

Jane Harris Hawes

Jane H. Hawes died June 29 at age 65. Psychotherapist. Friends may post remembrances on Jane Hawes Facebook. Memorial Service, 11am Sat Aug 6 All Souls Parish (2220 Cedar, Brk 94709); flowers may be sent. In Jane's name, donations are invited to SF Suicide Prevention (sfsuicide.org).

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Jane was at Vassar for her freshman and sophomore years before transferring to the University of Michigan. I don't think our paths ever crossed during that time, but I do have a wonderful remembrance of her though from our 25th Reunion.

There were several good Saturday panel discussions to choose from and I was torn between the one on the arts, where my heart was, and the one in which my esteemed roommate and three of my Drama Department chums-turned lawyers were holding forth on the legal profession. As often happens, a third alternative arose. My husband, a fan of Carl Jung and dream interpretations, was in a state of shock from the coed bathrooms at Main, and I decided attending Jane's discussion on dreams would cheer him up and be good for my soul as well.

We ended up talking with Jane as we walked to the room for our discussion group. It was an opportunity to learn what a wonderfully thoughtful, intelligent and compassionate woman she was. Among other things, during the discussion, she asked if we had dreamed of returning to Vassar, of being a student there again or coming to a Vassar reunion. Jane elicited fascinating responses from everyone, and as so often happens to me at Reunion, I was inspired not just by reconnecting with classmates I knew and loved, but by spending time with someone I had not known during our college years.

On learning of Jane's passing, I went back to our Reunion Books. I commend Lynn Russell Butcher and Mary Balfour for giving Jane a two page spread in our 25th Book because Jane's submission, especially her description of three Vassar related dreams, is extraordinary - beautifully written, provocative and like nothing else in the Book. Jane did not attend our 40th Reunion, but she sent in a very simple submission for the Book, "Psychologist in private practice, interest in cross-cultural healing" and a lovely current picture of herself.

Bets Howland