

1968 for September 2009 *Vassar Quarterly*

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Joyce Daniel wrote me this wonderful note nine months ago, and I somehow didn't get it into the June classnotes! Forgive me, and read on, it's special:

"After being in touch with folks over Christmas, I especially regretted not having attended the reunion last May. Instead of going to Poughkeepsie, I signed on to a humanitarian mission through Virginia-based Project Hope, and we were sent to Guatemala and El Salvador as adjuncts to the US Navy Operation Continuing Promise. My job was as an educator in maternal-child health; they wanted a midwife who could speak Spanish to go teach current topics to the folks in Guatemala and El Salvador, especially to the empirical midwives. We were based aboard the *USS Boxer*, a battleship that is considered amphibious because it can deliver troops either by air or by sea, and that is how it delivered us to our land-based sites -- either by Seahawk helicopter or by landing craft unit! All that helicopter travel and sloshing about in the sea was quite an adventure for this old girl. My father, who had been living with me these past years during his dialysis treatments for end-stage renal failure, died at the age of 89. May his memory be for a blessing. The last three of my eight kids are still getting educated (Margaret Vassar '05 in medical school, Hugh in law school, and Monica a junior in college), but the house has finally become an empty nest, and that's not yet a comfortable thing for me."

JoAnn Kunselman also wrote:

"During our June 2008 Reunion, **Tona Johnston Barkley** and her husband John Harrod entertained our class with their beautiful Kentucky music as part of their family band, Yeller Dog & the Barktones. Tona and John invited classmates to join them the last week of June at the Cowan Creek Mountain Music School in Whitesburg, Kentucky, where John is on the faculty. **Rose Marie McDonald Schultz** and JoAn Kunselman accepted the invitation and enjoyed visiting Tona and John at their beautiful farm in Owen County, Kentucky (just north of the capital, Frankfort), before they all journeyed out to the music experience. The music was terrific, and the beautiful, green, Eastern Kentucky mountains where the school is located contrasted with Rose's home in Shalimar, Florida and JoAn's home in Pasadena, California. It was a marvelous, inspiring mini-reunion!"

And from **Cynthia Davis Sokoloff**:

"I am thoroughly enjoying my retirement after 27 years teaching high school social studies. I have just completed my first year as a member of our local Board of Education - a way of keeping my hand in the educational mix. The best part of retirement is having the time to do the things I really want to do - I can read whatever I like; I can spend time with my wonderful three year old grandson; I can lunch with the ladies; I can volunteer as a letter-writer for the Class of '68 - all the things I didn't have time to do when I was teaching. Life is definitely good, despite the lousy economy."

Another happy retiree, **Laura Hillman Buechle** writes that she is

“Happily retired from twenty-five years teaching High School Biology, Chemistry, and Environmental Science. Enjoying occasional subbing - as well as drawing and painting classes and reading for pleasure.”

This from **Deborah Hall Coburn**:

“Attended the Dan Smith Band Concert (Dan Smith is **Lucinda Lee**’s husband) and sat with Lucy. We see each other as often as possible. **Nancy Henze Harmel** is coming to San Francisco for a niece’s wedding on the wine county. We’ll be having lunch together and catching up.”

Sadly, I must end with the note that **Heidi Glang**, a German major and one of the older women who graced our class, died in July. After Vassar, she received an M.S. degree in Science in Education from the State University of New York. She taught high school in Poughkeepsie, and in Vienna, Virginia. She is survived by her husband, daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren.