finding parking spots on campus might have been the greatest challenge of these road trips, since it was graduation weekend.

Longtime friends Mary Sinclair Rothenberg, Lily Klebanoff Blake, and Catherine Higgs Milton found Reunion another opportunity to be together.

A group of classmates, including Barbara Newmann Babb, Marty Judd Estroff, Anne Jordan Fretz, Pam Kydd Jones, Marney Cody Komives, Sue Nash Rice, Carol Sicbaldi, and others, stayed nearby, joining us for Saturday afternoon and evening. They had been close to Jo Walker and found the memorial service very moving. Marney came in from Ft. Collins, CO., where she is a social worker in a hospital.

Christine Stiles Asch made the trip to So. Hadley from Germany.

Carol Nagy Theodore is enjoying her Feb. retirement from Fannie Mae.

Others have just relocated or are about to: Pat Madigan has moved to Charlotte, NC., and is loving her new position (still with DHL), her new home, and being closer to her kids. Ellen Rice will be moving from Maryland to Dayton, OH. after her daughter finishes school this summer. A career change is also likely.

Grandchildren were a common topic.....Barbara Crawford Huppe recently moved to Salt Lake City to be closer to her 4 grandchildren. Robin Gramlich Gordon and I compared notes re: how much more fun it is to spend time with grandchildren, when their parents are not around! She has 2 granddaughters, ages 6 and 3. Libby Bradbury Pethick one-upped us all....her newest granddaughter, 3 months old, was at Reunion with Libby's daughter, an MHC grad. Rumor has it that all 3 generations of Pethicks are visible at one side of '64's Reunion photo!

Betsey Trotter Chalmers spent Reunion weekend hoping for the call that her daughter's first baby had arrived. Ella Kathryn Keeling finally appeared on May 28th.

Many who attended Reunion also attended a "mini" during the past year. They saw how quickly the time since graduation or the last gathering just evaporated! The "posturing" some of us observed during college and at early reunions has disappeared. Classmates are now genuinely interested in their peers and in learning from them. After the "minis." many classmates contacted others, encouraging them to come to Reunion.

Interestingly, many of us have had the experience of spending time at a reunion with one or more classmates we hardly knew, or didn't know at all, during college. These new connections have been a unexpected, special treat! This time, I had that experience with both Beth Schnoll Krugman and Barbara Scott Nelson. Barbara manages a health research operation in Cambridge, having obtained funding from the NS. Her earlier career included two Project Manager assignments at the Ford Foundation.

- Gretchen Beck Green, Class Scribe