

MHS 1964 Class Notes

Issue 6 - February 2017

Please continue to send your personal news to classnotes@miltonhighclassof1964.com for future publication.

Please keep your **contact information** up-to-date by emailing changes to info@miltonhighclassof1964.com.
If you have moved, or changed email addresses or phone numbers since September 2014, please make sure our class database is up to date.

More than 40 MHS '64 classmates (and a few guests) gathered for a **70th Birthday Bash** on Monday, July 25, at The Common Market Restaurants in Quincy,. What a truly fantastic evening!! For some pictures taken at the event, check out our Facebook page or our class website at http://miltonhighclassof1964.com/Birthday_Bash/

Does anyone recognize these two cuties? (Hint: One grew up on Elm St & the other on Gulliver!!)



Susan Beck writes from Barrington, RI, "I continue to enjoy good health and an active lifestyle, something I don't take for granted. I skied at Mt. Snow, VT in Jan. and am going to Sunday River, ME next week both trips with a senior ski club I have belonged to for 15 years. The oldest skiing member is 91! I also have plans to travel to Italy in Sept. for a return visit to Umbria and Florence with friends. All in all, life is good."

Nancy Berger Wluka and **David Wluka** write from Sharon, MA, "70 is reflecting and moving forward by reuniting with high school friends who spend time in, yes, that place ... Florida. David and I having been visiting friends and family for many years for days to weeks on both the East and West Coast. Feelings have adjusted with the passing of a dear friends. Our decision to continue to visit is as important now more than ever. So, All ... let's celebrate life and smile when we get lost in our memories and chuckle as we form new ones.

Nancy is working toward retirement and questioning her progress! The art studio awaits should that time come. David continues to love his job and "donates" time and his heart to the political arena by working with the National Association of Realtors and with the Mass Association of Realtors.

Our travels these past few years brought us to Israel, Poland, Alaska and the Galapagos Islands. Friends, if you are healthy and love 24/7 outdoor adventures the Galapagos Islands are a must see and do. Lots and lots of hiking, baby and 200 years old tortoises, animal and fish life galore, lovely people including our new friends and tour guide Vicky and Jorge Flores. If you would like to see pictures, just email us (nancy@wlukarealestate.com).

We send our love for health and personal freedom to you."

Stephen Condit writes from Savonlinna, Finland, "I was only one year at Milton, having arrived from Springfield, Illinois, where I was a close friend of a Finnish exchange student, who was my first contact with this country. After Milton, I come here to visit him, and after numerous visits, some prolonged, I relocated here permanently in 1974, and have since been active in academic life, civil society and politics.

The boating (an activity I greatly enjoy when warm enough) last year was pretty good, but we now have some statistical data reaffirming what all sailors in these waters have perceived, that climate change is worsening wind conditions: the wind is still predominantly westerlies, but the extremes of heavy blows with dead calms and the rapidity of changes from one to the other are increasing. Sailing is becoming increasingly precarious.

I am currently engaged on two considerable projects which will probably be for me the last of their kind. One is the campaign for the local elections in April, in which I am standing for re-election with great reluctance and minimal personal effort, but my experience and knowledge of the intricacies are resources for our other candidates, most of whom are new to the matter. I do not really want to continue on the council: 28 years have depleted me.

The other project, currently in a complete doldrums, is completion of the draft manuscript for my new book. I still have 3 sections and about 50 pages to produce, and my perseverance is likewise exhausted. My original deadline was last November."

Jerry Lunt Elsdén writes from Hanover, MA, "We now have seven grandchildren (can you beat that??) and are grateful that our younger daughter, Debby McCarthy, moved back to Hingham with Charlie and the four kids - now so close. And we have a new adopted grandson, LJ, who lives with his parents, Greg Elsdén and Michelle, in Framingham. LJ was born two years ago in Sarasota, FL and the new family spent two weeks with us in our vacation home in Venice, FL. LJ was respectful and did not cry much at night! Son Brian and his wife have two adorable girls and live in Norwell. Life is good. Well almost - after 41 years we sold our Hingham home and bought a condominium in Hanover which did not work out and is for sale right now. If it sells and we have not bought a house, who knows? I retired from my dog walking business after 13 1/2 years in July on my 70th birthday."

