

1968 for February 2011 *Vassar Quarterly*

Lucey Bowen
145 Campo Bello Lane
Menlo Park, CA 94025
650-619-3227
lucey.bowen@gmail.com

Lots of news from my cyber-space appeal; '68 is busy, busy, busy.

In October, **Judy Putzel** celebrated the birth of her first grandson, and three days later, her Dad's 97th birthday. **Betsy Clew Kampmeiner** continues to perform stories with puppets and song at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. Her husband has retired, so they've layered in trips to baby-sit for grandchildren: two in New York, and the newest in San Francisco. **Lynn Russell Butcher** says she and Bob are on deck for grand-parenting in Dallas. Three of their five children are now stateside. The other two are in the same Scottish time zone, and the end of multiple college tuitions is in sight.

From Ireland, **Jane Strong O'Leary** reports on her husband's retirement and consequent housecleaning of the de-accessioning variety. Jane has a new CD with the ensemble Concorde, on an American label. She continues to teach in Dublin, compose, and prepare for the 30th Anniversary of Music for Galway. **Conchita Thornton Marusich** wrote that after living in Southern California for forty years, her husband Rich and she decided they were ready for a change. They sold their house and moved to Napa, and are enjoying blue skies, country living, less traffic, welcoming people and wine-tasting. Conchita will work with Rich in his new environmental assessment consultancy and finish writing her book about her family. "Life is a cabernet," says Conchita, "And here's a toast to you all."

Janice Cooper has reinvented herself, from full-time to part time worker for former Maine Congressman Tom Allen. She's now free to pursue old and new interests: classes at Bowdoin and Maine College of Art and travel to Kenya and Tanzania. Add serving on her community arts board, substitute teaching, reading, gardening, hiking and preparing for her stepson's wedding, and I conclude that she is busier than ever. The same holds for **Vicki Tarpley Logan**, who is dividing her time between Vail, Colorado and Scottsdale, Arizona. The Logans continue to travel, collect contemporary art and be involved with the Denver Art Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum and the Bravo! Music Festival in Vail. And for the third summer, golfer Vicki was Club Champion.

Catriona Shafer, Victoria Chase, Laurie Stein Bigley and I traveled to meet up north of Poughkeepsie at Bard College, where Catriona grew up. Catriona continues work at the library in Sierra Madre, CA and Vicky as a college professor, teaching Spanish in Vermont. After I returned to California, a note from **Mary Beth Winn** made personal the impact of New York State's financial troubles. The State University of New York at Albany suddenly terminated its degree programs in French, Italian, Russian, Classics and Theater, eliminating all courses and cutting 20 full-time teaching positions. Mary Beth has taught with distinction at

SUNY Albany since receiving her Ph. D. in French from Yale in 1974, but she was one of the tenured professors let go. I cannot spin this to a happy ending. I can only say that my dismay at this news was shared by our college and our classmates, and the decision is still being debated.

News from **Roberta Price**: her photographs are being published as *Across the Great Divide, A Photo Chronicle of the Counterculture* by University of New Mexico Press. The photographs found a permanent home at Yale's Beinecke Library. Some of you will have already joined your classmates at readings to celebrate this accomplishment. Roberta became adept at using Adobe Photoshop to restore her negatives for the 2011 exhibition of photographs at UC Davis, California; Denver, Colorado; Albuquerque, New Mexico and Bethel, New York. Who says we can't learn new tricks? Check the dates of the exhibitions by accessing Roberta's website, <http://robertaprice.com/> .

Joyce Solomon Moorman writes that her AKA chapter is awarding two \$1000 **Phyllis Atwater** scholarships to a female and a male graduating senior from a Brooklyn high school. The chapter holds several fundraisers during the year which fund various projects in the Brooklyn African American community.

Sad news from **Jayne Kurzman**, informing me that **Judith Finkel Todd** died after a long battle with cancer. Jayne tells me that Judy was a former Regent and State Chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Judy was held in the highest regard by the legal community and by the citizens of Birmingham, Alabama as a fine lawyer and a caring friend. She was especially passionate about helping organizations that benefit women and children.

By now you have received your copy of "Vassar Class of '68: Artists & Inspirations," a film by **Karen Thorsen**, produced in honor of our 40th Reunion. I hope that watching it, you remember our time together, and treasure all of our very special classmates.