Cheryl Farrington writes from Plymouth, MA, "When asked to list things on my bucket list for the book (which I treasure) we received at the 50th reunion, I said I wanted to learn to make real Italian pizza at home.

In honor of our fantastic New England Patriots, I chose today (February 4) to give it a try. (It has only taken close to 3 years to give it a go!) If it is really good I'll cook another one for the game tomorrow. I am not the cook in my house, so this was a lot harder than I thought. Here is the result.



I think it's going to take some practice to get it right. But not bad for my first try! Hope everyone is well. The 70th Birthday Bash was so much fun. What's next?"

Eliot Gilbert writes from Dallas, TX, "This past August my wife and 3 other couples went to Ireland. What started as a boy's only golf trip to play the old Irish courses soon expanded to include spouses, as our time line grew. My wife and I flew to Boston to see family before going to Shannon, our starting point. We played golf at Ballybunion, Waterville, Tralee, Old Head, and Portmarnock as we made our way around the southern part of the country to Dublin in a 16 passenger van with a driver/guide. (none of us wanted to drive on the other side of the road). The wives were taken shopping or went to the spa while we played golf, and we all went sightseeing on non golf days as we made our way east. In addition to great golf we stayed in some truly unique hotels including a castle, and the Shelbourne in Dublin.

The biggest disappointment was the Guinness Brewery and the beer they served there. No one liked it, although it was great in the pubs we visited along the way. My wife, who wanted to stop at the Waterford factory instead of the brewery, still reminds me of it. The biggest surprise happened while we were in Killarney. We had arranged dinner at a 2 star Michelin restaurant and the waiter brought out a birthday cake for me, which my daughter arranged to have made at a local bakery in the town. Not only was I surprised by the cake, but my Birthday isn't until September.

I would recommend doing a trip like this to Ireland with friends especially if you love golf. We're talking about going again and seeing and playing the northern part of the country."

Susan Hackley writes from Jamaica Plain, "It has been a wonderful and terrible year – I was diagnosed with peritoneal cancer in September, had surgery and chemotherapy, and am just now starting to bounce back. On the other hand, I got to watch my new grandson Hudson Hackley Berger be born, and his parents announced that they will be moving from New Orleans to Wellesley! Cancer has its silver lining. I'm also still working at Harvard Law School for the Program on Negotiation, and I feel so grateful for the work, the supportive community, and the great health insurance. Having a son who served in the Marine Corps infantry in the Iraq War, I have also been working for three years on a personal project, raising awareness of the impact of our wars on the children and families of soldiers. I made a short film that has been in four film festivals and am now working to finish a PBS program. If you're interested in hearing more about it, go to www.achildsguidetowar.com. I stay in close touch with **Lois Kullen Alsop**, and I hope to see some of you in 2017!

Dave Harris writes from New London, NH, "I have had an active year although not as much traveling. While in Florida we enjoyed a nice visit with **Ralph D.** in Jupiter. Mary Ellen and I visited Roosevelt's Hyde Park N.Y. and Acadia National Park. I have been doing a lot of bicycling, 1200 miles this year and in September I completed my first century ride (102 miles in a day). Mary Ellen now has an electric bike and joined me on shorter rides accumulating almost 200 miles. I also lead an AMC training series of hikes in preparation for backpacking. My total miles on the trails this year is just over 100.

I am currently helping a friend rebuild an electric Elco boat built in 1902 and continue to try to perfect my woodturning skills and demonstrate woodturning at the League of NH Craftsmen Fair at Mt. Sunapee."

Ted Hollidge writes from Cape Elizabeth, ME, "I am still a practicing engineer in the state of Maine, living near the ocean in an old farmhouse. I spend time in the summer boating on Casco Bay and walking the dog. And in the winter, we shovel snow... Got a bad hip and two tired knees from too much running. Other than that, hard to believe we are all 70 years old...time flies."

Moshe Ber Katz, aka **Mel Katz**, writes from Poland, "Don't have too much to say. Our daughter (20) got married to a young man who is a triplet and part of a family of 13 children. Then last Sunday, Feb 5th, our son got inducted into the Israeli army. He wanted them to wait another six months, but they said enough already as he's 22. Our middle daughter (19) just came back from six months as an emissary in the girls orphanage in Moscow and our 'baby' will be 17 in a few weeks now. Re my bucket list, I'm looking forward to the book I published (*Keep on Driving*, a biography of a Jewish sergeant in World War II who trained troops for Patton and went to the European theater in the 65th infantry) being serialized in an international magazine called *Beis Moshiach*. You all should be blessed with everything you need materially and spiritually."

Terri Kovack Halpern writes from Del Mar, CA, "Thank you, Bob and Ron, for keeping us all connected! As time goes on, all our relationships seem to take on more meaning. We had a major double celebration this year. Our daughter got married in the same place Dave and I were married (the MIT Chapel), on the same date we were married - on our 50th wedding anniversary. The next day, our son and daughter-in-law threw an anniversary brunch with mementos from our honeymoon as table decorations and an exact replica of our wedding cake, including our original cake topper. The whole weekend was warm and wonderful.

We also had a trip that was quite interesting, mainly because we didn't really want to go and our expectations were low. We went to China (Qingdao, where they make the beer) to help a dear friend celebrate his 80th birthday at a large symposium in his honor. That meant making the trip for just two days, which I didn't want to do, so we found a city within a reasonable distance where we could spend another couple of days before flying home. Datong turned out to be a fabulous place - with an amazing temple hanging on a cliff side, large stone Buddhas in brightly painted grottoes, a beautifully lit wall surrounding it, and dumplings made to look like flowers. We highly recommend it.

Looking forward to hearing everyone else's news!"

Judi Lansky writes, from Chicago, IL, "Yes, I'm STILL working (President of Lansky Career Consultants). I'm looking forward to celebrating 35 years in practice in April."

Richard Mahoney writes, "In July I moved back to Telluride, CO. Previously, I lived in Telluride from '01 to '07. Since 1971, when I got out of the Army, I have been fortunate to live in mountain towns; the majority of them being ski towns. I spent thirty of those years in the Stowe, VT area.

My professional career was spent in construction management and facilities management in educational institutions. I am currently retired.

Although I was married at one time, we did not have children. I have had many great life experiences. Two that really stay with me were extended volunteer trips. One trip was for six weeks to the Philippines; and the second was a trip to Jamaica with a group of college students during which we helped build a school."

John O'Connor writes from Marshfield, MA, "We had a spectacular holiday season with our family, 5 kids 9 grandkids between us, and just had my second knee replacement surgery in 15 month. I am into heavy rehab as we speak and looking forward to a very active and healthy year. My best to all!"

Kevin O'Donnell writes from Milton, "Fairly eventful year. Retired as Chief of Surgery at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in January 2016. We welcomed our 3rd grandchild, Nessa Elizabeth, in July. Am working for the American College of Surgeons surveying Cancer Programs and in December spent two weeks on the Hospital Ship Africa Mercy in Benin, West Africa doing surgery. Got home Christmas Eve night just in time for spending the Holiday with my family. Best to all!"

Ron McNeill writes from Mendham, NJ, "I

- Am finally retired, mid-April.
- Welcomed our 2nd grandson born, April 18, Bedford Hills, NY - Larson Robert Samuelsen.
- Turned 70 in Sept. How did that happen?
- Am preparing NJ home of 23 years for sale and likely will move back to New England.
- Am enjoying (and thankful for) good health."

David Pierce writes from Montverde, FL, "My wife and I have been doing volunteer work with an organization, Project 143 (<http://www.p143.org>) that helps orphans from around the world. There are 200 million orphans living in state run institutions, and it just breaks our hearts to see such children in these situations. So we hosted a 14 year old girl from the war torn part of the Eastern Ukraine (Mariupol) for her Winter break from school.

These are really broken kids that do not know love. It was a very rewarding experience to show her a Christmas in America. She did not know Christ, and this time was special for us, and for her. We are still communicating with her and do not know what the future holds for her or us.

This spring we have rented a villa in a small walled town in the Umbria Province of Italy for two weeks in April. The name of the town is Panicale and it is near Tuscany in Northern Italy. Our plan is a relaxed self guided tour of this part of Italy. We are also planning a late Summer trip to the Ukraine to visit family."



Bob Powers writes from Hyannis Port, MA, "We FINALLY finished our reconstruction following a burst heating pipe while we were away in the winter of 2015 that ruined our master bedroom and bath - it only took about a year to essentially complete everything so that we don't feel like we are still living in a construction zone. Trying to get construction people to show up when they say they will proved to be a huge challenge.

In July, my wife, Sandy, and oldest son, Steve, organized a 70th birthday party for me - we had about 70 family and friends from all over show up for a great afternoon lobster bake! Wonderful party! In August I rode the Pan Massachusetts Challenge for the 12th time in honor of my daughter-in-law who has been fighting stage IV colon cancer for nearly three years now - we sincerely thank all those who continue to pray for her recovery. I'll be riding for her again this summer!

I continue to work part time as a management consultant to community financial institutions, but plan to fully retire by the end of this year. My new passion is playing pickleball - if you haven't tried it and can, you might want to do so as it's a lot of fun and keeps one moving!"

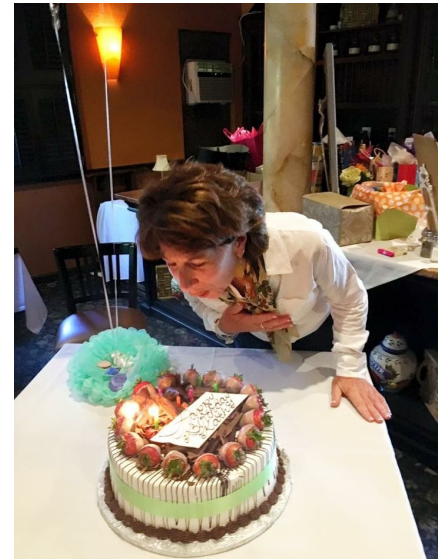
Joe Sidoti writes from Jupiter, FL, "Hope all is well with you guys. I do have a bit of humbling news. Next weekend I am going to be inducted into the Minnesota Community College Athletic HOF. During my brief stint as a CC teacher and Wrestling Coach (3 years) I had the privilege of coaching an undefeated 33 straight wins State Championship team and was named the MJCAA Wrestling Coach of the Year in 1972, so recently they decided to induct me and the team into HOF. It is very humbling because it is my fifth induction into a HOF. I have been inducted into the MHS Athletic HOF three times and my wife, Patty, and I are in the Minnesota Cancer HOF for our work raising, literally millions of dollars for cancer patient care and research. It is nice when we reach this age to be recognized for our past accomplishments and I am very, very fortunate."

Kathy Spoon Candeias writes from East Taunton, MA, "Wow!! What a lot of fun I've had over the last 6 months.... Celebrating all that's wonderful in my life! I was surprised by an amazing party for my '70th' birthday. These milestones come and go but just knowing what effort and love was put into the planning was very touching. It was no small feat to have high school friends, colleagues, family and church friends from all different chapters of my life in the same room and it was truly overwhelming....I felt the ♥....thanks!

I initially was uncertain about this retirement path but discovered time goes quickly when you embrace life and get to experience the things you are passionate about. I feel healthier and happier than ever and look forward to planning new adventures....70 could be the best chapter of my story!!

In closing I have to say hosting the '51st' Super Bowl party and watching our team bringing the Lombardi trophy back to Boston was another amazing celebration. Go Pats!!! It doesn't get much better than this!

May 2017 bring you all much health and happiness."



Donna Winer Foster writes from Canandaigua, NY, "Here's a little note from MHS south. The girls had a little reunion lunch on Jan 18, 2017 in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. This is our 5th MHS south lunch. There were 8 ladies this year. In the past we have had 12, but not everyone made it down this year. If you would like to join the ladies next year, just email me (donna60@hotmail.com) and let me know. Happy and Healthy New Year to all. See you next January!



From left to right -
Meryl Thurman, Nancy Berger, Paula Manowitz, Roberta Blacker, Barbara Gotz, Barbara Clouse, Donna Winer"

In Memoriam

Since our last issue of Class Notes, we have discovered the passing of two additional classmates:

Dorothea Schroder Epting (November 2015)

Margaret "Peggy" Alcorn Drumming (February 2016)

If you hear of any additional classmates passing, PLEASE let us know!

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MiltonHigh1964/> or our class website at <http://miltonhighclassof1964.com>.